

Sunday, July 20, 2025
6th Sunday after Pentecost

Joseph M. Scriven, an Irish immigrant to Canada, wrote "What a Friend" near Port Hope, Ontario, in 1855. Because his life was filled with grief and trials, Scriven often needed the solace of the Lord as described in his famous hymn.

Do you think our good old hymns were readily accepted when they were first written? Think again! That should give us pause for the new hymns coming out!

The hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" was written by Joseph M. Scriven in 1855 as a poem to comfort his mother.

The poem was first published anonymously and was not widely known or attributed to Scriven for many years.

The poem was first published in 1865 without Scriven's name. It gained popularity after Charles C. Converse set it to music in 1868 and was included in Ira Sankey's "Gospel Hymns and Sacred Songs" in 1875. Sankey initially attributed the hymn to Horatius Bonar, and it took until the 1880s for Scriven's authorship to be correctly recognized.

The hymn received some criticism for its poetic quality. Albert Bailey noted the monotonous rhymes and language, calling it "doggerel". Bailey also acknowledged that the hymn's message has helped many.

The Handbook to the Lutheran Hymnal mentions criticism of the hymn and its tune for being "too much on the order of the sentimental gospel type" but also notes its continued popularity. The tune was also criticized as dull.

In summary, the hymn's author remained unknown for a long time, and it received criticism for its writing and music.

However, its message of finding comfort in Jesus through prayer resonated with many people, leading to its widespread and lasting popularity.



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
The Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

"Jesus is Here --- Squirrel!"

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Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Noon
Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday

Order of Worship: Sunday, July 20, 2025

6th Sunday after Pentecost

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:

Jesus is in our midst and telling us what to focus on.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship:

Cru member, Duncan

L: Come and worship!

ALL: Be still and aware of God's presence within and around you. (Pause)

L: Come and worship!

ALL: Be still and aware of Jesus' presence within and around you. (Pause)

L: Come and worship!

ALL: Be still and aware of the Spirit's presence within and around you. (Pause)

L: Be still and know the presence of the Triune God,

ALL: the Father to whom we come,

the Son through whom we come,

the Spirit by whom we come. (Pause)

L: Hear God's word:

ALL: Be still and know that I am God.

Choral Introit "Jesus, Stand Among Us" # 586

*** Hymn: "Be Still My Soul" #343**

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

Call to Confession

They are there in the Bible: men and women who are

Donation to Mercy Chefs

At their recent meeting, Session voted to give \$ 1000 to a group called Mercy Chefs in response to the Texas flood in Kerrville. Mercy Chefs is a faith-based, non-profit disaster and humanitarian relief organization. They exist to provide professionally prepared, restaurant-quality meals to victims, volunteers, and first responders in natural disasters and emergencies, and partner with existing like-minded organizations to further their mission by providing food service in underserved communities across the country and around the globe. Keep that area of Texas in your prayers along with other areas that received flooding this past week.

**Our next game night will be sometime in
September, date TBA**

WHAT:..... CRU SEND OFF PICNIC

WHERE:..... CHURCH PORTICO AND FELLOWSHIP HALL

WHEN:..... FOLLOWING WORSHIP JULY 27TH

WHY:..... WISHING OUR CRU FRIENDS THE BEST AND THANKING THEM FOR BEING A PART OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY.

SIGN UP SHEET FOR WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE BRING IS ON GLASS TOPPED TABLE IN BACK OF SANCTUARY

THANK YOU,

FPCOC FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Today we welcome to our Pulpit

The Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Len is a retired Presbyterian minister and retired licensed psychologist but currently serves the Presbytery as a Pastor for pastoral leaders. He is married with four grown children, four excellent grandsons and a delightful labradoodle named Cocoa.

Coming to fill the pulpit next Sunday, July 27

The Rev. Dianne Deming

Dianne is an Honorably Retired member of New Castle Presbytery, having served congregations in California, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware. She and her husband, the Rev. Dr. Frank Deming, moved to Rehoboth Beach in 2003 with their two sons. Dianne was the Transitional Pastor of NCP's Wicomico, Milford, and Seaford churches.

