



410-289-9340

April 2026



Dear Friends in Faith,

Christian Book Club	5
Ordination	2
Calendar/birthdays	6
Dates to remember	3
Flowers	3
Lunch Bunch	3
Prayer Alert	4
Samaritan Shelter	3
Elders and Deacons	4
Women of Worship	2
Community Easter Serv.	2
Adult Bible Study	4
One Great Hour of Sharing	5

March has been full. We have been in the midst of Lent, when the church recognizes a time of repentance and preparation. Just like Jesus turns his face to Jerusalem, we have been called to change direction in our lives – to find a new path in following Jesus. So we have prepared, week by week. We have seen what Jesus shows to his disciples so that they will understand the cross, and we too have learned what it means to follow Jesus. We don't just go along for the ride; we learn new steps so that we can be faithful followers, not just staying close behind Jesus, but beginning to learn what Jesus can do.

April will be full, too. Our path takes us to Maundy Thursday, where we will dine with Jesus at the first Lord's supper. From there, we watch Jesus' betrayal, arrest, and sentencing, and onward through punishment and execution. On Easter, we marvel at an empty tomb, and in the days ahead, we learn that Jesus is still walking with us, and calling us to follow. As Jesus ushers in a new reality in the wake of the cross, and we move onward from Jerusalem, we gain a new sense of beginning.

Once Easter comes, our old lives just don't make sense any longer. Instead, we must find a new path – not as individual followers, but as a community. Just as the disciples, we now understand ourselves as a church. A church must move forward together. So in the weeks after Easter and into the summer, our worship will focus on the New Testament book of Acts, where the disciples of Jesus are transformed into a church, and learns to work together toward God's shared mission.

On April 12, the week after Easter, our Adult Sunday School will return. We will learn from the book of Genesis, the Bible's own story of beginnings. The book begins with God's unimaginable acts of creation, but soon moves to tell stories of people who walk with God and follow God. Life is not easy for these people, and they make difficult choices – not always the right choices, either. Like us, they walk with halting steps and misdirection, but always in God's loving care. God stays with them, just as God stays with us.

One other part of April is the installation of your new pastor on April 18. The congregation and the Presbytery will gather in Ocean City, to celebrate our new beginning together. We'll emphasize that new beginnings always come in the midst of community, and that God always calls us forward to new life together.

This will be an exciting time! I hope to see you often through April.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon

*Next Issue*  
Please consider adding content to this newsletter.  
Thank you!  
Deadline April 23 2026





## Women of Worship (WOW)

WOW will meet on Tuesday, April 21, at 11:00am. Our Horizons Bible Study continues with Part III, Finding Our Identity. We will briefly look at Lesson Seven: The Woman Who Was Bent Over (Luke 13: 10-17), and then turn to Lesson Eight: Remembering Jesus' Baptism (as told in all four gospels -- Matthew 3:1-17, Mark 1:1-11, Luke 3:1-22, John 1:19-34. Ladies, please consider joining us for this bible study, our meeting, and a bring your own lunch after. We will also have book club at 12:15PM, Details elsewhere in newsletter.

### *Maundy Thursday April 2, 2026 at 6PM*

*Covered Dish (sign up on glass table in back of sanctuary.) To be followed by Tenebrae Service with communion.*




**Good Friday  
Cross Walk**  
FRIDAY, APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026 AT NOON

Christian Community Will Meet At  
The Son'Spot on Worcester Street  
And The Walk Will Conclude At  
The Atlantic United Methodist  
Church on 4th Street

For More Information Call 410-289-7430

Join Us for Easter Sunrise Service  
Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> on the Boardwalk  
at N. Division St.

*Cross Walk  
On The Ocean City  
Boardwalk To Lift Up  
The Name Of Jesus!*

Everyone is invited to our community's  
**Easter Sunrise Service** on Sunday, April 5th at 6 a.m.  
on the Boardwalk at North Division Street.

Ministers, musicians, and singers from many of Ocean City's  
Christian churches will participate. This service will  
celebrate our risen Lord with singing, scripture and preaching.  
This is always a wonderful service and we hope you can attend.

Bleachers and a limited number of chairs will be provided.  
You may want to bring a blanket.

