

Sunday April 14, 2024
3rd Sunday in Easter
10:30 AM



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Rev. Debbie Johnson

"It is About God"

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Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Noon
Wednesday & Thursday

Liturgy Sunday April 14, 2024
3rd Sunday in Easter
10:30 AM

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "Easter people not only bear the sign of the cross on their brow, their lives bear the marks of the gospel and the fruit of the Spirit." *Bishop Barbara C. Harris.*

Ringing of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (Psalm 4)

Deacon Karen Eberle

Listening God: we gather together as we lament over our shared despair.

We gather together to pray: "Lead me to hope oh, lead me to hope I pray"

Responding God: we come to you when we are numb with fear and despair.

In our trusting need we pray: "Lead me to faith oh, lead me to faith I pray"

Reacting God: we celebrate that through your generosity and love, you have offered us all "unrivalled joy," and God has indeed blessed our trust and hope.

In joy-filled celebrations, we gather together to praise and thank our God for the merciful blessings we have received from God, who heard our cries for help. Amen.

Prelude

Choral Introit "Jesus Is Lord of All"

*** Hymn: "The God of Abraham Praise" # 34**

*** Passing the Peace**

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Call to Confession

If our actions mirrored our words, if our hands were mentored by our hearts, if we walked the talk - we would be God's children. But too often, it is our silence, our doubts, our fears

Current Prayer Concerns:

Lori Patrick, Debbie Kelly, Thomas Simpson, Chris Hazard, Kent Mitchell, Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Amy Etheridge, Bonnie Hancock, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Bob Lebo, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna, Larry (Black) Blackwell, Marie McCallister, Betty Ignash, Lake Scott, Bryan Wayne-Records, Kathy Smith, Larry Steele, Margie Baugher Cramer, Mark Payne, Beth Miller, Baby Owen, Kathryn Maxwell, and Pat and Ben Steele.

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

Apl	21	Nancy Wright & Brenda Wilkinson
Apl	28	Barbara & Betsy Kipila
May	5	Lisa Bayles & Jonelle Jones
May	12	Dawn Butler and Sue Latour
May	19	Vicki Cairn & Jan Owens
May	26	Marty Cropper & Carol Reese

**Pastor Debbie's
Contact Information**

Cell: 843-568-6480

Email: djhj3675@gmail.com

You can call or text her. Pastor Debbie will be in Ocean City on Tuesdays and Sundays.

Welcome—Soli Deo Gloria

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Sun	Apr	14	Boy Scouts Troop 2173	4:00	PM
Tues	Apr	16	WOW - Women of Worship	11:00	AM
Wed	Apr	17	Hand Bells Practice	5:00	PM
Wed	Apr	17	Choir Practice	6:00	PM
Fri	Apr	19	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00	PM

Birthdays: *David Mumford (4/15) Renee Fitzgerald (4/16)*
Dave Fresca (4/17) Gregg Custis (4/18) Carolyn Fitzgerald (4/19)

Flowers: Flowers in the chancel vases are given:

Empty chancel vases for the month of April

April 21st two (2)

April 28th one (1)

thank you.

~ Marty

which tell others who we truly are. Let us confess to God how we have not been as faithful as we hope, as we pray, saying,

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious God, you give to us your greatest gift, Your Son Jesus Christ, as we still don't understand what is going on. You call us to be people of courage and hope; and yet we run and hide, doubting and fearing. You challenge us to proclaim our faith; but we huddle in darkness whispering our words of discouragement. Shake us up, Lord! Forgive us when we seem to need prodding over and over again. Help us to see the presence of Jesus in our lives; and remind us of all that He taught us, to help us to live as disciples, serving you by serving others. Change us! Remold us! Make us truly the disciples you have called us to be. Amen

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

What marvelous love, what wondrous grace, what abundant mercy God offers - to us! We really are God's people - that is exactly who we are!

