

New Lenten Devotional for you to read online.

We hope that you are enjoying and reflecting upon the Lenten devotional that you received online which gives a good devotion for each day of Lent. Title is:

“Grieving Change and Loss.”

**Sunday, March 30, 2025
4rd Sunday in Lent**



**First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Pastor Debbie Johnson**

**“The Ministry of Reconciliation: It’s Up
to Us Now”**

Jacob Todd, Organist and Choirmaster
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Website: www.ocmdpresbyterian.org
Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Noon

Order of Worship: Sunday, March 30, 2025

4rd Sunday in Lent

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:

Do I see others from a worldly point of view or through the eyes and understanding of God's? Does my life outwardly demonstrate that I am a brand-new creation, that I have had a total system reboot, and live a light that reflects the healing love of the Lord? Then again, I need to ask if there's really no difference in the tone and texture of my life after I have professed to follow Jesus? Can the people I encounter around the kitchen table, the board room table, the check-out line, or in the classroom even tell I am any different from the rest of the dog-eat-dog frenzy in the world? Does the way I speak about others, social issues, politics, or social justice change? *From: a sermon delivered by the Rev. Dr. Patrick H. Wrisley on March 27, 2022*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship:

Jackie Bates

How blessed we are that God forgives us and loves us!

For all those times when we have fallen short of what God would have us be, we have been forgiven.

God makes us new in God's Spirit!

Now is the time to joyfully accept the newness of life which God offers to us.

Come, let us worship and be thankful.

Let us open our hearts to the peace and joy of God. Amen.

Choral Introit "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

* Hymn: "Glorify Thy Name" # 29

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:

Apr 6	Jackie Bates
Apr 13	Nancy Wright (Lisa Bayles)
Apr 20	Easter NO FELLOWSHIP
Apr 27	Vicky Cairns
May 4	Karen Eberle
May 11	Marty Cropper

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

Pastor Debbie's Info:

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

Always available by texting or calling.

Calendar, Birthdays, Flowers

Tues	Apr	1	Lenten Bible Study	4:30	PM
Tues	Apr	1	Grace Parker Set up	10:00	AM
Wed	Apr	2	Grace Parker Breakfast	7:30	AM
Wed	Apr	2	Choir Practice	6:00	PM
Fri	Apr	4	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00	PM

Birthdays: *Jamie Greenwood (4/5)*

Flowers: Flowers in the Chancel vase are given
~ In honor of my sister Betsy as she reaches the big 75!!! A sister shares the memories or yesterday, the joys of today and the hopes of tomorrow. Happy birthday. Barbara

Chancel vases open for dedications
04-06-25 2 vases open for dedications (2)
04-13-25 2 vases open for dedications (2)

There are large print March and April Upper Room daily devotionals located on glass topped table in the back of the sanctuary. Enrich your daily time with God and take one home! - Thanks Marty

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

Call to Confession:

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Merciful God, we hear these words of Paul, and know that his life was spent living and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ not only to the people of his day, but to people in every age since. He could invite people not only to do as he said, but to do as he did. When we are happy to tell others to do as we say, but want the freedom to do as we choose, even if that means surrendering some of our Christian values; Forgive us, O God. When we strive to imitate the lifestyles of the rich and famous, and ignore the plight of those who are poor and the powerless; Forgive us, O God. When we look to others than Jesus Christ as the source of our standards; Forgive us, O God. When Jesus weeps over our behavior even as he wept over Jerusalem; Forgive us, O God. God of grace and truth, we remember Jesus' commitment to travel towards the cross to give true and everlasting meaning to the depth of divine love. Empower us with the Holy Spirit to deepen our commitment to follow Jesus, even when that means being ridiculed or persecuted, or sharing in the struggles and suffering of others. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen. .

Assurance of Pardon: (2 Corinthians 5: 17)

Hear the good news: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone; a new life has begun. (based on 2 Cor 5: 17) Friends, believe the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*** Gloria Patri (unison) #622**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*** Doxology: (unison) #625**

Prayer of Dedication

Choral Anthem: "Somebody's Knocking At Your Door"

Prayer for Illumination: (unison)
Gracious God, your mercy is wide, but our understanding is limited. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, open our minds and our hearts, that your good news may reach the deepest places within us. Renew us in your forgiving love and enliven our imaginations to possibilities for sharing that love with others. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: 1st Scripture reading:
Joshua 5: 9-12 (p. 211 in pew Bible)
Betsy Kipila

2nd Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21
(pp. 1145 in pew Bible)
Pastor Debbie Johnson

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

were influenced by George Whitefield, whose open-air preaching was already reaching great numbers. From 1740, Charles and John were the joint leaders of the Methodist Revival and evangelized throughout Britain and Ireland. They were opposed by many Anglican clergy, especially when their appointed lay preachers began to preach in parishes without seeking permission. In Newcastle upon Tyne, Wesley established its first Methodist society. He faced mob violence in Wednesbury and Sheffield in 1743 and at Devizes in 1747.

Following a period of illness, after 1756, Charles made no more journeys to distant parts of the country, mainly just moving between Bristol and London. Increasingly in his later years, Wesley became the mouthpiece of the so-called "Church Methodists". In the 1780s, he was especially dismayed by his brother's ordination of Methodist ministers to serve in America. Despite their closeness, Charles and John did not always agree on questions relating to their beliefs. In particular, Charles was strongly opposed to the idea of a breach with the Church of England in which they had been ordained.

Charles Wesley was a prolific hymnwriter. His hymns are marked by their strong doctrinal content (notably the Arminian insistence on the universality of God's love), a richness of scriptural and literary allusion, and the variety of his metrical and stanza forms. They are considered to have had a significant influence not only on Methodism but on Christian worship and modern theology as a whole. In the course of his career, Charles Wesley published the words of between 6,500 and 10,000 hymns, many of which are still popular. The hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" may be Charles' most well-known, and the hymn, "And Can It Be That I Should Gain?" was written to celebrate his conversion. As a result of his enduring hymnody, the Gospel Music Association recognized Wesley's musical contributions to the art of gospel music in 1995 by listing his name in the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Charles Wesley: English Clergyman, Poet, and Hymn Writer

Charles Wesley was born in Epworth, Lincolnshire, the son of Anglican cleric and poet Samuel Wesley and his wife Susanna. He was a younger brother of Methodist founder John Wesley and Anglican cleric Samuel Wesley. He was educated at Oxford University, where his brothers had also studied, and he formed the "Holy Club" among his fellow students in 1729. John Wesley later joined this group, as did George Whitefield.

Charles followed his father and brother into ministry in 1735, and he travelled with John to Georgia in America sailing from Gravesend, Kent, for Savannah in the Georgia colony of British America at the request of the governor, James Oglethorpe. Charles was appointed Secretary of Indian Affairs and while John remained in Savannah, Wesley went as chaplain to the garrison and colony at nearby Fort Frederica, St. Simon's Island, arriving there on 9 March 1736 according to his journal entry. Matters did not turn out well, and he was largely rejected by the settlers. In July 1736, Wesley was commissioned to England as the bearer of dispatches to the trustees of the colony. On 16 August 1736, he sailed from Charleston, South Carolina, never to return to the Georgia colony.

In 1738 the Wesley brothers, both had religious experiences: Charles experienced an evangelical conversion (or "renewal of faith") on May 21, and John had a similar experience in Aldersgate Street just three days later. Charles commemorated the first anniversary of his religious experience by composing an 18-stanza poem, with its seventh verse, beginning "O for a thousand tongues to sing", now serving as the opening of a shorter hymn. Following their evangelical conversions in 1738, the Wesley brothers travelled throughout Britain, converting followers to the Methodist revival through preaching and hymn singing.

Charles Wesley felt renewed strength to spread the gospel to ordinary people, and it was around then that he began to write the poetic hymns for which he would become known. Later that same year, finding that they were unwelcome inside parish churches, the Wesley brothers took to preaching to crowds in open fields. They

Time with Children & Youth Pastor Debbie Johnson

"The Wondrous Cross" Bell Trio w/Piano

**Sermon: "The Ministry of Reconciliation: It's
Up to Us Now"
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*** Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
92**

**Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles Creed
(unison)**

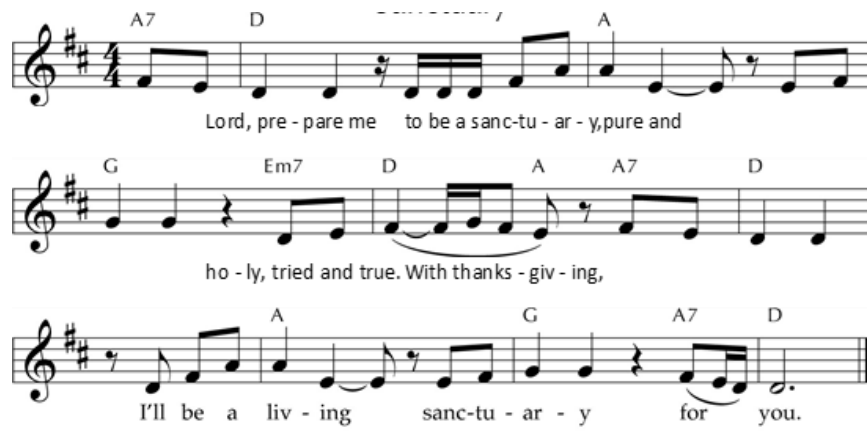
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; 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.

**Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and
Affirmations**

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

*** Hymn "Since Jesus Came into My Heart"
515**

Charge:
Benediction
Response "Sanctuary" (Unison) (Sing twice)



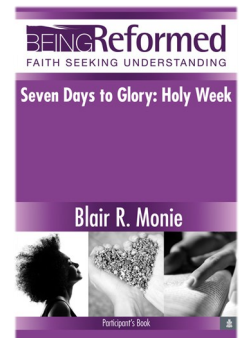
Postlude

Liturgy credit: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>; Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle for The Presbyterian Outlook; Ministry Matters; Book of Confessions. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way>.
Music license: CCLI-#1650329.

**Mark your calendars! the final
Grace Parker Breakfast of the season is this
Wednesday, April 2nd from 7-11 AM.
Set up will be Tuesday at 10AM
Helpers Needed—Thank You!!**

New Lenten Bible study New Lenten

Lenten Bible Study Continues
Our Lenten Bible study continues each Tuesday at 4:30 during Lent and ending on April 22. The study is "Seven Days to Glory: Holy Week" and looks at the last week of Jesus' life and the importance of those events.



Help celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus this Easter by adorning our sanctuary with lilies, tulips or hyacinths dedicated to your loved one(s).

Forms are located on the glass topped table in the back of the sanctuary and will need to be completed by April 13th.

Easter Lilies \$14.00 each
Tulips \$10.00 each
Hyacinths \$10.00 each

Forms and payment may be placed in the offering plate

~ Thank you,.
Marty cropper