



September 2021
Volume 8 # 9

Pastor's Musings

"When It All Gets to be Too Much!"



I find myself having more conversations lately with people who are despairing and overwhelmed. Some of these conversations involve personal loss, either of loved ones or relationships. More of them, however, deal with a sense of despair over the trajectory that the world seems to be taking. Some of the people I talk to tell me that they think the world is coming to an end. Indeed, it's easy to hook into the 24/7 news cycle and come to that conclusion. I guess because I am a pastor, they ask me where God is in any of this and whether I believe God is hurtling humanity towards the end times.

Next Issue October 2021

Deadline **09/24**
Please consider adding content to this newsletter.



Of course, I have no idea what God is thinking. Who among us can discern the will of God? But I do have a perspective that I would like to share. Certainly, there is Biblical scripture which talks of end times and a judgment, but I am not sure that catastrophic world events or natural disasters are the tea leaves with which we predict the future of life on planet earth; after all, the world has been "going to

hell" for millennia complete with wars, plagues, earthquakes, and all manner of tragedy. I am also less and less convinced that dwelling on it matters.

Certainly, being upset enough with the plight of our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan and Haiti that we are prompted to action in helping them produces a good, and here, I suppose, I have arrived at my point. God is present in the disaster in Haiti when people who have no connection to that country and never will give money, send goods, or volunteer their time to help people who don't look like them and who they will never meet. It may seem like a small thing, but we worship a God who dwells happily and thrives in the small things.

I may have told this story before but years ago I was driving my father to his treatments for his brain cancer. It was snowing heavily, and I was concentrating on keeping the car on the road. My father was staring out the passenger side window. Suddenly he turned to me and asked me whether I knew what life was all about. Trying to concentrate on the road I said, "No Dad. Tell me. What is life about?"

Continued on Page 2

"Well," he said, "it isn't a house you live in or a job you have or a vacation home you own." "Daniel," he said, "life is a million trips to Kmart to buy blue jeans for your kids." And then he looked over at me and said, "Your job is to make sure they're good trips."

I see a lot of wisdom in what my old man said, and I see a lot of Jesus in it too. The kingdom of God is as much a present reality as it is a hoped-for future. Acts of compassion, mercy, forgiveness and sharing form our relationship with God and with each other and we partner with our Lord in bringing about his kingdom. One moment spent in genuine self-sacrifice is greater than an eternity spent in callous disregard.

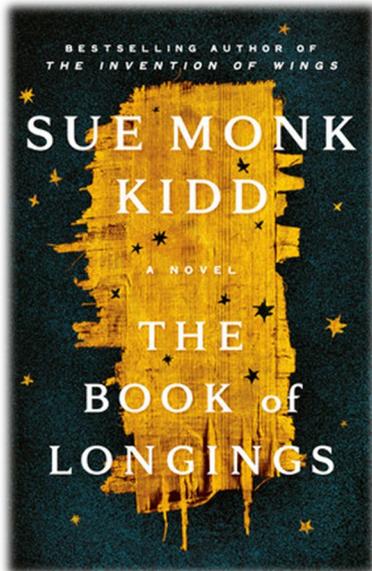
We can spend our days lamenting the world around us and worrying what is to come or we can write a check to help resettle an Afghan family, or we can call to check in on an old friend, or we can listen as someone pours out their heartache to us. We can even laugh and joke with our grandkids on the way to buying them clothes at Walmart, but only if we stop and buy them an ice cream on the way home!

