



May 2025
Volume 2 #2

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Next Issue
Please consider
adding content to
this newsletter.
Thank you!
Deadline May 28



From the Pastor

There are a few topics to choose from for the month of May: Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, the Presbytery meeting being held in Ocean City, the last WOW meeting for the year, and the Presbytery Mission Festival being held in Milford on May 10, so where shall I begin? I think I will write about Presbytery, since a lot of folks misunderstand this governing body.

Within the Presbyterian Church USA, the Session is the governing body of the local church. Ocean City has 9 ruling elders, each elected for a 3-year term. Anyone who has been (resting elder) or is currently a ruling elder can be a commissioned elder to a Presbytery meeting, representing their local congregation.

Going “up the ladder,” so to speak, is Presbytery which is the next governing body. Our Presbytery, New Castle, is composed of 49 churches within Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. In our presbytery there are 3 gatherings a year, one which is zoom only and two which are hybrid. Our May 17 meeting will be hybrid.

The next “up” governing body is Synod. A synod is a regional governing body that oversees a group of presbyteries within a larger geographic region in the Presbyterian Church (USA). There are currently 16 synods in the PCUSA. We belong to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic- “The Mission and ministry of the Mid-Atlantic region can be seen best in its fourteen presbyteries.”

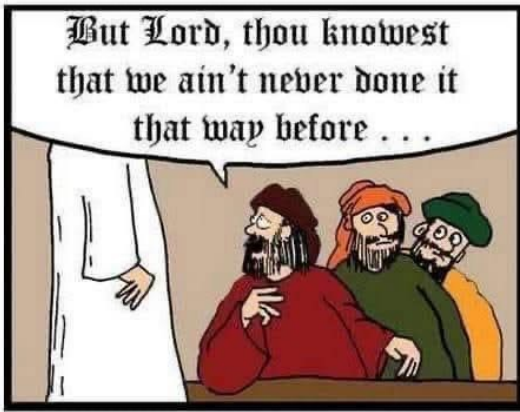
Finally, we reach General Assembly, a body which now meets every 2 years in different cities of the US. Local churches, presbyteries, or synods can present overtures to General Assembly recommending changes to the Book of Order or to the Book of Confessions, and these overtures will be discussed in the appropriate committee of GA for possible presentation for a vote by the whole body. Our Presbytery will elect several pastors and several elders to attend General Assembly. GA will meet again in June-July of 2026 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

It is very exciting for us to have one of our GA Co-moderators coming to Ocean City! His name is the Rev. Tony Larson, and he is Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church of Surfside Beach. The Co-Moderators spend their 2-year terms visiting local churches, presbyteries, and synods. The other Co-Moderator is the Rev. Cecelia “Cece” Armstrong, who is currently an Associate Pastor at St James Presbyterian Church, Charleston SC.

Members of the Ocean City church are encouraged to come and hear Tony Larson speak and to meet the members of the leadership team of New Castle Presbytery. Observation is free unless you desire lunch, which means you should see Marty Cropper.

YOUR PRESBYTERY AT WORK-COME AND SEE!

Your opportunity to see the New Castle Presbytery in action. They will be holding the 871st Presbytery Assembly at our church on Saturday May 17th. All are welcome. The meeting starts at 10AM. Speaker is Rev. Tony Larson one of the co-moderators of the General Assembly. Our church is providing lunch for approximately 80 persons. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary on the glass table for those of you wishing to help provide the food. Any questions about food, call Marty at 410-213-1592. Questions about Presbytery, please direct these to Pastor Debbie at 410-290-9340 or 843-568-6480.



The first church committee meeting

and other pastors will be praying for various aspects of "life".

Pastor Deb is speaking on families. This is an inspiring event on the sidewalk in front of City Hall. The chorus from Seaside Christian Academy will be singing and many officials from the town

Meet Libby the Library Cat!

On a June evening in 2011, as the Uniontown PA library staff was leaving for the day, they thought they heard a baby crying. But it was a tiny grey kitten hiding in the bushes by the door. Head librarian Lynne took it home, and to the vet, found out it was a little girl, and she lived at the library over the summer sleeping in the large meeting room upstairs overnight. They named her Libby and during the day she helped out in the main office, mostly laying against the warm backs of the library techs (Jenna & Delores) computers!



When August came, and the meeting room was going to be used after hours, Libby needed a home. Pauline, Barbara & Betsy met her, fell in love, and brought her home August 16th to be with Creampuff & Penny, and they all got along just fine. At our next quarterly visit to our vet Dr. Barbara in Burtonsville MD, she took one look at Libby and said, "oh, do you know what she is?" She got her cat book and there was Libby's picture – a Russian Blue!



