

OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

67 Central Ave., Ocean View DE 19970

December 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent



Our spirits cry out for perfection, for wholeness, for our wrongs to be forever righted, for our every failure to come untrue – but we were never meant to bear the burden of our own salvation.

You, Spotless Savior, are the only one strong enough to bear our faults.

You, Lamb of God, are the One who takes away the sins of the world.

Your way is always the right way.

Your heart is always pure.

Your love is always unsullied.

Your grace is always sufficient to provide for us in our shortcomings.

Why would we ever seek perfection in ourselves, when perfection belongs to you alone?

Liturgies for Hope; Audrey Elledge and Elizabeth Moore

Music Printed under One License #A725109

THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY Dec 22	Worship Service – 9:30 am (S) Alternate Christmas Market – 10:45 – noon Alcoholics Anonymous – 8:00 – 9:00 pm (FC)
MONDAY Dec 23	Missions Committee Mtg. – 7:00 – 9 ;00 pm
TUESDAY Dec 24	Seaside Serenity 6:45 – 8:00 pm (FC) Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7:00 - 8:30 pm (S)
WEDNESDAY Dec 25	Christmas Day
THURSDAY Dec 26	AA Young – 7:00 – 9:00 pm (FC)
FRIDAY Dec 27	
SATURDAY Dec 28	Yoga – Lisa Velasco (410-491-7311) 8:15 – 9:45 (FC) Grounds Clean Up 9:30 am – 11:30 am Nar. Anonymous – 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm (FC)
SUNDAY Dec 29	Worship Service – 9:30 am (S) Alcoholics Anonymous – 8:00 – 9:00 pm (FC)

(S) Sanctuary (FC) Fellowship Center (MH) Memorial Hall

RINGING OF THE BELLS

SILENT MEDITATION

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC /PRELUDE:

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

1. Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope. *Light the first candle.*

We light this candle for peace. *Light the second candle.*

We light this candle in joy! *Light the third candle.*

We light this candle with love. *Light the fourth candle.*

2. Hear again the Word of the Lord, drawn from Zephaniah:
The Lord your God will rejoice over you with gladness; God will quiet you with divine love, like a child upon the breast. The Lord will exult over you with loud singing!

Both: Let us pray: God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, God of love, teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world. God of promise, God of love, into our darkness, come!

Amen.

Music: *The Candle of Love – 4th Sunday of Advent*

The Candle of love tells what we are worth
God loves us so much, God came to the earth!
An angel brought news of a child who would be
The one who would save us and set us all free.

Lyrics by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Used by Permission

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Good Shepherd, hear our prayers and deliver your people.

C: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, that we might be saved!

L: Feed us with your mercy, and grant us your peace.

C: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

ALL: Gracious God, ever near, ever sustaining us, doing more than we can ask or imagine, we entrust all of our lives to you. In our worship, be glorified! AMEN.

HYMN #100 *My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout*

GATHERING PRAYER

CONFESSION

Advent God, we journey with you, to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King, ears attuned to the songs of angels, eyes alert to

Bethlehem's star. Forgive us if, on our journey, we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world. Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas, and the promise of a Savior. Let us confess our sins before God and our neighbor.

Forgive us, Lord; we are a wandering people who kneel before you now; a people who bring prayers and requests to your feet when we have need of you and nowhere else to turn – then go our own way when times are good and life is easy! Forgive us and draw us close. Teach us your way, that we might follow. Help us to walk in your company, and to know your presence, from the moment we awake until we lay our heads to rest. AMEN.

Silent Confession

Thank you, O God, for your patience with a rebellious people, loving you one moment, forgetting you the next. Thank you for your endless love that does not give up, but wants the best for us despite our faults. Thank you for your promise to all who believe and trust in you, that we are forgiven, loved and freed through Jesus our Savior!
(Faith and worship)

Thanks be to God!

So lightened, so lifted, so loved, let us love and forgive our neighbors, as God has loved and forgiven us! The peace of Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

Let us exchange glad signs of Christ's peace!

CENTERING MUSIC: #88 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Vs. 1 & 7

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OT READING Psalm 80: 1-7 (p. 420)

ANTHEM: *Jesus, Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 1: 39-55 (p. 43)

L. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON: *Favor*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Rev. Rebecca F. Harrison*

We are an Advent people; a people of hope.

For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait. We wait for the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise, the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed.

Even so, we are not a naïve people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow.

We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist.

We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives.

But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end.

The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, or ever will be.

And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever. AMEN.

CONCERNS AND JOYS

Please email, text or call your concerns directly to Pastor Terry at:
Office: 302-539-3455
Cell: 862-432-1196
tdougherty@ovpc.org

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORDS PRAYER

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: #606: *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

***DEDICATION**

HYMN: # 101: *No Wind at the Window*

CHARGE

Holy God, you are our joy, our peace, our hope, our all. And you have blessed us with Jesus, the Light of the World. Hold us in His light, transfigure us in its glow, and make us conduits of His unfailing love, we pray in His dear name. AMEN.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE



We respectfully remind you of the ongoing expenses of our ministry, and of our beautiful campus. Please continue to donate. We can receive your donation by regular mail, online via PayPal or if you would like to drop your donation off, come to the office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and drop it in the mailbox outside of the office.