We are God's children - those whose lives have been changed by the One who loves us and forgives us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* Gloria Patri (unison)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end, Amen. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

We become who we are called to be not through getting, acquiring and possessing but in our giving. To that end, let us worship God by giving our good gifts.

* Doxology (unison)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly Hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Living Lord, we give you thanks for the bounty of your grace: you create us in your image, shower us with your love, forgive us when we turn away from you, and give us a future with hope. Bless these gifts we offer you today, and make us good stewards of the resources you

have entrusted to us. May our gifts bring joy and peace in our church and in our community. In Christ's holy name we pray, Amen.

Choral Anthem "Heavenly Sunlight"

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Redeeming God, as we hear your Word spoken to us, open our eyes to see the risen Christ, open our ears to hear the good news of his salvation for all the world, and open our minds to understand the mysteries of your love. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

1st Scripture Isaiah 6: 1-9a [NRSV]

Vicki Cairn

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." ⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

⁵And I said, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" ⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" ⁹And he said, "Go and say to this people: 'Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.'

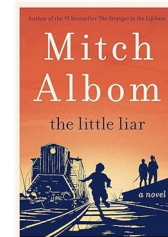
2nd Scripture Reading: Acts 3: 1-19 [NRSV]

Rev. Debbie Johnson

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ²Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called

The next book Club April 23rd at 1PM the Book, Book club will be reading is, The Little Liar by Mitch Albom NEW DATE

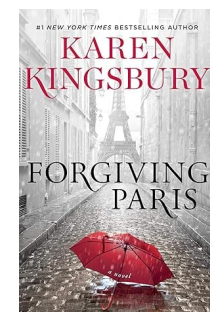
Albom's extraordinary storytelling is at its powerful best in his first novel to confront the destruction that lying can wreak both on the world stage as well as on the individual lives that get caught up in it. As *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* spoke to belief, *The Little Liar* speaks to hope, in a breathless page-turner that will break your heart open and fill it with the power of the human spirit and the goodness that lies within us all.



The Book Club will also be reading;

Forgiving Paris by Karen Kingsbury

In Indiana, Ashley Baxter Blake and her husband are about to take an anniversary trip to Paris, but she is hesitant. More than two decades ago, she made her most grievous mistake in that same city. She has never forgiven herself for what happened there, and she still harbors secrets that she's afraid will come to light. Just before the trip, Ashley gets a call from her niece. Jessie explains that her French boyfriend's mother remembers working at a bakery with an American named Ashley. "Could that be you?"



Congregation Financials as of March 31st, 2024:

Year-to-date **giving/income** (\$45,262.88 from giving; remainder from parking, building use, etc.): \$51,643.81

Year-to-date **disbursements**: \$42,408.38

Note: A bookkeeping change was made to charge \$20,166 against Capital Improvement for the new windows installed in the Manse in 2023. Capital Improvement balance now stands at \$89,666.08.

CPR Class to be Offered

We are in the planning stages to offer a CPR Class at the church. It will be held in the afternoon. There is a signup sheet on the glass table. Please note if you are interested.

Deacons' Meeting

Reminder: A meeting of the Deacons will be held following our worship today.

Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. ¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade.

¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

¹⁷ "Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

Time with Children & Youth
Rev. Debbie Johnson

Sermon: "It is About God"
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* Hymn: "Jesus Lives, and So Shall I" # 224

* Affirmation of Faith - The Apostles Creed (unison)
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayer after Communion & Lord's Prayer

* Hymn: "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations " # 296

Charge

Benediction

Postlude and Response: Three-Fold Amen

*Liturgy credit: Ministry Matters, The Presbyterian Outlook, Lectionary
Liturgies, The Timeless Psalms*



Our Spring Rummage Sale
will be held
on **Saturday, May 4, 2024**

from **7AM—1PM**

The shed will be unlocked starting
today until April 28th. If it gets
locked, the office has a key.

Jan Owens is asking that you hold
your winter clothes until the next
Rummage Sale on June 8th.