

Sunday, March 16, 2025
2nd Sunday in Lent

New Lenten Devotional for you to read online.

In order to have an additional devotional during the season of Lent, we have ordered for all those on our email list (with a few hard copies), a devotional titled, **“Grieving Change and Loss.”** It will be a 6- week devotional beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter with thoughtful meditations featuring Scripture and prayer to enable you to connect these themes into your spiritual practice. Each Sunday will introduce one of the 6 stages of grief put forth by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross and David Kessler: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance, and finding meaning. Grieving Change and Loss invites you to embrace the wilderness of loss and rediscover the horizon of hope offered by Christ’s resurrection. You may save a copy on your computer and enjoy this meditation every day during Lent.



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City

“As a Hen Gathers Her Chicks Under Her Wings ”

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

Order of Worship: Sunday, March 16, 2025

2nd Sunday in Lent

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "Jesus Christ can be represented by a mother bird in His role as "creator of this earth," His "desire to protect his young" (those who become His children through covenant), His willingness to "[use] his body to shield his beloved 'children' from endless death and hell," and His "proactive care in the nurture of his children." <https://doctrineandcovenantscentral.org>

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship: Elder Vicky Cairns

Today is a day to sing praise to God!

God continually blesses us, each and every day.

Even in the midst of cold and darkness, the warmth of God's love is real.

We can count on God to be here for us.

Let your hearts rejoice and your voices shout praise to God.

For God is great and worthy to be praised. Amen.

Choral Introit "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

*** Hymn: "This Is My Father's World" # 58**

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

Call to Confession:

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

There is a certain winter in our spirits today, O

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 23	Mabel Rogers
Mar 30	Mary Snyder
Apr 6	Jackie Bates
Apr 13	Nancy Wright (Lisa Bayles)
Apr 20	Easter NO FELLOWSHIP
Apr 27	Vicky Cairns

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

Deacons Meeting

The Deacons will be meeting following worship today in the small room off Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Debbie's Info:

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

Always available by texting or calling.

Calendar, Birthdays, Flowers

Sun	Mar 16	Deacons meeting	11: 45 AM
Tue.	Mar 18	WOW meeting	11:00 AM
Tue	Mar 18	Session Meeting	1:00 PM
Wed	Mar 19	Hand Bells Practice	5:00 PM
Wed	Mar 19	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Fri	Mar 21	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM

Birthdays: *Renee Fitzgerald (3/16)*

Dave Frasca (3/17) Gregg Custis (3/18)

Carolyn Fitzgerald (3/19) Evan Haas (3/21)

Flowers:

A basket of blue flowers is dedicated to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and in memory of our son Chris who began his eternal life March 20, 2000. Fun filled memories bring us smiles. Donald and Mabel Rogers.

A basket of Pink flowers is in praise of our Lord and Savior and in memory of our daughter Caitlyn Lebo who has been in the loving arms of Jesus since March 21st 2013. We remember your beautiful smile and that makes us happy... we miss and love you. Mom and Dad

A basket of spring flowers is dedicated to our Risen Savior and in honor of Pastor Debbie and her love of God.

Chancel Vases Open for dedication

March 30, 2025 (2)

Lord. We feel that the journey on which we have embarked will demand too much of us. There are so many other things in our lives which claim our spirits, our energy, our hopes and fears. It is easy to be like Jerusalem, turning our backs on those whom you send. The world shouts its solutions to us and then deserts us when we are in need. Forgive us for the many times in which we have strayed from your pathway of life; when we have chosen not to hear the cries of those in need; when we have belittled the gifts and skills you have given us in order to avoid serving others. Heal us, O Lord. Place us back on your path to Jerusalem, to live, for we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: (responsive)

God does not abandon us. Like a border collie, God gathers us up, leading us to that shelter of love and life. Today, tomorrow, and the next day, God's grace rests upon us and gives us hope and mercy. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven. Amen.

* Gloria Patri (unison) #622

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

* Doxology: (unison) #625

Prayer of Dedication:

Choral Anthem "Lead Me to Calvary"

Prayer for Illumination: (unison)
God of all creation, send your Holy Spirit among us this day, that the seed of your Word might take root in our hearts, and bear the fruits of peace, love, and justice for all. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18
(p.13 in pew Bible)
Jackie Bates

2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 13: 31-35
(pp.1033-1034 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: "As a Hen Gathers Her Chicks Under Her Wings"
Pastor Debbie Johnson

* Hymn: "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" # 466

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

Retreat Update!

If you are able to attend a Fall Retreat for one night and one day only,

please see Pastor Debbie. Dates can be changed to meet accommodations.

Please note that scholarships are available.

Favorite Hymns

Do you have a favorite hymn that you would like to sing during our Sunday morning worship? We would like to know! Please pick up an index card on the table in the back of the sanctuary, write down your favorite hymn and drop the card in the offering plate. We will sing your choices for the first hymn each Sunday. Please bear in mind, that we are entering the season of Lent, a time for meditation and reflection.

