

**Sunday, October 26, 2025**  
**20th Sunday after Pentecost**

### **Today is Reformation Sunday**

Reformation Day is a Protestant Christian religious holiday celebrated on 31 October in remembrance of the onset of the Reformation.

According to Philip Melanchthon, 31 October 1517 was the day Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Electorate of Saxony, in the Holy Roman Empire. Historians and other experts on the subject argue that Luther may have chosen All Hallows' Eve on purpose to get the attention of common people, although that has never been proven. Available data suggest that 31 October was the day when Luther sent his work to Albert of Brandenburg, the Archbishop of Mainz. This has been verified; it is now regarded as the start of the Reformation alongside the unconfirmed (Melanchthon appears to be the only source for that) nailing of the Ninety-five Theses/grievances to All Saints' Church's door on the same date. The holiday is significant for the Lutheran and Reformed Churches, although other Protestant communities also tend to commemorate the day. The Roman Catholic Church recognized it only recently, and often sends its official representatives in ecumenical spirit to various commemoration events held by Protestants. It is lawfully and officially recognized in some states of Germany and sovereign countries of Slovenia and Chile. In addition, countries like Switzerland and Austria provide specifics in laws pertaining to Protestant churches, while not officially proclaiming it a nationwide holiday. (Source: Wikipedia)



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

**"Humility in Prayer"**

**Jacob Todd, Organist and Choirmaster**  
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Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Noon  
Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday

### **Pastor Debbie's Info:**

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

Always available by texting or calling.

# Order of Worship: Sunday, October 26, 2025

## 20th Sunday after Pentecost

### We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:

The challenge for us perhaps is to notice that we rather like being exalted. We might think of it as the satisfaction of a job well done or a duty fulfilled. And we might begin to believe that things we do (giving money to the church, doing religious or charitable activities, being upstanding members of society, making a well-deserved salary) or don't do (being thieves, rogues, or adulterers) really might justify us, at least a little, might make us a bit better than those who fail where we succeed. But until we let go of that notion, the parable suggests, we will not go home justified. We will be prisoners to our own small righteousness. And we as a church will present a face to the world that does not invite it in. <https://www.workingpreacher.org>

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude

**Call to Worship:** (Oratio Contemplativa website)

#### Elder Vicky Cairns

King of all the earth, Creator of the universe, Holy Triune God, From everlasting to everlasting, you are Lord. Our souls long for your courts, O Lord of hosts;  
**Happy are we who dwell in your house and are ever praising you!**

Our hearts and our flesh rejoice in the living God;  
**Happy are we who dwell in your house and are ever praising you!**

We have found a home in your presence, Our King and Our God;

**Happy are we who dwell in your house and are ever praising you!**

Who is like our God, the One who strengthens his people, the One who reveals himself to all who seek after him?

**This is our God, the Holy One. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and offer him the sacrifice of praise.**

### A Brand New Book Study

We will be starting a new Small Group Discussion on Thursday, November 6 at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up if you plan to attend so enough copies can be made. The book is titled, "Celebrating Life: Catching the Thieves that Steal Your Joy," by Luci Swindoll (sister of Chuck).

We will stop this book study for an Advent Bible study later in November and resume the study of the book after Christmas. Come and join us for a look at a fun book! A sign-up sheet is on the table in the back of the sanctuary.



Catching the Thieves That Steal Your Joy

### First Grace Parker Breakfast

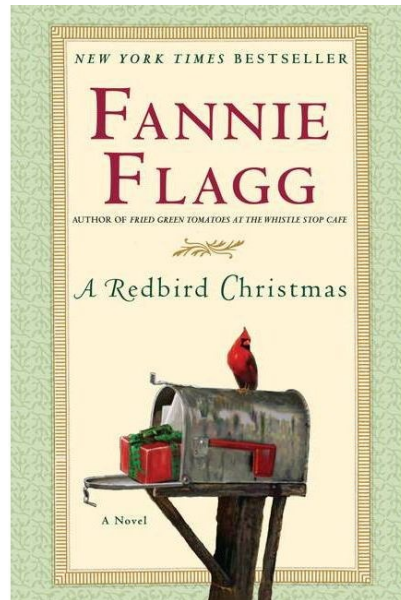
It is that time of year again! Our first Grace Parker Breakfast will be on Wednesday, November 5 from 7:00 to 11:00. The price will remain the same - \$12. Pass the word to your friends and family! Please note, we are only doing 3 breakfasts this year: November, December and February. So come out and join us!