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Dan

Your Committees at Work		
Clerk of Session	Mabel Rogers	clerkocpresby@gmail.com
Worship	Lisa Bayles	oclista@verizon.net
Fellowship	Marty Cropper Jan Owens	benzgrammyinoc@yahoo.com jtorph@comcast.net
Discipleship / Christian Ed	Mabel Rogers	clerkocpresby@gmail.com
Mission	Rich Wright Jan Owens	ocean.pines6@yahoo.com jtoroph@comcast.net
Personnel	Chris Greenwood Steve Hales	cwg00713@gmail.com stephen.hales1942@outlook.com
Building	Bob Reese Lou LaBrunda Pete Hanes	rfr0615@gmail.com loulabrunda@gmail.com mphok@earthlink.net
Finances	Mabel Rogers Jan Owens	clerkocpresby@gmail.com jtorph@comcast.net
Website	Peggy Webster	peggyweb@verizon.net
Nominating	Rich Wright Peggy Webster	ocean.pines6@yahoo.com peggyweb@verizon.net

Book Club ... Tuesday, September 14th @2pm—



We will be reading the “Book of Longings” by Sue Monk Kidd. The meeting will be held in Fellowship Hall on September 14, 2021 at 2PM.

Raised in a wealthy family in Sepphoris with ties to the ruler of Galilee, Ana is rebellious and ambitious, a relentless seeker with a brilliant, curious mind and a daring spirit. She yearns for a pursuit worthy of her life, but finds no outlet for her considerable talents. Defying the expectations placed on women, she engages in furtive scholarly pursuits and writes secret

narratives about neglected and silenced women. When she meets the eighteen-year-old Jesus, each is drawn to and enriched by the other’s spiritual and philosophical ideas. He becomes a floodgate for her intellect, but also the awakener of her heart.

All are welcome!!

Flowers

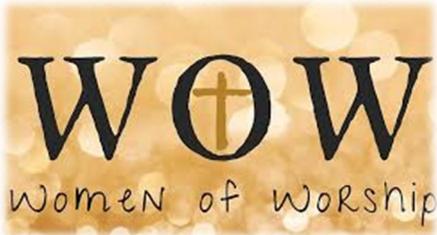
Wouldn't it be lovely to add a touch of beauty to our LORD's Day Service; to honor a friend, a loved one or to remember someone special?



Chancel Vases \$22
Bud Vase of 3 Flowers \$20
Basket of Flowers \$30

Vases are open for 9/12 (2) and 9/19 & 9/26 (1 each). For the month of September, please reach out to Beth in the church office for any flower requests.

Women of Worship - WOW



September is often seen as a time of new beginnings: schools opening, new church schedules, a time to return to work after summer vacation; a time to put away summer clothes, buy new clothes and shoes because of “growth”. Some of these are loose for us to grow into, or shoes may feel tight because we have run barefoot all summer or worn flip-flops. BUT we make adjustments, are grateful for new things and allow ourselves to adjust and enjoy.

We have studied new beginnings in scripture many times: from Abraham's leaving his fathers' tent and going into new territory TRUSTING in God, and allowing his faith to sustain him. That is true of others: Noah, Ruth, the disciples after the resurrection and many others.

New beginnings create many feelings: excitement, fear, a welcomed reprieve, hesitancy in taking that first step. The good news is that we are followers of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 5: 17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!”

The Women of Worship (Wisdom) will begin meeting once again on **Tuesday, September 21st**, at **11 AM**. It will be an exciting time as we plan for this new church year, reinstating traditional missions, and discussing new needs for our church and community.

Our Bible Study this year is on the Lineage of Jesus, as viewed by Matthew Chapter 1. What was the influence of the five women mentioned in Jesus lineage? Why these particular women? We will also take a look at our own genealogy: What memories do you have of your grandmothers? What did you learn from them?

Please mark your calendars now to come and learn of the influence of Jesus' grandmothers on his life and ours.

The Study Guide for our first lesson is on the following page. Please bring a bag lunch to enjoy during our WOW meeting and study time.

