

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 9, 2025 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

ADAGIO IN E MINOR
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

BENEDETTO MARCELLO (1686-1739)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"CHEREPOI"

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with love;
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
Varied in color and race;
Neighbors are near us and far away.

These are the ones we should serve;
These are the ones we should love;
All these are neighbors to us and you.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Come, all who seek refuge in the Lord!
God is our shelter, our fortress, our dwelling place.
Though we may wander far, God calls us home.
With open arms, God welcomes us back.
Let us return to the One who is faithful.
We come to worship the God of mercy and grace.

Let us pray -

Gracious God, your love knows no bounds, and your mercy finds us even when we are lost. As we worship, remind us that no distance is too great for your embrace. Draw us close again, that we may rejoice in your unfailing love. Amen.

* HYMN #418

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING

"SOFTLY AND TENDERLY"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, we confess that we have strayed. We have squandered your gifts, sought fulfillment in lesser things, and failed to trust in your provision. Yet you are the God who runs to meet us, who celebrates our return. Forgive our wandering hearts, and lead us back into your grace, that we may live as Your redeemed and beloved people. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #470

THERE IS A LONGING IN OUR HEARTS (Verse 1)

"LONGING"

There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.
For justice, for freedom, for mercy: hear our prayer.
In sorrow, in grief: be near; hear our prayer, O God.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ELDER ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

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 91:1-2, 9-16

- ¹ You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
² will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."
⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,
¹⁰ no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.
¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.
¹² On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
¹⁴ Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.
¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them.
¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation.

ANTHEM

KYRIE ("REQUIEM")
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR
Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy upon us.

MAURICE DURUFLÉ (1902-1986)

SECOND READING

LUKE 15

¹⁵ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." ¹¹ Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

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

YOU ARE MY REFUGE

MICHAEL JOHN TROTTA (1978 -)

KATELYN HENDRIX, ALISON PETERS, SOPRANOS; MIKAYLA DODGE, MEZZO-SOPRANO; ZACH DODGE, BARITONE

You are my refuge and my strength,

You are my shelter from ev'ry storm.

I will not fear when the ground shakes or mountains fall into the sea

I will not fear when oceans roar or mountains shake from swelling tide.

There is a river filled with life, a sacred place in which you dwell

Within its streams I find you there

I find your help at break of dawn

Though nations fear and kingdoms fade

Your voice brings hope when morning comes

You are with me, my fortress and strength!

Be still and know that I am.

* DOXOLOGY #328

PRAISE GOD, ALL YOU NATIONS

"DA N'ASE"

Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise! Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise!

God's love is great and endures forever. Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise!

* 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 #649

AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND

"AMAZING GRACE"

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #543

O CHRIST SURROUND ME (Verse 5)

"GREEN TYLER"

Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that hear my voice,

Christ in the hearts of all who know me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

POSTLUDE

MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN

"LOVE UNKNOWN"

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

Reflective text:

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me;

Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be

O who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

* 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.....	Michael Levitas
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir; Katelyn Hendrix and Alison Peters, Sopranos;
	Mikayla Dodge, Mezzo-Soprano; Zach Dodge, Baritone
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	David Stickler and Evan Swanger

SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL: Please join the Mission Committee after worship TODAY for our Second Sunday Social and Plarn making/instruction/information. No talent is required. Just join us to learn how the plastic mats are made for the homeless in our area. If you are inspired, you can help with any step of the process, or you can be the person who encourages others. Either way, please join us. Great Food! Great Fellowship! Great Service!
Nehemiah 3: Many hands make light work.



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



In memory of Sandra Burton's birthday on March 11, with lots of love from her children, Beth & her husband, Joel; Mike & his wife, Michelle; her granddaughter, Laura Beth & her husband, Phil; her great grandsons, Ezekiel and Thaddeus (Teddy).

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of March 2, 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	\$ 39,301.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 32,853.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 6,447.00

ONLINE GIVING



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. Class will run from 5:30-6:30 PM. RSVP to Brittany in the church office.



MONDAY, MARCH (10)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 4:45 PM ADMIN & FINANCE MEETING
 7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, MARCH (11)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 11:00 AM STAFF MEETING
 5:00 PM FAITH FORMATION MEETING
 7:00 PM BUILDING & GROUNDS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH (12)

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

THURSDAY, MARCH (13)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 5:00 PM LENTEN STUDY

FRIDAY, MARCH (14)

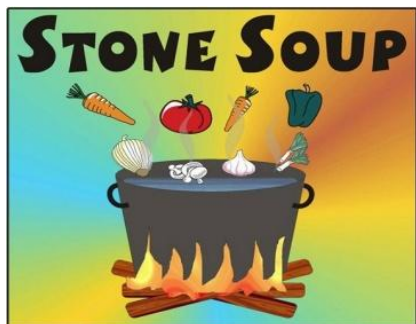
8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, MARCH (15)

SUNDAY, MARCH (16)

11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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 with the whole family what the kids have learned. There will be a vegetable and vegetable beef option.

Please submit all soup orders to Nadene or the church office by Monday, March 9th.

Soup will be \$10/quart.

Name: _____

Number of quarts: _____

Beef _____

Vegetable _____