

Sunday, February 9, 2025 5th Sunday after Epiphany



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City Pastor Debbie Johnson

"Is the Persistence Worth It?"

Jacob Todd, Organist and Choirmaster

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Order of Worship: Sunday, February 9, 2025 5th Sunday after Epiphany Black History Month

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: Gracious God, we thank You for the diverse voices of Black leaders who have enriched our communities. Help us to embrace and celebrate our differences, working together for a better future. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship: (responsive) Jackie Bates

Jesus calls us to praise and prayer, to song and silence;

Jesus calls us to worship.

Jesus calls us to hearing and healing, to service and solidarity;

Jesus calls us to love.

Jesus calls us to advocacy and action, to protest and provision;

Jesus calls us to justice.

Let us heed the call of Christ.

Let us worship together with joy.

Choral Introit "My Lord, What a Morning"

* Hymn: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" # 43

* Passing the Peace - Please turn to your neighbor and pass the peace of Christ

Current Prayer Concerns:

Diane Ayres, Virginia Miller, Marie McCallister, Thomas Simpson, Chris Hazard, Kent Mitchell, Hudson Day, Amy Etheridge, Bonnie Hancock, Eric Richardson, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna, Larry (Black) Blackwell, Kathy Smith, Larry Steele, Mark Payne, Pat and Ben Steele, Joey Martin, Robert Wilkins, Bob & Dee Lebo, Margie Baugher-Cramer, William Steger, and Brian Dypsky, and Christine Ruskin.

**** Please let the office know when a loved one can be moved off our prayer list. Call or text Beth at 862-266-6939 or email the office at ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com.****

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

- Feb 16 Jonelle Jones
- Feb 23 Barb & Betsy Kipila
- Mar 2 Jan Owens.
- Mar 9 Robin Quinn

The Rev. Dr. Sandra Caldwell Williams was Pastor Debbie's "suitemate" during their time together at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA. They were both second career "older" students; they studied Greek together and had great fun "hanging out." Sandra returned to her church in Charlotte and became one of 10 pastors on staff following seminary. When Debbie was ordained in 2009, she asked Presbytery if Sandra, a Baptist, could preach the sermon for her ordination service, which she did. Sandra is now retired and has completed her Doctorate program at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte. This sermon won the annual Preaching Award at the seminary and is included in the Seminarian's Issue of The African American Pulpit.

Calendar, Birthdays, Flowers

Wed	Feb	12	Hand Bells Practice	5:00	ΡM
Wed	Feb	12	Choir Practice	6:00	ΡM
Fri	Feb	14	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00	ΡM

Birthdays: Liz Mumford (2/9)

Flowers: Flowers in the chancel vases are given:

~ In praise of the Great Physician and in honor of my sister Marie McCallister and the celebration of her February 13th birthday. As sisters, we share many loving memories of yesteryears, the joys of today and the hope for a healthy tomorrow. I love you, Martha.

CHANCEL VASES OPEN FOR DEDICATIONS February 16 one (1) February 23 two (2)

ATTENTION OCEAN CITY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

It is clear how much you all enjoy being together, laughing, and having fun. So....let's do a Women's Fall Retreat at Camp Pecometh, Centreville, MD, which is 70 minutes away. We can carpool. All meals will be cooked, nice rooms, wooded setting (great for autumn leaves), Bible study, playing games, singing, movie, but lots of time for fun and fellowship. Flexible schedule. Prices vary according to number of entrees. Another visiting group may have 2 entrees, we would have one, plus salad bar, and dessert. Accommodations are made for diabetics or other dietary restrictions. All women of the church received an email about this on Wednesday. Please either email Debbie or sign up on the sheet in the rear of the sanctuary. Since we do have choices of dates, women who are interested can weigh in on their best date to do the retreat. Dates may be taken quickly, so please make a decision as to whether you could attend.

Call to Confession:

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

God of all ages, from the beginning of time, we have turned away from your vision of love as you desired beloved community, and we broke our relationship with you and one another. We are a broken people-we are a broken nation. Forgive us for our refusal to see clearly our sin of racism. Forgive us and send your mercy. Guide us in taking steps to know peace and justice and to work together to create equity from our chaos. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, with the power of the Holy Spirit who is always creating something new, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: (responsive)

The good news is that, in our God, we find that safe place for our lives. In God's forgiveness, we are offered the healing we need. In God's acceptance, we discover the love in which we may abide in every moment of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* Gloria Patri

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

Offertory

* 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:

Gracious and loving God, the giver of all things, we thank you that we are able to come to you in joy and celebration. We offer ourselves and all that we have to you knowing that all of what we have comes from you. Bless these offerings that they may be used to enlarge your kingdom. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Choral Anthem: "I Will Sing For Joy"

Prayer for Illumination: (unison) Holy God, as we prepare to read your living Word, open our hearts, our ears and our eyes that we may encounter your Spirit. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: Genesis 45: 1-15 (pp. 47-48 in pew Bible) Elder Nancy Wright

2nd Scripture Reading: Matthew 15: 21-28 (pp. 971-972 in pew Bible) Pastor Debbie Johnson

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Lunch Bunch will be meeting again on February 24h at Harpoon Hanna's at 11:30 AM located on Route 54 in Fenwick Island

The Session recently voted for and sent \$ 1000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for their use in helping the victims of the fires in California.

