

Sunday May 12, 2024  
7th Sunday of Easter  
10:30 AM



Courage and Kindness

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City  
Rev. Debbie Johnson

"Leadership Crisis: Discerning God's Will"

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

Liturgy Sunday May 12, 2024  
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10:30 AM

**We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:** "The Church doesn't need more people who think they're leaders. It needs more people who know they're servants."

**Ringing of the Church Bell**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**"Minute for Mission" - Elder Marty Cropper**

**Call to Worship:**

**Elder Marty Cropper**

Happy are those who follow the ways of the Lord.

**God's ways are just and merciful.**

Those who follow God's ways are continually nourished in faith.

**In all that they do, they prosper.**

Come, let us open our hearts to God's compassionate love.

**Let us celebrate God's mercy and justice. AMEN.**

**Prelude**

**Choral Introit "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power"**

**\* Hymn: "Lord Speak to Me" # 450**

**\* Passing the Peace**

**Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations**

**Call to Confession**

We gather as God's people, believing the promises fulfilled in Christ. We do not need to confess out of dread or fear, but in trust that God is faithful to forgive us and make us new. Join me as we pray, saying,

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Savior God, we invite you into our lives for a season, only to forget and neglect you once again. You beckon us, calling for our attention, but we are distracted and busy taking care of

**Current Prayer Concerns:**

Marie McCallister, Lori Patrick, 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, 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	19	Vicki Cairn & Jan Owens
May	26	Ann & Carol Reese
June	2	Karen Eberle & Mabel Rogers
June	9	Beth Fisher & Peggy Webster
June	16	Mable Rogers & Vicki Cairn
June	23	Ann Hales & Brenda Wilkinson

## Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Sun	May	12	Boy Scouts Troop 2173	4:00	PM
Tues	May	14	Session Meeting	1:00	PM
Wed	May	15	Hand Bells Practice	5:00	PM
Wed	May	15	Choir Practice	6:00	PM
Fri,	May	17	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00	PM

**Birthdays:** *Gavin Harrigan (5/14) Peggy Webster (5/15)*

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

~ In thankfulness to God for all Mothers , past and present, who have taught us how to live and love as Christians. We pray for strength for Mothers who are now teaching their children to follow Jesus, knowing that the Bible is the guidebook for motherhood.

Chancel vases open for dedication:

- 05-19-24 one vase
- 05-26-24 two vases

### Congregation Financials as of April 30, 2024:

**- Year-to-date giving/income (\$60,652.51 from giving; remainder from parking, building use, etc.): \$68,814.75**

**- Year-to-date disbursements: \$52,189.03**

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.

other priorities. Remind us, Holy God, that you are the source of our flourishing. You are the living water by which we have been planted. Forgive our neglect. Forgive our unfaithfulness. Focus us on you, your Word, and all that your Spirit provides. Amen

### Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

We are no longer blown about in the winds of the world, we are grounded, yesterday, today, tomorrow in God's forgiveness, hope and love. **Today, tomorrow, forever: we can bear fresh fruit, sharing God's peace and joy with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! 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

Having heard the good news and being assured of God's love and grace, our only response is one of gratitude. Let us give thanks with what we have and who we are. Let us give our offering.

### \* 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

O God, maker and provider, you have blessed us with many gifts. Use us, and what we have gathered, to feed the world through your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### Choral Anthem "Friends in Christ"

### Prayer for Illumination (unison)

**Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your Way. Clear our minds of daily distractions. Fill our hearts with the humility we need to hear and receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.**

## 1st Scripture: John 17: 6-19 [NRSV]

Rich Wright

<sup>6</sup> "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them.

<sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup> I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

## 2nd Scripture Reading: Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26 [NRSV]

Rev. Debbie Johnson

<sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, <sup>16</sup> "Brothers and sisters, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested

## 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.

## All Women of the Church are Invited

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

**6701 Coastal Highway**

WOW Meeting at 11:00—Lunch at 1:00

We have scheduled a make-update  
for our Church Rummage Sale:

**Saturday, May 18th  
from 7 AM until 1 PM.**

**Set up will begin at 6 AM.**

If the weather doesn't cooperate for the May 18th  
we have another one scheduled on June 8th.

## Pastor Debbie's Contact Information

Cell: 843-568-6480

Email: [djhj3675@gmail.com](mailto:djhj3675@gmail.com)

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

Welcome—Soli Deo Gloria

Jesus,<sup>17</sup> for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."

<sup>21</sup> "So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,<sup>22</sup> beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection."<sup>23</sup> So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.<sup>24</sup> Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen<sup>25</sup> to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."<sup>26</sup> And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

**Time with Children & Youth**  
Rev. Debbie Johnson

**Sermon: "Leadership Crisis: Discerning God's Will"**  
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**\* Hymn: "To Know God's Mind and Do His Will"**  
(Tune Dundee)

1 To know God's mind and do his will  
disciples sought his face;  
with Judas gone, they now must fill  
the twelfth and vacant place.

2 They looked for one prepared to lead  
and witness by his word:  
"Though Jesus died, he lives indeed,  
for I have seen the Lord!"

3 One who has followed in the way  
since John at first baptized,  
and walked with them until the day  
they saw the ascending Christ.

4 Matthias then was set apart,  
apostle of good news;  
and God, who knows the human heart,  
still calls those he will use.

5 Lord, make your battle-line complete;  
make known your sovereign choice,  
that we may serve with willing feet  
and Christ-uplifting voice.

**\* 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: "Sweet Hour of Prayer" # 433**

**Charge**

**Benediction**

**Postlude and Response: "God Be With You"**

*Liturgy credit: The Presbyterian Outlook, Lectionary Liturgies,  
Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources*

## Come Home

Home is where you put one foot on the porch  
and before your other foot even touches the landing  
the door dances open  
and the first thing you see is a huge smile  
and the first thing you feel is a huge hug  
and the first thing you hear is your own name  
spoken with excitement and elation and jubilation  
and so much love.

Home is where you don't have to be anybody but you.  
You don't have to be good enough  
or clean enough, or smart enough  
or strong or pretty enough  
or think only the right thoughts  
or believe only the right beliefs  
or guard your heart  
or deny your mistakes  
or hide your wounds  
or silence your needs  
or measure your hopes and dreams.  
You don't have to pretend to be somebody you're not  
so you can belong  
because at home  
you belong already.  
You are a child of God.

So, we say to you:  
Come on in.  
Come on in, as you are.  
Come on in, child of God.

~ unknown