

Sunday, September 8, 2024
16th Sunday after Pentecost
10: 30AM

VOLUNTEER



We are looking for some at large members from the congregation to serve on the Committees of the church chaired by Session members. You cannot currently be a deacon or elder, but you are needed! The Committees are:

- ◇ Worship
- ◇ Fellowship
- ◇ Building & Maintenance
- ◇ Mission/Evangelism
- ◇ Finances & Investment

The Committees will be meeting once a month. If you feel that you can volunteer your time, and you have a specific interest in one of the Committees, please see Pastor Debbie.



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Pastor Debbie Johnson

"What Did Jesus Say?"

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

Office: ocmdpresbyterian@gmail.com
Website: www.ocmdpresbyterian.org

Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Noon

Order of Worship: Sunday, September 8, 2024

16th Sunday after Pentecost

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "We will all profit from a more diverse, inclusive society, understanding, accommodating, even celebrating our differences, while pulling together for the common good." –*Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Deacon Beth Fisher

Come and worship, all you who love and serve the Lord—**outsiders and insiders,**
old-timers and new-comers,
the young, old and the in-between.
Come as you are,
for this is God's house—a house of prayer for all people,
and God welcomes each one who comes.

Choral Introit: "There's Something About That Name"

* Hymn: "All Things Bright and Beautiful" # 578

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

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Call to Confession:

God knows us completely. God knows our hearts and discerns our thoughts. Let us then confess what we carry within us that does not honor God or God's path of righteousness

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Holy God, although we honor you with our words and worship, our hearts are often far from you. We are quick to judge, quick to exclude, quick to put others down instead of building them up. Forgive us, God. Help us amend our ways. Help us embrace the inclusive love you graciously offer us and expect us to offer others. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: (responsive)

Be strong, do not fear! God comes, to fill your parched souls with living water, to open your eyes to the grace which is yours. God comes, for no other reason than to save us. This is indeed good news. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Current Prayer Concerns:

Lori Patrick, Diane Ayres, Virginia Miller, Billie Jones, Marie McCallister, Thomas Simpson, Chris Hazard, Kent Mitchell, Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Amy Etheridge, Bonnie Hancock, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna, Larry (Black) Blackwell, Kathy Smith, Larry Steele, Mark Payne, Beth Miller, Pat and Ben Steele, Joey Martin, Robert Wilkins, Bob & Dee Lebo, David Mumford, and Margie Baugher-Cramer.

We will always seek to lift the prayer concerns from our church family and community. Please let us know if someone is in need of prayer by reaching out to Beth LaBrunda at 862-266-6939. Please also let us know when we can remove someone from our list.

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

Sep	15	Dawn Butler & Sue Latour
Sep	22	Vicky Cairns & Peggy Webster
Sep	29	OCEANS CALLING NO FELLOWSHIP
Oct	6	COUNTRY CALLING NO FELLOWSHIP
Oct	13	Karen Eberle & Mabel Rogers
Oct	20	Beth Fisher & Peggy Webster



You will be jumping for joy if you sign up for the Bible study on Philippians which is starting **Thursday, September 19 at 11 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your Bibles and learn about what is called the "Book of Joy."

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Sun	Sept 8	Deacon's Meeting	
Wed	Sept 11	Hand Bells Practice	<i>Cancelled</i> 5:00 PM
Wed	Sept 11	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Fri	Sept 13	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
Sat	Sept 14	Sligo-by-the-Sea	9:00 AM

Birthdays: Joy Steger (9/8) Mabel Rogers (9/8) Donna Greenwood (9/11) Ann Hales (9/14) Katie Carpenter (9/14)

No Flowers

Pastor Debbie is now in Ocean City from Sunday through Thursday. She is always available by texting or calling:
843-568-6480
or via email:
djhj3675@gmail.com

Congregation Financials as of July 31, 2024:

- Year-to-date giving/income (\$93,072.34) from giving; remainder from parking, building use, etc.): \$113,860.76

- Year-to-date disbursements: \$88,371.10

Note: A bookkeeping change was made to charge \$20,166 against Capital Improvement for the new windows installed in the Manse in 2023. Capital Improvement balance now stands at \$89,666.08.

* Gloria Patri: (unison)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end, Amen. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering:

We have more to offer than we recognize or realize. God has given us abundant gifts. Let us faithfully respond to our generous God, by presenting our tithes and offerings.

Offertory

* Doxology: (unison)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly Hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication:

Holy God, how often we take for granted all that we have. How often we fail to recognize how blessed we are. Take these gifts we give in response to your generosity and use them to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

Choral Anthem: "There is A Name"

Prayer for Illumination: (unison)

Open us, Eternal God, to your Word read and proclaimed. Help us not to turn from your truth or avoid and distract ourselves from your message. Help us be receptive to the wisdom you offer in this worship moment

1st Scripture: Isaiah 35: 4-7a [NRSV]

Elder Jan Owens

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

2nd Scripture Reading: Mark 7: 24-31 [NRSV]

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²⁴ From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone. ³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.

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

Time with Children & Youth
Pastor Debbie Johnson

Sermon: "What Did Jesus Say?"
Pastor Debbie Johnson

* Hymn: "She Came to Jesus"
(Tune is "Be Thou My Vision")

She came to Jesus from outside the fold —
Canaanite woman! Persistent and bold!
Looking to Jesus, she wanted to see
One who would help her and set her child free.

Claiming a blessing, a touch of God's grace,
She knew God's love was not bounded by place.
Jesus, you listened, debated — then healed —
For in her asking, her faith was revealed.

God, you still bless those who seek you in prayer.
You welcome dreamers who faithfully dare.
In Christ, now risen, your mercy extends:
Those on the outside are welcomed as friends.

*Tune: Traditional Irish melody ("Be Thou My Vision")
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* 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.

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

* Hymn: "O For a Thousand Tongues" # 76

Charge

Benediction (Responsive)

Postlude and Response: "Three-Fold Amen"

Liturgy credit: Teri McDowell Ott for The Presbyterian Outlook, Ministry Matters, Worship blogspot