



410-289-9340

May 2026

Christian Book Club	7
Calendar/birthdays	8
Dates to remember	3
Flowers	5
Lunch Bunch	5
Prayer Alert	6
Samaritan Shelter	5
Elders and Deacons	6
Women of Worship	2
Adult Bible Study	6
Installation	3-4
Rummage	5
Mission Project	2
Blessing Box	7
Fellowship	5
Book Club	7



2026

Greeting, my friends in Christ,

The time of Easter is always a busy time for any Christian church, and it was no different for us this April. We worked through Lent, and learned what Jesus needed to teach his disciples about himself before they could witness and understand Jesus’ arrest, conviction, execution, burial, and rising from the grave. We celebrated Maundy Thursday with a light meal and communion, remembering the first time Jesus served the Lord’s Supper. We coped with our grief, remembering this horrific loss, and hearing of the disciples of faith who believed, betrayed, denied, and doubted – just as we do. On Good Friday and Easter sunrise, the ministerial alliance held public remembrances on the boardwalk.



On Easter morning, First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City celebrated the resurrection. And we celebrated loudly and in the company of saints, with 95 people present (including members, visitors, guests – and 11 children!). It’s an inspiring glimpse of what God can do in us and with us, as we follow Jesus and experience the Holy Spirit. We know that the death and burial of Jesus Christ formed an event of a few days, but Christ’s resurrection and life endure forever. So our Easter service was a moment of deep, lasting, transformative joy. After the empty tomb, our lives will never be the same as we were.

We watched as Jesus’ followers didn’t recognize him by his voice or teachings, but when they talked with each other and Jesus fed them, everyone knew that they had heard the risen Lord who nourished them, the same Lord Jesus Christ they had heard before. So our faith goes on, and keeps building. In the Great Commission, Christ appears and gives us our deepest purpose – to go everywhere to all kinds of people, and show them how to follow Christ, by loving all those whom Christ loves. By our love, the world will know that we are Jesus’ disciples.

Our following Jesus isn’t over – not anywhere close. As our spring turns to summer, we will think together about the New Testament book of Acts, when Jesus united his followers to become a church, a gathering of faithful people trying to serve God’s world as one people. Just like us, the believers in Acts aren’t perfect. They debate with each other about the best way to follow Christ, the right things to teach, and who should lead them. Today, we learn from their successes and mistakes, as we try to figure out for ourselves this holy and messy thing we call church. All these leaders of the earliest church will teach us, correct us, and encourage us.

So we celebrate the church’s beginning in worship. And in our Bible study, we learn about God’s beginning for the whole world. This is a season to grow our faith higher, deeper, and broader. God is moving us from glory to glory. We don’t yet know what we will become in God’s love, but we are confident that God is about to reveal everything to us, as we love the Lord with our hearts, our minds, our souls, and our strength.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Jon*

*Next Issue*  
Please consider  
adding content to  
this newsletter.  
Thank you!  
Deadline May  
23 2026





Women of Worship met on April 21st and enjoyed a Bible study led by Jackie Bates. We will finish the study at our May 19th meeting. This will be our last meeting before the summer season. We will enjoy a potluck luncheon following the Bible study. All women of the church are welcome.

Missions

On Saturday April 25, five ladies from First Presbyterian attended a mission project for Guatemala, making sock dolls. The children there have very little that



they can call their own. This will be a comfort "toy" that each child will receive and be able to call their own. I was busy working and did not count but there were around 30 ladies also busily working to create these dolls. If you would like to try your hand at making one, I will be glad to provide instructions.



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Deacons meeting** The Deacons will meet on Sunday May 17th, following worship in the small room off of Fellowship Hall.

**Session Meeting** The session will meet on May 19, 2026 at 1PM in Fellowship Hall.

**Adult Bible Study** Weekly on Sunday Morning at 9AM

**Rummage** May 2, 2026 7AM to 1PM Set up at 6AM Rain Date May 9 All Help appreciated.



*Our  
Sanctuary  
On  
Easter  
Morning*

*He  
Is Risen!*

*He Is Risen,  
Indeed*



## The Installation of Pastor Jon Berquist

On Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Jon was officially installed as the new pastor of our church. With over 40 people in attendance, the installation service took place at 11am, followed by a luncheon provided by the Fellowship Committee and volunteers. As part of the worship service, Pastor Jon and the congregation affirmed their faith, ministry and support for the work of the church and for the pastor as our leader. Past and present elders joined guests from the Presbytery in the laying on of hands. Pastor Sally Willis-Watkins delivered the sermon and Pastor Jon administered Communion and closed the service with the Benediction. Uplifting music was provided by The Bell Trio who performed "God Our Help" and our church choir. Leaders and guests from the Presbytery led the installation and participated in other portions of worship. It was a joyful and reverent service equaled only by the great lunch which followed!