For additional information call 410-289-7430.  
*(if there is rain, the service will relocate to Atlantic United Methodist Church on 4th Street.)*



*You are invited to join  
First Presbyterian Church OC and the  
Newcastle Presbytery  
for the celebration of ordination of  
Pastor Jon Berquist  
Saturday, April 18th at 11AM  
Fellowship meal to follow  
All are welcome to attend and we urge  
you to come and welcome Pastor Jon  
officially as our ordained pastor.*

## Please don't forget our 3rd Sunday collection for Samaritan

**Shelter!** We will be collecting household supplies on Sunday, April 19, 2026 to take to Samaritan Shelter in Pocomoke City. This has been a monthly activity of our church for many years. Household items such as dish soap, laundry soap, bath tissue, paper towels, zip loc bags, aluminum foil, etc. Anything that you need to maintain a household will be welcome. So please remember this when you are grocery shopping. Nancy and Rich Wright will be taking the items to Pocomoke to the Samaritan Shelter the following week. Thank you, Nancy and Rich!

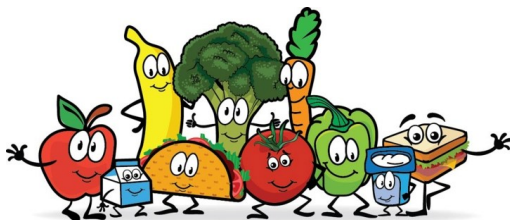


## Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, April

28th at 11:30 at Hooked a 8003 Coastal Highway.

Come and join us! We welcome newcomers and men don't be shy, you are more than welcome! Call Jan Phillips at 410-600-5631 and plan on being there. Bring a friend and join the lunch bunch on April 28th at 11:30AM.



## Sanctuary flowers

If you would like to dedicate flowers in honor of or in memory of a loved one, request forms are on the bulletin board opposite church offices. There you will see available dates for the entire year 2026 for chancel vases.

Baskets of flowers and bud vases of 3 roses are available any time. Chancel vases \$30.00 each. Basket of flowers \$40.00. Vases of 3 roses \$24.50. Chancel vases available for dedication- April 12 (2), April 19 (2), April 26 (1)

Completed forms may be given to Marty Cropper. Thank you for helping make our sanctuary a place of beauty to worship with flowers praising God and honoring loved ones. Flowers are yours to take home.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Maundy Thursday** April 2, 2026 6PM Covered dish with communion

**Ordination of Pastor Jon Berquist** April 18, 2026 at 11AM

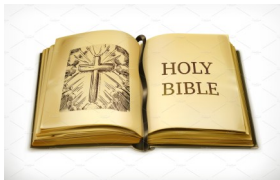
**Deacons meeting** The Deacons will meet on Sunday April 19th, following worship in the small room off of Fellowship Hall.

**Session Meeting** The session will meet on April 21, 2026 at 1PM in Fellowship Hall.

**Adult Bible Study** will resume on April 12, 2026 at 9AM

	Name	Term	Current Term Ends *Final Term 1 year break required	Phone	Email
Moderator	Pastor Jon Berquist		Pastor	443-856-0162	pastorjonberquist@gmail.com
Elder	Bob Brenner	2	2027	443-497-3020	rbren12201@aol.com
Clerk	Vicky Cairns	2	2026	302-222-6039	vcairns50@gmail.com
Elder	John Eberle	3	2028	302-988-2844	johnweberle@comcast.net
Elder	Karen Eberle	3	2028	302-988-2844	kieberle9099@gmail.com
Elder	Chris Greenwood	3	2026	410-726-4101	cwg00713@gmail.com
Elder	Steve Hales	2	2027	410-251-5970	stephen.hales1942@outlook.com
Elder	Barbara Kipila	3	2027	667-288-1360	bkipila@yahoo.com
Elder	Jan Owens	3	2026*	410-641-4919	jtorph@comcast.net
Elder	Mabel Rogers	3	2026	410-641-5883	thimbly@comcast.net
Deacon	Dawn Butler	3	2026	303-519-1317	dawnevebutler60@gmail.com
Deacon	Cindy Evans	3	2027		
Deacon	Beth Fisher	3	2028	443-235-7026	eqfisher@gmail.com
Deacon	Ann Hales*	3	2026	410-430-7085	annahales914amh@gmail.com
Deacon	Jonelle Jones	3	2027	443-366-5680	beach122000@outlook.com
Deacon	Logan Rogers	3	2028	410-726-8819	7blueangels@gmail.com
Deacon	Nancy Wright	3	2028	410-208-9119	ocean.pines6@yahoo.com

## Returning Adult Bible Study– Sunday April 12, 2026 9AM



Pastor Jon will be reviving the Sunday morning adult Bible study. The lessons will begin at the beginning with a study of Genesis. Come out and support Pastor Jon and learn a little more about the book of Genesis.

