



410-289-9340

March 2026

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3 Dear Saints of First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City, Maryland,
 6 I am excited, thrilled, and humbled to serve as your new pastor. You are
 3 so gracious in your hospitality, and your commitment to serious study of scripture
 2 and its application in our lives is so impressive, and a powerful reason why I ap-
 5 plied to join with you. Everything that has happened since has been a testimony to
 3 your faithfulness, and your amazing welcome to everyone, including me, Sally,
 4 and our dogs. We already feel at home here, because you have made this home
 3 for us.

3 In the Presbyterian way, I am your teaching elder. I work very closely with
 3 the Ruling Elders and the Deacons. We have different tasks and roles in the
 2 church, but three groups have taken the same vows. We are all committed to as-
 4 sure and work toward the health and vitality of all of our members and friends, to
 4 do what is best for the whole community of this church. Together, we pledge to
 5 lead this congregation in ministry among each other and far beyond these walls,
 2 wherever God's people gather and wherever this world has need.

I take the role of Teaching Elder very seriously. My fundamental role here
 is to teach your about scripture, faith, life, and ministry. I do that for you by
 preaching, study, worship, and prayer. I will have a role in treating our different
 groups of faithful saints in effective ministry together. My goal is that we become
 a church that knows scripture and so can follow Christ's example in reaching a
 needy world, in ways both faithful and glorious. To do this, we need all of us work-
 ing together as God's hands in the power of the Spirit.

In my past, I have done many things. I have chaired five different church
 communities and groups. I have taught pastors since 1987 to now. I have led
 Bible studies coast to coast, and I am an international lecturer on scripture. I have
 been an editor of the books that seminarians read to learn ministry. For nine
 years, I was president of a non-profit organization was a national leader in the
 preparation of pastors. And for the past 5 years, my greatest joy has been to pas-
 tor churches as a transitional minister in two churches, as well as moderator and
 frequent preacher at a third. Now, I offer all of this learning to you and our life to-
 gether.

As I write, Sally and I are still in the process of moving. By the time you
 read this, our household will all be in the manse full-time and building our life
 here.

I believe with my whole hearts that this congregation has been gifted by
 God and that everything needed to thrive is right at hand already. I believe that
 you will thrive in the years to come. 1 Samuel 3:11, scripture that because of what
 God does, "Both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle." By the grace of God,
 this is the future for First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City.

In God's grace,
 Pastor Jon

Next Issue
 Please consider
 adding content to
 this newsletter.
 Thank you!
 Deadline March
 23 2026





WOW will meet Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 11:00AM. Our Bible Study led by Jackie Bates will be: Lesson Six -- Finding Our Joy in Christ: "I will Say It Again, Rejoice" based on Philippians 4:1-23 -- Christian joy emerges from a deep belief that God is good, and God reigns forever. All women of the church are encouraged to attend and bring lunch to share in fellowship afterward.



NOTE
The Grace Parker Breakfast is on hiatus until NOVEMBER 2026!

Everyone has been wonderful about welcoming Jon and me. I wanted to say a special thank you from me. You all have made me feel very welcome, not just as Jon's wife- which I am very happy to be!- but as an individual. It means so much! I look forward to getting to know everybody better.

Abundant blessings, Sally



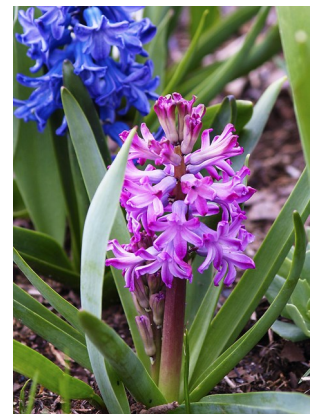
Easter Flowers



\$14.00



\$10.00



\$10.00

Order forms are on back table in sanctuary or give Marty a call 410-213-1592.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Deacons meeting The Deacons will meet on Sunday March 15, following worship in the small room off of Fellowship Hall.

Session Meeting The session will meet on March 17, 2026 at 1PM in Fellowship Hall.

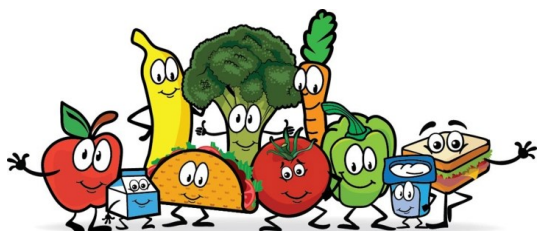
Please don't forget our 3rd Sunday collection for Samaritan Shelter!

We will be collecting household supplies on Sunday, February 15, 2026 to take to Samaritan Shelter in Pocomoke City. This has been a monthly activity of our church for many years. Household items such as dish soap, laundry soap, bath tissue, paper towels, zip loc bags, aluminum foil, etc. Anything that you need to maintain a household will be welcome. So please remember this when you are grocery shopping. Nancy and Rich Wright will be taking the items to Pocomoke to the Samaritan Shelter.. Thank you, Nancy and Rich!



Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, March 24 at 11:30 at Pines Public House on Route 589.



Come and join us! We welcome newcomers and men don't be shy, you are more than welcome! Call Jan Phillips at 410-600-5631 and plan on being there. Bring a friend and join the lunch bunch on March 24th at 11:30AM.



