

Sunday, January 25, 2026
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Sanctuary flowers information.

If you would like to dedicate flowers in honor of or in memory of a loved one, request forms are on the bulletin board opposite church offices. There you will see available dates for the entire year 2026 for chancel vases. Baskets of flowers and bud vases of three roses are available any time.

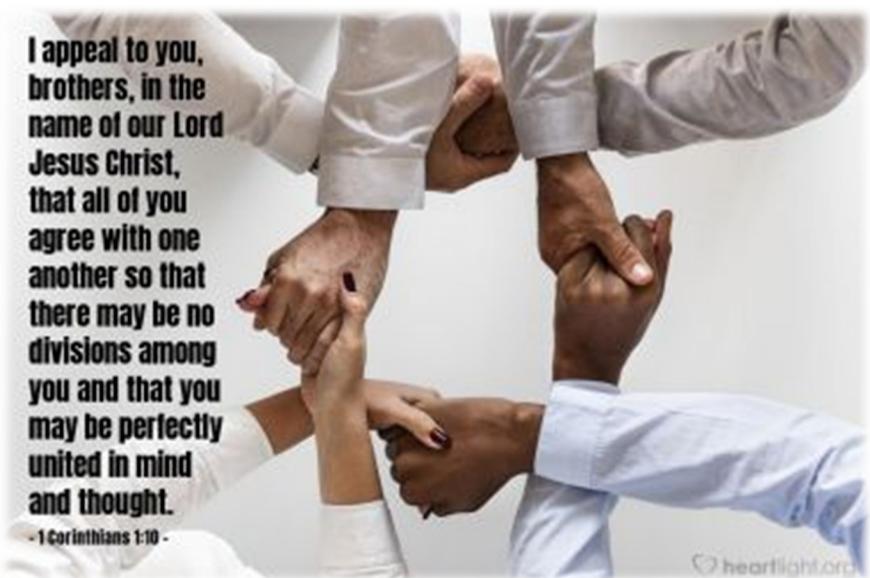
Chancel vases \$30.00 each

Basket of flowers \$40.00

Vases of three roses \$24.50

Completed forms may be given to
Marty Cropper.

Thank you for helping make our sanctuary a place of beauty as we worship with flowers praising God and honor loved ones. Flowers are yours to take home.



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Pastor Debbie Johnson

"Unity in Christ"

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

Office: ocmfpresbyterian@gmail.com

Website: www.ocmfpresbyterian.org

Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Noon
Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday

Order of Worship: Sunday, January 25, 2026

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 emphasizes Christian **unity in Christ**, urging believers to speak the same thing and avoid divisions (Paul, Apollos, Cephas), as true wisdom lies in the **foolishness of the cross**, God's power to save, rather than worldly wisdom or human leaders, encouraging a unified message for His glory. Inspirational themes highlight that Christ's sacrifice, seen as foolishness by the world, is God's power for salvation, binding believers together in one purpose.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship:

Elder Chris Greenwood

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in Galilee and in our midst.

The Lord is our light and our salvation.

Whom shall we fear?

Jesus calls, "Follow me."

We come to walk in the light of Christ.

Come, let us worship the God who calls us out of darkness.

Let us follow Christ, the light of the world.

Choral Introit "Jesus is Lord of All"

*** Hymn: *Hymn: "Lift High the Cross" # 371
(Blue hymnal)**

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

Call to Confession:

Other actions may follow—a song of praise, such as "Glory be to the Father" or "Glory to God"; a summary of the law or call to faithfulness; and the sharing of peace as a sign of reconciliation in Christ.

One more thing about the Prayer of Confession:

Confession is not a downer, but moves us forward

Acknowledging sin is the first step toward walking in God's way. In this classic prayer of confession, we remember both the sins of commission (what we do) and the sins of omission (what we do not do), and we acknowledge that sins are both personal and corporate. Of course, when worship rolls around to the prayer of confession, it's not unusual for pastors to hear, "I don't come to church to feel bad about myself. Can't we just skip the prayer of confession?"

In our Gospel text for Jan. 10, however, Mark tells us that "people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him [John the baptizer], and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins." Jerusalem is about 20 miles away from the traditional site of Jesus' baptism, while "the Judean countryside" could mean locales five times that distance away or more. They literally spent days traveling to be baptized by John. And part and parcel to their baptism was the confession of sins. Confessing our sins is not meant to be a "downer."

Rather, it's the first step we take in becoming a new creation in Christ. After confession, those who came to John were ready to enter the waters of baptism. After confession, what would we be ready for?

LUNCH BUNCH IN NEW YEAR

The Lunch Bunch will meet This Tuesday, January 27 at 11:30 at Sophia's Italian Restaurant in Ocean City. Address is 11405 Coastal Highway. New participants are always welcome! Come join us!

WHY DO WE DO A PRAYER OF CONFESSION? I DON'T DO THOSE THINGS!

W-3.0205: Confession and Forgiveness

Having praised the holiness of God, we must also face the sinful state of the world and of our lives, confessing our unworthiness to enter into God's presence.

Nevertheless we approach God with confidence, trusting in the mercy of Jesus Christ. This turn from communal praise to corporate confession, established on the promise of God's grace, is one of the hallmarks of the Reformed tradition.

