



August 2025

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From the Pastor:

In the middle of August, I am attending my class reunion for the first time in over 30 years. It has become something special because one of my best friends from high school, Amy is also attending, making the trip back to PA from Portland OR, where she lived for many years. I have not seen Amy for about 40 years-she and I just never managed to be in our area of PA at the same time. There will be a lot of remembering. FYI Amy was the valedictorian of our graduating class.

I am looking forward to doing some fun remembering with Amy and some other friends soon, and this got me to thinking about remembering in the Bible. There are lots of places where we are asked to "remember." Here are just a few:

"And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not." Deuteronomy 8:2 It was important for the Hebrew people to remember that God provided for them and led them through 40 years in the wilderness.

This is one of my favorites: "Remember the steadfast love of the Lord, for he has not consumed us; his compassions never fail; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23. We would all have a much better life if we could always remember this. God never leaves us, and God never stops loving us, no matter what. God is a God of compassion. Another is like it:

"My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy." Psalm 63:5-7: I need to spend more time praising and being joyful! God has been my help, always.

There are dozens more, but I am going to the New Testament now in one of our two sacraments, in which we are called to "remember." The term "memory meal" accurately describes one aspect of the Lord's Supper's significance for many Christians. However, it often encompasses more than just remembrance, also pointing to present communion and future hope. And Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22: 19. How many times have we heard these in our lives? "Remember."

My hope for you as we continue our summer is that you too will "remember," because the act of remembering can be powerful. We often get busy and forget to remember how God has blessed us, how God has provided for us, how God has been with us in our dark seasons. So brothers and sisters: take some time this month to "remember."

Pastor Debbie

Next Issue
Please consider
adding content to this
newsletter.
Thank you!
Deadline August 25



Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, August 3, 2025, 8th Sunday after Pentecost (Year C) · First Reading Hosea 11:1-11 · Psalm 107:1-9, 43 · Second Reading Colossians 3:1-11 · Gospel Luke 12:13-21.

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, August 10, 2025, 9th Sunday after Pentecost (Year C) · First Reading Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 · Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23 · Second Reading Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 · Gospel Luke 12:32-40

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, August 17, 2025, 10th Sunday after Pentecost (Year C) · First Reading Isaiah 5:1-7 · Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 · Second Reading Hebrews 11:29-12:2 · Gospel Luke 12:49-56.

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, August 24, 2025, 11th Sunday after Pentecost (Year C) · First Reading Jeremiah 1:4-10 · Psalm 71:1-6 · Second Reading Hebrews 12:18-29 · Gospel Luke 13:10-17

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, August 31, 2025, 12th Sunday after Pentecost (Year C) · First Reading Jeremiah 2:4-13 · Psalm 81:1, 10-16 · Second Reading Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 · Gospel Luke 14:1, 7-14.

Sanctuary flowers are available for dedication in honor or in memory of a loved one.

There are 3 choices available.

Chancel vase	\$30.00 each
a basket of flowers	\$40.00
a bud vase of 3 roses	\$24.50

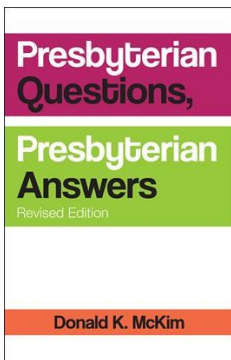


Chancel vases are open for dedication on Blank forms for dedications are near flower chart in hallway bulletin board going into Fellowship hall. The flower chart is for chancel vase dedications , ONLY.

Forms may be placed in offering plate. Payment is appreciated at time of request. Contact Marty with any questions. 410-213-1592

International Student Breakfast is winding down for the 2025 season. On Wednesday mornings you will find many workers preparing a nutritious meal for the Ocean City work force from around the world. We averaged around 80 students each week. More pictures on page 5





Book Study Continues:

We are continuing our Book study of "Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers" in August on Mondays: August 4, 11, 18, and 25 beginning at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Debbie will send out the readings in advance to participants. Come and join us!

Lunch Bunch

Do you enjoy having lunch with friends? If so, plan on joining the Lunch Bunch on the fourth Tuesday of the month at various restaurants around town.

The next event will be on August 26, 2025. Check bulletin for location. Jan Phillips will be making the reservations. So give Jan a call at 410-600-5631 and plan on being there. Bring a friend and join the lunch bunch on August 26 at 11:30AM. All Welcome- men also!

Coming in September: A brand new sermons series and Bible study titled, "Wilderness Promise," both based on Pastor Debbie's recent conference Bible study at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center. Stay tuned.

Also coming in September: A new member's class. Come and find out what it means to be Presbyterian and join our fellowship! More details to follow.

PNC NEWS

The PNC has been busy meeting on a regular basis, and they are excited about their progress. Please keep this group in your prayers.

Prayer Alert

Don't ever forget it is a wonderful privilege the Lord has given us, to lift anyone in prayer in the Name of Jesus, Who is the GREAT Physician. Praise His Holy name!

Our Lord wants to hear from us daily, remember our prayer list as you pray daily!

