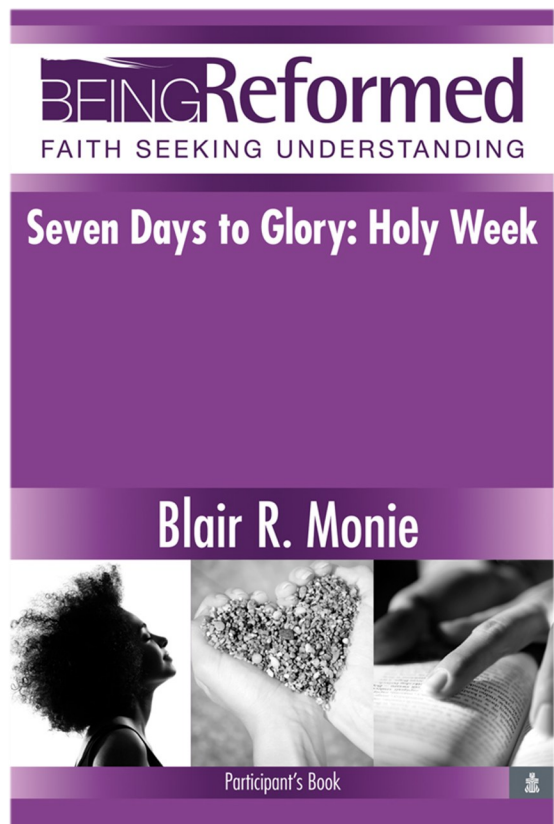
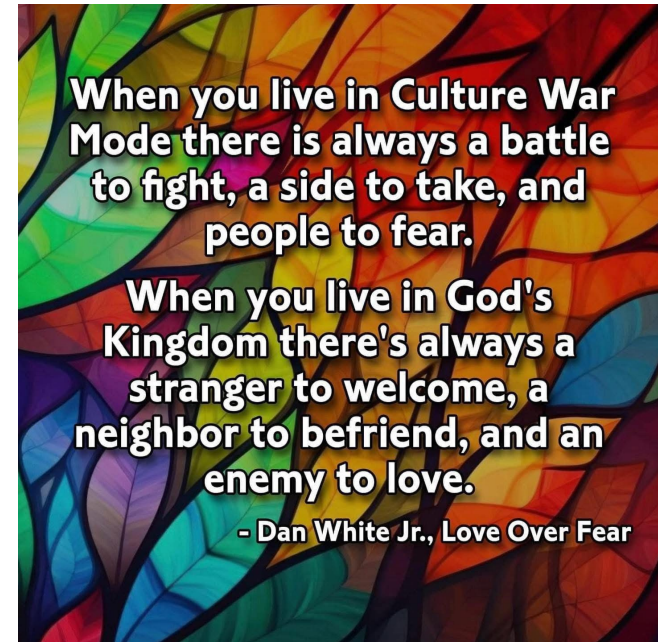


New Lenten Bible study will begin on **Tuesday, March 4 at 4:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Title is "Seven Days to Glory." The last week of Jesus' life encompassed some of Christianity's most significant events. Based on the Gospel of Mark, this study looks at each of these days to describe the importance of Jesus' actions at the time, and what they mean for Christian living today. The study will continue on March 11, March 25, April 1, April 8, and conclude on April 15. There will be no study on March 18. If you plan to attend, please sign the sheet in the back of the sanctuary so Pastor Debbie knows how many copies to make.



Sunday, February 23, 2025
7th Sunday after Epiphany



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Pastor Debbie Johnson

"Radical Alternatives on How to Live"

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, February 23, 2025

7th Sunday after Epiphany

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "The Lukan text in chapter 6 reminds believers that our faith is an act of resistance. In a time wrought with indifference and when we are divided across numerous social constructs of inhumane historical precedent, practicing unconditional respect and uplift of others is challenging. *Rev. Dr. F. Willis Johnson, Jr.*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship:

Deacon Dawn Butler

Strength is commanding
the wind and sea to obey,

Strength is wielding
a slingshot in the face of a raging giant.

Strength is accepting vulnerability
from inside the boat,

Strength is standing in solidarity
with the powerless.

Strength is turning a cheek,
Strength is loving an enemy.

We come to worship

a God who redefines our vision of strength.

Choral Introit "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

* Hymn: "Love Lifted Me" # 505

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

Call to Confession:

Current Prayer Concerns:

Diane Ayres, Virginia Miller, Marie McCallister, Thomas Simpson, Chris Hazard, Kent Mitchell, Hudson Day, Amy Etheridge, Bonnie Hancock, Eric Richardson, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna, Larry (Black) Blackwell, Kathy Smith, Larry Steele, Mark Payne, Pat and Ben Steele, Joey Martin, Robert Wilkins, Bob & Dee Lebo, Margie Baugher-Cramer, William Steger, Christine Ruskin, and Sandy Akers.

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

Mar 2 Jan Owens.

Mar 9 Robin Quinn

Mar 16 Carol Reese

Mar 23 Mabel Rogers

Pastor Debbie will now be taking all prayer requests..

Email her at djhj3675@gmail.com or

text her at 843-568-6480..

Mark your calendars: Ash Wednesday service, Wednesday, March 5 at 5 PM. It will be brief and include imposition of ashes if desired.

The Lunch Bunch will be meeting again on February 25th at Harpoon Hanna's at 11:30 AM located on Route 54 in Fenwick Island

Pastor Debbie's Info:

Email: djhj3675@gmail.com

Cell phone: (843) 568-6480

Always available by texting or calling.

Calendar, Birthdays, Flowers

Tues	Feb	25	Lunch Bunch	11:30 AM
Tues	Feb	25	Game Night	6:00 PM
Wed	Feb	26	Hand Bells Practice	5:00 PM
Wed	Feb	26	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Fri	Feb	28	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
Wed	Mar	5	Ash Wednesday Service	5:00 PM

Birthdays: *Jim Latour (2/29)*

Flowers:

~ In honor of our children , grandchildren and great grandchild In celebration of our grandson Nicolaus Reese's 16th birthday. Love always, Gramy and PopPop

~ A basket of flowers is placed by Robin Quinn in honor of my brother Randy Wright and his wife Alessa and looking forward to their visit from Switzerland.

~ A second basket of flowers is in remembrance of Bettie Wainwright and the celebration of her birthday on February 18th. For my 'oldest ' friend as she celebrated her first birthday with Jesus. Miss you Bettie, as you rest in the arms of our Lord. Mabel

Chancel Vases Open for dedication

March 2, 2025 (2)

March 9, 2025 (1)

March 16, 2025 (1)

March 30, 2025 (2)

Save the Date for the Next Game Night

we will have another game night in Fellowship Hall.

On **Tuesday February 25th at 6:00 PM,**

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Teacher of hard truths, it is difficult to let go of our anger toward those who prosper through deceit and unscrupulous ways; it is not easy to make ourselves believe that the meek will inherit the earth, when they are being crushed by the unjust systems stacked against them. We long to see the vindication of the righteous and the prosperity of those who work selflessly to bring your realm here on earth. We yearn for the day when all people will treat one another as they wish to be treated. Help us live into that day, Holy One, even when it is difficult, that your love might shine like the sun through our lives and our ministries. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: (responsive)

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel God's radical forgiving, transforming and justice-seeking love will not let us go and is ever bringing resurrection and new life.

Let us remember our baptisms and trust in God's mercy to restore our right standing as God's own. Thanks be to God!

* Gloria Patri

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

Offertory

* 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:

Choral Anthem

Prayer for Illumination: (unison)

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that the Scripture we are about to hear will become God's Word for us in this day and age. Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

1st Scripture Reading: Psalm 37: 1-11. 39-40
Elder Mabel Rogers

2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 6: 27-38
(p. 1021 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: "Radical Alternatives on How to Live"
Pastor Debbie Johnson

* Hymn: "Though I May Speak" (page 9)

Affirmation of Faith (from the Brief Statement of Faith) Presbyterian Church, USA-Book of Confessions called **Abba, Father**. In sovereign love God created We trust in God, whom Jesus the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring

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Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked '♩ = 72'. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with two lines of music. The lyrics are: 1. Though I may speak with bravest fire, 2. Though I may give all I possess, 3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, and have the gift to all inspire, and striving so my love profess, our spirits long to be made whole. and have not love, my words are vain, but not be given by love within, Let inward love guide every deed, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain, the profit soon turns strangely thin, by this we worship, and are freed.