Study Guide #1 for Lineage of Jesus

OPENING PRAYER:

Creating and Loving God, as we read your Word together, may we allow it to read us. As we enter into your Story, may we understand our own stories with more clarity and wisdom. Help us to remember that you have always worked through the lives of ordinary women and men, with all their faults and failings: people like us. We bring our ordinary lives before you today. Transform our expectations, so that as we study stores of the past, we may be open to your extraordinary future. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1: The Lineage of Jesus

1. Why is it important?
2. Why are other families' genealogies mentioned in the bible? What do they teach us? Why were they important then and now? (Adam, Abraham, Noah, David)
3. Why does Matthew begin his gospel with the lineage of Jesus? Why does Matthew, a Jew, writing to a Jewish community include 5 women? What does their inclusion have to say about the coming of the messiah? These women listed (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, Mary) are "outsiders" who would have been seen as detracting from the family line, rather than adding to it. Why not list women such as Eve, Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel; the mothers of the tribes of Israel? Some of those listed were associated with ambiguous sexual activity, were poor, and were unconnected to power figures.
4. How do their stories make us better human beings? Are we more grateful, happy, empathic, and compassionate? Do some of our own relatives provide these same traits and make us more resilient in handling our own circumstances?
5. We have been recognizing, learning about the importance of God's placement of women's stories in the bible. (e.g., Martha and Mary, preceded by the Good Samaritan and followed by the Lord's prayer. The story of Jesus healing Jairus' daughter, and the bleeding woman who "interrupted" that story. Mark 5:21-43).
6. God's Plan, His Purpose for us is threaded throughout the bible. We are a part of the Greatest Story: God's kingdom and our part: Where have we been planted? (in a garden? in community?)
7. We are a part of the cosmic story. We are related to the "heavens and the earth". **Genesis 1**: majesty and rhythmic sequences of creation. **Genesis 2**: soil of the garden, and the genealogy narrative.
8. **Supportive scripture**; Psalm 8, Psalm 92. **Ephesians 2: 10** "For we are God's handiwork, crated in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do".

Your Session in Action ...

It is hard to believe that Summer is gone, September and Labor Day are here! One thing good about this is the days will begin to cool and won't that be pleasant? As we move into fall many activities are taking place in and around First Presbyterian Church of OC. The security system will be fully activated (as noted elsewhere in this newsletter) and the only access will be by fob, except on Sundays during worship. If you need one please contact the office and Beth will assign one to you.

Some exterior maintenance will begin shortly and we hope to continue until the exterior is "up to snuff"! In August, Lisa Bayles led a group in cleaning the kitchen cabinets and those in the side room of fellowship hall. How nice to be able to look for something and it is easy to find! Thank you Lisa and her fellow workers!

Work continues on surveying the questionnaires that you filled in about the future of our church. More on this as we progress.

We hoped to have a cruise for the church family on the Black-eyed Susan paddle boat out of Snow Hill but these cruises are filling up so fast that not many were able to get tickets. We will keep trying and hope that this will come to fruition this fall but if not then definitely in the Spring.

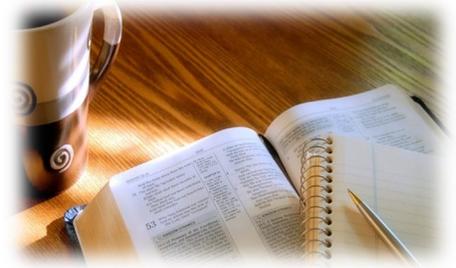
Please feel free to approach any of the elders with questions that you may have and hopefully we will be able to assist you. See you in church on Sunday!

In Christ,

Mabel

Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study ...

Graison Wainwright has been studying Scripture for over 45 years and continues to find himself amazed at what he can still learn when he opens the Word of God. Graison's study is held each **Sunday morning at 9 AM** in Fellowship Hall.



The group is now studying the book of Exodus and are up to Chapter 6, where Moses tells the Israelites of God's coming deliverance.

All are warmly welcomed to join at any time!



Prayer Requests

If you have any prayer requests, please call the Church office at 410-289-9340 (you may leave a voice mail), or email us at ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com. If it is *urgent*, please send a text message (or call) Beth at 862-266-6939 and we will distribute a prayer alert as soon as possible. If you would like to be added to our prayer alert email distribution list, please call or email the office.

