



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DECEMBER 2020



FROM THE PASTOR: TERRY DOUGHERTY

The Word of God is asleep in those who do not believe and in all those of doubtful heart, while it is awake in the saints. It sleeps in those who are shaken by storms, but it awakes the moment they cry out – those who want to be saved. Origen

Greetings in Christ, Dear Friends, and welcome to Advent!

I think one of the reasons most of us have an ambivalent relationship with Advent, and especially with its dour feel when compared to an onrushing Christmas (why can't we sing carols??) is how truth-filled a season it is. Not just because it is brimming with warnings and woes – which it is! – but because it cycles back again and again all our lives; a penitential pain to temper our justice joy. In any ordinary life, of an ordinary length, we can rightly expect tremendous joy and overwhelming grief; transcendent hope and crushing despair. All of them can be analyzed and explained in so many ways, but all fit into our paradoxical “human condition”. *“The coming of Advent jolts the church out of Ordinary Time with the invasive news that it is time to think about fresh possibilities for deliverance and human wholeness” – Feasting on the Word Advent Companion, p. ix.*

Those of us trained in theology have for many years now framed this in the great paradox of the “already/not yet”: Christ has indeed come, 2,000 years ago and today, bringing God's kingdom on earth – but, His winsome, grace-filled refusal to cajole or enforce our allegiance means He is also always “just arriving” to a reluctant, sin-crossed humanity that fears Him as much as it loves Him.

Fleming Rutledge, in her Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ, quotes Karl Barth, with some editing (and in brackets, my normalizing of masculine pronouns), on p. 60:

“When... any one of us...looks up to Him, to Jesus Christ, a momentous change takes place...A great and enduring light brightly dawns on such a person...Such a person experiences joy in the middle of [their] sorrows and sufferings, much as [they] still may sigh and grumble. Not a cheap and superficial joy that passes, but deep-seated, lasting joy. It transforms [a person] in [thei] sadness into a fundamentally joyful being. We may as well admit it; [they have] something to laugh at...honest and sincere laughter, from the bottom of [the] heart. Such light and joy and

laughter are ours when we look up to Him, to Jesus Christ. He is the One who makes us radiant”.

But we can't sustain that, can we? Most of us – nearly all of us – simply haven't got the discipline to never look away, to never be distracted. Especially when the world is ever with us...

The time to look, the time to gaze without distraction has “come near, and indeed is here”. Right here, and right now, in this long and painful season of coronavirus, the promise of Advent and of Christmas which follows could not be more urgent. God has something far better for us than the mess we have made for ourselves. We will, though, need to turn back to God (that is the prominent meaning of the Greek *metanoia*, which we translate “repent”: a turning back, a change of mind), turn back with trust and expectation, AND be willing to wait. The unwillingness to wait, to be patient for our spiritual maturity to at last match our created abilities, is at the crux of our fallenness – just ask our first parents, whose impatience got them banished from the garden! This is a time for spiritual sobriety, yes, and for social patience and forbearance, and for rigorous self-examination. As mentioned above, we forget that Advent, right into the modern age, was a penitential season.

Our collective and personal roles in what is and has been wrong need to be addressed, and regretted, for the sake of our collective and personal growth in the ways and Way of God. When we can forsake advantage and difference in favor of humility, justice and mercy, we can train our eyes and maintain our focus on what is so much more, so much better, so much joy!

Because, friends, we needn't lose sight that this is a season that ends in joy; we needn't engage the old practice of pretending we Don't know all of salvation history for a month every year! This season ends at the birthplace of a baby beloved by earthly and celestial parents, and in a heaven and earth besotted with praise-filled song. So, too, will our season of coronavirus end, at length; but all our willing and all our faith and all our doing must be *toward* that, for the sake of Jesus who loves all of us. To quote our lovely hymn (# 539), “we will go out with joy”! And to quote every angel, and Jesus Himself, “Do not be afraid”!

In Christ's peace, and in Christ's joy.



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
Mike Quinn

Newsletter Editors
Lorie and Jim Hartsig

SESSION REPORT

Karen Colwill, Clerk of Session

The **Session of OVPC** met on Monday, November 16, 2020, via ZOOM.

Rev. Terry Dougherty, Moderator, opened with prayer and devotions at 7:10 PM.

Orders of the Day:

We welcomed Marti Sommer, Personnel Chair, to our meeting. Marti presented updates on staff reviews and proposed salary increases. **MOTION** approved to award a 1.3% SSA COLA to the Music Director and the Administrative Assistant.

Session performed Pastor Terry's performance review.

MOTION passed to approve the minutes of the **October 12, 2020 and the November 1, 2020 Session Meetings.**

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

Session requested the Facilities Chair (Pam Price) to contact Integrity Cleaning to reduce the cleaning frequency to one a week until our facilities are open for full use.