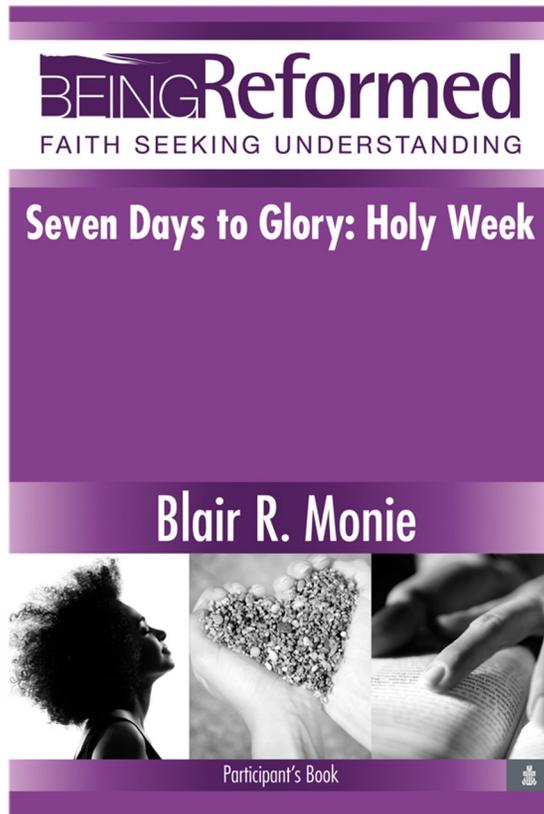
Chancel Vases Open for dedication

March 30, 2025 (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

New Lenten Bible study New Lenten

Bible study will begin on **Tuesday, March 11 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 25, April 1, April 8, April 15 and conclude on April 22. 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.



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 "Tell Me the Story of Jesus" # 172

Charge:

Benediction

Response "An Irish Blessing"

Postlude

Liturgy credit: Ministry Matters; Lectionary Liturgies; the Book of Confessions; Rev. Teri McDowell Ott for The Presbyterian Outlook.

Music license: CCLI-#1650329

The Lunch Bunch will be meeting again on March 25th at Hooked at 11:30 AM located at **8003 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD 21842**

* **Note**—previously, plans had been to go to Fagers. Unfortunately, they do not allow checks to be split.

Fanny Crosby: Famous Poet and Prolific Hymn Composer

Frances Jane (Fanny) Crosby was born on March 24, 1820, in the village of Brewster, about 50 miles north of New York City. She was the only child of John Crosby and his second wife Mercy Crosby, both of whom were relatives of Revolutionary War spy Enoch Crosby. Crosby was proud of her Puritan heritage. She traced her ancestry from Anna Brigham and Simon Crosby who arrived in Boston in 1635 (and were among the founders of Harvard College); their descendants married into Mayflower families making Crosby a descendant of Elder William Brewster, Edward Winslow, and Thomas Prence, and a member of the exclusive Daughters of the Mayflower.

At six weeks old, Crosby caught a cold and developed inflammation of the eyes. Mustard poultices were applied to treat the discharges. According to Crosby, this procedure damaged her optic nerves and blinded her, but modern physicians think that her blindness was more likely congenital and, given her age, may simply not have been noticed by her parents.

Her father died in November 1820 when Fanny was only six months old, so she was raised by her mother and maternal grandmother Eunice Paddock Crosby (1831). These women grounded her in Christian principles, helping her memorize long passages from the Bible, and she became an active member of the John Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Manhattan. When Crosby was three, the family moved to North Salem, New York, where Eunice had been raised. In April 1825, she was examined by the surgeon Valentine Mott, who concluded that her condition was inoperable and that her blindness was permanent.

At age eight, Crosby wrote her first poem which described her condition. She later stated: "It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me."

Crosby enrolled at the New York Institution for the Blind in 1835, just before her 15th birthday. She remained there for eight years as a student, and another two years as a graduate pupil, during which time she learned to play the piano, organ, harp, and guitar, and became a good soprano singer. After graduation from the NYIB in 1843, Crosby joined a group of lobbyists in Washington, D.C., arguing for support of education for the blind. She was the first woman to speak in the United States Senate when she read a poem there.

Fanny was a longtime member of the Sixth Avenue Bible Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, which has been in existence continuously since 1867. She served as a consecrated Baptist missionary, deaconess, and lay preacher. She wrote hymns together with her minister Robert Lowry, such as "All the Way My Savior Leads Me" and many others. Fanny Crosby is known as one of the most prolific hymn writers in U.S. history. By the time of her death, she had written between 5,500 to 9,000 hymns.

(* See page # 697 in red hymnal to see the hymns written by Fanny Crosby)