



October 2021
Volume 8 # 10

Pastor's Musings "Lessons from Linus and the 'Great Pumpkin'"



One never knows where inspiration will come from. Perhaps few would expect to find it in a children's TV special, but as I ponder the meaning of faith, I am drawn to the story of Linus and the Great Pumpkin. In the Charles Schultz comic strip "Peanuts" Linus Van Pelt is the little brother of Lucy and, for my money, the sweetest of all the Peanuts' characters. Linus is the sensitive one, the earnest one, pure of heart and, of course, always clutching his security blanket.

In the 1966 TV special, "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" Linus professes his belief in a Great Pumpkin deity which will rise on Halloween from the "most sincere" pumpkin patch bringing gifts to boys and girls who have been good. Not only does Linus profess sincere faith in the Great Pumpkin, but he also displays that faith by wanting to share his faith with others, moreover, Linus keeps his faith in the face of the taunting and the derision of his friends. Linus does not care that he is seemingly alone in his beliefs and dutifully goes about preparing for the coming of the Great Pumpkin.

On Halloween, when all of his friends are dressed in costumes and trick-or-treating, Linus chooses what he believes to be the "most sincere" pumpkin patch and quietly and patiently awaits the arrival of the Great Pumpkin. When his sister Lucy finally takes him from the pumpkin patch at 4:00 in the morning, the Great Pumpkin having failed to appear, Linus' faith is unshaken, and he continues to believe.

While the Great Pumpkin is merely a product of Linus' imagination and we have a living God the evidence for whom is manifest and bountiful, we can still learn some faith lessons from Linus as he sits alone anxiously waiting for the Great Pumpkin.

We can learn that our faith in Jesus Christ will mean that we do not conform to much of the world that is around us and holds values that are different and opposed to our own. We will be ready for rejection.

We can learn to hold on to hope knowing that our time is not God's time and that we are subject to his will and not our own, but that, in the end, God's plan is good, and our salvation is assured.

We can learn to be sincere in our faith. Too often we find ourselves just "going through the motions" of believing without being mindful and intentional in our journey with God. We need to sit patiently and experience the presence of our Lord.

Finally, we can learn to keep our faith in the face of disappointment believing that there is no tribulation that will keep us from living an abundant life in God's kingdom. The grace we receive through our faith in Jesus Christ is the greatest and most powerful gift we will ever receive, and it is more than sufficient to meet all of our needs.

Turns out, you can learn a lot from a little boy sitting alone in his pumpkin patch refusing to give up his dream or his blanket.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Dan



**Next Issue
November
2021**

Deadline **10/26**
Please consider
adding content
to this
newsletter.

Your Session in Action ...

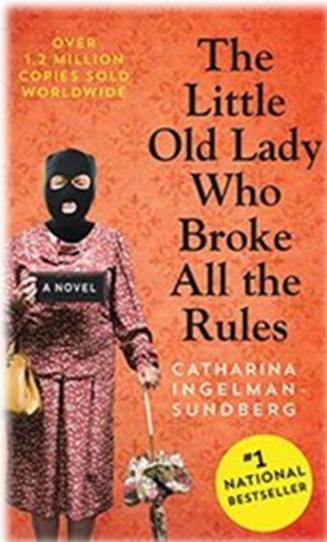
The days have cooled, the nights even cooler but your session continues to keep busy. Maybe you do not know all of the responsibilities of the session. These have changed recently when the congregation voted to change from a bicameral board to a unicameral board. This means in “plain” language that we have one board and they continue all of their usual “jobs” plus all of the “jobs” of the trustees. Now we have a building maintenance committee, a finance committee along with all of the usual committees-worship, Christian ed, fellowship, and missions. As a group of nine, this is a lot of ground to cover and I would hope that if you are asked to participate on a committee or help with a project that you would say yes. Thank you for your assistance to continue to grow our church and be warm and inviting to members and visitors alike.

Your Clerk,

Mabel

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, November 9th @2pm—



The book club enjoyed a lively discussion of “The Book of Longings” at our meeting last month. Our next book club meeting will be on **November 9, 2021 at 2PM**. We have chosen “The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules” by Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg.

79-year-old Martha Anderson dreams of escaping her care home and robbing a bank. She has no intention of spending the rest of her days in an armchair and is determined to fund her way to a much more exciting lifestyle. Along with her four oldest friends - otherwise known as the League of Pensioners - Martha decides to rebel against all of the rules imposed upon them.

Together, they cause an uproar with their antics:

protesting against early bedtimes and plastic meals. As the elderly friends become more daring, their activities escalate and they come up with a cunning plan to break out of the care home and land themselves in a far more attractive Stockholm establishment. With the aid of their Zimmer frames, they resolve to stand up for old aged pensioners everywhere - Robin Hood style. And that's when the adventure really takes off . . .

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 currently OPEN for:
October 17th (1 vase), October 24th
& 31st (2 vases). Please reach out
to Marty Cropper at
benzgrammyinoc@yahoo.com to
reserve dedication or memorial flowers.





Operation Christmas Child

It is that time of year again when Samaritan's Purse collects Christmas Child Shoebox gifts for children in need around the world. Our preprinted cardboard shoeboxes will be on a table in the back of the sanctuary starting October 3rd. Most of you have packed a shoebox before, but as a reminder – each box should be labeled for a boy or girl with an age group given: 2-4 years old, 5-9, or 10-14. A donation of \$9.00 per box is necessary to cover shipping and other project costs. The National Collection Week is the third week in November. Therefore, our boxes should be returned by **Sunday, November 14th.**



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.



