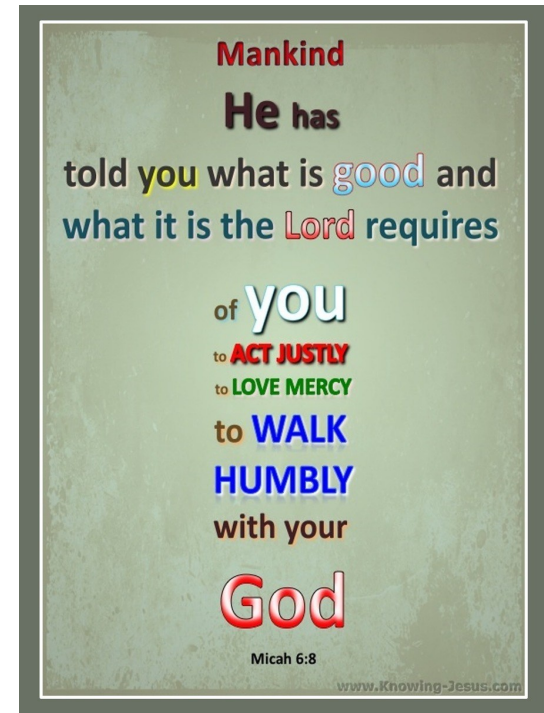


Sunday, September 28, 2025
16th Sunday after Pentecost

**This Thursday “Wilderness Promise”
Bible study. At 10:30 AM**

Come join us Thursday mornings and learn about this time in the Old Testament and how these passages have application for us today.

1. “Transformation in the Wilderness”
2. “Idolatry in the Wilderness and Today”
3. “Murmuring in the Wilderness and Today”
4. “Economics in the Wilderness and Beyond”
5. “Complexity in the Wilderness and Beyond”



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

"Is Social Justice a Biblical Phrase?"

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
Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday

Order of Worship: Sunday, September 28, 2025

16th Sunday after Pentecost

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:

Quotes on Micah 6:8 often highlight the verse's call to justice, mercy, and humility, with thinkers like Cornel West calling it "the trinity of the moral life" and Abraham Joshua Heschel referring to it as "the Magna Carta of prophetic religion". The verse itself, "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" serves as a profound challenge for believers to live out their faith through ethical action rather than mere ritual.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship:

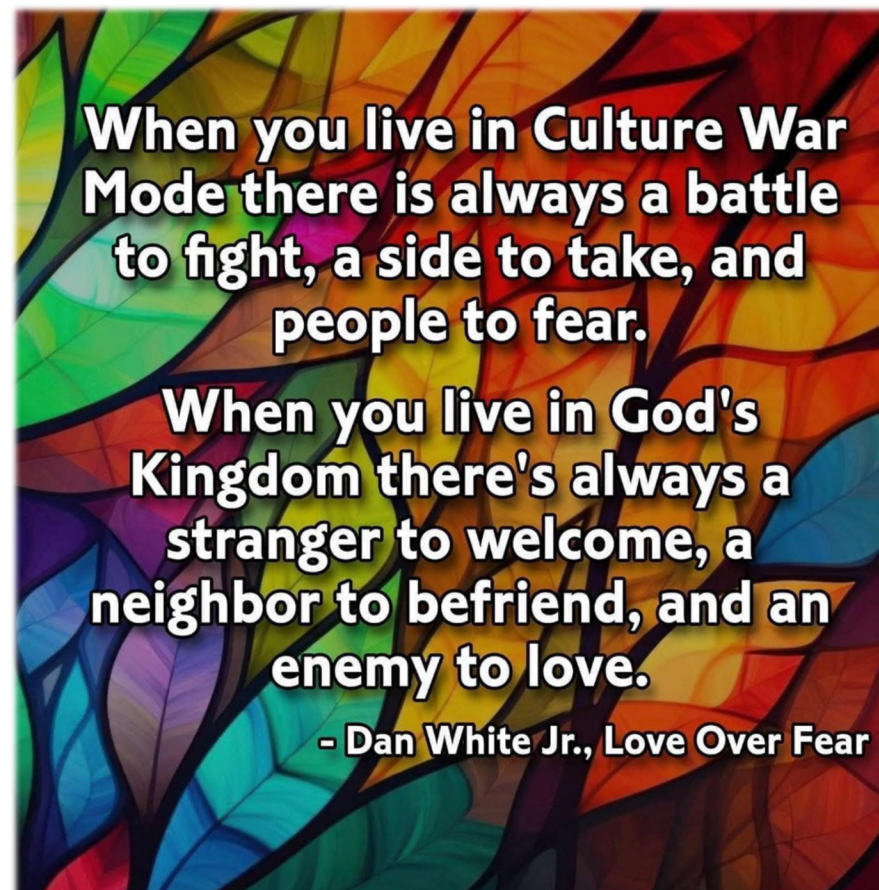
Elder Vicky Cairns

Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves:
that it is not we who chose Christ,
but Christ who chose us,
that we are not here because of our goodness
but because of Christ's grace,
that we are not here to enlighten ourselves,
but to allow Christ to enlighten us,
that we have not come to be entertained
but to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

Choral Introit "Song of the Wilderness"

* Hymn: "The God of Abraham Praise" # 34

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



Chancel vases open for dedication:

October 5th.....two
October 12th.....one
October 19th.....one
October 26th.....two

Rummage Sale

Saturday, October 11

7:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Set up 6:00 AM

We can always use helpers!

**Tell your friends and neighbors
Great Deals – Treasures to Find!
Support our Mission to Help
Our Community**

The shed will be open 9/20 to 10/5

Please do not donate summer clothes.

Call to Confession:

(adapted from the Book of Order, W-3.0205)

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Almighty God, you call us to lives of service, but we confess that we ignore our neighbors in need right outside our door. You call us to share our abundance, but we confess that we choose our own comfort over generosity to others. You call us to build community, but we confess that we are too often gatekeepers, letting in only the ones that make us comfortable. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to be content with enough and inspire us to share what we have – our prosperity, our power and our love – until all your children have life and dignity in beloved community. Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Friends, who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ prays for us. Christ reaches out with endless love and mercy. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made ready to love and serve. Alleluia. Amen.

* Gloria Patri (unison) #622

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

* Doxology (unison) #625

Prayer of Dedication

Choral Anthem: "Jesus is Lord of All"

Prayer for Illumination: (unison)

God of wonder, as we hear your Word for us today, fill us with holy imagination. Help us hear your holy invitation and ignite within us a passion to live your truth and follow your way. Amen.

1st Scripture reading: Matthew 25: 31-46

2 Corinthians 8: 8-15

(Pp. 984, 1146 in pew Bible)

Elder Mabel Rogers

2nd Reading: Exodus 22: 21-27,

Ezekiel 18: 5-9, Micah 6: 6-8

(Pp. 76,834-835, 923 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 "Is Social Justice a Biblical Phrase?"

Pastor Debbie Johnson

*** Hymn: "The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound"**
(folded insert)

Affirmation of Faith Faith from The Confession of Belhar

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,
the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made

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*

Margie Baugher Cramer— *Friend of Buzzy Bayles*

Paul Whitson

Trip Kory

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

Oct 5 *Country Calling NO fellowship*

Oct 12 Carol Reese

Oct 19 Jonelle Jones

Oct 26 Jackie Bates

Nov 2 Mary Synder

Nov 9 *Church Family Thanksgiving*

Nov 16 Lisa Bayles

Nov 23 Vicky Cairns

Nov 30 Marty Cropper .

Dec 7 Karen Eberle

Calendar, Birthdays, and More ...

