



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SEPTEMBER 2017

From the Pastor Gerald Egger



Christian Witness in Racially-Troubled Times

The brazen appearance of organized neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and armed civilian militia shocked a quiet college town on August 11 and 12, and a whole nation. The violence that ensued proves that the discontent of white males feeling disenfranchised can exploit the current political climate to go public. White racism has always been bubbling beneath the surface, but these days the lid is lifted and the bile spills into the streets.

The Confederacy was the failed attempt of white supremacists to enslave an ethnic minority. The National Socialist Party in Europe was the failed attempt of white supremacists to eradicate an ethnic minority. These causes are dead; their ideas are impotent. Let us think long and hard about what resurgent white supremacy and neo-Nazism represent: domestic terrorism.

I am relieved and reassured that the public response both in the U.S. and abroad has overwhelmingly marginalized the influence of the white extremist demonstrations in Charlottesville.

Fear of other-ness is contrary to the Gospel. The voice of the church - the church of Jesus Christ, your church - has spoken out in condemnation of the racial animosity on public display there August 11 and 12, 2017. What follows are some excerpts from public statements by the PC(USA) and the National Council of Churches.

Elsewhere in this newsletter the Christian Education committee of Ocean View Presbyterian Church announces some discernment opportunities we take in response.

Gerald Egger

PC(USA) Office of Public Witness, Washington, D.C.

The Office of Public Witness, alongside many Presbyterians, is outraged, shocked and saddened by the violence that engulfed the beautiful town of Charlottesville. But we are not defeated nor deterred. We are determined to move forward so that our country can continue to journey toward racial progress and inclusiveness.

This is a day which demands a call for mourning and lament, protest and outrage, prayer and peace. The legacy of racial and ethnic hatred must end. Our children deserve a better message and a brighter future of tolerance and peace. As people of faith we offer ourselves in service to a God who is *“merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”* [August 15, 2017]

Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA)

Presbyterian Women works toward building inclusive, caring communities. We condemn all forms of violence, particularly violence that tears at the fabric of God’s beloved community. The rhetoric of the “alt right” has no place in a civilized society that is built on principles of equality and God-given human rights. We condemn the racially motivated violence of white supremacy and the resurgence of neo-Nazism, with its bigotry and assumptions of privilege. [August 15, 2017]

Carol Winkler, Moderator

Judy Persons, Vice Moderator, Mission Relationships

Wanda Beauman, Vice Moderator, Justice and Peace Concerns

General Assembly and Presbyterian Mission Agency, PC(USA), Louisville, KY

In the aftermath of the events of August 11 and 12 in Charlottesville, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reaffirms its condemnation of white supremacy and racism, names them as sin, and renews its commitment to disrupting them and working for justice and equity.

We give thanks for the presence and faithful witness of church members who stand against white supremacy and racism. . . Individually and collectively the church, including Presbyterians, works to disrupt racism and to build racial equity in places across the country.

We acknowledge that Scripture has been misused to justify white supremacy and racism. However, we proclaim that the Bible’s message presents a far more consistent and insistent witness to God’s love for diversity and justice.

White supremacy and racism stand in stark, irreconcilable contradiction to God’s intention for humanity. They reject part of the human family and are utterly contrary to God’s Word made incarnate in Jesus.

[W]e acknowledge the church’s complicity in the creation of white supremacy and racism. We confess the church’s failure in challenging and disrupting white supremacy and racism. Too often we have accepted the status quo. Too often we have stood silent in the face of iniustice and oppression.

Ocean View Presbyterian Church

67 Central Avenue
Ocean View, DE
19970

Service
Sunday, 9:30 A.M.

Interim Pastor
Gerald Egger

Church Office
302-539-3455

Website
ovpc.org

Session
Don Bailey
Cathy Yantz
Jennifer Read
Mike Quinn
Bruce Hobler
Elsie Young
Karen Colwill
(Clerk of Session)

Deacons
Earlene DeFazio
Betsy Henifin
Eric Neumann
Cindy Benjamin
Ollie Robling
Sue Baer

Newsletter Editors
Lorie and Jim Hartsig

By God's grace may we remember the events in Charlottesville; repent of our acquiescence and failures; and renew our commitment to proclaim and live the good news of Jesus Christ.
[August 14, 2017]

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Tony De La Rosa, Interim Executive Director - Presbyterian Mission Agency

Rev. T. Denise Anderson & Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston, Co-Moderators of the 222nd General Assembly (2016)

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, PC(USA), Louisville, KY

We must witness to a new age regarding race in the United States. Our risk is not in engaging the issue of white supremacy. Our greatest risk is in failing to make every effort possible through the gospel to eradicate racism with the help of the Lord. Proclaimers and hearers of the gospel must engage this uncomfortable issue that damages the soul of our country. God is calling us to be a viable witness in these times. This requires courage and a deep faith to speak truth in love. [August 14, 2017]

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II

New Castle Presbytery, New Castle, DE

The cultural mythology of the noble South runs deep in my veins. Yet there is nothing noble or honorable about a skewed view of history concocted to portray Southern Whites as genteel custodians of the African American citizenry of our nation. This is appropriately known as White Supremacy, but needs to be named as blatant racism. It raised its ugly head in Charlottesville this week.

