

Sunday March 10, 2024
4th Sunday in Lent
10:30 AM



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Rev. Debbie Johnson

"The Whole World?"

Jacob Todd, Organist and Choirmaster
1301 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City MD 21842
Phone: 410-289-9340

Office: ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com

Pastor: ministerocpresby@gmail.com

Website: www.ocmdpresbyterian.org

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

Congregation Financials as of January 31, 2024:

Year-to-date **giving/income** ((\$12,491.38 from giving;
remainder from parking, building use, etc.): \$14,694.86

Year-to-date **disbursements**: \$21,278.11

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We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "Joy does not simply happen to us. You have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day. *Henri Nouwen.*"

Ringing of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

Deacon Karen Eberle

We gather to share in our love of God.

Lord, open our hearts and let us share your Good News.

We gather to share our witness to God's goodness.

Lord, let our lives bear witness through service to your people.

We gather to praise God whose love is eternal.

Lord, open our hearts today to sing your praises. Amen.

Prelude

Choral Introit "Take Time to Be Holy"

* Hymn: "To God Be the Glory" # 66

* Passing the Peace

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Call to Confession

By nature, we are impatient, irritated, grumbling, disobedient children, always demanding our way. But God, who is good and kind and gentle, comes to transform us, by grace, into the people we are meant to be. Let us open ourselves to the One who overflows with love for us, as we confess our sins to God.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, giver of all that is good, we rejoice that you are the source of all that is. The breath of life is a gift from your generous hand. The food we eat is grown in the world you sustain. The community that supports us is called into being by

Current Prayer Concerns:

Lori Patrick, 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, Tom Taylor, 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:

Mar 17 Marty Cropper & Sue Latour

Mar 24 Nancy Wright & Carol Reese

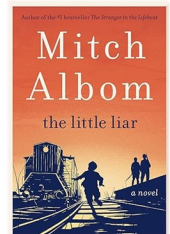
Mar 31 **NO FELLOWSHIP EASTER**

Apl 7 Karen Eberle & Mabel Rogers

The next book the Book Club will be reading is,

The Little Liars by Mitch Albom

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.



Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Sun Mar 10 | Boy Scouts Troop 2173 | 4:00 PM |
| \Wed Mar 13 | Hand Bells Practice | 5:00 PM |
| Wed Mar 13 | Choir Practice | 6:00 PM |
| Fri Mar 15 | Narcotics Anonymous | 7:00 PM |

Birthdays *David Mumford (3/15), Renee Fitzgerald (3/16)*

Flowers: Flowers in the chancel vase are given:

~ In praise of our Risen Savior and in memory of Bill Greenwood as he celebrates his March 12th birthday in Heaven. As husband and father, Bill loved his family and as a Christian, faithfully served his Lord. *Donna, Chris and Jamie.*

Chancel vases open for dedication:

March 17th two vases

March 24th two vases

Forms for Easter flowers can be found on glass topped table back of sanctuary

Easter Lilies 6" pot \$13.00

Tulips 6" pot \$10.00

Hyacinths 6" pot \$10.00

Orders due March 17th.

your saving activity. Everything we have is a gift from you. Why, then, do we complain as though the manna, raining down from heaven for us even now, is not enough? Why do we worry that your well of living water will someday run dry? It is surely our sin that causes us live as though we do not trust your goodness. Forgive us, we pray. Teach us again to put all our trust in your promises that never fail. Remind us that we are always in your loving care. Fill us with grace, so that our lives might show forth the fullness of your love for all people...

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Let the community of faith say so:

God's love endures forever!

Let those gathered in grace say so:

God's love endures forever!

Let those gathered from all parts of the world say so:

God's love endures forever!

This is the good news for us:

God's love endures forever.

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

In gratitude for all that you have done for us and given to us, we return a portion of these gifts that they may be used in service to others. Let us receive our morning offering.

* 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

As we have been gathered in this place because of the faithfulness of those who have gone before us, so we pray that the gifts we offer in these moments might be used to reach out to those in all corners of the world who need hope, who hunger

for food and justice, who yearn for peace, and who long for your graceful presence in their lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Choral Anthem "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: Numbers 21 : 4-9 [NRSV]

Elder Jan Owens

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live

2nd Scripture Reading: John 3: 14-21 [NRSV]

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¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light

has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Time with Children & Youth

Rev. Debbie Johnson

Sermon: "The Whole World?"

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* Hymn * Hymn: "What Wondrous Love Is This " # 177

* Affirmation of Faith - 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

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

* 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