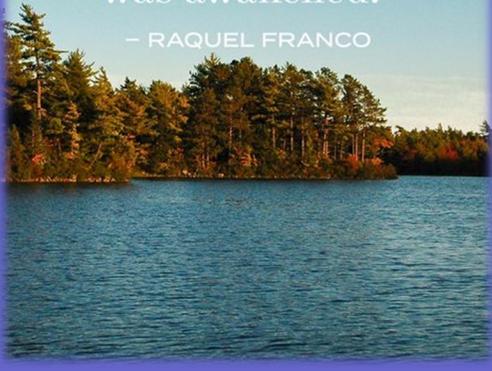
The first of September and as I write this we are awaiting the side effects of Ida, the torrential storm that devastated Louisiana, to pass by our way. My sister and I have a tradition that whenever we can we try to go to the beach as storms approach. The ocean can be tumultuous. Sometimes the wind can be vicious but always we know who is in control. I am sure that some in Louisiana may question this today but truly He is and through all kinds of "storms" we can always count on Him. Pray for protection through the storms as all kinds of storms come our way. We must endure them but we will surely be stronger on the other side of them. Remember God is good.....all the time!

In Christ's love,

Mabel

“And then the sun
took a step back, the
leaves lulled themselves
to sleep, and autumn
was awakened.”

— RAQUEL FRANCO



Anniversaries

Buzzy & Lisa Bayles
September 9

John & Sherry Snyder
September 26



Birthdays

Carol Reese	Sept 1
Andrew Haas	Sept 2
Ben Cropper	Sept 3
Joy Steger	Sept 8
Mabel Rogers	Sept 8
Donna Greenwood	Sept 11
Ann Hales	Sept 14
Ginny Miller	Sept 23
Kent Mitchell	Sept 27



Online Giving Reminder

Online giving.
Simple.
Secure.

By making use of the Presbyterian Foundation's online giving portal, we are providing a way for members and friends to setup a secure one-time or recurring donation to First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City.

You can use the Give Now button on our church website and/or download the **GivePlus** Mobile app onto your smartphone. In the GivePlus app, our church is listed as "**Ocean City Presbyterian Church**". For either method, you will need to setup a simple, secure profile.

Through either path, during the checkout process, you will be given an opportunity to add 2% to your donation to cover the transaction fees. Please consider covering the fee to help us keep costs to a minimum.

Fellowship

On August 8th, we enjoyed a wonderful farewell picnic for our 2021 CRU Team. Oh, how we will miss their presence in our midst. We hope that Evan, Jeff, Cassidy, Renee, and Livi will know they will always have a place in our hearts and in our congregation. Our prayers will follow them as the Lord leads them through their journey of life and ministry.



The following is the schedule of “hostesses” for fellowship following Sunday worship during September:

September 5	Ann Hales and Carol Reese
September 12	Karen Eberle and Nancy Wright
September 19	Sarah Dypsky and Jan Owens
September 26	Jan Owens and Peggy Webster

Session & Deacons 2021

Position	Name	Current Term Ends <i>* Final Term (1 year break required)</i>	Email
Elder	Bayles, Lisa	2021	oclista@verizon.net
Elder	Cropper, Marty	2021 *	Benzgrammyinoc@yahoo.com
Elder	Greenwood, Chris	2022 *	Cwg00713@gmail.com
Elder	Hales, Steve	2023	stephen.hales1942@outlook.com
Elder	Owens, Jan	2023	jtorph@comcast.net
Elder	Reese, Bob	2022	Rfr0615@gmail.com
Elder	Rogers, Mabel	2022 *	Clerkocpresby@gmail.com
Elder	Webster, Peggy	2021	Peggyweb@verizon.net
Elder	Wright, Rich	2023 *	ocean.pines6@yahoo.com
Deacon	Hales, Ann	2023	Annhales914amh@gmail.com
Deacon	Latour, Sue	2022	Slatour0655@gmail.com
Deacon	McKenty, Tina	2021	Tinamckenty@gmail.com
Deacon	Phillips, Jan	2021	donald.phillips5@yahoo.com
Deacon	Reese, Carol	2021	carol.reese1946@gmail.com
Deacon	Snyder, Mary	2022	Richardsnyder101@comcast.net
Deacon	Wright, Nancy	2021	ocean.pines6@yahoo.com