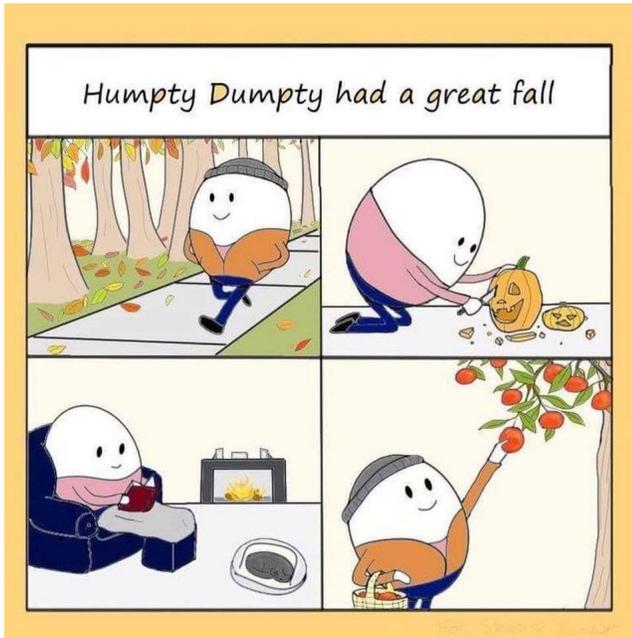
The group is now studying the book of Exodus.

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.



Anniversaries

Jeff & Sharon Sauer
Oct 1
Donald & Mabel Rogers
Oct 11



Birthdays

Barbara Kipila	Oct 4
Tina Custis	Oct 8
Larry Hak	Oct 15
Sally Bradford	Oct 16
Wayne Tucker	Oct 24
Bob Lebo	Oct 27
Bob Reese	Oct 29
Ryan Sauer	Oct 30



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

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

Oct 3	Ann Hales and Sue Latour
Oct 10	Mary Snyder and Carol Reese
Oct 17	Jackie Bates and Mabel Rogers
Oct 24	Lisa Bayles and Ann Eicher
Oct 31	Marty Cropper and Ann Hales

Bells Across America *For Fallen Firefighters*

Since the inception of the program “Bells Across America” in 2011, our church will once again be joining hundreds of churches cross the United States and the Armed Forces in honor the 215 firefighters who courageously gave up their lives for others during 2019 and 2020. These fire heroes will be honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial Service today in Emmitsburg, Maryland

Among those being remembered are those who have died as a result of illness caused by the attacks of September 11, 2001, along with those who died as a result of Covid-19. When our chimes rang at 1:00 PM on October 3rd, it was in remembrance of those heroes.

The Ocean City Fire Department has had three line of duty deaths: Chief Ralph R. Dennis in 1937, Jeffrey L. Dieter in 1983, and Leroy J. Cropper, Jr. in 1995

Events of the weekend can be seen by going to www.firehero.org.

This is a wonderful opportunity to witness how America honors her Fallen Heroes.

Thank you ... Marty Cropper

Session & Deacons 2021

Position	Name	Current Term Ends * Final Term (1 year break required)	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



Scouting at First Presbyterian Church!



We are blessed to have both the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts now meeting weekly at First Presbyterian Church.

Girl Scout Troop # 812, lead by Troop Leader Adrienne Kozma, meets each Wednesday at 6PM. Adrienne can be reached at Dakahk@aol.com.

Boy Scout Troop # 2173 lead by Troop Leader Mark Spear, meets each Sunday at 4PM. Mark can be reached at 850-760-6753.

Narcotics Anonymous

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



Tuesdays at 7PM

Friday at 7PM

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

Food Pantry

As fall is upon us, 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.



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, October 16th** from **7AM—1PM**. The Shed will be open until **October 10th** for **Fall & Winter** items to be dropped off.



After the 10th, the Shed will be re-locked so we can organize the items.

Setup will begin at 6AM. Please consider lending a hand. See Jan Owens with any questions.

Thank you!

Fall Brown Bag Bible Study Series ... Join at any time!

Pastor Dan is now offering a fall ZOOM 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**. Call or email the office if you'd like to be added to the Zoom Invite.



OCTOBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Narcotics Anonymous 7PM	2
3 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship + Communion 4PM Boy Scout Troop #2173	4	5 5:30 PM Choir Practice Narcotics Anonymous 7PM	6 6pm Girl Scouts Troop #812	7 12:30PM Brown Bag Bible Study via ZOOM 	8 Narcotics Anonymous 7PM	9
10 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship 4PM Boy Scout Troop #2173	11	12 3PM—Deacons' 5:30PM—Choir 7PM—Narcotics Anonymous 7PM—Session	13 6pm Girl Scouts Troop #812	14 12:30PM Brown Bag Bible Study via ZOOM 	15 4:30—Harbor Island Board Narcotics Anonymous 7PM	16 7am— Rummage Sale 9AM—Old Port Cove Condo
17 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship 4PM Boy Scout Troop #2173	18 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Charis Fellowship Pastoral Retreat</div>	19 11AM—WOW 5:30 PM Choir Practice Narcotics Anonymous 7PM	20 6pm Girl Scouts Troop #812	21 12:30PM Brown Bag Bible Study via ZOOM 	22 Narcotics Anonymous 7PM	23 9AM Blessing of the Helmets— Pyramid Hotel
24 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship 4PM Boy Scout Troop #2173	25	26 5:30 PM Choir Practice Narcotics Anonymous 7PM	27 6pm Girl Scouts Troop #812	28 12:30PM Brown Bag Bible Study via ZOOM 	29 Narcotics Anonymous 7PM	30
31 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship 4PM Boy Scout Troop #2173						

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 ...