Creampuff & Penny are over the Rainbow Bridge now, and after 13yrs & 9mos with us, Libby will soon be 14. She has always been the sweetest cat, but has now lost all her teeth and eats kitten hard food which is easier to digest along with her soft food. Libby is, of course, spoiled rotten and has Barbara very well trained as to eating times and wants. Libby wants to tell all of you that you will learn more about Barbara in the next newsletter! MEOW!!!!

Birthdays



- Gavin Harrigan 14
- Peggy Webster 15
- Paul Ketterman 21
- Chrissy Harrigan 27
- Jonelle Jones 27



Anniversaries

- Dan and Tina McKenty 30

Game Night



Our next game night will be Tuesday May 20th at Rich and Nancy Wright’s home at 6:00PM. Come and join us for an evening of fun. 14 Burr Hill Drive.. Ocean Pines. Call 410-208-9119 for directions. Let’s fill their house! Have a game you would like to share, bring it along.

Mission Corner I55 Partnership



I 55 Partnership is based on Issiah 55:1, “Come all who are thirsty...”. It was established in 2010 and serves around the world. They have held many English clubs in Romania, Ukraine and other countries. They work with International students as they come to Ocean City for summer work. They hold coffee houses, attend meals and organize outings for the students. Steve and Sheila Young mentor these students and assist them in any way they can. Health care, housing and just general support. For more information visit www.i55partnership.org.

Lunch Bunch

Do you enjoy having lunch with friends? If so, plan on joining the Lunch Bunch on the fourth Tuesday of the month at various restaurants around town.

The next event on May 27, 2025 will be held at the Fins on Rt. 54 near Fenwick Island at 11:30AM. Jan Phillips will be making the reservations. So give Jan a call at _410-600-5631 and plan on being there. Bring a friend and join the lunch bunch at the Fins Alehouse and Raw Bar at 11:30AM on the 27th.. All Welcome- men also!

Welcome to Sunday Bible Study at First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City

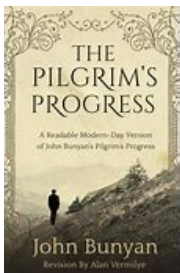


A New Beginning

Hi, I am Mark Giffin. I have been placed here in Ocean City, MD by God, two years now from South Carolina, to carry his Word of Love and Grace to all.

Graison and I invite you to come to our bible study group Sunday. We are in Acts 12. One hour is not enough to enjoy God’s love and Word. I know for me it is not enough.

Invite all your loved ones to study with us Sunday from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. We are in the days of Revelations. Come and truly walk the one path to God’s Kingdom of Heaven through our Lord Jesus Christ (Yahweh), the Son of God, I Am.



Book Club

The next book that the book club of FPCOC is reading is **Pilgrims Progress** by John Bunyon. This 1678 Christian allegory is considered one of the most significant works of Protestant devotional literature. It has been translated into over 200 languages and has never been out of print. Many adaptations are available and just chose one and dig in. We will gather on June 17th at 11:30AM

Sanctuary flowers are available for dedication in honor or in memory of a loved one.

There are 3 choices available.

- Chancel vase \$30.00 each
- a basket of flowers \$35.00
- a bud vase of 3 roses \$21.00

Chancel vases are open for dedication on May 11 (1), May 18 (1), May 25 (2)
 Blank forms for dedications are near flower chart in hallway bulletin board going into Fellowship hall. The flower chart is for chancel vase dedications, ONLY.

Forms may be placed in offering plate. Payment is appreciated at time of request. Contact Marty with any



Prayer Alert



Don't ever forget it is a wonderful privilege the Lord has given us, to lift anyone in prayer in the Name of Jesus, Who is the GREAT Physician. Praise His Holy name!

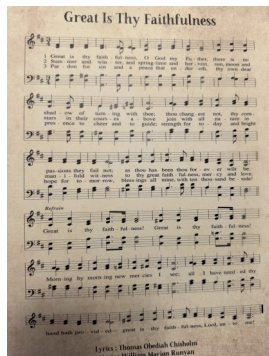
Our Lord wants to hear from us daily, remember our prayer list as you pray daily! If you have a prayer request (no prayer is too big or too small for our Lord and King) please contact Pastor Debbie at 843-568-6480 or email djh3675@gmail.com

WOW– next meeting May 20, 2025

The final meeting of the Women of Worship will be held on May 20 at 11AM in fellowship hall. We will begin with a covered dish brunch. Egg casseroles, French toast and fruit salad will be available to start our meeting right. Jackie Bates will lead us in a Bible study. She has done a terrific job all year and we do thank her. All women of the church are welcome! Bring a friend.