July Lunch Bunch will be Tuesday 7/22 at 11:30 at Forgotten 50 Distillery at 10103 Old Ocean City Blvd in Berlin. Please let Jan Phillips know if you will be attending.

as weak, as foolish, as prone to sin as we are. Every page, every story reveals to us our brokenness. Yet every page, every story tells us of the One who longs to make us whole. Let us confess our sins, and clear the way for God's reconciling love to work within us. Please join me, as we pray,

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

In the mirror we call scripture, Revealing God, we see ourselves for who we are and are not. We become upset about those who are not doing what we think they should, and ignore our failings. Worries and distractions nibble away at our life in our family and friends. We step over those in need not seeing that Jesus is seated in their midst. Forgive us, Reconciling Love. Sit us down at Jesus' feet, so we may learn the balanced life you intend for us. Then, and only then, we can set aside our grudges, to offer our gifts to our neighbors; we can bring healing to others; we can reach out and welcome our sisters and brothers, even as we have been welcomed into your heart through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Assurance of Pardon:

The Psalmist declares that those who speak the truth from their heart will abide in God's sanctuary. God hears the difficult truths we have named aloud and in the silence of our hearts. Now let the wonderful gift of God's forgiveness flow through you. May the abundance of God's mercy and grace set you free to serve God with love.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, Thanks be to God! Amen.

*** Gloria Patri: (unison) #622**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory: Song of Peace

* Doxology: (unison) #625

Prayer of Dedication

Faith Testimony from CRU: Christian

Prayer for Illumination: (unison)

Un-stop our ears, O God, that we may hear your Word proclaimed this day. Open our minds and hearts to be changed. Free us from spirits of worry, fear, distraction, and pride. Teach us, Lord, that we may follow you more faithfully.

1st Scripture Reading: Psalm 4:20-27

Cru member, Christian

²⁰ My child, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings.

²¹ Do not let them escape from your sight; keep them within your heart.

²² For they are life to those who find them and healing to all their flesh.

²³ Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

²⁴ Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you.

²⁵ Let your eyes look directly forward and your gaze be straight before you.

²⁶ Keep straight the path of your feet, and all your ways will be sure.

²⁷ Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.

2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 10:38-42

The Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying.

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

Andy Hales — Son of Steve and Ann Hales

Margie Baugher Cramer — Friend of Buzzy Bayles

Paul Whitson

Dave Smith

The Friends and Family of Sandy Akers

Trip Kory

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

July 27 Lisa Bayles

Aug 3 *WHITE MARLIN NO FELLOWSHIP*

Aug 10 Robin Quinn

Aug 17 Vicky Cairns

Aug 24 Karen Eberle

Aug 31 Ann Hales

Calendar, Birthdays, and More ...

Sun	July	20	CRU weekly Prayer	7:00 PM
Tues	July	22	Lunch Bunch	11:30 AM
Wed	July	23	Int Student Breakfast	7:30 AM
Wed	July	23	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Fri	July	25	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
Sat	July	26	Sligo By The Sea	9:00 AM

Birthdays: *Lou LaBrunda (7/21) Paul Simacek (7/23)*
Diane Ayers (7/23) Ryder Paul (7/24)

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..

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Beginning August 1st the following prices will be in effect.

Chancel vases.....will stay at \$30.00 a vase
basket of flowers.....\$40.00
3 roses in a vase.....\$ 24.50

Thank you,
Marty Cropper

Pastor Debbie's Info:

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

Always available by texting or calling.

⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

Time with Children & Youth
Summer Brenner

Sermon: "Jesus is Here --- Squirrel!"
The Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

* Hymn: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
435

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)

* Hymn: "Take My Life and Let it Be" # 379
(1st Three verses)

Charge

Go out into the world to serve God with love.

Be ready to laugh with delight at the good news God has to offer you. Make room at your table for unexpected guests. When the work of discipleship leaves you weary or frustrated, rest in Christ's presence and listen to what he is saying.

Benediction

And the blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, go with you today and always. Amen

Response: 3-Fold Amen (#628, IV)

Postlude: Morning Has Broken

International Student Breakfast

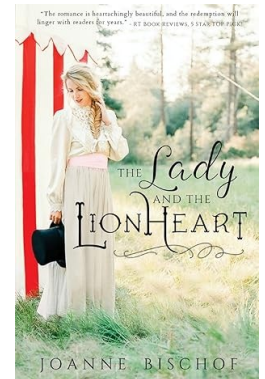
We served breakfast for **92** students
this past Wednesday!

Thank you to all who prepped, baked,
cooked, served, and cleaned! We are the
hands and feet of Christ; how awesome
to share and reflect God's love and grace.

Thank you for all who help!

SAVE THE DATE

Our next book club meeting
will be **Tuesday, August 19 at
11:30**. The book selection is
"The Lady and the Lionheart"
by Joanne Bischof



BOOK STUDY TO RESUME

The book study on "Presbyterian
Questions, Presbyterian
Answers" will resume on
Monday, July 28 at 4:30 PM. in
the Fellowship Hall. Come and
join us anytime!