A call to confession expresses God's initiative in calling for repentance and promising forgiveness in Christ. As members of Christ's body, we confess the reality of sin, captivity, and brokenness in personal and common life and ask for God's saving grace. The prayer of confession may include the singing of a prayer for grace, such as

"Lord, have mercy." A declaration of forgiveness proclaims the good news of God's mercy and offers the assurance of pardon in Jesus' name. Leading this element of worship from the font connects our confession with the grace and cleansing of Baptism, and the baptismal call to new life in Christ. Because of these associations with the ministry of Word and Sacrament, it is fitting for a teaching elder (Minister) to lead the call to confession and proclaim the good news of forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

God of mercy, You call us into the light, yet we confess that we often cling to familiar darkness. We allow division to take root, resist the cost of discipleship, and hesitate when you invite us to follow. Forgive us, O God. Break the chains that bind us and turn us again toward your truth and grace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Hear the good news: "God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son." (1 Corinthians 1:9)

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, reconciled, and called anew. Thanks be to God!

* Gloria Patri (unison) #622

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

* Doxology (unison) #625

Prayer of Dedication

Choral Anthem: "It is Well With My Soul"

Prayer for Illumination: (unison)

God of epiphanies, you reveal yourself to us in diverse and numerous ways. Free us the distractions that turn our focus away from you and your Word. Open us to the truth you reveal to us today. Amen.

1st Scripture reading: Isaiah 9: 1-4
(p.683 in pew Bible)
Decon Nancy Wright

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18
(p. 1128 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 "Unity in Christ"
Pastor Debbie Johnson

*** Hymn: "We Give Thanks for Our Salvation"**

(Familiar tune: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

1. We give thanks for our salvation-in the grace of Christ we're found. We are brought from isolation into lives of those around. All together we lack nothing as Christ's work in now revealed. God is faithful and has called us, into fellowship with him.

2. Let our speech reflect our oneness, echoing the words you said. Keep us selfless in our actions, leading others where you led. End divisive motivations, give us grace in unity that surpasses our emotions and restores us perfectly.

3. We are baptized into Jesus, Barriers topple from within. Equally, the water frees and cleanses us from all our sin. Jesus Christ is not divided; we are baptized in one name. Unified in our redemption, Christ's salvation we proclaim.

Current Prayer Concerns:

Virginia Miller
Lydia Frasca,
Bob & Dee Lebo
William Steger
Christine Ruskin-*friend of Marty*
Joe Nasatka-*friend of Marty*
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*
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*
Gene Peavley - *friend of the Hales*
Brooke Cannell - relative of the Hales.
Janet Bischler - sister-in-law of Rich and Nancy Wright
Steve LaBrunda
Jonelle Jones
Rich Wright
Bob Reese
Patti Seaman—*sister of Jonelle Jones*

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

Jan 18	Jan Owens
Jan 25	Mabel Rogers
Feb 1	Jackie Bates.
Feb 8	Vicky Cairns
Feb 15	Karen Eberle
Feb 22	Ann Hales
Mar 1	Jan Owens (or Jonelle Jones)
Mar 8	Barbara & Betsy Kipila
Mar 15	Nancy Wright (or Lisa)

Calendar, Birthdays, and More ...

Wed	Jan 28	Bells Practice	5:00 PM
Wed	Jan 28	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Thurs	Jan 29	Discussion Whole Bible Reading	10:30 AM
Fri	Jan 30	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM

Birthdays: *Sarah Dypsky (1/28)*

Flowers: *Flowers in the chancel vase are given:*

~ By Barbara and Betsy Kipila in memory of their Mom Pauline Kipila who celebrated her 112th birthday with our Lord and Savior . Mom was born on January 24, 1914. Our many loving memories keep you alive in our hearts.

Chancel vases open for February 2026

02-01-26 One vase
02-08-26 One vase
02-15-26 One vase
02-22-26 Two vases

Thank you, Marty

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

Words: Kent Hendricks; Music: J. Wyeth's repository of Sacred Music 2008 Faith Alive Christian Resources

**Receiving two new members:
Dave and Cathy Smith**

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 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: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

438 (Blue hymnal)

Charge
Benediction
Response
Postlude "Three-Fold Amen"

*Liturgy Credit: Book of Confessions; Rev. Teri McDowell Ott, editor and publisher for Presbyterian Outlook; <https://www.pastorjasonelder.com>.
Music license: CCLI-#1650329.*

Member Dawn Butler is looking for a new rental in Ocean City. If you know of something available, please let Dawn know.

FREE BOOK GIVE-AWAY

Pastor Debbie is giving away a lot of books that she will not be using once she is retired. This includes hymnals, Bibles, commentaries, and Bible study books that can be done as an individual. They are now displayed in the one room adjacent to the main part of the Fellowship Hall. Stop by and look during the Fellowship time and take a few books home. The books will be there today only. Leftover books will be donated to Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA. These are new books since last Sunday.



UPCOMING PULPIT SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 1-Pastor Debbie's last Sunday

Sunday, February 8-Guest Preacher, Cindy Kohlmann, Lead Presbyter/Stated Clerk and head of staff for New Castle Presbytery.

Sunday, February 15-Pastor Jon's first worship service

Pastor Debbie's Info:

Email: djhj3675@gmail.com
Cell phone: (843) 568-6480

Always available by texting or calling.

NEXT BOOK CLUB

The next Book Club meeting will be February 17, and we will discuss moving this to a different date. The selection is ."The Penny" by Joyce Meyer and Deborah Bedford. From the book jacket: Jenny Blake has no idea how her life will change in the summer of 1955. But the day she stoops to pick up a penny embedded in the hot asphalt, she starts a chain of events that will transform her life and the lives of those around her in amazing ways.