

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



First
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
of Cumberland, MD

Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION
TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD/
MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY
MARCH 2, 2025 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

ANDANTE (SONATA #6)
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1810-1847)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

BELL TOWER PRELUDE
BELL CALL TO WORSHIP
THE JOYBELLS

MICHAEL BURKHARDT

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Come, let us make a joyful noise to the Lord!
Let us sing to the rock of our salvation!
With psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
We lift our voices in praise!
Let every breath, every note, every harmony glorify God,
For the Lord delights in our joyful noise!

Let us pray -

O God of melody and rhythm, of silence and sound, you have woven music into creation itself— the whisper of the wind, the hum of the earth, the song of the soul. We give thanks for the gift of music, for voices raised and instruments played, for composers and lyricists, for choirs and congregations. May our songs be more than sound—may they be prayers. May our harmonies be more than beauty—may they be testimony. Tune our hearts to sing Your grace, now and always. Amen.

* HYMN #641

WHEN IN OUR MUSIC GOD IS GLORIFIED

“ENGELBERG”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, the psalmist declares, “Let everything that breathes praise the Lord,” but too often we withhold our praise. We grow timid in worship, afraid to sing out with joy. We let discord take root in our hearts and fail to live in harmony with one another. We forget that all we have—every voice, every instrument, every song— is a gift from You. Forgive us, O God. Restore our song. Teach us again the rhythms of grace and the melody of love, that we may glorify You with every note of our lives. 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 99

- ¹ The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
- ² The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.
- ³ Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!
- ⁴ Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
- ⁵ Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!
- ⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name.
They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.
- ⁷ He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees and the statutes that he gave them.
- ⁸ O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them but an avenger of their wrongdoings.
- ⁹ Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain, for the Lord our God is holy.

ANTHEM

AND THEN SHALL YOUR LIGHT BREAK FORTH (ELIJAH)

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1810-1847)

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

And then shall your light break forth as the light of morning breaketh;
and your health shall speedily spring forth in you;
and the glory of the Lord evermore shall guard you and keep you.
Lord, our creator, how excellent Thy name is in all the nations,
Thou fillest heaven with glory. Amen. (Isaiah 58:8)

SECOND READING

2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-4:2

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with complete frankness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, the same veil is still there; it is not unveiled since in Christ it is set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds, ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

⁴ Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

SERMON

"REMOVING THE VEIL"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #689

WHEN THE MORNING STARS TOGETHER

"WEISSE FLAGGEN"

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 ANTHEM

IF I CAN SING

LON BEERY

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

From my spirit's great defeat,
from my pulse's flagging beat,
From my hopes that turned to sand
sifting through my close-clenched hand,
from my own fault's slavery,
if I can sing, I still am free.

For with my singing I can make a refuge for my spirit's sake,
A house of shining words, to be my fragile immortality.

if I can sing, I still am free. (Sara Teasdale, 1917)

* 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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*You are invited to come forward and receive the elements by Intinction (take the bread and dip it in the cup).
There are also individual cups as well as gluten-free crackers available.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of all creation, we give you thanks for this holy meal, for the bread that sustains us and the cup that renews us. As we have tasted and seen Your goodness, send us forth as instruments of Your peace. May our lives be a song of love and justice, a hymn of mercy and grace, a chorus that echoes Your redeeming power to the ends of the earth. In the name of Christ, our song of salvation, we pray. Amen.

* HYMN #69

I, THE LORD OF SEA AND SKY

“HERE I AM (SCHUTTE)”

* 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.

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION-CORPORATION

(All members are encouraged to stay; visitors are welcome.)

POSTLUDE

VOLUNTARY IN C
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

ANONYMOUS

* 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.....Wesley Mason
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....Judith Brown
Director of the JoyBells.....Julie Courtney
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir and the JoyBells
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....Kathy Dowell and Cathy Levitas
Nursery.....Rick and Robin Bissell

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION of First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, Maryland, is called by the Session for **today**. The purpose of the meeting is to elect an elder to the class of 2027.



ASH WEDNESDAY: Join us on Wednesday, March 5th at 7:00 PM in the CHAPEL for a service of reflection and imposition of ashes.

MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY:

Soli Deo Gloria! Those three Latin words (To God be the glory!) were inscribed at the end of every composition of J.S. Bach and fittingly describe the Mission of our Music Ministry here at First Presbyterian Church.

Music not only brings us to the heights of beauty, it brings us to Love and Beauty itself, Almighty God. Music transforms us and pierces our soul to the core of our being. Often, it produces a contrition so profound that a person's life can take a wholly different course. Saint Augustine attests to this in Book IX of The Confessions: "How I wept to hear your hymns and songs, deeply moved by the voices of your sweet singing Church! Their voices penetrated my ear, and with them, truth found its way into my heart; my frozen feeling for God began to thaw, tears flowed and I experienced joy and relief."

On this Music Appreciation Sunday, we, as a congregation, are extremely grateful and appreciative for those who choose to sing and play as they bring beauty and love to our worship experience. Each choir member, singing and bell alike, commits to not only making beautiful music during worship but adds up to two hours extra per week to their busy schedule with preparation and rehearsals. Thank you to everyone!

JoyBells Members: Gary Allen, Juliana Gallo, Richard Harris, Deb Hendrickson, Nancy Lehman, Brenda Luger, Renee Kiddy, Carolyn Mathews, Linda Smith, Evan Swanger and Jane Westcott

Sanctuary Choir Members: Alexandria Blank, Bob Courtney, Julie Courtney, Mikayla Dodge, Zach Dodge, Gary Hendrickson, Nancy Hodges, Hans Killius, Carolyn Mathews, Susan Mills, Debi Mullan, Alison Peters, Eric Ringler and Jane Westcott

Soloists: Mikayla Dodge, Zach Dodge, Katelyn Hendrix and Alison Peters

Instrumentalists: Brenda Luger, Petr Skopek, Ashley Holmberg, Jason Diggs and Alyssa Moquin

The Music for this Transfiguration Sunday and Music Appreciation Sunday reflects both of these celebrations. "And then shall your light" is a segment of the powerful final chorus from Mendelssohn's beloved oratorio "Elijah" as the Light ascends to the heavens.

"If I Can Sing" is a stirring testament to the power of music, with text by American poet Sara Teasdale (1884-1933).

Sara Teasdale was born in St. Louis, Missouri to a wealthy family and had a tragic life but her well-crafted poetry centered on a woman's changing perspectives on beauty, love and death spoke to many and earned her the first Columbia Poetry Prize in 1918, a prize that would later be renamed the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.



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 4 years of age and younger!

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**

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

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of February 23, 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	\$ 33,946.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 29,202.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 4,743.00

ONLINE GIVING



MONDAY, MARCH (3)

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

TUESDAY, MARCH (4)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
11:00 AM STAFF MEETING
12:30 PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
5:45 PM MISSION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH (5)

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

THURSDAY, MARCH (6)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, MARCH (7)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, MARCH (8)

9:00 AM PEO MEETING

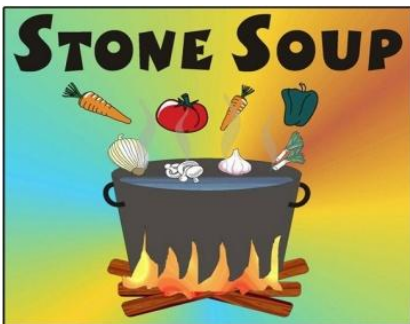
SUNDAY, MARCH (9)

11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
12:00 PM SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL

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.



Learning Tree Stone Soup



In keeping with the spirit of the folk tale of Stone Soup, we will be collecting food items from our Learning Tree families and making the Learning Tree version of Stone Soup. We will be reading the story and discussing the importance of how our little effort makes a big result when it's done together.

The kids will be making the soup on Tuesday the 18th and Wednesday the 19th of March. **There will be quarts of soup available for pick up on Thursday, March 20th and Friday, March 21st.** It's a great way to share what the kids have learned with the whole family. There will be a vegetable and vegetable beef option.

Please submit all soup orders to Nadene or the church office by Monday, March 12th.

Soup will be \$10/quart.

Name: _____

Number of quarts:

Beef _____

Vegetable _____