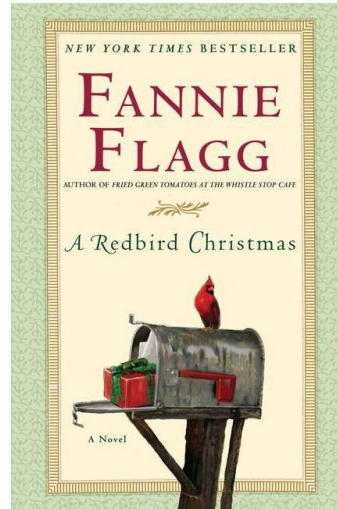


Save the Date

The next Book Club meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 16 at 12 noon** following the WOW meeting. The next selection is "A Red Bird Christmas" by Fannie Flagg. This from Amazon: Deep in the southernmost part of Alabama, along the banks of a lazy winding river, lies the sleepy little community known as Lost River, a place that time itself seems to have forgotten. After a startling diagnosis from his doctor, Oswald T. Campbell leaves behind the cold and damp of the oncoming Chicago winter to spend what he believes will be his last Christmas in the warm and welcoming town of Lost River. There he meets the postman who delivers mail by boat, the store owner who nurses a broken heart, the ladies of the Mystic Order of the Royal Polka Dots Secret Society, who do clandestine good works. And he meets a little redbird named Jack, who is at the center of this tale of a magical Christmas when something so amazing happened that those who witnessed it have never forgotten it. Once you experience the wonder, you too will never forget A Redbird Christmas.



Sunday, November 16, 2025
23rd Sunday after Pentecost



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Pastor Debbie Johnson

"Grounded in Hope"

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

Office: ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com

Website: www.ocmdpresbyterian.org

Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Noon

Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday

Order of Worship: Sunday, November 16, 2025

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:

A close reading of Luke 21:5-19 shows that using this passage as a springboard for proclaiming God's judgment on society would miss the point. Rather, the passage warns us about becoming too fixated on temporary human institutions, perhaps with the implication that we should attend to the poor in our communities instead, and it exhorts us to be firm in our trust in God when calamity and persecution strike. Despite its language and imagery of destruction, Luke 21:5-19 is ultimately a passage grounded in hope — in the hope that God remains present in the world and in one's life even when things have gotten so bad that it feels like the world is closing in on us—Gilberto A. Ruiz, Associate Professor of New Testament in the Theology Department, *Saint Anselm College, Manchester, NH*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship:

Elder Jan Owens

Holy God, in reverent awe, we come to worship you!
We gather to honor and glorify God's almighty name.
Righteous God, we rejoice as we come to worship you!
We gather to celebrate God's power over the forces of evil.
Faithful God, with thankfulness, we come to worship you!
We gather to sing praises to the God in whom we trust.
Amen.

Choral Introit "We'll Understand It Better By and By"

* Hymn: "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"
451

SPECIAL SESSION MEETING

The Session will meet today for a special meeting in the Fellowship Hall following the Fellowship Time.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

We will be having two classes upcoming for those who may become new members of the church. If you are interested, please let Pastor Debbie know. The first one will be from 12-1 PM. on Sunday, November 30, and the second one will be on Sunday, December 14 from 12-1 PM. At both, lunch will be provided.

Ocean City Presbyterian Is Hosting the Community Thanksgiving Service!

On Sunday, November 23 come and join the community for an ecumenical Thanksgiving service to be held at our church beginning at 6 PM. Several local pastors will be participating in this service. Cookies and beverages will be served following the service to give community folks an opportunity for fellowship.

A sign up sheet for cookies is on the table in the back

What is the meaning of Christ the King Sunday?

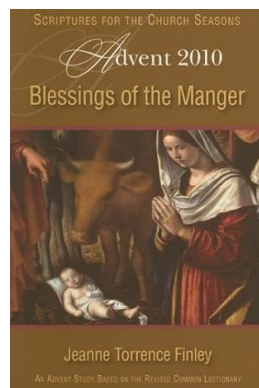
Each year on the Sunday before Advent begins, we in the church, celebrate the liturgical day known as Christ the King Sunday. This year we will mark that day on November 23.

What is it exactly? Christ the King Sunday celebrates Jesus spiritual kingship and dominion over all creation, instituted by

Pope Pius XI in 1925 to counter growing secularism and remind believers of their ultimate allegiance to Christ rather than to earthly powers. The feast is celebrated on the last Sunday of the liturgical year before Advent, emphasizing that Christ's reign is both a present reality in the lives of believers and a future hope for the ultimate culmination of his kingdom.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Our Advent Bible study will begin **this Thursday, November 20 at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall**. The book is titled, "Blessings of the Manger." We will be looking at the texts for each Sunday of Advent. The texts for this Thursday are Isaiah 2: 1-5, Romans 13: 11-14, and Matthew 24: 36-44. The other dates for Thursday morning meetings are: December 4, 11, and 18. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table to sign up.



