

OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NOVEMBER 2020



FROM THE PASTOR TERRY DOUGHERTY

A morning prayer
Fr. Ignacio Larranaga, SJ - Translated by Fr. Mark Stengel

Lord, in the silence of this day that is now beginning, I come to ask you for peace, wisdom and strength. Today I want to look upon the world with eyes full of love; to be patient, understanding, humble, calm and good. Today I want to see beyond the appearances of your children, to see them as you yourself see them, and so to be able to appreciate the goodness of each person.

Close my ears to all murmuring; guard my tongue from evil speech, so that only those thoughts that bless may remain to me. Today, I want to be so well-intentioned and just that all those who approach me may feel your presence. Clothe me with your goodness, Lord, and grant that during this day. I may reflect you. Amen.

Greetings, sisters and brothers in Christ, grace and peace to you!

Here is a poem by Seamus Heaney, from his collection *Electric Light*, p. 65, *The Bridge*:

Steady under strain and strong through tension,

Its feet on both sides but in neither camp,

It stands its ground, a span of pure attention,

A holding action, the arches and the ramp

Steady under strain and strong through tension.

The more you look at this perfect little poem, the more there is there. Balance describing balance, two rhymed spans on three rhymed footings, a solidity floating ethereally. Heaney, as I may have mentioned, is my favorite poet; I will boast that I have a signed, presentation copy of one of his books (and no, actually, you can't borrow it...).

But I chose this poem for another of its internal meanings – there is a before, and an after, whatever the pass or challenge or crisis of life. Right now, the crisis inflating our anxiety as

individuals and as a nation is the election. And all I want to say about it as your pastor is that it is so much like so many of the crises pastors get invited into: deaths and illnesses, strife and loss, fear and rejoicing. There is a before, and an after; messiness anticipated, then messiness to deal with and settle. The people we knew in these passes will largely be the people we know, and will continue to know. And most, if not all of them, will not have changed (whether we wanted that or not), and likely will not change.

Part of the context of the election we should not ignore is the interiority the pandemic has imposed on us, because it magnifies our feelings. Anecdotally, all of us are watching more television, and consuming more social media. Either of those, or both together, I cannot stress enough can be deeply unhealthy. Information is good; the intersection of information and opinion too often is not. Take proper care of yourselves! Go outside; even better, be together, without moderation or filter or influence. We will be more alright, the less we have to recover from – don't bear self-inflicted wounds; the external ones are plenty. Hear the Irish saying: "wisdom is the comb given one, after one has lost one's hair". Take care now, not later; moderate your feelings – and your tongue! – now, not later. Too often, we cannot get back what we have said or done in haste.

There are ordinary "before"s and "after"s far more important in all of our lives:

Before the baby (or grandbaby), and after.

Before the job (or retirement), and after.

Before the move (or failure to move), and after.

Before s/he died, and after.

Before we had faith, and after.

Before we needed our faith, and after.

Our God knows all these things, and all our needs. Our invitation of God, or a trusted other, inside our need is so much more meaningful, in any ultimate sense, than crazed-ness for any cause. Our God in heaven knows our needs, but let us first seek the kingdom of God, and God's righteousness, trusting all else will be added unto us.

Only love can conquer division, so... Only love.

Ocean View Presbyterian Church

67 Central Avenue Ocean View, DE 19970

Service Sunday, 9:30 A.M.

Pastor Terry Dougherty

Church Office 302-539-3455

Website ovpc.org

Session
Bob Clark
Ellen Neumann
Mike Read
Ollie Robling
Marti Sommer
Bob Wolf
Karen Colwill
(Clerk of Session)

Deacons

Sue Baer Cindy Benjamin Earlene DeFazio Joni Keller Pam Price Cindy Woodruff

Newsletter Editors
Lorie and Jim Hartsig

SESSION REPORT

Karen Colwill, Clerk of Session

The **Session of OVPC** met on Monday, October 12, 2020, via ZOOM.