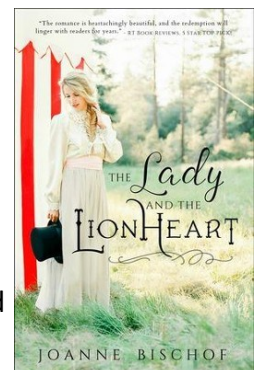
If you have a prayer request (no prayer is too big or too small for our Lord and King) please contact Pastor Debbie at 843-568-6480 or email djh3675@gmail.com



Blessings, Pastor Deb and Beth

Book Club August 19, 2025 at 11:30AM Bring bagged lunch! Session 1PM

The next book up for discussion at the church book club, which by the way still needs a name, is the Lady and the Lionheart by Joanne Bischof. Raised amid the fame and mystique of the Big Top, Charlie Lionheart holds the audience in the palm of his hand. But while his act captivates thousands, it's away from the spotlight where his true heart lies. Here he humbly cares for his pride of lions as if they were his brothers, a skill of bravery and strength that has prepared him for his most challenging feat yet--freeing an orphaned infant from the dark bondage of a sideshow.



MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Beth and Lou LaBrunda

By Dawn Butler

This month I interviewed a very special couple who are a part of our church, Beth & Lou LaBrunda. They have been married 23 years after meeting on Match.com in 1996. Beth told me she knew instantly “he was the one.”

Here are a few facts about this wonderful couple...

They have 6 children, 8 grandkids and 1 great grandchild.

They have been attending First Presbyterian church since 2013.

As a couple, they enjoy watching British detective shows and working on projects around the house.

Lou is a self-taught home improvement guy who enjoys fixing things.

Together they run the live stream of our church service on Sunday morning and Beth does some church office work.

They both were raised in the Catholic Church.

A fun fact about Beth is she's met Mother Theresa many times, her favorite Bible verse is Ecclesiastes 3:11 “He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from the beginning to end.”



Lou Doing what he enjoys most-working around the house! Installing a deck around their new pool.

Pets of the Month

by Dawn Butler

Beth and Lou LaBrunda own two dogs. One is named Gertie. Beth described her as a neurotic corgi/shepherd mix. Their other dog's name is Mabel. She is a one eyed pug. They are both senior dogs who fill Beth & Lou's world with much love.



Hymn of the Month In The Sweet By & By

The lyrics for “The Sweet By and By” were written by Sanford Fillmore Bennett and music by Joseph P. Webster.

The hymn was composed in 1868 in Elkhart, Wisconsin. The story goes that Bennett, a pharmacist wrote the lyrics rather quickly after seeing that Webster, a friend and musician who struggled with depression, needed a distraction.

Once the lyrics were handed to Webster, he reportedly composed the melody in less than 30 minutes. The hymn became very popular and remains a well-known piece of Christian music.

BODILY RESURRECTION, LIFE EVERLASTING

ETERNAL LIFE

Sweet By and By

633

WORDS: Sanford F. Bennett, 1836-1898
MUSIC: Joseph P. Webster, 1819-1875

BY AND BY
99.99 with Refrain

1. There's a land that is fair - er than day, and by
2. We shall sing on that beau - ti - ful shore the mel -
3. To our boun - ti - ful Fa - ther a - bove we will

faith we can see it a - far, for the Fa - ther waits
o - di - ous songs of the blest; and our spir - its shall
of - fer our trib - ute of praise, for the glo - ri - ous

o - ver the way to pre - pare us a dwell - ing - place there.
sor - row no more - not a sigh for the bless - ing of rest.
gift of His love, and the bless - ings that hal - low our days.

Refrain
In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beau - ti - ful shore;
In the sweet by and by, by and by, by and by;

In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beau - ti - ful shore.
In the sweet by and by, by and by,



**Who says that the breakfast has to be all work?
We have a lot of fun also!**

August 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Week of August 3 to the 8 White Marlin Parking					1 Kim Brenner birthday	2 Rich Wright birthday
3 Worship 10:30AM NO Fellowship after church	4 Nancy Wright birthday Book Study 4:30PM	5	6 Int. Student Breakfast 7:30AM Choir 6P<	7	8 Dan McKenty birthday Linda Phillips birthday	9 Sligo by the Sea 9AM
10 Worship 10:30AM	11 Debbie Haasbirthday	12	13 Choir 6P<	14	15	16 Jan Phillips birthday Sligo by the Sea 9AM
17 Worship 10:30AM	18	19 Book club 11:30 Session 1PM	20 Choir 6P<	21	22	23 Sligo by the Sea 9AM
24 Worship 10:30AM	25	26	27 Choir 6P<	28	29 Jacob Todd birthday	30 Sligo by the Sea 9AM
31 Worship 10:30AM	Look	For	New	Member	Class	in
September						

This information is only available in the web edition of the newsletter! It was inadvertently left out of the printed and emailed version.

Thank you.

Pastor Debbie's class reunion vacation

Pastor Debbie will be away for a few days in August to attend a class reunion in PA, and she will not be here on Sunday, August 17. The pulpit will be filled by the Rev. Dr. Jon L. Berquist. Here is his bio:

Rev. Dr. Jon L. Berquist has recently served as a transitional pastor in two churches in California, and has taught seminary at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Currently, he is a visiting scholar at Claremont School of Theology. He's also been a non-profit President supporting churches and education for ministry. He holds a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Vanderbilt University, and is the author of books and articles for the church and for the academy. Jon has been an ordained minister for 35 years. He and his wife, Rev. Sally Willis-Watkins, moved to Delaware at the start of 2025, along with their two dogs.