Participants in the day's events were:

Jackie Bates, Chair of the PNC

Rev. Dr. Jon Berquist

Bell Trio- Karen Eberle, Barbara and Betsy Kipila

Vicky Cairns- Clerk of Session

Rev. Randy Clayton, Retired, Commission on Ministry and Congregations, NCP

Our Church Choir

Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, Lead Presbyter, NCP

Beth and Lou LaBrunda

Rev. Amy Lawrence, Moderator, NCP

Bill Owens- Ruling Elder

Jan Owens- Ruling Elder

Debbie Reeves, Commission on Ministers and Congregations, NCP

Rev. Tim Rodden, Retired, NCP

Jacob Todd- Music Director

Rev. Sally Willis-Watkins





*Reverend Doctor Jon Berquist  
Installation  
First Presbyterian Church  
Ocean City MD*



*Above  
Processional*

*Right  
Communion*



*Presby Bell Trio*

### **New Scripture Translations Available**

Pastor Jon is providing us with fresh translations of the Bible in both scriptures through our worship. He works from the original languages from the time of the Bible, just as it was first written, and offers a translation that is truer to how we speak today. This means that it can sound different from what you have known earlier.

If you'd like a copy of his translations, we'll have a print version available at the back table. Feel free to take one – to follow along or to read more carefully at home. And if you have a question, feel free to talk with Pastor Jon. He's not always right, but he always wants to listen.

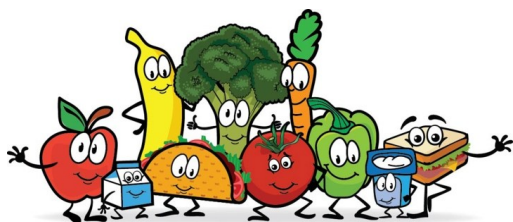
**Please don't forget our 3rd Sunday collection for Samaritan Shelter!**

We will be collecting household supplies on Sunday, May 17, 2026 to take to Samaritan Shelter in Pocomoke City. This has been a monthly activity of our church for many years. Household items such as dish soap, laundry soap, bath tissue, paper towels, zip loc bags, aluminum foil, etc. Anything that you need to maintain a household will be welcome. So please remember this when you are grocery shopping. Nancy and Rich Wright will be taking the items to Pocomoke to the Samaritan Shelter the following week. Thank you, Nancy and Rich!



**Lunch Bunch**

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, May 26th at 11:30 at



Come and join us! We welcome newcomers and men don't be shy, you are more than welcome! Call Jan Phillips at 410-600-5631 and plan on being there. Bring a friend and join the lunch bunch on April 28th at 11:30AM.

**Rummage May 2, 2026 7AM-1PM**

**Help needed at 6AM for set up! Always during the sale! But again at closing for packing up! Thank you! Jan Owens**

**Sanctuary flowers**

If you would like to dedicate flowers in honor of or in memory of a loved one, request forms are on the bulletin board opposite church offices. There you will see available dates for the entire year 2026 for chancel vases.

Baskets of flowers and bud vases of 3 roses are available any time. Chancel vases \$30.00 each. Basket of flowers \$40.00. Vases of 3 roses \$24.50.



Chancel vases available for dedication-:

- |                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| May 3 <sup>rd</sup> ...one  | June 7th...one  |
| May 10 <sup>th</sup> ...one | June 14th...one |
| May 17 <sup>th</sup> ...two | June 21st...two |
| May 24 <sup>th</sup> ...one | June 28th...two |
| May 31 <sup>st</sup> ...two |                 |

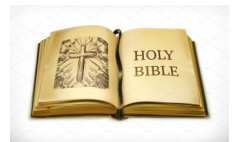
Completed forms may be given to Marty Cropper. Thank you for helping make our sanctuary a place of beauty to worship with flowers praising God

	Name	Term	Current Term Ends *Final Term 1 year break required	Phone	Email
Moderator	Pastor Jon Berquist		Pastor	443-856-0162	pastorjonberquist@gmail.com
Elder	Bob Brenner	2	2027	443-497-3020	rbren12201@aol.com
Clerk	Vicky Cairns	2	2026	302-222-6039	vcairns50@gmail.com
Elder	John Eberle	3	2028	302-988-2844	johnweberle@comcast.net
Elder	Karen Eberle	3	2028	302-988-2844	kieberle9099@gmail.com
Elder	Chris Greenwood	3	2026	410-726-4101	cwg00713@gmail.com
Elder	Steve Hales	2	2027	410-251-5970	stephen.hales1942@outlook.com
Elder	Barbara Kipila	3	2027	667-288-1360	bkipila@yahoo.com
Elder	Jan Owens	3	2026*	410-641-4919	jtorph@comcast.net
Elder	Mabel Rogers	3	2026	410-641-5883	thimbly@comcast.net
Deacon	Dawn Butler	3	2026	303-519-1317	dawnevebutler60@gmail.com
Deacon	Cindy Evans	3	2027		
Deacon	Beth Fisher	3	2028	443-235-7026	eqfisher@gmail.com
Deacon	Ann Hales*	3	2026	410-430-7085	annahales914amh@gmail.com
Deacon	Jonelle Jones	3	2027	443-366-5680	beach122000@outlook.com
Deacon	Logan Rogers	3	2028	410-726-8819	7blueangels@gmail.com
Deacon	Nancy Wright	3	2028	410-208-9119	ocean.pines6@yahoo.com

## Adult Bible Study– Sunday mornings at 9AM

Pastor Jon's Bible study began right after Easter, and 12 people were present for the second week. It's at 9 am on Sundays, in the Fellowship Hall. The style is discussion, and every question or interpretation is welcome.

We study to affirm each other in faith. We will work through Genesis slowly, so that everyone has time to hear answers to their questions. The class is for brand-new beginners, and for those who already know the Bible well. You are not too late to start! The whole class will catch you up. Our goal is for you to deepen your own faith, in the presence of the community of believers.



### *Prayer Alert*



Don't ever forget it is a wonderful privilege the Lord has given us, to lift anyone in prayer in the Name of Jesus, Who is the GREAT Physician. Praise His Holy name!

Our Lord wants to hear from us daily, so remember our prayer list as you pray daily! If you have a prayer request (no prayer is too big or too small for our Lord and King) please contact Beth LaBruna at 862-266-6939.

## Fellowship

Regular attendees of FPCOC know that every Sunday, we have an amazing fellowship following worship. The preparation is shared by various women of the church, They provide the basis for the shared refreshments. Though this started as a “coffee and cookie” time, it has evolved into much more. The hostess would welcome any contributions that you may wish to share. Please let the hostess know if you are bringing something.

### Hostesses for April:

May3	Karen Eberle
May 10	Anne Hales
May 17	Jonelle Jones
May 24	Barbara and Betsy Kipila
May31	Lisa Bayles



## Blessing Box

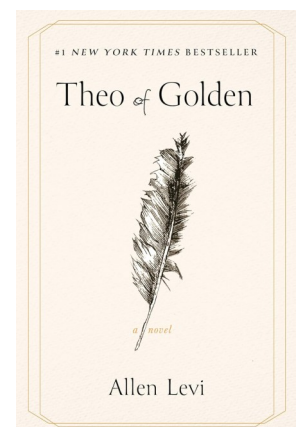
The deacons have requested that all donated items be brought into the church and put on table by refrigerator in the back room near cabinets in fellowship hall. They are trying to work out some temperature control issues and do not want things to spoil. Thank you for your donations and people are finding our blessing box.

Jonelle Jones, Chairman of Deacons

## Book club Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

One spring morning, a stranger named Theo arrives in the small Southern city of Golden. He doesn't explain much about where he came from or why he's there—but when he visits the local coffeehouse, where pencil portraits of the people of Golden hang on the walls, he begins purchasing them, one at a time, and giving each portrait to the person depicted. In exchange, he asks only for the person's story. And so portrait by portrait, person by person, secrets are revealed, regrets are shared, and ordinary lives are profoundly altered.

A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, *Theo of Golden* is an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder.



Articles and content (pictures) are always welcome! Please contact Mabel Rogers if you would like to share!

See page 1 for deadline

# May 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



					1	2
<b>3</b> <i>Adult Bible Study</i> 9AM Worship 10:30AM	4	5	<b>6</b> Handbell practice 5PM  Choir Practice 6PM	7	8	9
<b>10</b> <i>Adult Bible Study</i> 9AM Worship 10:30AM	11 Brenda Wilken-son Birthday	12	<b>13</b> Handbell practice 5PM  Choir Practice 6PM	14	15 Peggy Webster Birthday	16
<b>17</b> <i>Adult Bible Study</i> 9AM Worship 10:30AM Samaritan Sunday*	18	19 WOW 11AM Session 1PM	<b>20</b> Handbell practice 5PM  Choir Practice 6PM	21	22	23
<b>24</b> <i>Adult Bible Study</i> 9AM <b>Pentecost</b> Worship 10:30AM	25	26 Lunch Bunch 11:30AM	<b>27</b> Chrissy Har-rigan Birthday Handbell practice 5PM Choir Practice 6PM	28	29	30
<b>31</b> <i>Adult Bible Study</i> 9AM Worship 10:30AM						