Rev. Terry Dougherty, Moderator, opened with prayer and devotions at 7:05 PM.

Orders of the Day:

We welcomed Christian Education Committee Chair, Elaine Smith, to our meeting. Elaine reviewed the 2020 Education calendar and the opportunities available to our congregation. We also reviewed the preliminary schedule in place for 2021. Session appreciates all the work the Christian Education Committee is doing to identify opportunities utilizing the internet platform of Zoom to keep us connected.

We also welcomed Marti Sommer, Personnel Chair, to our meeting. The committee is meeting with staff to review performance and set performance goals for 2021. The Session will conduct Pastor Terry's review at the November Session Meeting. Please get any comments to the Clerk by November 8th via email or place your document in the Clerk's mailbox in the church office.

MOTION passed to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020 Session Meeting.

MOTION passed to approve the **September 2020 Finance Reports**.

Pastor Terry's report was received.

MOTION passed for Pastor Terry to take vacation November 2-15, 2020. The November 8th worship service will be conducted by our Stephen Ministers, the November 15th worship will be filled by pulpit supply.

The Monthly Committee Reports were received.

Finance Committee update:

Continue to limit our expenses (based on limited projected income) by taking actions until our income is adequate:

- o all committee allocation/requests are frozen
- CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) all funds have been used We are waiting for PNC Bank to issue compliance filing requirements to complete the process to turn the loan into a grant.
- The Finance Committee is preparing the 2021 Budget Worksheets for all Committee Chairs.
- Thank You to OVPC members and friends for your continued financial commitment during this pandemic!

Church Nominating Committee update: Mike Read, Chair, the committee's work is complete. MOTION passed to accept the 2021 Nominating Committee Report. The OVPC

Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers is scheduled for Sunday, November 1, 2020, in Memorial Hall at 10:30 am. We need a quorum of 22 members to conduct the meeting. The agenda is available in the mailbox by the church office.

Communication / Technology - SEG (Social Engagement Group) **MOTION** approved to offer a outside social gathering on Saturday, October 31,2020, from 3:00-5:00 on the lawn . All safety protocols will be followed. Bring your lawn chairs, masks, and social distance as we gather in fellowship.

Buildings Committee/Grounds Committee MOTION approved to replace the roof of the garage/shed at a cost of \$2,700.00 by Shelter Construction. The roof was damaged by falling trees during Hurricane Laura. A permanent singled roof will be installed. The finds will come from Capital Improvements.

Facilities Committee MOTION approved to hire Integrity Cleaning, owner, Jeanette Yurek, to clean our church facilities pursuant to the Cleaning Guidelines. The 90-day probationary contract shall begin November 1, 2020 and upon satisfactory completion of the probationary period, a one-year contract shall begin on February 1, 2021.

Deacons MOTION approved to accept the resignation of Cindy Woodruff from the Board of Deacons effective October 12, 2020. Cindy is relocating to Vermont. Her position has been filled by the Nominating Committee.

Return to public worship – Session developed a plan and schedule to resume public worship. Phase 1 and 2 are now complete. Phase 3 will be implemented on October 18, 2020 which moves public worship from the Sanctuary to Memorial Hall. All safety protocols are in place. NOTE: OVPC facilities are still NOT open to OVPC or outside groups except for worship.

The Princeton First Call Pastoral Leadership Program – concludes on December 31, 2020. A Special Congregation Meeting will be held on November 15, 2020 at 10:30 am after worship in Memorial Hall. Detailed information will be mailed to members the first week of November. A quorum of 22 members is required to hold the meeting.

The Clerk presented the **Membership Review Report for 2020. MOTION** approved to accept the report and for the Clerk to send personal letters, to those not actively participating in our church community activities and not supporting our church, inquiring as to their interest in remaining on the roles of OVPC.

Session appreciates all the efforts from members and friends in keeping our facilities and campus sound and all that's involved in preparing for public worship. Thank You!

Session urges all committee chairs to get their Session reports to the office by the Wednesday before the Session Meeting: November 9th Session Meeting - reports are due November 4th.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer at 9:33 PM.

DEACON'S REPORT

Pam Price

Southern Delaware Education Foundation Deacons' Mission Project for November 2020

The Deacons' Mission Project for November 2020 is to provide financial support to the Southern Delaware Education Foundation.

The purpose of SDEF is to provide scholarships for workforce training and certification to those individuals in Southern Delaware who demonstrate a need for financial assistance. Areas of certification include, but are not limited to environmental, hospitality, business, medical/dental assistants, and early childhood.

The Southern Delaware Education Foundation started in July 2016. Bruce Hobler, from our congregation, is on the Board of the foundation. To date 21 students have graduated in paraprofessional occupations such as nurse's aide and legal aid. Students must provide 25% of the tuition so they have a personal stake in the program. All students are hired upon graduation.

To apply, student candidates must:

- live in Sussex county,
- fall within poverty standards as set by the federal government,
- get school approval for admission,
- have a reasonable expectation of employment or promotion after taking any class or training SDEF funds, and
- exhaust other sources for income, such as grants or scholarships, prior to applying to SDEF.

The success of SDEF and its scholarships depends on donations. Please consider a generous donation to this important mission anytime during the month of November. All offerings received in the November Deacon's Mission for SDEF will be help fund the financial assistance for those in need in Sussex county.

Thank you for your generosity.

Nov. 24th





Dave Sergison	Nov.	10th
Karen Colwill	Nov.	14th
Kerry Shull	Nov.	14th
Sandra Gayle	Nov.	15th
Bob Clark	Nov.	16th
Charles O'Neill	Nov.	16th
Marti Sommer	Nov.	16th
Tom Bentz	Nov.	20th
Bill Kester	Nov.	20th

Be careful how you live - you may be the only Bible some people read.

Joni and Ray Keller

YARN You Are Ready to Needle...

We continue to knit and crochet prayer shawls and give them to those in need of comfort. Please contact us if you know of someone who is in need of one. Lorie Hartsig and Kathy Sheetz.





Knitted by Carol Kester

A CHANCE TO HELP

Judy Reich

This has been a "crazy" and distressful year! But I hope, even with our restrictions, we can look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior, remembering that through it all God is still in charge.

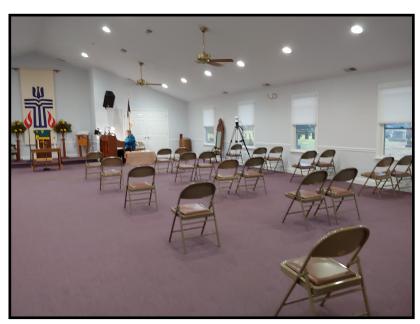
In anticipation of Christmas, we will be decorating our two worship settings (Memorial Hall and the Sanctuary) on November 25th at 9am. We are on a rather tight schedule with Thanksgiving service in MH on the 24th and Thanksgiving Day on the 26th and the first day of Advent on Nov. 29th!



If you are interested in helping and haven't already let Judy or Kathy Sheetz know, please just come on that day and we will put you to work!! Thank you in advance.

As the holidays approach, many of us are making difficult decisions regarding travel and family get-togethers. If you are staying in the area during November and December, please consider offering to usher for one of our Sunday morning services. We are working hard to keep our ushers safe in this confusing environment. We need extra help in order to insure the safety of all of our participants. Your help is needed. Please contact Judy so she can schedule your Sunday. And thank you!

Judy 302 547 6424 rjandjudyann@yahoo.com



Memorial Hall Sunday church service setup for social distancing. With this arrangement we can seat at least 40 worshippers not counting the "workers" (ushers, video people, speakers etc). Photo by Judy Reich

SEWING CIRCLE

Amy Peoples

The Sewing Circle of OVPC met via Zoom on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 12:45 PM. There were 14 in attendance. We had planned on meeting at 12:45 for a social time before the meeting started but it was cut short as people tried to get into the zoom meeting.

Moderator Elaine called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

Pastor Terry opened the meeting with a poem about hurrying by Marie Howe, followed by prayer.

Prayer, Elaine read a poem on Anxiety Around Election Day.

October Birthdays, Carole Trent 10/7, Elsie Young, 10/9, Lorie Hartsig 10/20

The secretary's minutes from the September 9, 2020 were approved as sent out electronically.

The Treasurer's Report, Balance on hand\$ 3,325.13. This was good news since now we will have funds for our Mission giving though not as much as in past years. Treasurer's report filed for audit.

Marti reported that she has asked The Reverend Doctor Tracy Keenan to pencil in the date of May 9, 2021 (Mother's Day) to speak at the Gifts of Women's service. She said she would. She was to have been our speaker this past May but because of virus it was cancelled.

The Circle Mission Committee will meet Thursday,. November 5, 2020 at 2:00 PM to discuss the Circle's mission giving for 2020. Lorie hoped that the same ladies will serve again on the Circle Mission Committee. They will meet by Zoom. Lorie will send the zoom information to the members. Lorie would like input from Circle members about areas they would like to have the Circle support next year with information about the mission before the November Mission Committee Meeting.

OVPC Mission Committee; Marlene reported that Dr. Karla Koll, who OVPC and the Sewing Circle have been supporting at the Latin American Biblical University in Costa Rica, have been having money problems since the Covid pandemic. The staff has taken pay cuts so that their mission can continue. This is an opportunity for our members to help by giving to this worthy project.

The idea of the Gift Market has been put on back burner for now because of Covid -19.

Bev reported that she had a call from a friend at the Society of St. Andrews in Staunton, VA. It is a nonprofit organization to end hunger through gleaning and distribution of food. There may be an opportunity for us to participate in Ellendale, DE in October. Bev will keep us up to date on this as she gets more information.

Sewing Circle Continued...

Report from Session; Karen Colwill reported that Session met with Christian Education Committee and Personnel Committee. The review of Pastor Terry will take place at next meeting.

The finance Committee will present the budget sheet next month.

Pastor Terry will be on vacation two weeks in November. The pulpit will be filled by the Stephen Ministry and pulpit supply the second week.

There will be a Congregational Meeting, election of new officers, on November 1 and we need 22 people for a quorum.

There will be a Congregational meeting on November 15, where we also need a quorum of 22. A letter will be coming to our homes soon about this meeting.

Sunday, October 18, 2020 will be our first Sunday in Memorial Hall.

Cindy Woodruff is moving to VT to be close to family, so her position on the Deacons needs to be filled and will be in November.

The garage roof that was damaged in the last hurricane will be repaired with a full new roof. The replacement has been OKed and work will begin soon.

Ellen reported that there will be a church social gathering on Saturday, October 31, 2020 3-SPM. Outside and all welcome, bring chairs and masks.

There are still no meetings being held in church buildings. Sunday the 18th will be big step forward. We are taking it slow.

Finances are in good shape, bills paid. A big thank you to members and friends,

Sunshine Committee, Marie was not able to be with us but reported she is sending cards each month. If anyone knows of someone who needs a card let her know.

Correspondence, None this month Unfinished Business;

The OVPC Annual Christmas Pot Luck Supper will not be held this year because of the Covid-19

but we will still bring gifts for The Way Home. Their needs this year are different from previous years, so Ellen will place a list in the bulletin and the church newsletter.

Kathy Sheetz reported that the new food cupboard should be finished in next two weeks, It will be called Blessings Cupboard. It will be placed outside church office. Kathy asked for and got many volunteers to make sure the cupboard is stocked. The first filling of the Blessing Cupboard will come from funds from the Princeton Support Team that gives funds to First Call Pastors (Pastor Terry). A note will be placed on it saying, "take what you need, Give what you can". Donations will be needed after this initial filling of the cupboard. Extra supplies will be stored in Stephen Ministry room. A list of needed foods will be put in

Sewing Circle Continued...

church bulletin and news letter. The program will be advertised locally when it is ready to start. A schedule for volunteers will be made up by Kathy.

Elaine reported that the Nominating Committee has made many calls to fill the position of Moderator and Secretary for next term but could not get volunteers. Elaine and Amy have said they would be willing to serve for an extra year.

Lorie made a motion seconded by Kathy that we lay aside the bylaws for a year and Elaine and Amy will serve for one more year as Moderator and Secretary of the Sewing Circle. Motion carried. The Nomination Committee will revisit this in 2021.

New Business;

Thank Offering... Since we cannot have our Thank offering service this year, on Sunday, November 1, 2020, Kathy will explain the Thank Offering and members will be asked to bring their offering to church office before the November 11,2020 Circle meeting. At the Circle meeting, Marti will have the dedication of the funds. Remember to have your coins changed into paper money or checks before November 11.

Reminder, Ash Wednesday is February 17, 2021.

Marlene made a motion, seconded by Marti that we will host the Ecumenical Lenten Luncheon if it is appropriate to hold, on date chosen, either February 24 or March 3 2021. Motion carried.

The Nativity Festival will beheld virtually this year. A video is being made and we will hear more as time gets closer. This is 10th Anniversary of Nativity Festival.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 11, 2020.

We than went to Bible Study led by Marti, lesson # 2" Into the Light; Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament."

Our meeting closed at 3:00 P, with the Mitzpah.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand (And Help Me Get Up)

Submitted by Elsie Young



On November 8th, our Stephen Ministers will lead worship, in recognition of the two year anniversary of commissioning of our first class. The Stephen Ministry team quickly adapted to using Zoom and has continued to meet twice a month for further study, for prayer, and for encouraging one another in this ministry. We look forward to celebrating this ministry with you.

Dale & Elaine Smith Stephen Leaders

NATIVITY FESTIVAL, VIRTUALLY

Bev and Don Bailey and Lorie and Jim Hartsig

BUMMER: That is how we feel about not having a Nativity Festival this year! But wait! A virtual 2020 Nativity Festival is in the works! It will be ready for its debut on December 4th at a rather unique premiere showing.....stay tuned. And you can find the **2020 Nativity** Festival, Virtually on the OVPC website on December 12th. You will not want to miss it!



MISSION COMMITTEE

Bev Bailey

Deadline coming for support of our Mission Co-Worker

Please remember **Rev. Dr. Karla Koll**, our mission co-worker living in San Jose, Costa Rica with your donations. Our congregation, through the Mission Committee with the Session's recommendation, has committed to provide \$1,250.00 again this year for the support of Karla Koll and her ministry at the University of Biblical Studies. Karla met with the Mission Committee in September; joined us in worship at OVPC on October 11, and came to our Fellowship Hour, also. She told us about her life and work with Covid 19, that all staff positions at the University have been moved to ½ time, and faculty salaries have been cut by 25% this Fall. Presbyterian World Mission has also cut their budget by 24% this year, so it is clear that our support is



necessary. If you have not given to Karla's Ministry, please consider this important work and write a check to OVPC, with Rev. Karla Koll in the memo line. Simply drop your check off in the mail box by the church office or mail it to OVPC, 67 Central Avenue, Ocean View, 19970. All donations must be in by November 30, as the amount is then sent to Presbyterian Mission in Louisville, for distribution. Thank you for your generosity.