Wed	Oct	1	Bell Practice	5:00 PM
Wed	Oct	1	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Thurs	Oct	2	Wilderness Bible Study	10:30 AM
Fri	Oct	3	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM

Birthdays: *Barbara Kipila (10/4)*

Flowers: Flowers in the chancel vase are given

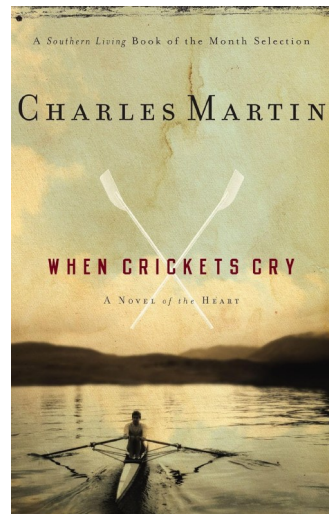
~ In loving memory of our son, Chris Rogers and the celebration of his birthday, today with our Lord and Savior. Many fun loving memories of Chris Keep him alive in our hearts. Dad and Mom, Donald and Mabel Rogers

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

Save the Date,

The next book club will be
October 14th at 12:00 PM

From the bestselling author of The Mountain Between Us comes the moving story of a man with a painful past, a little girl with a doubtful future, and a shared journey toward healing for both of their hearts.



manifest in the church

As the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;

Therefore, we believe that unity is a gift to the Church of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, we believe that unity is an obligation for the Church of Jesus Christ.

that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought

a reality which the people of God must continually be built up to attain

that this unity must become visible so the world may know

that anything which threatens this unity

may have no place in the church and must be resisted

that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways

in that we love one another

that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another

that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another

that we share one faith and have one God

that we are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name

that we work for one cause, and share one hope

that we together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ

that we together know and bear one another's burdens, and upbuild one another and comfort one another

that we together serve God in this world. the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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

* Hymn "Whatever You Do"

(Tune is: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise")

1. "Whatever you do to the least ones of these,
I tell you in truth that you do unto me!"

Lord Jesus, you taught us! May we learn anew
That when we serve others, we also serve you.

2. When poor, waiting children pray hunger will
end, When those long-forgotten cry out for a
friend, When thirsty ones whisper, "O Lord, where
are you?" We hear, in their longing, that you're
calling, too.

3. In prisons and jails, Lord, we find a surprise;
We see you in people whom others despise.
At hospital bedsides we offer a prayer
And find, when we visit the sick, you are there.

4. When we reach to others in flood-stricken lands
And offer our hearts there, and offer our hands —
We notice, Lord Jesus, the gift of your grace:
We see, in the crowds of the suffering, your face.

5. "Lord, when did we see you?" Your teaching is
clear That when we serve others, we're serving
you here. And when your church heeds you and
helps those in pain, Then out of the chaos, hope
rises again.

Biblical Reference: Matthew 25:31-46; Tune: Traditional Welsh hymn, in
John Robert's Caniadau y Cyssegr (Songs of the Sanctuary), 1839
("Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise") ([MIDI](#))

Text: Copyright © 2008 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights
reserved.

Charge

Benediction

Response:

Postlude: "Three-Fold Amen"

*Liturgy credit: Book of Confessions; Massanetta
Conference resources; Hymnary; Rev. Rae Watson
for the Presbyterian Outlook; Book of Order, (W-3.0205)
Music license: CCLI-#1650329.*

WOW meeting will be one week earlier in October
due to a church scheduling conflict.

WOW will meet at 11:00 am on Tuesday 10/14;
lunch and then book club will follow the meeting.

NEW BLESSING BOX

In case you have not noticed, we now have a blessing
box for people in our community who have food
insecurity, whether that be homeless or low
income. The Deacons have taken over this wonderful
project and will be continuing to make sure that there is
non-perishable food in the blessing box. If you know
someone who could benefit from our new project,
please pass the word!

Pastor Debbie's Info:

Email: djhj3675@gmail.com

Cell phone: (843) 568-6480

Always available by texting or calling.