770 I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

1 I'm gon-na eat at the wel-come ta - ble;
 2 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus;
 3 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers;
 4 Here all the world will find a wel - come;
 5 We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey;

I'm gon-na eat at the wel-come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.
 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus, Al - le - lu - ia.
 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers, Al - le - lu - ia.
 here all the world will find a wel-come, Al - le - lu - ia.
 we're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey, Al - le - lu - ia.

I'm gon-na eat at the wel-come ta - ble; I'm gon - na
 I'm gon-na eat and drink with my Je - sus; I'm gon - na
 I'm gon-na join with sis - ters, broth - ers; I'm gon - na
 Here all the world will find a wel - come; here all the
 We're gon-na feast on milk and hon - ey; we're gon - na

eat at the wel - come ta - ble, Al - le - lu - ia.
 eat and drink with my Je - sus, Al - le - lu - ia.
 join with sis - ters, broth - ers, Al - le - lu - ia.
 world will find a wel - come, Al - le - lu - ia.
 feast on milk and hon - ey, Al - le - lu - ia.

God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

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

* Hymn "I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table" (page 8)

Charge: "Three-Fold Amen"

Benediction

Postlude and Response:

Liturgy credit: Lectionary Liturgies; The Rev. Dr. Roger Gench for The Presbyterian Outlook; the Book of Confessions; Worshipblogspot; Ministry Matters.

Music license: CCLI-#1650329

The Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon

Katie Geneva Cannon was born on January 3, 1950, Cannon spent her childhood in Kannapolis, North Carolina, a racially segregated community where she could not use local facilities such as the YMCA, swimming pool or library. She was the daughter of the late Esau Cannon and Emanuelette Corine Lytle Cannon, the first woman to work at the Cannon Mills in Kannapolis. Both her parents were elders in the Presbyterian Church, but she was enrolled in kindergarten at a Lutheran church, the only early childhood education available to her in Kannapolis as a black girl. Katie had six brothers and sisters.

Dr. Cannon graduated from George Washington Carver High School in 1967 as her class's salutatorian. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Barber–Scotia College, followed by a Master of Divinity from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, and both a Master's and Doctor of Philosophy degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Cannon was ordained on April 24, 1974, in Shelby, North Carolina, by the Catawba Presbytery, in the Synod of Catawba. **This made her the first African-American woman to be ordained in the United Presbyterian Church (USA).** Cannon worked at Ascension Presbyterian Church in East Harlem, New York.

Katie began teaching at Union Presbyterian seminary in Richmond in 2001. She held the position of the Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Social Ethics. Prior to joining the faculty at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Cannon was on the faculties of Temple University, Episcopal Divinity School, and Harvard Divinity School. She was also the Lilly Distinguished Visiting Professor of Religion at Davidson College and the Sterling

Brown Visiting Professor in Religion and African American Studies at Williams College. Dr. Cannon received the distinguished professor award from Spelman College, the Lucy Craft Laney Award at the Black Presbyterian Bicentennial Celebration, and was a professor-scholar honoree at the National Black Church Summit at Emory University. She received the Beautiful Are The Feet Award from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference. The American Academy of Religion honored Cannon with its 2011 Excellence in Teaching Award. In 2018, Cannon was honored at the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s General Assembly, receiving the Excellence in Theological Education Award.

As her last living will and testament, Cannon founded and organized the Center for Womanist Leadership at Union Presbyterian Seminary in April 2018, which was later endowed and renamed The Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership. Cannon died on August 8, 2018, from leukemia.

Retreat Update!

We are gaining women who are interested in attending the Fall Retreat. It will be a Friday night to Sunday after lunch. Worship will end the retreat with communion on Sunday morning. It is to take place at Camp Pecometh, which is 70 minutes away from the church, at the Riverview Retreat Center. Hotel style rooms, great food, and lots of fun and fellowship. We are hoping that some of the women from the Berlin church will join us. If not, we will open this up to the women from all of the churches that participate in AFFA (All Faith Friendship Association) which will make it ecumenical. **Scholarships are available to attend the retreat.** See Pastor Debbie.