White Supremacists cling to the myth of racial purity, intellectual superiority and therefore deserved privilege. Though they claim to be motivated by a noble cause they are, in fact, motivated by the fear of their loss of status in an ever more multicultural and pluralistic culture. They are encouraged in their violent antics by elected officials pretending that the murderous symbols of torches, swastikas, and pointy hooded white robes are benign.

Once such groups were predominantly located in the Deep South but now have exported their bigotry across the country. I see Confederate flags waving in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The propagation of such racist symbols, slogans and marches by White Supremacists does not occur in a vacuum. They spread in environments in which public figures, elected officials and good people say nothing and do nothing to defy such ideology. I am culpable as a child of the South and a man of inherited White privilege if I do not speak up and speak out.

James L. Moseley, Executive Presbyter

National Council of Churches, Washington, D.C.

Charlottesville, VA

Early in the morning of Saturday, August 12, people gathered at First Baptist Church to sing and pray. The clergy then formed into two groups: those who had been trained in nonviolent civil disobedience, and those who had not. Organizers issued stern warnings to those who were willing to participate in the civil disobedience action: With the presence of armed militia, the potential for violence was extremely high.

At 8:00 am, clergy and faith leaders joined arm-in-arm to walk toward Emancipation Park, the scene of the violence that would later unfold. The group lined the street in front of the park, just feet from armed militia. They prayed and sang while protesters, carrying shields, flags, banners, and weapons, marched by.

The crowd size grew as marchers came in formation along the street lined by clergy counter-protesters. From one side came Alt-Right, KKK, and neo-Nazi groups; from the other side came anti-Fascist protesters. The clergy were in the middle of a violent clash that was about to unfold.



Rev. Annette Flynn, United Methodist clergy from Tennessee, commented: “I saw fear in the faces of the Alt-Right. I tried to look them in their eyes and they would not make eye contact. I saw and felt their fear. I felt sadness for them. I wish people who are quick to judge them would remember that what lies behind anger is often deep hurt. We are called to compassion and love. Always.”

*Charlottesville native and clergy counterprotest organizer Rev. Seth Wispelwey remarked, “Our city is in shock and traumatized. I’m immensely proud of how clergy and faith leaders from all over the country came to stand on the front lines of with us – offering both pastoral and prophetic care on an unprecedented day for our community. **This is not just a local moment, though, and it is not an aberration.** White supremacy is woven into our country’s DNA, and that pastoral and prophetic work must continue to heal our trauma while pivoting into the deep, hard, life-giving work ahead. The white church must help lead. We’ve been playing catch-up for 400 years.”*

News, August 14, 2017

Reported by Steven Martin

Since its founding in 1950, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA has been the leading force for shared ecumenical witness among Christians in the United States. The NCC's 38 member communions – from a wide spectrum of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, Evangelical, historic African American and Living Peace churches – include 45 million persons in more than 100,000 local congregations in communities across the nation.

A Presbyterian Pastor’s Prayer for Her City

Sweet Jesus, what has happened to your beloved world? What darkness is on the loose when those who hate their neighbors pray in your name and ask for your blessing?

You have told us, O Lord, what is good: to do justice and love kindness and walk humbly with you, and yet there are those among us who wield machine guns to intimidate and chant vitriolic rhetoric to terrorize, and ram cars intentionally into crowds to kill.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. We have no hope save in you. We have no hope to stop the violence and stem the racism and cease the destruction, save in you. Save us now.

Rev. Jill Duffield



Nancy Turner	Sept. 3rd
Herb Sheetz	Sept. 6th
Mike Read	Sept. 8th
Mike Quinn	Sept. 19th
Jane Sergison	Sept. 21st
Cathy Yantz	Sept. 22nd
Betsy Henifin	Sept. 25th
Carol Kester	Sept. 28th
Earlene DeFazio	Sept. 29th



Jane and Bob Clark	Sept. 2nd
June and Brooks Goldman	Sept. 5th
Lorie and Jim Hartsig	Sept. 10

**“The breezes taste
 Of apple peel.
 The air is full
 Of smells to feel-
 Ripe fruit, old footballs,
 Burning brush,
 New books, erasers,
 Chalk, and such.
 The bee, his hive,
 Well-honeyed hum,
 And Mother cuts
 Chrysanthemums.
 Like plates washed clean
 With suds, the days
 Are polished with
 A morning haze.”**

- John Updike, *September*

Session Report

Karen Colwill, Clerk of Session

The Session of OVPC met on Monday, August 14, 2017 at the home of Elsie Young.

