

Sunday, August 24, 2025
11th Sunday after Pentecost



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Pastor Debbie Johnson

**"Have We Lost our Sense of the Holy:
Grumbling vs. Gratitude"**

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

Order of Worship: Sunday, August 24, 2025

11th Sunday after Pentecost

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: *What is the only appropriate way to respond to the good news that we can come to Mount Zion by the grace of Jesus and receive an unshakable kingdom? Thanksgiving and worship. What a God! When we see what God has done, draw near to our holy God who welcomes you through the finished work of Jesus, and then spend the rest of your life — the rest of eternity — thanking God and worshiping him for such a great salvation. Never try to approach God by trying to be good enough. It will destroy you. Through Jesus, receive his unshakable kingdom, and then respond in thankfulness and worship.*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship:

Elder Vicky Cairns

Steadfast God, your holy presence is our security and always, our only hope.

All praise be to you our God, because of your great love for all your creation.

Listening God, you hear all our cries and share our joys – and we thank you.

All glory and honor to you our God, because of your great love for all of us.

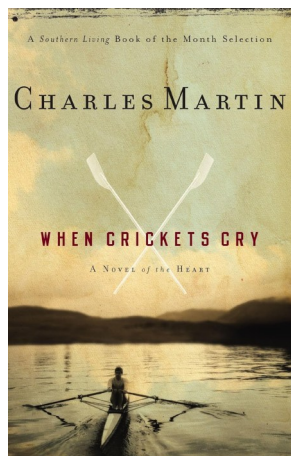
Faithful God, our Rock and Redeemer, we come to worship and praise you for your constant love and reliable strength when we are feeling empty and broken.

Loving God, when our reserves of inner strength are empty and life is a constant struggle, then we especially revere your holy name and all that it means to us. Amen.

Choral Introit “We Gather Together”

Save the Date, The next book club will be October 21st at 11:30 AM

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.



Please Note:

The Adult Sunday School Class that was meeting at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall is now on a hiatus.

We don't get to choose the storm. But we do
get to choose what comes next. How we go on.
How we heal. How we live. Maybe that's
what the storm is all about: Not just
surviving—but who we become
in the aftermath.

-Jameson Arasi

*** Hymn: "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" # 6**

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

Call to Confession:

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Lord God, we are so bound by rules and regulations that we fail to see the human need that goes beyond the bounds of structures. We easily relegate compassionate service to those agencies in our society that have that as their mandate, forgetting that you have given us the supreme mandate to care for one another, even as you have cared for us. We turn our backs on those in need, giving the responsibility to someone else. "Let someone else do the work," we proclaim. And in that proclamation, we have revealed our selfishness and our inability to be your disciples. Stop us from our selfish ways, and heal our hardened hearts. Forgive us, again, as you have so often before when we have failed to be your witnesses and workers. Help us become involved in ministries of peace and justice right where we are, for there is nowhere in creation where your love is not needed. Let us bring messages of love and hope to all people. Bring us to an understanding of the partnership of healing and hope that abides in your service. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

God chooses not to turn a deaf ear to us, but to listen to our prayers. God chooses not to shame us, but to save us.

This is, indeed, good news for us! We are set free to drink deeply from the waters of life. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* Gloria Patri (unison) #622
Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

* Doxology (unison) #625

Prayer of Dedication

Choral Anthem: "At the Name of Jesus"

Prayer for Illumination: (unison)

O God, open our hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit so that the words of Scripture that we hear this day may become your Word that empowers our lives in this time and place. Amen.

1st Scripture reading: Isaiah 58: 9b-14
(p. 736 in pew Bible)

Jackie Bates

2nd Reading: Hebrew 12: 18-29
(Pp. 1193-1194 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: "#####"
Pastor Debbie Johnson

* Hymn: "God of the Ages" # 568

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

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

Aug	31	Ann Hales
Sep	7	Jonelle Jones
Sep	14	Barbara & Betsy Kipila
Sep	21	Jan Owens
Sep	28	<i>Oceans Calling NO fellowship</i>
Oct	5	<i>Country Calling NO fellowship</i>
Oct	12	Carol Reese
Oct	19	Mabel Rogers

Calendar, Birthdays, and More ...

Tues	Aug	26	Lunch Bunch	11:30 AM
Wed	Aug	27	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Fri	Aug	29	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
Sat	Aug	30	Sligo By The Sea	9:00 AM

Birthdays: *Jacob Todd (8/29) Jeff Sauer (8/30)*

Flowers: flowers in the chancel vases are given

~ A basket of flowers is placed in honor of Jacob Todd, our choirmaster and organist as he celebrates his Birthday on August 29th. We are blessed that Jacob shares his God-given talent with us.

~ A basket of Red White and Blue flowers is placed to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, in memory of the 50-60 million people who died as a result of the War, and in honor and memory of all the men and women who served in the US armed forces during the War. Especially our Dad, Irv Mumford, and his brothers, Paul and Bill (Navy), our grandfather, Irv, Sr. (Merchant Marine), and our great uncles, Charlie and Henry Ackerman (Army). Japan announced its unconditional surrender on August 15, 1945. On August 27, Dad's ship, the USS YMS 276 (minesweeper) was the 8th ship to enter Tokyo Bay to do a protective sweep of the harbor prior to the arrival of the Allied fleet. On September 2, 1945, the formal surrender was signed on the deck of the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Dad had the privilege of being able to observe the ceremony from the deck of his own ship. From David and Julie and Danny and Liz

~ A basket of flowers is dedicated to the Glory of God and in honor of our Son-In-Law, Jeff Sauer and the celebration of his birthday, August 29th. You are such a blessing to us. We love you. Cliff and Sarah Dypsky

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

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.

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

*** Hymn: "We're Marching to Zion" # 555**

Charge

Benediction

Response:

Postlude: "Three-Fold Amen"

*Liturgy credit: Book of Confessions;
The Rev. Dr. Roger Gench for The
Presbyterian Outlook; Ministry Matters;
Lectionary Liturgies: Laughingbird.net
The Timeless Psalms;
Music license: CCLI-#1650329.*

New Announcement

If you have any articles for the September Newsletter, the deadline is Monday August 25th.

Announcement

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, August 26 at 11:30 AM at Starr Restaurant, located at
11605 Masters Ln, Berlin, MD 21811

Pastor Debbie's Info:

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

Always available by texting or calling.

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

New Bible Study “Wilderness Promise”

Starting Thursday, September 11th at 10:30 AM and continuing September 18th, 25th, October 2nd, and 9th.

Sign Up — Sheet in the back of the sanctuary

Sermon Series beginning Sunday, September 7
based on “Wilderness Promise”

Chancel vases open for dedications

September 7th 1 vase
September 14th 2 vases
September 21st 1 vase
September 28th 1 vase

Please have dedications to Marty Cropper BY NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 31ST I will be unavailable until after September 23rd.

Thank you, Marty

We are now redoing our church directory in order to help our new pastor when he/she arrives. Please look at your name and information to see if it is correct, and make corrections if necessary. It is on the table in the back of the sanctuary.