



Sunday May 5, 2024
Ascension of the Lord
10:30 AM



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Rev. Debbie Johnson

"Praising With Blessing And Joy"

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**Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Noon
Wednesday & Thursday**

Liturgy Sunday May 5, 2024
Ascension of the Lord
10:30 AM

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "If you want God to open and close doors, you need to let go of the doorknob." *Author Unknown*

Ringing of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

Elder Jan Owens

Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ's return to God.

We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!

But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.

Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us.

Let's get to work!

Let's make our hearts ready for the task ahead with prayer and praise!

Amen

Amen!

Prelude

Choral Introit "Praise Him, Praise Him"

*** Hymn: "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" # 6**

*** Passing the Peace**

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Call to Confession

There is nothing that can separate us from God's love. Therefore, let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and help us transform our lives.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lord, we are impatient! We want everything right now, instantly! We don't want to wait for anything. We rush our holidays, our celebrations, our very lives and then wonder why our spirits are

Current Prayer Concerns:

Lori Patrick, Debbie Kelly, Thomas Simpson, Chris Hazard, Kent Mitchell, Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Amy Etheridge, Bonnie Hancock, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Bob Lebo, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna, Larry (Black) Blackwell, Marie McCallister, Betty Ignash, Lake Scott, Bryan Wayne-Records, Kathy Smith, Larry Steele, Margie Baugher Cramer, Mark Payne, Beth Miller, Baby Owen, Kathryn Maxwell, Pat and Ben Steele, and Joey Martin.

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

May	12	Dawn Butler and Nancy Wright
May	19	Vicki Cairn & Jan Owens
May	26	Marty Cropper & Carol Reese
June	2	Karen Eberle & Mabel Rogers
June	9	Beth Fisher & Peggy Webster

**Pastor Debbie's
Contact Information**

Cell: 843-568-6480

Email: djhj3675@gmail.com

You can call or text her. Pastor Debbie will be in Ocean City on Tuesdays and Sundays.

Welcome—Soli Deo Gloria

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Sun	May 5	Boy Scouts Troop 2173	4:00 PM
Wed	May 8	CPR Training	9:00 m
Wed	May 8	Hand Bells Practice	5:00 PM
Wed	May 8	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Fri,	May 10	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM

Birthdays: *No birthdays*

Flowers:

~ Chancel Vase Flowers are given by Rich and Nancy Wright in loving memory of Nancy's 'Mama' Olivia Bischler as she celebrated her May 4th birthday with her Lord and Savior. Memories bring smiles.

~ A basket of flowers is placed in honor of God and in remembrance of 226 Fallen Heroes who are being honored this week-end in Emmitsburg, Md. at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. These American heroes and their families will never be forgotten. ~ Marty Cropper

Chancel vases open for dedication

- 05-12-24 one vase... (Mother's Day)
- 05-19-24 one vase
- 05-26-24 two vases

exhausted and depressed. Slow us down, Lord. Help us to enjoy the process of waiting for the wondrous things you offer us. Let us feel the power and beauty of praising you and singing your praises. Clear away our "high gear" mentality and place us on paths of peace and hope. Forgive our arrogance and impatience. Help us to overcome those traits which pull us away from you and from appreciating all that you have done for us. As we listen to the scriptures this day in which the disciples witnessed Jesus' ascension to you, let our hearts be at peace knowing that you have taught us what we need to know to serve God joyfully in this world. Inspire us and give us delight for what is to come. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Forgiveness and love have been poured out upon you, to offer hope to all nations. You are called and blessed to be messengers of God's good news to all people. **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

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Let us receive our tithes and offerings.

* 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

Generous God, we bring you our offerings today, and ask that you bless them. Bless the money in the plates that it might be saved, stewarded and spent in ways that honor you. Bless the tasks we will undertake this week that we might be coworkers in your coming kingdom. Bless the hours of our week – 167 until we meet again – that our lives may be our offering to you. Bless us to be blessings in this world. Amen.

Choral Anthem "Give Me Jesus"

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Holy Spirit, help us to hear familiar words with fresh ears, and to take your Holy Word to us seriously, as guide and pattern for our lives. Amen

1st Scripture: Acts 1: 1-11 [NRSV]

Elder Sue Latour

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me;⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

2nd Scripture Reading: Luke 24: 44-53 [NRSV]

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⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me

Heads Up!

International Students' Breakfasts Coming Soon

Wednesdays, June 19—Wednesday, August 14

New Time: 7:30 AM—9:30 AM

Summer is almost upon us and that means we will once again have the privilege to welcome, feed, and encourage students from all over the world each Wednesday morning. Many of these young folks have never visited the United States and we have the honor of being ambassadors for our country.

Let's come together to witness our love for God, each other, and for each of them. Just imagine if your grandchild, or niece, nephew or young friend was visiting a foreign country for the first time. We would all pray for warm and welcoming arms for them, wouldn't we? Let's extend that warmth to our students this summer!

Further details will be coming and Marty anticipates that we will use the team method we used last summer. Many hands make light work, so please consider sharing some of your time to help make this a memorable Summer for all of us.

CPR Class

Change in Time!

A CPR class will be held Wednesday May 8th at 9:00 AM and will take approximately 2 hours for the course.

Hopefully, those of you who signed up will be able to attend.

Thank you, Marty Cropper

All Women of the Church are Invited

Please join us for the WOW Luncheon on **May 21** at the Longboard Cafe

6701 Coastal Highway

WOW Meeting at 11:00—Lunch at 1:00

Congregation Financials as of March 31st, 2024:

Year-to-date **giving/income** (\$45,262.88 from giving; remainder from parking, building use, etc.): \$51,643.81

Year-to-date **disbursements**: \$42,408.38

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.

in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Time with Children & Youth

Rev. Debbie Johnson

Sermon: "Praising With Blessing And Joy"

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*** Hymn: "Blessed Be the Name" # 103**

*** Affirmation of Faith - The Nicene Creed (unison)**

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

Let us lift up our hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,
for you have called us to a rich hope and a glorious inheritance
among the saints.....

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

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

* Hymn: "Crown Him with Many Crowns" # 234

Charge

Benediction

Postlude and Response: "God Be With You"

*Liturgy credit: Ministry Matters, The Presbyterian Outlook,
Book of Common Worship, Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources*