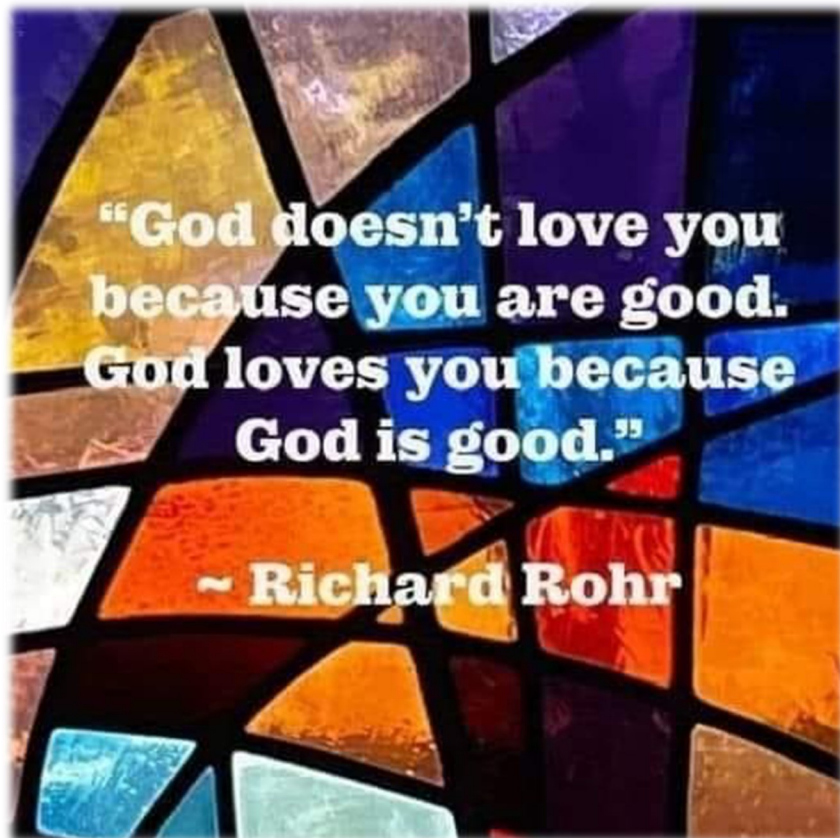


Sunday, August 25, 2024
14th Sunday after Pentecost
10: 30AM



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Pastor Debbie Johnson

"The Whole Armor of God"

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

Order of Worship: Sunday, August 25, 2024

14th Sunday after Pentecost

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." Bishop Desmond Tutu

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

Elder Lisa Bayles

L: Though storms rage around me, I will clothe myself with the whole armor of God.

L: **I will fasten the belt of truth about my waist.**

P: I will place strength and determination as my shoes to aid me in my ministry and mission for God.

L: **I will take up the shield of faith with which I shall defend against evil ways.**

P: I will pray diligently at all times, offering prayers and supplication to God.

L: **The helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit will accompany me on my journey.**

P: Be strong in the Lord who provides for your every need.

L: **I place my confidence and trust in God always. Amen.**

Choral Introit: "This is My Father's World"

* Hymn: "Soldiers of Christ, Arise" # 478

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

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Call to Confession:

Our psalm for today reminds us: "The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in God will be condemned" (Psalm 34:22). Trusting that God is always more ready to forgive than we are to confess, let us turn to God in prayer, seeking forgiveness and new life.

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Patient Lord, we are a culture that wants the quick and easy answers to all of life's problems. We want to be able to open the Bible and place our fingers on the passage that will answer all our questions and heal all our hurts. It is difficult for us to deal with the knowledge that discipleship requires patience and perseverance. Jesus' own disciples struggled with his teachings. It took a long time for them to understand fully what Jesus was

Current Prayer Concerns:

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 | 1 | Barbara & Betsy Kipila |
| Sep | 8 | Nancy Wright & Jan Owens |
| Sep | 15 | Dawn Butler & Sue Latour |
| Sep | 22 | Vicky Cairns & Peggy Webster |
| Sep | 29 | OCEANS CALLING NO FELLOWSHIP |
| Oct | 6 | COUNTRY CALLING NO FELLOWSHIP |

Pastor Debbie will be starting a new Bible study after Labor Day, which will be meeting on **Thursdays at 11 AM**, at the church. The study will be on the book of Philippians. If you are interested in attending, please sign the sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|---------------------|------|----|
| Wed | Aug | 28 | Hand Bells Practice | 5:00 | PM |
| Wed | Aug | 28 | Choir Practice | 6:00 | PM |
| Fri | Aug | 30 | Narcotics Anonymous | 7:00 | PM |
| Sat | Aug | 31 | Sligo-by-the-Sea | 9:00 | AM |

Birthdays: *Jacob Todd (8/29) Jeff Sauer (8/30)*

Flowers: Flowers in the chancel vase are given,

~In praise of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and in remembrance of our loved ones who have passed from this life on Earth to eternal life in Heaven. ~ Buzzy and Lisa Bayles .

~ In remembrance of the wedding anniversary of our parents, Joseph and Margaret Maderios on August 22nd . And my Mother's Heavenly birthday August 21st . Mom and Dad we miss you. ~ Billy and Jonelle Jones

~ A basket of flowers is placed in honor of Jacob Todd, our choirmaster and organist and the celebration of his birthday August 29th . God has given Jacob a special talent and we are blessed that he shares his gifts with us.

~ A basket of flowers is in memory of our parents, Irv and Juanita Mumford, as they celebrate their 75th wedding Anniversary on September 4th in Heaven with our sister Sue and our Lord and Savior. They were married in our church (the original church building on North Division St. and Baltimore Ave., now the Baptist church) By Rev. Keith Postlethwaite. To the Glory of God, our Mumford family has been a part of this church family for 74 years. ~ David and Julie, Danny and Liz.

saying and how they were to respond. We are no different. The words of Jesus take time for us to comprehend. Forgive us, Lord, when we are so impatient; when we just want to "get on with it", and be where the action is. Help us to understand the commitment we make in discipleship, through the rocky times and the smooth seas alike. Push us in our ministry of help and compassion to do more than we ever thought we could do in helping others. Give to us that extra measure of faith and commitment that we may truly serve you by serving others. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: (responsive)

Today, hear the words of eternal hope;
today, trust in the One who hears your prayers,
and showers grace and forgiveness upon you.
**Today, we are set free to serve God's people,
and to sing God's praises. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

* 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:

When Christ abides in us and we abide in him, we can see that every thing we have is a gift from God. The gifts of time, talent and treasure God has entrusted us with are not to be hoarded, but to be shared, to give life to others as Christ gives life to us. Let us now return to God a portion of what God has so generously given to us.

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, we thank you that we have heard your words of eternal life today. As a sign of our gratitude, we offer you these gifts. Take what we have given and multiply it for the good: the good of our faith community, the good of our neighbors, and the good of the world you so love. Shape and mold us so that our whole lives become a loving response to your goodness. In the name of the one whose life gives life to the world, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Choral Anthem: "What Will Come of Me Then?"

Prayer for Illumination: (unison)

Eternal God, quiet our hearts and minds amid the clattering chaos of the world and all the voices vying for our attention. May we clearly hear your word of life spoken to us today. As we hear, help us to understand; as we understand, move us to respond in love, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ; Amen

1st Scripture: 1 Kings 8: 1,6,10-11, 22-30 [NRSV]

Robin Quinn

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion.

6 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. 10 And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. 22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands to heaven. 23 He said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love with your servants who walk before you with all their heart, 24 the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. 25 Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' 26 Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed that you promised to your servant my father David. 27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! 28 Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today, 29 that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. 30 Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; hear and forgive.

Passing The Peace

Having been reconciled to God in Jesus Christ, the people are invited to share signs of reconciliation and the peace of Christ. In sharing the peace, we express the reconciliation, unity, and love that come only from God, and we open ourselves to the power of God's love to heal our brokenness and make us agents of that love in the world.

From Book of Common Worship



Chancel vases open for dedications:

 Sept. 1st. one vase

 Sept. 8th...one vase

 Sept. 15th.. one vase

 Sept. 22nd...one vase

 Sept..29th... one vase



Our Fall Rummage Sale
will be held on
Saturday, August 31st, 2024
from **7AM—1PM**

Great deals to be found!
Your purchase helps fund
our ability to help our neighbors

2nd Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6: 10-20 [NRSV]
Pastor Debbie Johnson

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power; ¹¹ put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, ¹² for our struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness ¹⁵ and lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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

Time with Children & Youth
Pastor Debbie Johnson

Sermon: "The Whole Armor of God"
Pastor Debbie Johnson

* Hymn: "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" # 477

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: "Who Is on the Lord's Side?" # 484

Charge

Benediction (Responsive)

Postlude and Response: "Three-Fold Amen"

*Liturgy credit: Ministry Matters, the Rev. Barbara Chapel for
Presbyterian Outlook,*

Deacon's meeting Sunday, September 8th
following worship

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.

**Heavenly Father,
Your warrior prepares for battle.**
Today I claim victory over Satan by putting on
the whole armor of God!
I put on the Girdle of Truth!
May I stand firm in the truth of Your Word so
I will not be a victim of Satan's lies.
I put on the Breastplate of Righteousness!
May it guard my heart from evil so I will
remain pure and holy, protected under
the blood of Jesus Christ.
I put on the Shoes of Peace!
May I stand firm in the Good News of the
Gospel so Your peace will shine through me
and be a light to all I encounter.
I take the Shield of Faith!
May I be ready for Satan's fiery darts of
doubt, denial, and deceit so I will not be
vulnerable to spiritual defeat.
I put on the Helmet of Salvation!
May I keep my mind focused on You so Satan
will not have a stronghold on my thoughts.
I take the Sword of the Spirit!
May the two-edged sword of Your Word
be ready in my hands so I can expose
the tempting words of Satan.
**By faith Your warrior has
put on the whole armor of God!**
I am prepared to live this day in
spiritual victory! Amen.

Dr. David Jeremiah