Update on "Ignite" Grant Partnership with Westminster Presbyterian Church

The Mission Committee has received word from Mary Vane at Westminster Presbyterian in Wilmington that the check for \$18,500 from Ignite has arrived and has been processed and to the Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches. An announcement was made at the last New Castle Presbytery meeting. As mentioned last month, the money will be used to feed 60 families living in the war-torn area for six months. In addition, Wilmington, OVPC, and Beth Shalom Synagogue (another frequent partner with WPC) has donated \$4,100 to the Compassion Protestant Society in Beirut, to purchase four \$1000 debit cards to assist families who lost their homes in the explosion. Mary asked the Executive Director of CPS, Georges Ziadeh, how they determine which families get the support. He replied, "The families are divided into two categories: 1)families that NESSL and different Protestant churches recommend who need support. That includes 28 families. The second group are assessed by Beirut Forward Operation Room managed by the Lebanese army, the Red Cross, and the civil defense This group numbers 100 at this time. He hopes to send us pictures of the four families who receive our aid, which will be published in a future newsletter. We are grateful for the opportunity to help our Syrian and Lebanon neighbors.

MISSION COMMITTEE

OVPC Annual Christmas Mission

THE WAY HOME

The Way Home meets former prisoners at the prison gates and the office door to provide connections with community, meet needs, and foster relationships that prevent return to prison.

Each Christmas season, OVPC collects items to support the Way Home. The Way Home is an organization based in Georgetown, Delaware, serving people recently released from Sussex Correctional Institute.

Please support this mission by donating the following unused items:

<u>Men</u>

Jeans - Size 34 and larger
Hooded zipped sweatshirts - Size L to XXLG
Socks, Undershirts and Underwear - Size L to XXLG
Reusable grocery or tote bags
Gently used work boots

Things Not Needed

Button up and collared shirts

Hats, scarves, gloves

Toiletries

Please place items under the large tree in Memorial Hall by Monday, December 14.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ellen Neumann at 302 - 537 - 1347.

Thank you for your continuing support of this mission.

needed. One white, king size, flat bed sheet.
Contact Lorie and Jim Hartsig



CROP WALK

Bob Doherty

The 32nd annual S/E. Sussex Co. crop walk was held on Sunday Oct. 18th. at Our Lady of Guadalupe RC. Church's parking.

The weather could not have been better. There were about fifty people who walked, of that eighteen walked on behalf of OVPC, eleven members and seven guests.

Before the walk started there was a brief prayer and after we were entertained by a band from St. Ann's who played soft rock. I really enjoyed listening to it play.

As soon as I have the total for OVPC. and the walks' grand total I will let everyone know. I want to thank all the walkers and everyone who made a donation .

CROP = Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty





SCAMS TO WATCH OUT FOR

From AARP

Beware of Robocalls, Texts and Emails Promising COVID-19 Cures or Stimulus Payments.

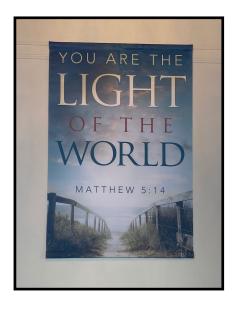
In-demand products and bogus cures.

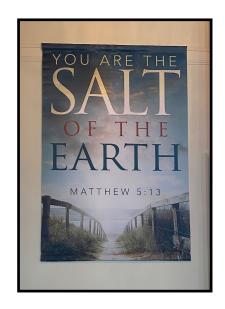
No vaccines or drugs have been approved specifically to treat or prevent COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. That hasn't stopped fraudsters from flooding consumers with pitches for phony remedies.

Tech Support Scam Defrauds 'Hundreds of Elderly and Vulnerable Victims'

Authorities called it a large-scale international ring of "ruthless scammers" preying mostly on older Americans. Bad actors pretended to be from tech companies such as Microsoft. They warned consumers of security threats to their computer devices. To fix what were bogus problems, consumers coughed up hundreds of dollars — or thousands — for unneeded technical-support services.

According to the court documents, it worked like this: Pop-up messages falsely styled to appear from well-known tech companies, such as Microsoft or Apple, induced consumers to pay for unneeded tech support. Victims were given a toll-free phone number to reach a live agent so to remedy the bogus problem; that person would be in an Indian call center and ask for permission to access the computer device remotely to "diagnose" the purported issue.