“May our gifts be a source of light, in a world that has learned to love darkness.”

Prayer List

John Burris	Alex Rhodes	Dottie Nicholson
Mo Gittman (Maureen) Carol Kratch	Family of Elaine Jackson Ruth Schafer	Peggy Schaffer Family of Charlie O'Neill
Family of Dick Peoples	Jeff Neihammer Norbert Kraich	Pastor Bruce Gillette
The Family of Janice Parris Pat Robinson	Flora Beaver Judy Reich Cheryl Hartman	Francis Carbine Wade Najjum Andrea Miller

Prayer requests will be kept on this list in the bulletin for three months unless the office hears otherwise.

If you need prayer for whatever reason, call Kathy Sheetz (302-539-2827) to initiate a chain of prayers. Please contact the office at 302-539-3455 or email office@ovpc.org to update the prayer list! Thank you!

Our live streaming services will begin at 9:20 with pre-service music with worship beginning at 9:25. If you happen to miss us live, please visit our YouTube page so you can worship with the recorded version.

LITURGIST: Bev Bailey

SCRIPTURE READER: Elaine Wolf

GREETERS: Amy Donahue & Pam Dougherty

SANCTUARY FLOWERS – Donated by Marshall Sheetz in honor of Kathy's birthday

Announcements 12/22/2024

This Week

- **Alternate Christmas Market** - Today, December 22nd
10:45 - noon.

Future Events

- **Food Pantry** - Grocery shopping lists have been replenished. Pick up one today so you can take advantage of sales and keep our hungry neighbors fed. Thank you for each and every item you contribute!
- **Movie Night:** Because of the busy church schedule and folks traveling to be with friends and family, there will be no movie night in December. We will get together again to celebrate the new year on January 3rd at the Wolf's home.

New Initiatives

- **December Mission Opportunity:** As per tradition, we will once again be participating in the Christmas Joy Offering. This is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church. The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. 50% of our gifts smooth the path for current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need and 50% of your gifts prepare students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and 50 colleges equipping communities of color. Please look for more information in the Weekly Insight and on our church website.

- **Committee Chairs/Session Liaisons** – All 2024 annual reports are due by January 3rd, 2025 – please send them to the church office at office@ovpc.org
- **2025 OVPC Flower Chart is available** – If you are looking to purchase flowers for a special celebration or memorial, please sign up on the chart posted in the rear of the sanctuary. You can also contact the office @302-539-3455 or email office@ovpc.org. The cost is \$30.
- **Reminder 2025 Calendar Events** – Please send your calendar events to the office so the 2025 calendar can be updated.

Ongoing Events

- To work in Frankford Thrift Shop, contact Elaine Wolf.
- **Announcements:** All announcements are due to the office by Monday prior to the date you want it published.
- **OVPC Choir - Wednesdays at 6:30pm** in the Sanctuary. Returning choir members and new voices alike are welcome to attend. If you are planning to be part of the Choir for the 2024-2025 season, please let Shannon know via email (ShanFlynnMusic221@gmail.com) or text (443-405-5799). Looking forward to a great year of making music together!

- **Volunteers Needed:**

Greeters - If you are interested in volunteering, please use the sign-up sheet in the back of the church or call Pam Dougherty. Thank you

Scripture Readers - If you are interested in volunteering to read, please call the office or email at office@ovpc.org.

Ocean View Presbyterian Church

67 Central Avenue
Office: (302) 539-3455
EMAIL: office@ovpc.org
Website: www.ovpc.org

PASTOR

Rev. Terry Dougherty – Email: tdougherty@ovpc.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Al Yoor – Email: office@ovpc.org

CEMETERY INFORMATION

TBD

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

TBD

WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Sue Baer – Email: slglbaer@aol.com

SESSION for 2024

Jake Stavinga – Email: jdstavinga@gmail.com

Sue Baer – Email: slglbaer@aol.com

Bob Wolf – Email: wolfbo@comcast.net

Bev Bailey – Email: baileybev@aol.com

Al Tamilio – Email: altamilio@gmail.com

CLERK OF SESSION

Ollie Robling – Email: orobling@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Elaine Wolf – Email: Elainewolf523@comcast.net

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Shannon Flynn – Email: ShanFlynnmusic221@gmail.com

DEACONS FOR 2024

Sue Sigvardson – Email: suesig77@gmail.com

Kathy Sheetz – Email: hsheetzfishon@verizon.net

Kris Taylor – Email: taylor.kristina.r@gmail.com

Pam Dougherty – Email: pddougherty@live.com

Amy Donahue – Email: donahueam@gmail.com