## Save the Date

The next Book Club meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 16 at 12 noon**

following the WOW meeting. The next selection is "A Red Bird Christmas" by Fannie Flagg. This from Amazon: Deep in the southernmost part of Alabama, along the banks of a lazy winding river, lies the sleepy little community

known as Lost River, a place that time itself seems to have forgotten. After a startling diagnosis from his doctor, Oswald T. Campbell leaves behind the cold and damp of the oncoming Chicago winter to spend what he believes will be his last Christmas in the warm and welcoming town of Lost River. There he meets the postman who delivers mail by boat, the store owner who nurses a broken heart, the ladies of the Mystic Order of the Royal Polka Dots Secret Society, who do clandestine good works. And he meets a little redbird named Jack, who is at the center of this tale of a magical Christmas when something so amazing happened that those who witnessed it have never forgotten it. Once you experience the wonder, you too will never forget A Redbird Christmas.



Choral Introit "How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely (Psalm 84)"

\* Hymn: "Gather Us In" (Here in This Place) (Folded Insert).

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

## Call to Confession:

**Prayer of Confession:** (unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have trusted too much in our own righteousness. We compare ourselves to others instead of examining our hearts before you. We forget that every gift we have comes from your grace alone. Forgive us for our pride and for the times we look down on others. Teach us to pray like the tax collector, saying simply and sincerely, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us humble in love, steadfast in faith, and generous in mercy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.

## Assurance of Pardon:

Hear the good news: "He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and made whole. Thanks be to God!

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

## Invitation to the Offering

## Offertory

\* Doxology (unison) #625

## Prayer of Dedication

Choral Anthem: "What God Can Do"

Prayer for Illumination: (unison)

God of Wisdom and Grace, you speak through your Word read and proclaimed. Prepare us, then, to listen well. Open our ears to your truth; open our minds to the unexpected. Humble us here, in your presence, so nothing stands in the way — not pride, not distraction, not weary hearts. Let your Word reach us as we are now. Amen.

1st Scripture reading: Jeremiah 14: 7-10, 19-22  
(p. in pew Bible)  
Lisa Bayles

2nd Reading: Readings: Luke 18: 9-14  
(p. 1038 in pew Bible)  
Pastor Debbie Johnson

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

Time with Children & Youth  
Pastor Debbie Johnson

"Fairest Lord Jesus / God Is So Good"  
First Presbyterian Ringers

## Current Prayer Concerns:

Virginia Miller  
Lydia Frasca,  
Bob & Dee Lebo  
William Steger  
Marie McCallister-sister of Marty Cropper  
Christine Ruskin-friend of Marty  
Joe Nasatka-friend of Marty  
Eric Richardson-friend of Lisa Bayles  
Kent Mitchell-friend of the congregation  
Amy Etheridge— Friend of Beth Fisher  
Mark Payne— Friend of Beth Fisher  
Larry Steele — Family of Dee Lebo  
Pat and Ben Steele — Family of Dee Lebo  
Jessica Colbert + Family — Family of Vicky Cairns  
Beth Miller — Friend of the Hales  
Chuck Shorley — Friend of the Hales  
Scott Blank — Friend of the Hales  
Chris Hazard — Brother of Ann Hales  
Paul Whitson  
Trip Kory  
Carol Reese  
Sarah & Cliff Dypsky  
Maria Kontoyianni— Friend of Carol Scott

## Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

Oct	26	Jackie Bates
Nov	2	Mary Synder
Nov	9	<i>Church Family Thanksgiving</i>
Nov	16	Lisa Bayles
Nov	23	Vicky Cairns
Nov	30	Marty Cropper
Dec	7	Karen Eberle
Dec	14	Ann Hales



## Calendar, Birthdays, and More ...

Tues	Oct	28	Session Meeting	1:00	PM
Wed	Oct	29	Bell Practice	5:00	PM
Wed	Oct	29	Choir Practice	6:00	PM
Fri	Oct	31	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00	PM

**Birthdays:** *Bob Lebo (10/27) Bob Reese (10/27)*  
*Ryan Sauer (10/30)*

### Flowers: Flowers in the chancel vases are given:

~ By Rich and Nancy Wright in remembrance of Nancy's Father, Woodrow Wilson Bischler and the celebration of his birthday October 23rd.

~ A basket of flowers is dedicated to the Glory of God and in thankfulness to 2 women who tirelessly and with much patience guide and direct the Presby Ringers. Thank you Betsy and Barbara Kipila for your persistence.

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

### Reminder for Session

The regular meeting time for the Session has been changed. Session will meet on Tuesday, October 28 at 1:00 PM.

## Sermon "Humility in Prayer" Pastor Debbie Johnson

### \* Hymn: "Two People Came to Church to Pray"

1. Two people came to church to pray, Assured that God would hear. The first had many words to say, And spoke them, loud and clear: "I thank you God, and give you praise that I am blessed to be a model of your holy ways for all who care to see."

2. Two people came to church to pray, Assured that God would hear. The second prayed a different way, Both humble and sincere: "O God, be merciful to me! Forgive your sinful child." By uttering this simple plea, A soul was reconciled.

3. Two people came to church to pray, And God knew every thought—But one was justified that day; The other one was not. When what we pray becomes a boast, We win no great reward - For what our God desires most Is humble hearts outpoured.

**Affirmation of Faith (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: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"  
# 26

Charge  
Benediction

Response:

Postlude: "Three-Fold Amen"

*Liturgy credit: Book of Confessions; Hymnary;  
Rev. Teri McDowell Ott (Editor and Publisher) for  
the Presbyterian Outlook; Worshipblogspot;  
<https://www.pastorjasonelder.com>  
Music license: CCLI-#1650329.*

WHAT:.....Game night

WHEN:.....Tuesday November 4th

6:30 p.m.

WHERE:.....Home of Mabel Rogers 11238 Adkins Road  
410-641-5883 (h) 410-430-1909 (c)

WHY:.....We enjoy playing games and each other's  
company.

### SECOND DATE TO REMEMBER

WHAT:..... Church Family Thanksgiving Covered Dish  
Dinner

WHEN:.....November 9th....After Worship Service

WHERE:.....Fellowship Hall

WHY:.....It's an annual event and we enjoy the sharing  
of fellowship and good food

### EMPTY CHANCEL VASES FOR NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 2ND....TWO (2)

NOVEMBER 9TH....ONE (1)

NOVEMBER 16TH....ONE (1)

NOVEMBER 23RD....TWO(2)

### FLOWERS FOR ADVENT

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT IS NOVEMBER  
30TH ...FOLLOWING IS THE SCHEDULE OF FLOWERS

NOVEMBER 30.....2 LARGE RED POINSETTIAS

DECEMBER 7TH.....2 POTS OF LARGE RED AND WHITE  
POINSETTIAS (1 ECH)

DECEMBER 14TH.....2 LARGE WHITE POINSETTIAS

DECEMBER 21ST.....INDIVIDUAL POINSETTIAS ... 6"  
POTS ..TO BE TAKEN HOME AFTER CHRISTMAS EVE

### SERVICE

DECEMBER 28TH...REMAINING POINSETTIAS

WILL POST PRICING OF POINSETTIAS WHEN RECEIVED  
FROM OCEAN CITY FLORIST.

THANK YOU,

MARTY CROPPER