Rummage

Set up begins at 6AM with sales from 7AM until 1PM. The shed is open for your "rummage". Help is always appreciated at 6AM and at closing. Call Jan Owens with any questions at 410-641-4919



HYMN OF THE MONTH

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" is a classic Christian hymn written by Thomas Chisholm in 1923, with music composed by William M. Runyon. It's based on Lamentations 3:22-23, which says, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

SAMARITAN SHELTER'S
12th Annual Dinner "Spaghetti Dinner"
 in Memory of Rev. Tom Wall
 to benefit the Samaritan Shelter

Time: 5:00 pm- 7:30 pm

Date:
Tuesday
May 27, 2025



@ Pocomoke Elks
Lodge
1944 Worcester Hwy
Pocomoke
 Tickets costs: \$10.00,
 kids 3-6 \$4.00,
 under 3 free!
 Eat-In & Take Out

Menu: Spaghetti with
 meat sauce, Salad,
 Bread, Dessert and
 Beverages.

Tickets are available at the Shelter, any Board Member, First Shore Federal, Christmas Sweet, Enchanted Florist and at the door

Mark your calendar! Plan on staying following worship on Sunday, June 1 for a special “Look back at the First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City”. Covered dish with a power-point presentation about the history of our church and personel remeberances.



**From 1909
To 2025**



Mother’s Day –May 11, 2025

Mother's Day has been celebrated since 1914 when Woodrow Wilson made it a National Holiday. Anna Jarvis, who advocated for a special day to honor mothers for their invaluable role as domestic caregivers and their selfless devotion to their families, did so to honor her mother a social activist. Join us on Mother’s Day for a special sermon.

What is AFFA?

AFFA is an ecumenical group, composed mainly of Berlin churches, which meets monthly for lunch to provide clergy support. AFFA has also sponsored a several Prayer Meetings, one which was held last September at the park in Berlin. The group also organized a Community Thanksgiving Service, which was held the Sunday before Thanksgiving last year at Temple Bat Yam, and the temple will continue to be the gathering place each year for this service. AFFA also planned and led the Blue Holiday service in Mid-December, which was held at the Berlin Episcopal Church. AFFA stands for All Faith Friendship Association. The active members of AFFA currently include one Episcopal Priest, one retired United Church of Christ minister, two Presbyterian pastors, one communications staff, one Jewish rabbi, and both African-American and Caucasian United Methodists-three total.



Presbyterian Women of the MidAtlantic Synod Summer Gathering June 12-15, 2025

Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference
Center

Connecting to our Savior Jesus Christ
All Star Line Up

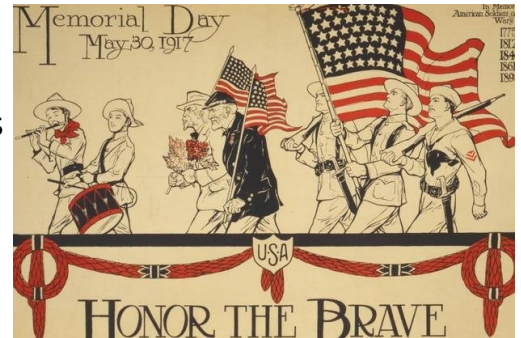
Contact Betsy if you are interested and she can forward you the brochure and registration information. (Carol Reese may be attending so you can contact her also.)

Decoration Day vs Memorial Day

by Pastor Debbie

Did you know that there is a difference between Decoration Day and Memorial Day? Decoration Day dates back to the 1860s, when local groups from the North and South laid flowers on the graves of the Civil War soldiers who fell in battle. The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization of Union veterans, officially established Decoration Day in 1868.

It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day.



As the meaning of Decoration Day evolved, so did the name. By the late 19th century, many Americans were using the term Memorial Day. As time went on, "Memorial Day" began to supplant "Decoration Day" as the name of the holiday, and it soon became a day to honor all fallen American troops, not just those from the Civil War. After the two World Wars, Memorial Day was the term in more common usage, and the act of remembering all of the fallen took on a renewed importance.

However, Pastor Debbie learned when she was employed in SC as a Hospice Social Worker that Memorial Day was not celebrated on a Monday in May as in the North. Everyone had to work on that day! In the South, Decoration Day occurred in the rural South's calendar after spring planting, but before long summer days required extensive hoeing and maintenance of the crops and livestock. Because the burial sites were "spruced up" and flowers were placed on the graves as "decorations," the day was called Decoration Day. It would occur anytime in the late spring or early summer. Memorial Day, itself, once popularly called "Decoration Day" by many, grew out of the older observance of southern Christians remembering deceased family and church members.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Thus far, we have raised \$673.76. The last day to donate is Sunday, April 27.

