

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



First
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
of Cumberland, MD

Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
FEBRUARY 16, 2025 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

VOLUNTARY IN D
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

JOHN BENNETT (1735-1784)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

O GOD, YOU ARE MY GOD
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"STEP BY STEP"

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.
I will seek you in the morning,
And I will learn to walk in your ways.
And step by step, you'll lead me,
And I will follow you all of my days.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose confidence is in God.
They will be like a tree planted by the water,
sending out roots by the stream.
This tree does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are green, its fruit endures.
So come, let us place our trust in God!
Let us live in blessed faith together!

Let us pray -

God of holy instruction, we thank you that throughout the generations, you have taught us how to live. You do not leave us without guidance; you show us the path to life and fruitfulness. Help us this day as we gather again to delight in your sacred gift of instruction. Grant us humility of heart and softness of will, that we might live in the fullness of your blessing this day. Amen.

* HYMN #457

HOW HAPPY ARE THE SAINTS OF GOD

"WAREHAM"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we come before you, knowing that your ways are not the ways of the world. You bless the poor, the hungry, the grieving, and the rejected— but we chase after wealth, comfort, and the approval of others. You call us to love with generosity and trust, but we hold tightly to what we have, fearing scarcity. Forgive us, O God, when we choose the fleeting rewards of this life over the lasting blessings of Your kingdom. Turn our hearts toward you, that we may seek justice, walk humbly, and live in the fullness of Your grace. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #423

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD

"SARADAY"

Create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

*Please stand and greet those in the pews near you. Send a wave to the camera for those joining online.
We recognize how important we are to each other; we belong to each other and are stronger together.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 1:1-6

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers, ² but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.
³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.
⁴ The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,
⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

ANTHEM

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR
Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)
Almighty and everlasting God
Mercifully look upon our iniquities,
And in all our dangers and necessities
Stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SECOND READING

LUKE 6:17-26

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.
²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.
²¹ "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.
²² "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you[a] on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets. ²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.
²⁵ "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.
²⁶ "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

SERMON

"A SERMON THAT BLESSES"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #773

HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

"HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

OFFERTORY SOLO

PASTORALE
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

PHILIP HAYES (1738-1797)

* DOXOLOGY #582

GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME

"GLORY TO GOD (VASILE)"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER- ECUMENICAL VERSION

(You are welcome to pray the Lord's Prayer with the version most familiar to you.)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

* HYMN #764

FOR THE TROUBLES AND THE SUFFERINGS

"PELAS DORES DESTA MUNDO"

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS (Verse 1)

"DENNIS"

At FPC there is a tradition of joining hands while singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" to close our service.

You are welcome to do whatever feels comfortable during this time. There is no wrong way to participate in worship!

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

POSTLUDE

YOU SHALL GO OUT WITH JOY
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

"THE TREES OF THE FIELD"

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher.....Rev. Alison Peters
Liturgist.....Cathy Levitas
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Cindy Corley and Miranda Forbes
Nursery.....Mitch Peters and Kelsey Gallo

DAKOTA LEARNING CAMP INFORMATIONAL MEETING -Join us today after worship in the Gathering Place to get information for the South Dakota Learning Camp!

Would you be interested in volunteering at this summer's learning camp? Want to learn more? We'd love to answer your questions and tell you about this year's camp and the new exciting format we will follow. Adults of all ages and youth are encouraged to join us! No teaching experience is necessary, just a love for God's children and a willingness to learn. **Camp Dates: July 26th-August 2nd.**



WELCOME: A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud to be a "Big Tent Church" where everyone is welcome to join us in worshiping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage worshipers of all races, all women, men, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, all political parties, and all walks of life to join us. We welcome you to worship with us.

WELCOME VISITORS: We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at www.fpc-cumberland.org and www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland.

FRIENDSHIP PADS: Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the "Welcome to First Presbyterian Church" card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES: (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS: Please use the orange prayer request cards, which are located in the back of the sanctuary by the bulletins to share any joys or concerns. Place the card in the offering plate once you have completed your request. The ushers will bring them to the pastor during the offering. The orange prayer request cards are also available in the pew racks.



CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: You are welcome to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "To Families with Young Children" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship. **Nursery care is provided during worship for all**

children 4 years of age and younger!

THE PRAY-GROUND is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of a friend or loved one. You may specify live or silk flowers.

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Alison is available when requested or informed of a need. If you are aware of someone in need of a visit or phone call, please call or text her to let her know. *[Fridays are generally her day off and she will respond when she is available.]*

Ways to contact Pastor Alison: 814-715-1681/revalisonpeters@gmail.com

To help with scheduling, please reach out to the Church Office: 301-777-3700/firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of her parents, Edward "Ed" Solomon & Eleanor Kelley Solomon, who were members of FPC since the early 1950s, by Elaine Kelley Solomon, their only child.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of February 9, 2025
Total 2025 Pledges Promised	\$237,796.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 48,578.00
<u>2025 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$189,217.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 22,808.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 21,902.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 905.00

ONLINE GIVING



MONDAY, FEBRUARY (17)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY (18)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
11:00 AM STAFF MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY (19)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY (20)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM SESSION MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY (21)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY (22)

9:00 AM PEO MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY (23)

11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



BLOOD DRIVE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are in need of a few additional volunteers to assist with the Red Cross blood drive that we host at the church once a month. The drives are typically held on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays and volunteers are needed from 12:15-5:00 PM. Volunteers will assist donors with checking in. If you are interested in helping fulfil this need, please reach out to Brittany or Nadene to get additional information regarding upcoming drives.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: 'SHORT STORIES BY JESUS': Join Pastor Alison on Thursday nights from March 6th-April 10th at 5:00 PM in the Gathering Place as we take a closer look at the parables Jesus shared. Using the book by Amy-Jill Levine, we will seek to make sense of Jesus' words in their original context and in our world today. Come at 5:00 PM for a light dinner provided by our participants and class will run from 5:30-6:30 PM. RSVP to Brittany in the church office.

FRIENDS OF PEB NEWS: Thanks to your incredible support, and the generosity of so many like you, we've reached our fundraising goal of \$382,000 to build a brand-new block of classrooms for primary grades at Christian Girls' High School (CGHS) in Martinpur, Pakistan. Construction is already underway, and the building is projected to be done by July 2025.

MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving ALL and fostering justice, peacemaking, and care of creation.

VISION STATEMENT

We aspire to be nurtured by the good news of God's love, where ALL God's children are:

- Welcomed and appreciated
- Called to worship, learn, and grow together in faith
- Encouraged to care for one another
- Sent to show God's love

-Adopted by the Session on September 21, 2023