For the month of February, we are going to be celebrating in worship, Black History month. This will include one spiritual as a hymn, information on a famous black American, and some liturgy. We are doing this to honor our black brothers and sisters in Christ.

DEACONS GIVING PROJECT

Samaritan Ministries To support the day to day operation of Samaritan Shelter in Pocomoke.

NEEDS INCLUDE

Cleaning supplies Paper towels Toilet paper Laundry and dishwasher detergents Paper plates Zip lock bags

Monetary donations always accepted payable to Samaritan Ministries

JOIN US FOR THE 35th ANNUAL SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!

Who doesn't know that this Sunday is the Super Bowl? And in churches all over the country, the celebra[®] on turns to soup pots and hunger for the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Started in 1990 by a then young Presbyterian pastor who said a prayer in Columbia, SC, \H

Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat,"

the Souper Bowl of Caring movement spread nationwide. 22 churches raised\$5,700 in the first year. Since 1990, **close to \$200 million** has been reported donated to local food charities across all fifty states.

This Sunday, there will be two soup pots in the back of the sanctuary. One will have the logo of the Kansas City Chiefs and the other the logo of the Philadelphia Eagles. Bring your cash to worship and put it in the pot of the team you are rooting for. If you don't have a favorite team, then put cash in both pots!



First Presbyterian of Ocean City will soon have a Blessing Box between the church and the manse, which will be replenished frequently with non-perishable food items. We will use the monies collected this Sunday to buy those food items as we begin this new mission in the community.

So join us for an exci ng opportunity to raise funds and support our own Blessing Box—all while celebra ng the thrill of the Big Game! Let's team up to make a powerful impact in the fight against hunger. The campaign ends this Sunday, February 9th, 2025, the day of Super Bowl. Together, we can make a difference in our community! For more information on The Souper Bowl of Caring go to:

Time with Children & Youth Pastor Debbie Johnson

Sermon: "Is the Persistence Worth It?"

A sermon by the Rev. Dr. Sandra Caldwell Williams, Charlotte, NC, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church **Pastor Debbie Johnson**

Ordination and Installation of New Deacon, Jonelle Jones

* Hymn: "In Christ There Is No East or West" # 285

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.

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (unison)

When Leader says, "Lord in your mercy," Congregation will respond with, "Hear our prayer."

* Hymn "We Shall Overcome" (back of bulletin)

Charge: "Three-Fold Amen" Benediction Postlude and Response:

Liturgy credit: Lectionary Liturgies; Rose Schrott Taylor for The Presbyterian Outlook;

Pastor Debbie's Info:

Email: djhj3675@gmail.com Cell phone: (843) 568-6480

Always available by texting or calling.

Save the Date for the Next Game Night

we will have another game night in Fellowship Hall.

On Tuesday February 25th at 6:00 PM,

Rev. Dr. Charles Albert Tindley

Traveling into downtown Berlin, MD, it is hard to miss the large Mural on Commerce Street, also known as Tindley Way. In the summer of 2022, community members partnered with several non-profit organizations to create this mural, a larger-than-life portrait of a man who is arguably the most famous native son of Berlin. The Reverend Dr. Charles Albert Tindley, born in 1851, overcame poverty and slavery to become one of the most influential writers of gospel music. Five of over forty of his hymns appear in the revised Methodist hymnals used worldwide, and he is recognized as "The Godfather of Gospel Music."

For much of his childhood, Reverend Charles Albert Tindley lived with his father, who remarried twice and had more children, but was legally "owned" until 1864 by his maternal grandfather, Arnold Miller. It is incredibly hard to comprehend the lives of Reverend Tindley and his family, and perhaps that is something that can never be truly understood, but it serves as insight into the inner workings of the family life of those enslaved people leading up to the Civil War. Charles Albert Tindley, who rose from the humblest beginnings, teaching himself to read and later pursuing additional education, became the pastor of thousands of members at what is now known as the Tindley Temple United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, and became an inspiration for thousands. He died 26 July 1933 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and is buried at Eden Cemetery in Collingdale, Pennsylvania. Bottom of Form

"We Shall Overcome" is a gospel song that is associated heavily with the U.S. civil rights movement. The origins of the song are unclear; it was thought to have descended from "I'll Overcome Some Day," a hymn by Charles Albert Tindley, while the modern version of the song was first said to have been sung by tobacco workers led by Lucille Simmons during the 1945–1946 Charleston Cigar Factory strike in Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1947, the song was published under the title "**We Will Overcome**" in an edition of the People's Songs Bulletin, as a contribution of and with an introduction by Zilphia Horton. She taught it to many others, including People's Songs director Pete Seeger, who included it in his repertoire, as did many other activist singers, such as Frank Hamilton and Joe Glazer.

In 1959, the song began to be associated with the civil rights movement as a protest song, when Guy Carawan stepped in with his and Seeger's version as song leader at Highlander, which was then focused on nonviolent civil rights activism. It quickly became the movement's unofficial anthem.