Pastor Terry's report was received.

The **Monthly Committee Reports** were received.

Deacons is redirecting the Pentecost local mission allocation from the 'Pathways to Success Program' at Cape Henlopen High School, since the program is suspended due to Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions, to the food distribution project with Selbyville Middle School.

Finance Committee update:

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

- 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 distributed the **2021 Budget Worksheets** to all Committee Chairs.
- **Thank You to OVPC members and friends** for your continued financial commitment during this pandemic !

Return to public worship – Session developed a plan and schedule to resume public worship. Phase 1 and 2 are now complete. **Phase 3 was implemented on October 18, 2020** moving

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. OVPC continues to monitor and comply with the State of Delaware regulations.

The Princeton First Call Pastoral Leadership Program – concludes on December 31, 2020. The two motions, brought forward to the congregation at the Special Congregation Meeting held November 15, 2020, were approved for OVPC to continue in ministry with Pastor Dougherty and the 2021 Terms of Call. Pastor Terry will document his response in writing to the Clerk by December 15, 2020.

Mission Committee recommended that Session commit to be a Matthew 25 church. Session decided to table the decision while we learn more about what this commitment means and look at our current and forward-looking ministries. The leadership retreat, scheduled for the end of January, will be heavily concentrated on Matthew 25. It was further decided that because this is such an important topic, those parts of the retreat will be opened to all church leadership. There was much interest and discussion and the overwhelming response is that if we pursue this we want to 'do it right' and have it be an exciting venture for the entire congregation.

The Virtual 2020 Nativity Festival will premiere at OVPC outside on December 4, 2020 at 5:30 pm. Watch for more details in the bulletin, newsletter, and the OVPC website.

The SESM virtual Thanksgiving Service, on Tuesday, November 24th, will be conducted at OVPC with minimal participants and no worshipers. The service will be available on YouTube.

The Deacon's 2021 Monthly Mission scheduled was accepted.

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: **December 14th Session Meeting - reports are due November 9th.**

The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer at 10:21 PM



DEACONS

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering is our Mission project for the month of December.

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. This offering distributes gifts to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian related racial and ethnic schools and colleges.

\$1.3 million of gifts from the 2019 offering were used to provide critical financial support for current and retired Presbyterian workers in their times of need. This offering provides financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. In 2019, 644 households were helped through the Board of Pensions Assistance Programs. These programs provide income supplements, housing supplements and emergency grants.

\$1.1 million of gifts from 2019 were used to provide education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian related schools and colleges. Future church leaders of color can receive much needed financial assistance while they pursue their professional goals at these schools and colleges. Many of these students are the first in their families to enroll in higher education.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected during the month of December. Please prayerfully consider supporting this important mission project. Thank you.



<u>Month</u>	<u>2021 Monthly Missions *</u>
January	Gift of Time
February	Souperbowl Sunday
March	One Great Hour of Sharing
April	Crisis House
May	Pentecost Offering
June	La Esperanza
July	Operation Seas the Day**
August	Pyle Center Emergency Fund
September	Milford Housing Dev. Corp.
October	Peacemaking & Global Witness
November	So. Delaware Ed. Foundation
December	Joy Offering



Bob Wolf	Dec. 7th
Karen Rubin Hamilton	Dec. 15th
Patrick Read	Dec. 18th
Kathy Sheetz	Dec. 20th
Eric Neumann	Dec. 20th
Pam Price	Dec. 29th

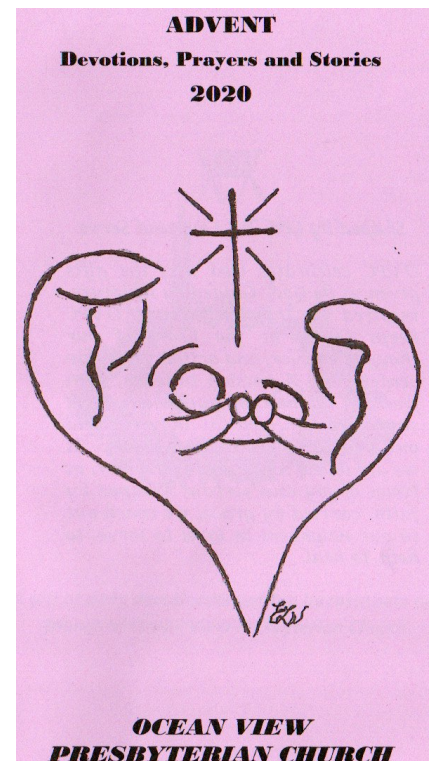
Beverly Stalnaker and Kerry Shull
Peggy and Bill Wivel

Dec. 2nd
Dec. 4th

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Elsie Young

By the time you read this, you should be using your Advent Devotional. The “Worker Bees” have been humming to get this “honey” into your hands . To all who look forward to this annual Devotional, I pray that you will find some Hope, Peace, Joy and Love as Christmas approaches. I have heard it said that this has been a difficult year to write, but God has blessed once again. Thanks to all who have made this treasure possible!





