

**Sunday, October 5, 2025
17th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday**

**Last two Bible Studies on
“Wilderness Promise” Thursday
Bible study. At 10:30 AM**

Come join us Thursday mornings and learn about this time in the Old Testament and how these passages have application for us today.

October 2nd. “Economics in the Wilderness and Beyond”

October 9th. “Complexity in the Wilderness and Beyond”



**First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Pastor Debbie Johnson**

"Lessons From the Wilderness"

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Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Noon

Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday

Order of Worship: Sunday, October 5, 2025
17th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:

"Human beings are not only created in the image of God (this is who they are); they are also created to be the image of God (this is their role in the world). The latter means that God really does give over care of the world to the one created in the divine image, come what may; God will not intervene to fix things every time the creature does not get it right." Terence Fretheim.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship:

Elder Marty Cropper

We have gathered in God's holy presence,
the One who etches grace on our hearts.

This is the place where God will transform us into disciples.

We glorify our God, who yearns for justice,
not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.

This is the place where God will write compassion on our souls.

We give thanks to God for unceasing grace;
we remember God's persistence in saving us.

This is the place where God will breathe the Word into our lives.

Choral Introit "Song of the Wilderness"

*** Hymn: "O Lord, Our God, How Excellent"**
(folded insert)

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

Lunch Bunch for October

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, October 21 at 11:30 at the Daybreak Cafe, 37427 Gateway Ln, Selbyville, DE 19975. Come and join us! New participants are always welcome!

Reminder for Session

The regular meeting time for the Session has been changed. Session will meet on Tuesday, October 28 at 1:00 PM.

WOW meeting will be one week earlier in October due to a church scheduling conflict.

WOW will meet at 11:00 am on Tuesday 10/14; lunch and then book club will follow the meeting.

Chancel vases open for dedication:

October 12th.....one

October 19th.....one

October 26th.....two

Rummage Sale

Saturday, October 11

7:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Set up 6:00 AM

We can always use helpers!

**Tell your friends and neighbors
Great Deals – Treasures to Find!
Support our Mission to Help
Our Community**

The shed will be open 9/20 to 10/5

Please do not donate summer clothes.

Call to Confession:

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

God of blood and bone, God of spirit and vapor: long ago you became incarnate to show us your true nature. You took on the flesh of Jesus of Nazareth, and through him clarified and fulfilled all the Law and the Prophets. His message was one of love, peace, and justice, those things that are closest to your heart. Then and now, people have turned from this message, and we recognize our own complicity in allowing systems of injustice to prevail. Caught up in arguments about "right belief," we neglect "right action," which would have us be your hands and feet in the world. Have mercy, O Christ. As we wait for your coming, help us to be your love incarnate, for this world surely needs it. In Christ, born of woman, Word made flesh, who redeems us, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Relentlessly God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, across time and space and through the generations, God seeks us out. This is good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

* Gloria Patri (unison) #622

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

* Doxology (unison) #625

Prayer of Dedication

Choral Anthem: "Come, Ye That Fear the Lord" (Psalm 66)

Prayer for Illumination: (unison)

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

1st Scripture reading: Deuteronomy 17: 14-20 (p. 189 in pew Bible)

Jackie Bates

2nd Reading: Genesis 1: 26-28

(p. 2 in pew Bible)

Pastor Debbie Johnson

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Time with Children & Youth

Pastor Debbie Johnson

Sermon "Lessons From the Wilderness"

Pastor Debbie Johnson

* Hymn: "For the Healing of the Nations"
(folded insert)

Affirmation of Faith

(The Nicene Creed) (Unison)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

Current Prayer Concerns:

Virginia Miller

Lydia Frasca,

Bob & Dee Lebo

William Steger

Marie McCallister-sister of Marty Cropper

Christine Ruskin-friend of Marty

Joe Nasatka-friend of Marty

Eric Richardson-friend of Lisa Bayles

Kent Mitchell-friend of the congregation

Amy Etheridge- Friend of Beth Fisher

Mark Payne- Friend of Beth Fisher

Larry Steele — Family of Dee Lebo

Pat and Ben Steele — Family of Dee Lebo

Jessica Colbert + Family — Family of Vicky Cairns

Beth Miller — Friend of the Hales

Chuck Shorley — Friend of the Hales

Scott Blank — Friend of the Hales

Chris Hazard — Brother of Ann Hales

Margie Baugher Cramer— Friend of Buzzy Bayles

Paul Whitson

Trip Kory

Carol Reese

Sarah & Cliff Dypsky

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

Oct 12 Carol Reese

Oct 19 Jonelle Jones

Oct 26 Jackie Bates

Nov 2 Mary Synder

Nov 9 *Church Family Thanksgiving*

Nov 16 Lisa Bayles

Nov 23 Vicky Cairns

Nov 30 Marty Cropper .

Calendar, Birthdays, and More ...

Wed	Oct	8	Bell Practice	5:00 PM
Wed	Oct	8	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Thurs	Oct	9	Wilderness Bible Study	10:30 AM
Fri	Oct	10	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM

Birthdays: NO BIRTHDAYS

Flowers: NO FLOWERS

Pastor Debbie will now be taking all prayer requests.. Email her at djhj3675@gmail.com or text her at 843-568-6480..

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

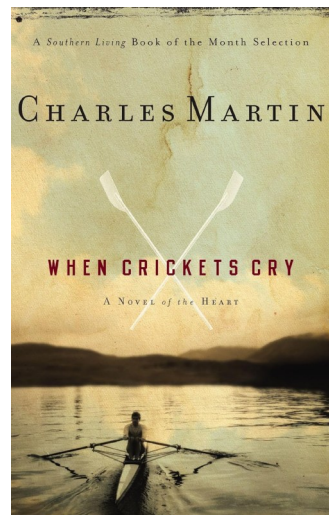
Blessed are you, O God our Creator, whose image dwells in every face of the human family.....

Words of Institution

Save the Date,

The next book club will be
October 14th at 12:00 PM

*From the bestselling author of *The Mountain Between Us* comes the moving story of a man with a painful past, a little girl with a doubtful future, and a shared journey toward healing for both of their hearts.*



Communion of the People

The body of Christ broken for you.

The blood of Christ poured out for you.

Prayer after communion and the Lord's
Prayer (unison)

* Hymn "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

(Familiar Tune)

1. Today we are all called to be Disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captives free, Make plow-share out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, Make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first, Our ease and comfort last.

2. God made the world and at its birth Ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth, Responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud, We sow not peace but strife,
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud That threatens all of life.

3. Pray justice may come rolling down As in a mighty stream,
With righteousness in field and town To cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore An earth where conflicts cease,
A world that was created for A harmony of peace.

4. May we in service to our God Act out the living word,
And walk the road the saints have trod Till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we Give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be Disciples of the Lord.

Charge

Benediction

Response:

Postlude: "Three-Fold Amen"

Liturgy credit: Book of Confessions; <https://laughingbird.com>;

Massanetta conference resources; Rev. John Wurster

for the Presbyterian Outlook; Hymnary.

Music license: CCLI-#1650329.

NEW BLESSING BOX

In case you have not noticed, we now have a blessing box for people in our community who have food insecurity, whether that be homeless or low income. The Deacons have taken over this wonderful project and will be continuing to make sure that there is non-perishable food in the blessing box. If you know someone who could benefit from our new project, please pass the word!

Pastor Debbie's Info:

Email: djhj3675@gmail.com

Cell phone: (843) 568-6480

Always available by texting or calling.