The Rev. Jerry Egger opened with prayer and devotions at 7:00 P.M.

Orders of the Day:

We met with Tim Smith and Mary Reed seeking membership in OVPC. Tim and Mary are new residents of the area and relocated from Montgomery County Maryland. Approved **MOTION** to accept Tim Smith and Mary Reed on Reaffirmation of Faith to be presented during worship on August 28, 2017.

We held our annual meeting with the Facilities Use Committee Chair, Liz Hobler. received the report of the prior year accomplishments. The 'In-Kind Agreement' for facility use will be updated and distributed to all existing 'in-kind' facility users.

The **Monthly Committee Reports** were received:

Approved **MOTION** from Worship Committee to build an oak cabinet next to the organ to store music and audio equipment not to exceed \$1,00.00. Monies will come from the Worship Reserves account.

Approved **MOTION** to accept the docket for the meeting.

Approved **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the July 10, 2017 Session Meeting with date corrections.

Approved **MOTION** to accept the Treasurer's Report for July 2017.

The Finance Committee conducted the mid-year budget/financial review and presented their report at the August Session Meeting. The Session determined the financials are in good order.

The Session and the Finance Committee held our annual August meeting with Scott Derr, Comprehensive Financial Associates, to review our investment account. The Session determined our investment strategy is sound and that no changes will be made at this time.

Approved **MOTION** to accept Rev. Egger request for vacation September 4-8 including Sunday, September 10, 2017. Rev. Gary Baer will cover pastoral calls and preach on September 10, 2017.

Approved **MOTION** to change the OVPC Bylaws Article 17: which currently states 'Voting by proxy is not allowed' change to 'Voting by proxy via email is only allowed on stated Session MOTION(s) which originate with and are reported by the Clerk of Session or Moderator. The Clerk of Session will document such MOTION(s) in the next session minutes.

The Rev. Jerry Egger adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:45 P.M.

Sewing Circle

Amy Peoples

“Count your blessings, not your troubles”, unknown

Hope you all had a wonderful summer and are ready to be involved with the OVPC Sewing Circle. As always there are many activities on our schedule: Don't miss out, jot them down now.

On Sunday, September 10th Coffee Hour will be held following the church service.

On Monday, September 11, YARN will meet for the first time since June. Come at 10 am till 2 pm. Bring your lunch and join the busy group of ladies sewing the beautiful Prayer Shawls etc. We are so thankful for this special group of ladies. Don't forget if you are nervous about doing this for the first time they will be glad to instruct you.

Wednesday September 13 at 12 noon the Sewing Circle will meet. Please come, bring your lunch. Two hostesses are needed to provide refreshments for the meeting. Please contact Marti or Ellen to volunteer. After the lunch and business meeting, Bev Bailey will lead the Bible Study from our Horizon's Book, "Cloud of Witnesses". We will be reviewing the introduction and proceed on to studying Chapter 1, "In Community with Jesus Christ". If you do not have a study book, contact Liz Hobler. They are \$10.

At the Circle meeting we will be making plans for the Fall Jumble. It will be Saturday, October 14th from 9:30-12 noon. Please start now to gather together your items for the Jumble. Remember there are many booths to fill with goodies, glassware, small household items, knickknacks, children's toys, books, jewelry and potted plants. Also please get those recipe books out since we will need lots of yummy baked goods. Please no clothing, shoes, pocketbooks or items that are broken or soiled. This is always a busy day at OVPC. If you are asked to help, please say yes. All hands are needed! We will be setting up Friday, October 13, 8:30-noon.

The Presbyterian Church of Dover will be hosting the Presbyterian Women of New Castle Presbytery's Fall Gathering Saturday October 28 from 9-12:30. The program is called "Obstacles to a Full Life". they are hoping or a big turnout. We will be carpooling from OVPC.

Hope you will join us at the many functions. You are missed when you are not there!

Advent Devotional

Elsie Young



"Advent is coming."

If you are reading These Days, you may have been surprised to see this title in the August 13th-19th pages. It IS time for us to begin working on the OVPC Advent Devotional. Copies of the Lectionary Readings for 2017 are available in the church Narthex.

