

Ocean City Beauty Spot Award—2020

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City will be awarded a Beauty Spot Award from the Ocean City Beautification Committee on Monday, September 21st at the Mayor and City Council Regular Session at 6 pm, which will be live-streamed (<https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/>).

Each year the Beautification Committee searches for properties which are attractive, well maintained and pleasing to the eye. To show appreciation for this effort in civic pride, the Committee and the Mayor and City Council present Beauty Spot Awards. Our award is in a Special category (non-residential or commercial).

Judging is based on creative landscaping or containers, percentage of flowers and ground cover, percentage of trees, shrubs and grasses. The use of native plants also is encouraged. Even those who have little or no ground can imaginatively use containers, planters, window boxes, hanging baskets, etc., to improve the street-eye appeal of their property.

This award is due in large part to ongoing effort by Sarah and Cliff Dypsky to create beautiful landscaping and garden beds on our church property. Sarah would also like to acknowledge the contributions from Buzzy & Lisa Bayles for their floral containers on the front portico, Pete Hanes for his landscaping rocks in the back of our property, and Chris Greenwood for his maintenance of the lawns. All together, the work of these hands help beautify our church property and display the creative glory of God to all who pass by.

Congratulations Sarah, Cliff, Lisa, Buzzy, Pete and Chris and thank you for all you do to add beauty to our property and community!

Sunday, September 20th, 2020
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Rev. Dan McKenty—Pastor

“Who Authorized This?”

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Hours: 9:00 – Noon, Tuesday-Friday

Liturgy for Sunday, September 20th, 2020

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." First Thessalonians 5: 16-18 [NRSV]*

Ringling of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 25 : 1-9 (responsive)

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way. Amen.

Prelude

* Hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy" # 262

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Almighty God,
we have been wandering in the
wilderness of sin.

We have complained in the face of your mercy.

We have been selfish and conceited in the
face of your sacrifice.

Current Prayer Concerns:

Collection Plate

A reminder that, until we can resume our normal worship routines, our collection plate is situated on the small table in the center rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.

Hearing Assistance

Headphones are available at the back of the sanctuary for hearing assistance.

Directory Updates/Corrections:

No Updates

New Members Class!

Pastor Dan will be conducting a New Members Class on Tuesday evening, **September 29th** from 6:30—8:00 pm. Please sign-up (sheet is on the glass table at the back of the sanctuary) if you would like to attend, even if you'd just like to learn a bit about the Presbyterian Church USA and what it means to be a member of our congregation. We'd love to have you join the discussion!



Coming Events ...

Blessing of the Animals

On Saturday, **October 3rd** at 10 am in our parking lot, we will have a blessing of the animals. Come, join the fun and worship with your critters!



Neighborhood Picnic

Saturday, **October 17th** at 4pm. Rain date is October 24th.

It's time to join our neighbors to celebrate summer's end! Come meet the wonderful folks in our neighborhood at our first ever Neighborhood Picnic.



We need helpers in the following areas:

- ◆ Distributing flyers
- ◆ Setting Up Tables for Food
- ◆ Serving Food
- ◆ Cleaning Up
- ◆ Providing Food (sign-up sheet on glass table)
- ◆ Organizing Games

Please contact Danny Mumford or Peggy Webster to let them know where you can help to make our neighborhood picnic a success!

Next Book Club

Our next book will be *"Small Great Things"* by Jodi Picoult, which we will discuss at our next meeting on **November 10th** at 2PM. This book tells the story of an African American labor and delivery nurse and the racism surrounding her care of a white supremacist couple's newborn son.

We have not done your will.

Teach us humility.

Teach us gratitude.

Infuse your spirit into our beings

so that we might be reconciled to you.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

People of God, our sins are forgiven.

The Lord is loving, and we are reconciled to God.

Therefore, let us humble and surrender ourselves

to the will of God for the glory of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

* 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.

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Lord,

by the power of your Holy Spirit

give us the words of life,

that we may understand your way

and follow your truth,

in Jesus Christ. Amen.

* 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.

1st Scripture Reading: Philippians 2: 1-13 [NIV]

Deacon Sue Latour

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,

13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

2nd Scripture Reading: Matthew 21: 23-32 [NIV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?"

24 Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 25 John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?"

Calendar, Flowers, and Birthdays ... and more!

Saturday, October 3rd	Blessing of the Animals	10:00 am
Saturday, October 10th	Rummage Sale	7:00 am
Saturday, October 17th	Neighborhood Picnic	4:00 pm

Flower Dedications: *Chancel Vase Flowers are given:*

~ With much love and in honor of my two granddaughters and the celebration of their September birthdays. Emma Marie Hays on September 17th and Emily Christine Hays on the 22nd. I am blessed by God and to that I say "Amen". ~ *Ellen Hays*

~ To the Glory of our God, ever Faithful.

Birthdays:

Ginny Miller (9/23) and Kent Mitchell (9/27)

Presbyterian Giving - Fishing Boat & Accessories \$1200

In addition to Operation Christmas Child, this season we will also



be seeking to broaden our mission work by leveraging the Presbyterian Giving process to help purchase a Fishing Boat and Accessories for a family in need. Increasingly severe weather in areas like the Philippines and the Caribbean can destroy the livelihoods of local fishermen. Your gift of

equipment restoration or replacement could create a renewed ability for fishermen to provide for their families. Donations to this effort can be made by check (note Presbyterian Giving in the memo section) or through our Online Giving process. Please submit prior to the end of November.

Rummage Sale

Next rummage sale will be on Saturday, October 10th from 7am—1pm. The shed is open for Fall and Winter clothing and everything else. Please bring donations by Sunday, October 4th.

Ocean City Special Event Zone Dates

We have received notice from Ocean City that Special Event Zones will be established for the following dates:

September 22-27, 2020

and

October 6-11, 2020

Residents and visitors should expect extreme traffic delays, alternate traffic patterns and heavy police presence.

Sacrament of our Lord's Supper ...

On **Sunday, October 4th**, we will once again celebrate Communion together. Our Worship Committee has been working to determine a safe way we can participate in this blessed sacrament and we hope to soon be able to celebrate communion as a regular part of our worship schedule.

More information to come ... for now let us rejoice in this day!

They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' 26 But if we say, 'Of human origin'—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet."

27 So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

28 "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

29 "'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

30 "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

31 "Which of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The first," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you; the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Time with Children and Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: *"Who Authorized This?"*

Rev. Dan McKenty

* Hymn "Open My Eyes, That I May See" # 381

* Affirmation of Faith – Taken from "A Brief Statement of Faith" (unison)

We Believe in life and death; we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the broken hearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

We trust in God whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

Holy Protector, you are the Lord our God,
who brought us out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery.

Today, we pray for the release of those held captive
by cruel governments and human traffickers,
by oppressive ideologies and suffocating theologies,
that all may know:

you are the Lord our God,
who brought us out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery.

We pray for the release of those held captive
by debilitating disease and mental illness,
by crippling addiction and chronic fear, specifically we pray for
that all may know:

you are the Lord our God,
who brought us out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery.

We pray for the release of those held captive
by crushing grief and paralyzing memories,
piercing loneliness and deadening hopelessness,
that all may know:

you are the Lord our God,
who brought us out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery.

Release within us your divine compassion and care
on behalf of those who suffer,

that all may know that you are the Lord our God,
who brought us into the land of promise,
into the house of salvation,

through Christ Jesus, our Lord who taught us to pray to you by saying,
**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom
come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and
lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

* Hymn "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" # 380

Charge
Benediction
Postlude