### *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, so 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 Beth LaBrunda at 862-266-6939.



## Fellowship

Regular attendees of FPCOC know that every Sunday, we have an amazing fellowship following worship. The preparation is shared by various women of the church. They provide the basis for the shared refreshments. Though this started as a “coffee and cookie” time, it has evolved into much more. The hostess would welcome any contributions that you may wish to share. Please let the hostess know if you are bringing something.

Hostesses for April:

Easter Sunday-no fellowship

April 12 Mabel and Logan Rogers

April 19 Jackie Bates

April 26 Vicky Cairns



Our church is participating in the annual One Great Hour of Sharing again this year. Please consider donating to this worthy cause. Centered in the prophet Micah's call to do justice, One Great Hour of Sharing has been helping neighbors in need around the world for over 75 years. The annual Offering gives the PC

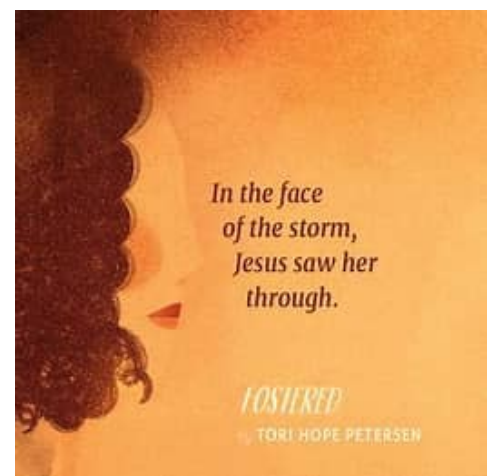
(USA) a tangible way to share God's love by joining together to help eliminate the root causes of the world's injustices. Mark all donations for **One Great Hour of Sharing**. We will be collecting through April 19th.

Thank you for your support of this worthy cause. Small contributions add up when we pull together!

## Book club Fostered by Tori Hope Petersen

Join us on April 21, 2026 at approximately 12:15PM for a discussion about Fostered by Tori Hope Petersen. Karen Eberle will lead the discussion. **All welcome!**

In her gripping debut memoir, Tori Hope Petersen shares how the light of Christ met her in the darkest moments of growing up in foster care, making a way for her to eventually find profound hope, deep faith, and a loving family, too.



**Blessing Box** The deacons have requested that all donated items be brought into the church and put on table by refrigerator in the back room near cabinets in fellowship hall. They are trying to work out some temperature control issues and do not want things to spoil. Thank you for your donations and people are finding our blessing box.  
Jonelle Jones, Chairman of Deacons



# April 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



		1	2	3	4	
		Choir Practice 6PM	<i>Maundy Thurs. Covered Dish and Tennebrae Service 6PM</i>	<i>Good Friday Cross Walk 12N Worcester St.</i>		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>Easter Sunrise 6AM N. Div. St. Worship 10:30AM</i>			Handbell practice 5PM  Choir Practice 6PM			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<i>Adult Bible Study 9AM Worship 10:30AM</i>			Handbell practice 5PM  Choir Practice 6PM			<i>Pastor Jon B. Ordination 11AM</i>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<i>Adult Bible Study 9AM Worship 10:30AM Samaritan Sunday Deacons meeting following worship</i>		<i>WOW 11AM Book Club 12N Session 1PM</i>	Handbell practice 5PM  Choir Practice 6PM			<i>Mission Outreach Ocean Pines Library 12-2PM Make sock dolls</i>
26	27	28	29	30		
<i>Adult Bible Study 9AM Worship 10:30AM</i>		Lunch Bunch 11:30AM	Handbell practice 5PM  Choir Practice 6PM			