Members and friends of OVPC have been writing daily readings for the Advent Devotional for ten years! A special blessing.

Thank you for sharing.

The Session of OVPC would like to thank Bradley Absher and his company True North Land Surveying of Ocean View for his recent donation of their services to provide us with an up-to-date survey of our property. It will be useful as we go forward with any improvements of parking or buildings.



YARN...You Are Ready to Needle...

.Knit or crochet or just watch and learn.

Join us in Fellowship Center
the first Monday of the month from 10 am-2 pm...
bring your lunch.

See you on September 11th

Letter to the Editor

Dr. Thomas Bentz

I've worshiped at OVPC twice, including last Sunday, and stayed for the good talk after. Our shared concerns about our nation, denomination(s), religion(s) and flags leads me to share this timely take (below) from Robert E. Lee.

Ordained as United Church Editor of A.D. Publications, the former UCC/UPC journal, I am just retiring, or re-inspiring, in Ocean View, after "settled," interim and transitional pastoral, UCC conference and interfaith ministries.

Let's Hear Robert E. Lee's Take on His Statue and the Flags

Confederate General President Robert E. Lee was opposed to Confederate monuments.

"Lee himself, after the Civil War, opposed monuments, specifically Confederate war monuments," Jonathan Horn, a Lee biographer, told PBS.

After the Civil War, Lee received a number of letters requesting support for the erection of Confederate memorials, according to Horn.

In June 1866, he wrote that he couldn't support a monument of one of his best generals, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, saying, "As regards the erection of such a monument as is contemplated," Lee wrote in December 1866 about another proposed Confederate monument, "my conviction is, that however grateful it would be to the feelings of the South, the attempt in the present condition of the Country, would have the effect of retarding, instead of accelerating its accomplishment; [and] of continuing, if not adding to, the difficulties under which the Southern people labor."

Not only was Lee opposed to Confederate memorials, "he favored erasing battlefields from the landscape altogether," Horn wrote.

He even supported getting rid of the Confederate flag after the Civil War ended, and didn't want them them flying above Washington College, where he was president after the war.



HEAVENLY LUNCH - THE BEST IN TOWN

July 26 - 27, 2017

The weather this year was absolutely perfect - sunny, cool and clear, so there wasn't the usual frantic clamor for our fresh brewed iced tea. A total of 385 customers discovered how "Heavenly" our lunch is and all of our customers raved about and thanked us for the homemade chicken salad, Caesar salad, fresh fruit, pasta, fresh baked rolls and chocolate and butterscotch brownies. After expenses the Circle account has \$4000 for the Circle Mission Committee to support local, national and international missions. A listing of these missions is displayed on the lunch tables each year.

We turned the Water 4 well into the Rwanda Joy Center where Sue Rizer talked to many of our visitors about this Mission. There was lots of interest and funds were collected to support Sue's project.

We always welcome grandchildren and community friends to our staff of luncheon volunteers. Veteran Layne Hartsig returned for her fifth year as our greeter. Kathy Rhodes' granddaughters, Marlie and Alex, now young ladies have been returning each year since they were little girls. Liz's bridge buddy, Cathy Barkley loves the experience of being a hostess and we always welcome Sharon Weber our veteran kitchen worker.

As always we give special thanks to Mr. Harry Dukes from Eastern Shore Poultry for his generous donation of 200 pounds of boneless chicken breasts and Jimmy Robinson owner of Ocean View Produce for the watermelons and cantaloupes that fill our delicious fresh fruit bowls.

The luncheon takes a lot of preparation and hard work but it also provides fun and laughter for all the members of our church family that participate as greeters, hostesses, bus boys, parkers, money takers, dishwashers, kitchen food prep, plate scrapers, car parkers, brownie cutter, ice and beverage coordinators.

Thank you volunteers for your time and talents in making this wonderful community event such a success.

Gary & Susan Baer	Cathy Barkley	Sandra Gayle	Don & Bev Bailey
Bob Dougherty	Layne Hartsig	June Goldman	Don & Cindy Benjamin
Bruce Hobler	Karen Hamilton	Carol Kester	Bill & Karen Colwill
Jim & Lorie Hartsig	Ray Keeney	Amy Peoples	Buzz & Betsy Henifin
Ceda McGrew	Ollie Robling	Judy Reich	Eric & Ellen Neumann
Sue Rizer	Kathy Rhodes	Alex Thomas	George & Pam Price
Marlie Thomas	Kathy Sheetz	Mike & Jen Read	Mike & Marlene Quinn
Jane Sergison	Sharon Weber	Bob & Elaine Wolf	Carol Trent
Sandy White	Marti Sommer	Susan Rice	Cathy Yantz

We extend a special thank you to Kathy Rhodes for her up-beat, fun, non-stop piano music. This is such a special treat for both the staff and guests.