SHARING PANTRY

Kathy Sheetz

Nearing Completion

As you can see, The "Sharing Pantry" is almost complete and will be ready for items to stock it soon. The Princeton Support Team is funding this endeavor and providing only the initial amount of money for the pantry. We need our congregation to help with providing for food - insecure folks of our community by donating the following items and bringing them to the church and placing them in a plastic container at the door of FC under the breezeway near MH. The following list is what we need: canned soup, canned tuna, canned fruit, and baked beans, applesauce, Mac & Cheese boxes, jello, pasta, Spaghetti sauce, small boxes of cereal, rice, peanut butter and jelly, Protein bars, paper towels and bottles of water. As we go along we'll see which items are more popular than others, and perhaps amend the list. Thank you for providing these needed articles as we put to practice what it means to be a Matthew 25 church!









FROM THE DESK OF

Tom Bentz

There is just nothing as good as a hug!

or as a hand-sanitizing
heart-to-heart
hands-off,
safe enough 6-foot distance through my
window
watching over the sparrow
who flew from the perch on our porch feeder,
slammed into the window
between the wild
and the retired,
and knocked itself
down and out
on its back on the table outside the window.

Then it shook a skinny leg, and took a breath while I watched over it, contemplating a funeral and burial, until, ten still minutes later, it flipped upright, shook its head, looked right, and took flight out of sight of this feeder of the free world who might have led it last rites with this birdsong:

https://youtu.be/WQT2T7Kx9hs

Mask,

(or it shall be given unto you) and sing along as if your lungs depend on it:

https://youtu.be/ltjBT_TuUVA

Phantom of the Stoppera

it was outlaw
me out there up in the air
on the ladder
with my chain saw
and trembling limbs
as I saw
the twilight tonight
dim my trimmed bushes
and trembling limbs . . .

Veni, Vidi, Vici!

Julius Seesaw by the sea



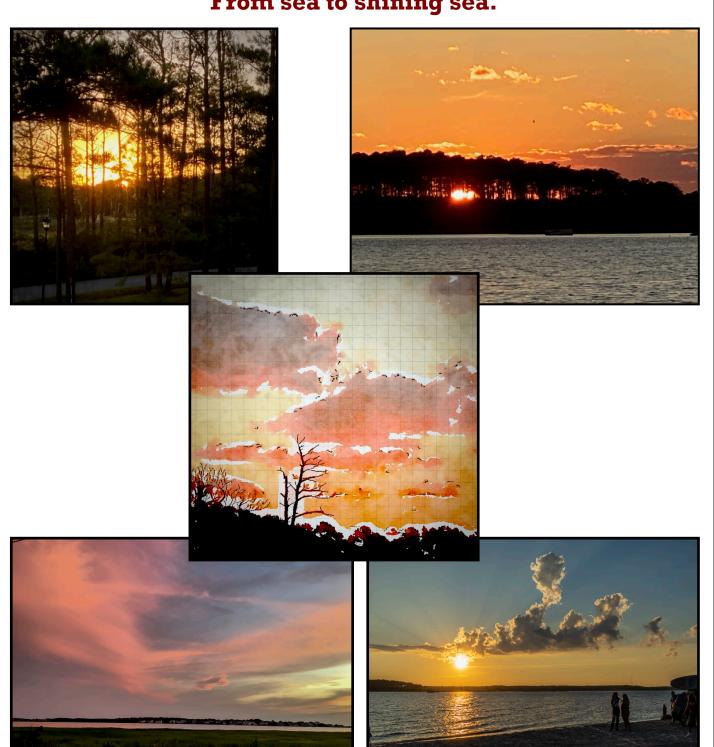
Nothing would be decliner than to be in (or in spittle distance of) church in Carolina in the mourning:

https://www.aol.com/article/lifestyle/ 2020/10/25/north-carolina-church-ordered-toclose-due-to-virus-outbreak/24662497/

PHOTOGENIC

Lorie and Jim Hartsig

And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea.





OCEAN VIEW

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