Security Update

The final step to complete the security system for our church facility will be implemented in September. Previously, electronic fob readers were installed at the back (Dayton Lane) and side sanctuary (ramp accessible) doors. We will now complete the process by *disabling* the key entries at the front portico (Philadelphia Avenue) and 13th Street doors (in the hall by the Choir and Nursery rooms).

In the event of a system or electricity failure, the emergency entrance door off the front portico (behind the organ) will be used. The Clerk of the Session and/or the Pastor will have the key to the emergency door.

Our objective is to make our facility secure, while still enabling all who need to use the building with the means to do so. Please contact Beth in the church office if you need an electronic fob assigned to you.

Narcotics Anonymous

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City is hosting two different Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Meetings:



Tuesdays at 7PM
Friday at 7PM (Starting 9/10)

“The first thing in the human personality that dissolves in addiction is dignity.”

Food Pantry

As fall approaches we will again have neighbors who are in need. Last year our Food Pantry provided much needed assistance to those who were food insecure.

Additionally, we were able to partner with Sarah and Cliff Dypsky’s ministry to Samaritan Shelter in Pocomoke. We

continue to collect food donations and personal hygiene items for our neighbors in need.

Donations may be brought to the church during church office hours or on Sunday. Our greatest joy is to be God’s hands and feet during times of want. Thank you in advance for your generosity.





The Poet's Corner

Villanelle

by Jacob Todd

We should all remember that which is true
As we journey through this and ev'ry day
Each day is a chance to do something new

Whatever we think, whatever we do
If in God's loving grace we choose to stay
We should all remember that which is true

Our days are numbered and they seem so few
Yet if we're sick or healthy, come what may:
Each day is a chance to do something new

Reject unkindness and impatience, too
Our Savior Christ is whom we must portray
We should all remember that which is true

And if our fears we can learn to subdue
Alleviating all of our dismay
Each day is a chance to do something new

As renewing as the morning's light dew
Improvement is already underway
We should all remember that which is true
Each day is a chance to do something new

The villanelle is a highly structured poem made up of five tercets followed by a quatrain, with two repeating rhymes and two refrains.

“That old September feeling, left over from school days, of summer passing, vacation nearly done, obligations gathering, books and football in the air ... Another fall, another turned page: there was something of jubilee in that annual autumnal beginning, as if last year's mistakes had been wiped clean by summer.”

*~ Wallace Stegner
“Angle of Repose”*

Relief Needed

And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." -
Luke 3: 10,11

Afghan Refugees

Church World Service: cwsglobal.org

In the coming weeks, tens of thousands of Afghans will arrive in the United States. They are fleeing retribution or persecution from the Taliban and have one goal: to live in safety. It is in our power to help them obtain it.

World Relief: worldrelief.org

Today, over 80 million people around the world have been forced to leave their home. Each day, that number grows by over 44,000. These families are fleeing for their lives, praying for their safety and desperately seeking refuge. If you're like us, you believe that everyone deserves a place to call 'home'. You believe that families and young children deserve safety and security.

Hurricane Ida

American Red Cross:
redcross.org

The Red Cross is working across with our partners to provide help to people struggling with the heartbreaking damage left behind by Hurricane Ida. In Louisiana and Mississippi as temperatures soar, more than a million people are without power and some areas may not have electricity for weeks; homes and businesses are destroyed; cell phone, water and sewer services are down; roads are impassable; and many communities remain flooded.