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

Call to Confession:

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Gracious and loving God, we confess that we are troubled by the events of our lives and the state of this world. Headlines are full of wars, insurrections, suffering, earthquakes, famines, and death. These things are enough to shake our faith and undermine our confidence in your promise. Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. Deliver us from speculation that distracts us from faithful living and loving service. Forgive us when we doubt your promises. Help us to endure that we may gain our souls, always bearing witness to your love and grace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

"For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward those who fear him."

"As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us."

Hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

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

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*** Doxology** (unison) **#625**

Prayer of Dedication

Choral Anthem: "Teach Me to Love"

Prayer for Illumination: (unison)

Almighty God, Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it!" Open our hearts and minds to the reading and hearing of your holy Word today, that we may be doers of the Word, and not hearers only. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Word made flesh. Amen.

1st Scripture reading: Malachi 4: 1-2a

(p. 951 in pew Bible)

Elder Chris Greenwood

2nd Reading: Luke 21: 5-19

(Pp. 1042-1043 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 "Grounded in Hope"

Pastor Debbie Johnson

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

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

Current Prayer Concerns:

Virginia Miller

Lydia Frasca,

Bob & Dee Lebo

William Steger

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*

Carol Reese

Sarah & Cliff Dypsky

Maria Kontoyianni — *Friend of Carol Scott*

David Mumford

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

Nov 16 Jonelle Jones

Nov 23 Vicky Cairns

Nov 30 Marty Cropper

Dec 7 Karen Eberle

Dec 14 Ann Hales

Dec 21 Lisa Bayles

Dec 28 Barbara and Betsy Kipila

Calendar, Birthdays, and More ...

Wed	Nov	19	Bell Practice	5:00 PM
Wed	Nov	19	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Thurs	Nov	20	Advent Bible Study	10:30 AM
Fri	Nov	21	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM

Birthdays: *Pete Hanes (11/21) Pat Mitchell (11/21)*

Flowers: Flowers in the chancel vase is are given :

~ By Pete and Olive Hanes in thankfulness to God for all His many blessings and in celebration of Olive's birthday , November 15th;our 64th wedding anniversary on the 18th and Pete's birthday on the 21st. We are grateful.

~ A basket of flowers is being placed in honor of our son, Greg Dypsky and the celebration of his birthday, today. We love you dearly and are blessed to have you. Dad and Mom.

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

Pastor Debbie's Info:

Email: djhj3675@gmail.com

Cell phone: (843) 568-6480

Always available by texting or calling.

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: "The Solid Rock" (My Hope is Built on Nothing Less) # 404**

Charge

Benediction

Response:

Postlude: "Go Out and Share the Name"

*Liturgy credit: Book of Confessions;
Rev. Philip Gladden for the Presbyterian
Outlook; <https://www.pastorjasonelder.com>;
Laughingbird.net; The Timeless Psalms.
Music license: CCLI-#1650329.*

**Samaritan House Collection for November
is today**

The 3rd Sunday collection for Samaritan House.
Checks can be made out to Samaritan Ministries and
given to Nancy Wright.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

If you would like to fill a shoe box for Operation
Christmas Child, the boxes are on the table in the
back of the sanctuary. All of the instructions are
with the boxes. The boxes are due back here next
Sunday, November 23.

November WOW Meeting

WOW will **meet at 11:00am this Tuesday, November
18.** All women of the church are invited to attend.
Bring a bag lunch to enjoy after the meeting.

November Deacons Meeting

The Deacons will have their monthly meeting today
following worship.

November Session Meeting

The Session will meet at 1:00 PM this
Tuesday, November 18.

EMPTY CHANCEL VASES FOR NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 23RD....TWO(2)

FLOWERS FOR ADVENT

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT IS NOVEMBER
30TH ...FOLLOWING IS THE SCHEDULE OF FLOWERS

NOVEMBER 30.....2 LARGE RED POINSETTIAS

DECEMBER 7TH.....2 POTS OF LARGE RED AND WHITE
POINSETTIAS (1 EACH)

DECEMBER 14TH.....2 LARGE WHITE POINSETTIAS

DECEMBER 21ST.....INDIVIDUAL POINSETTIAS ... 6"
POTS ..TO BE TAKEN HOME AFTER CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 28TH...REMAINING POINSETTIAS

PRICES FOR POINSETTIAS

6" pot with a single plant. \$10.00 (no change in price)

opportunity to dedicate for a loved one an 8" pot with red
and white poinsettia (total of 3) for 12-07-25 \$27.00

opportunity to dedicate for a loved one an 8" pot of 3
white poinsettias for 12-14-25

dedications for smaller poinsettias MUST be given to either
church office or Marty by 12-07-25

THANK YOU,
MARTY CROPPER