The Women's Circle Heavenly Lunch team with the help of all of the members of the Ocean View Presbyterian Church Congregation continue to make this luncheon one that the community looks forward to every July.

Photogenic Jim Hartsig



Christian Education

Bev Bailey

“Called, Challenged, Changing”

The Christian Education has been working to plan a challenging series of experiences for the congregation. Several opportunities have presented themselves in the past few weeks that have given the committee both pause and eagerness to educate ourselves in the work of faith. Pastor Jerry has offered to give you information about some of what we will be doing during the months of September-November.

Here is the schedule for September:

September 3—Ted Talks. Another challenging speaker and topic, selected and discussion with Bob Wolf in Fellowship Centre

September 10—Coffee Hour in Memorial Hall

September 17---Prayer Time, an extended time of prayer/concern, led by Bev Bailey. Sanctuary following Worship

September 24---Ted Talk, led by Bob Wolf (see explanation below)

from Pastor Jerry

The Christian Education Committee of Ocean View Presbyterian Church is offering two learning events in the fall that address the imperative of Christian witness to peace and reconciliation in these racially-troubled times.

TED Talk, “It’s Time to Reclaim Religion”

September 24, following worship

The committee will replay the TED Talk video of Rabbi Sharon Brous, who believes faith communities of all kinds can revitalize religious practice as a counter-narrative to the realities of violence, extremism and pessimism. The group who viewed and discussed this presentation on August 13 felt that the topic was relevant enough to current events - and to this church’s mission - to repeat it. If you participated August 13, please come back September 24. If you missed it the first time, please plan to participate September 24, after worship.

Book Discussion, *Waking Up White*

October 1 and continuing through **November 19**

In small groups, we will have an opportunity to share reactions as Presbyterians to the thought-provoking book, *Waking Up White*.

The author, Debby Irving, grew up in a predominantly white, upper middle class community in Massachusetts. For much of her life, she didn’t give much thought to race, even though she had encountered racial tensions at work and her children’s schools. When she was in her 40s, after taking a graduate school course in “Race and Cultural Identity,” Irving began to comprehend how much she had benefited over the years because she was white. “I now see what I am spared day in and day out and I am focused on how easy it is for me to just wake up and go about in a world that was constructed for me.”

(Christian Education cont.)

Irving writes about her discoveries and how she began to question her long held assumptions about race and culture in her 2014 book, *Waking up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*. The co-moderators of the 2016 General Assembly are urging all Presbyterians to study Irving's story as a way of discovering our attitudes toward race hidden even from ourselves.

The 250-page book is available in stores and on Amazon.com for about \$18.

Small group leaders and times for this book study will include:

Bev Bailey, Sunday morning following worship in Fellowship Centre

Bruce Hobler, Wednesday mornings at 10 am in Fellowship Centre

Marlene Quinn, Time and place TBD

We hope that you will avail yourself of a time to read and discuss this very important book with members of your community of faith....

More information on this important study will be available in the next month. The CE Committee members are: Gary Baer, Bev Bailey, Don Benjamin, Bruce Hobler, Jen Read, Bob Wolf, Cathy Yantz, and Pastor Jerry Egger.

**“By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer’s best of weather
And autumn’s best of cheer.”**

- Helen Hunt Jackson, *September*, 1830-1885



Worship Committee
Cathy Yantz

Sanctuary Flowers

The Worship Committee is happy to continue the practice of dedicating flowers by our members. We request payment of \$25.00 to cover the cost. This is the florist's charge to the church.

Friday Night At The Movies



Join us at the Wolf's house on Friday September 8th at 5:30 for a potluck supper followed by our monthly movie. Bring your favorite dish or dessert to share or just come and enjoy the fellowship.

This month by request we will be viewing the 1989 Academy Awards winning film 'Driving Miss Daisy' starring Jessica Tandy, Morgan Freeman, and Dan Aykroyd. In 1950's Atlanta, an elderly Jewish woman and a black man are brought together by her son in an employer/employee relationship that soon grows to be much more as the two experience together the racial and social discrimination of the time against the backdrop of the civil rights movement. If you remember this movie as a 'nice - feel good' movie (which it is) - we hope you will view it with us again noticing the acts of grace, servanthood, personal growth, and kindness that are evident throughout the movie.

If you are interested in hosting movie night, or have a special movie request, please contact Bob Wolf. Remember that you can be a host without having the movie at your home ---

OCEAN VIEW
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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