Haiti

Project Hope: projecthope.org

Project HOPE is on the ground delivering critical medicines and medical supplies in the aftermath of the 7.2-magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti on August 14. At least 650,000 people in Haiti are in need of humanitarian assistance in the departments of Sud, Grand'Anse, and Nippes. More than 2,000 people have died, over 12,000 are injured, and devastation is widespread near the city of Les Cayes, about 80 miles west of Port-au-Prince.

Hospitals in impacted areas have been overwhelmed by sudden needs, and many medical facilities have suffered major damage. Thousands are homeless, and there is concern that diseases could spread after Tropical Storm Grace dumped as much as 10 inches of rain in the affected areas.

RUMMAGE SALE !

The next Rummage Sale has been scheduled for

**Saturday,
September 18th**
from **7AM—1PM.**

We are short on volunteers this time and are in special need of help in

setting up beginning at **6AM.** Please consider lending a much needed hand.



The shed is also **FULL**, so if you have donations, please bring them either the day of the sale OR later, for the subsequent sale we will hold in October (date TBD).

Fall Brown Bag Bible Study Series ...

Beginning **September 16th** Pastor Dan will be offering a fall Bible study series entitled "The Little Gems." We will explore those short books of the New Testament that lurk toward the back of our Bibles. Specifically we will study 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, 3 John and Jude. Together we will

explore who wrote these texts, when they were written, for whom they were written and we will examine the

witness to Jesus Christ in each. Classes will be held **Thursdays** at **12:30** by **Zoom**. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary. Please provide your name and email and we will send Zoom invitations each week before class.



September 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship + Communion	6  LABOR DAY	7 5:30 PM Choir Practice Narcotics Anonymous Meeting 7PM	8 6pm Girl Scouts Troop #812	9	10 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">New Meeting!</div> Narcotics Anonymous Meeting 7PM	11 Sligo-by-the-Sea Sabbath 9am - 12 noon
12 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship	13	14 2PM Book Club 3PM Deacons 5:30 PM Choir Practice Narcotics Anonymous Meeting 7PM 7PM Session Meeting	15 6pm Girl Scouts Troop #812	16 12:30PM Brown Bag Bible Study via ZOOM 	17 Narcotics Anonymous Meeting 7PM	18 Rummage Sale 7AM - 1PM Sligo-by-the-Sea Sabbath 9am - 12 noon
19 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship	20	21 5:30 PM Choir Practice Narcotics Anonymous Meeting 7PM	22  6pm Girl Scouts Troop #812	23 12:30PM Brown Bag Bible Study via ZOOM 	24 Narcotics Anonymous Meeting 7PM	25 South Beach Condo Meeting 3PM
26 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship	27	28 5:30 PM Choir Practice Narcotics Anonymous Meeting 7PM	29 6pm Girl Scouts Troop #812	30 12:30PM Brown Bag Bible Study via ZOOM 		

Sunday Church Activities
Schedule of Worship

Adult Bible Study: 9:00 AM
Traditional Service: 10:30 AM
Communion: 1st Sunday of each month

Food Pantry for OC Community + Samaritan House—Drop off supplies during Church office hours

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am - 12 noon

Church Email, Website, and Social Media

Office Email: ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com

Pastor Email: ministerocpresby@gmail.com

Go to www.ocmdpresbyterian.org

Sermons, Bulletins, & Newsletters available on our website.

Like us on Facebook

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City



We hope that you have enjoyed this publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City newsletter. If you have information to share with your fellow church members, please feel free to call or email Beth LaBrunda at the church office 410-289-9340 or ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com

Beth LaBrunda, Editor

Church Officers 2021

Session

Mabel Rogers (<i>Clerk</i>)	
Lisa Bayles	Martha Cropper
Chris Greenwood	Jan Owens
Peggy Webster	Rich Wright
Bob Reese	Steve Hales

Deacons

Nancy Wright	Tina McKenty
Carol Reese	Ann Hales
Mary Snyder	Sue Latour
Jan Phillips	

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
1301 Philadelphia Ave.
Ocean City, MD 21842

If you can't be with us in person ...