Noah enthralled with the Presby Bell Ringers!



New Pastor Reception

SPOTLIGHT ON CHRIS GREENWOOD...

by Dawn Butler

I truly enjoyed interviewing Chris this month for our church newsletter. Chris has been a part of OC First Presbyterian for over 50 years (he is currently 54 years old.) Also he has lived in OCMD his entire life. He also attended school locally, OC Elementary, Berlin Middle and Stephen Decatur. After graduating he attended Culinary Institute of America and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore for Hotel & Restaurant Management. He currently is employed at the Comfort Inn on the boardwalk and 5th Street.

Chris has one dog that lives with him and four dogs which belonged to his girlfriend, who unfortunately passed away. He has been trying to adopt her dogs but without much success. If you or anyone you know are looking for a dog talk to Chris.

When I asked Chris what he did to relax and unwind after a busy day, he immediately told me, "take a leisurely ride and visit new restaurants." His hobbies include tennis and cutting grass.

Also, Chris's family consists of his mom, Donna, who occasionally visits OC First Presbyterian. In addition to his mom, Chris also has a brother and sister-in-law who have four children, 1 nephew and 3 nieces.

Chris became a Christian at a very young age (almost his entire life!). He currently serves as an elder, cuts church grass, handles church personnel and building maintenance issues.

Before my interview with Chris was over I asked him the following questions....

1. What is your favorite Bible verse? He replied, John 3:16!
2. If he could have dinner with anyone from the Bible, besides Jesus, who would it be? Chris quickly replied Joseph (to whom Mary was betrothed). He feels oftentimes Joseph is not always given the recognition he deserves.
3. Finally, I asked Chris tell me what he loves about our church? Immediately he replied "the people." I couldn't agree more.



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, so 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 Beth LaBrunda at 862-266-6939.

Blessings, Beth



The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Lent is a season of forty weekdays and six Sundays, which culminates in Holy Week. During this season, the church, in joy and sorrow, proclaims, remembers and responds to the atoning death of Christ. (From the Book of Common Worship)

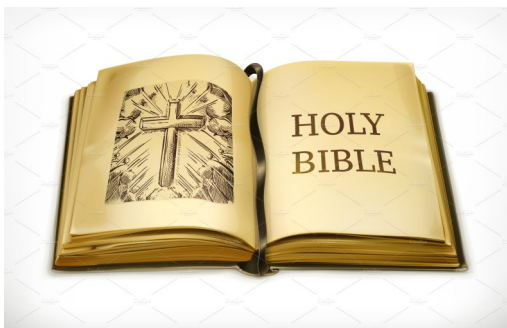
DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

Words of Pope Francis

- FAST** from **hurting words** and **say kind words**.
- FAST** from **sadness** and be **filled with gratitude**.
- FAST** from **anger** and be **filled with patience**.
- FAST** from **pessimism** and be **filled with hope**.
- FAST** from **worries** and have **trust in God**.
- FAST** from **complaints** and **contemplate simplicity**.
- FAST** from **pressures** and be **prayerful**.
- FAST** from **bitterness** and **fill your hearts with joy**.
- FAST** from **selfishness** and be **compassionate to others**.
- FAST** from **grudges** and be **reconciled**.
- FAST** from **words** and be **silent so you can listen**.



Revised Common Lectionary for March



March 1 Second Sunday in Lent Genesis 12:1–4a Psalm 121
Romans 4:1–5, 13–17 John 3:1–17 or Matthew 17:1–9

March 8 Third Sunday in Lent Exodus 17:1–7 Psalm 95
Romans 5:1–11 John 4:5–42

March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent 1 Samuel 16:1–13 Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8–14 John 9:1–41

March 22 Fifth Sunday in Lent Ezekiel 37:1–14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6–11 John 11:1–45

March 29 Palm/Passion Sunday (Sixth Sunday in Lent) Liturgy of the Palms Matthew 21:1–11
Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29 Liturgy of the Passion Isaiah 50:4–9a Psalm 31:9–16 Philippians 2:5–11
Matthew 26:14–27:66 or Matthew 27:11–54

March 30 Monday of Holy Week Isaiah 42:1–9 Psalm 36:5–11 Hebrews 9:11–15 John 12:1–11

March 31 Tuesday of Holy Week Isaiah 49:1–7 Psalm 71:1–14 1 Corinthians 1:18–31 John
12:20–36



March 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 Worship 10:30AM</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Choir Practice 6PM</p>	<p>5 Marci Russell BD</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Karen Eberly BD</p>
<p>8 Worship 10:30AM</p>	<p>9 Dee and Bob Lebo Anniver- sary</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Handbell prac- tice 5PM Choir Practice 6PM</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Worship 10:30AM Samaritan Sunday Deacons meeting following worship David Mumford BD</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Dave Frasca BD WOW 11AM Session 1PM</p>	<p>18 Handbell prac- tice 5PM Choir Practice 6PM Gregg Custis BD</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Worship 10:30AM</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Lunch Bunch 11:30AM</p>	<p>25 Handbells 5PM Choir 6PM Danny Mumford and Mary Snyder BD</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Worship 10:30AM Betsy Kipila BD</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				