CROP WALK

Bob Doherty

The 32nd annual S/E Sussex Co. crop walk was held on Sunday Oct. 18th, 2020. The walk's grand total is \$14,600. Of that OVPC and friends raised \$4,545.

Twenty five percent of the grand total will stay in Sussex County and will be equally divided between the Ministerium churches that have food pantries. The remaining 75 percent will be used by Church World Services [CWS] to support their missions here at home and all around the world.

I would like to thank everyone who walked and those who donated to make this year's walk a success.

CROP = Communities Responding To Overcome Poverty

Thank You, Bob Doherty



But we
ALWAYS sit
in the back!

Why do we seat folks from the front?
We have carefully measured how far apart each chair is placed. We are trying to avoid walking between the rows or passing by the end seats, in order to maintain the 6 ft safe distancing recommendation.
Our goal is to create the safest environment possible for you and for the ushers.



From Judy

SEWING CIRCLE

Amy Peoples

The Sewing Circle of OVPC met Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 12:45 by Zoom. We had 15 minutes for social time before the meeting started and we were glad to welcome Flora Beaver, past member and past moderator from her home in PA.

Moderator Elaine opened the meeting at 1:00PM. There were 15 in attendance. Moderator Elaine read the 100th Psalm as our opening prayer.

Birthdays in November: Karen Colwill, 11/14 and Marti Sommer, 11/16.

The secretary's minutes were approved as mailed electronically.

Treasurer's Report, Balance on hand: \$3945.13 checking, \$3358.87 CD. Report filed for audit.

Reports:

Lorie reported that the Mission Committee met and they made the following recommendations for Circle Giving:

DISBURSEMENTS for 2021 from WOMEN'S CIRCLE TREASURY

International Giving

RWANDA JOY \$250

KARLA KOLL \$500

National Giving

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN \$350

Local Giving

DREAMERS \$500

MEALS ON WHEELS \$200

PYLE CENTER DAY CARE \$500

LIGHT HOUSE FOR BROKEN WINGS \$250

THE WAY HOME \$300

TOTAL \$2850

Lorie made a motion seconded by Marlene, that we accept the disbursement proposal of the Mission Committee and give \$2850.00 to the following organizations or people, RwandaJoy, \$250.00, Karla Koll, \$500.00, Presbyterian Woman Pledge, \$350.00, Dreamers, \$500.00, Meals on Wheels, \$200.00, Pyle Center Day Care Center, \$500.00, Light House for Broken Wings, \$250.00, and the Way Home, \$300.00. Motion passed unanimously.

The Circle thanks the committee, Lorie, Marti, Bev, Elaine, and Marlene for their work.

There was money left in the Pathways to Success fund, about \$320.00, since meals for children were not able to be taken to Cape Henlopen School because of COVID 19. These monies will be used to fix food baskets for the needy for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Sewing Circle continued...

OVPC Mission Report:

The Blessing Cupboard is functional and almost ready for public use.

Nativity Festival is in planning stage.

The work is continuing on the labyrinth.

The Syrian- Lebanon Partner Network has sent \$20,000 to feed families and \$4,000 in gift cards for repairs to their homes.

Sunshine:

Marie continues to send cards and notes to shut-ins and those who have moved away from area. These notes are so appreciated.

Correspondence:

Amy reported that we had thank you from Pastor Terry for his birthday gift, a thank you for a Prayer Shawl from Regina Trodden, a friend of Sue Baer, a note of thanks for the cards Marie sends her from Carol Kratch, a former Sewing Circle member, and Flora asked Amy to "remember her to the lovely people at OVPC". Amy has heard from Elaine and Bob Jackson and they wanted to say hello to their OVPC family. Many asked that their address in Pennsylvania be put in minutes. It is as follows;

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jackson, 433 South Kinzer Avenue, Apt.429GS, New Holland, PA 17557

Thank Offering:

Marti reported that \$31,000.00 was given nationally and internationally around the world in 2020 from Thank Offering givings. As of today we have received\$ 627.00 from our Circle members. Marti had a prayer of dedication of the Thank Offering.

The Way Home:

We will bring gifts for the Way Home even though we will not have our OVPC Christmas Potluck. Gifts are to be placed near the Well in Memorial Hall. The Deacons voted at their last meeting to give the funds from the October Minute for Mission to The Way Home

Nativity Festival:

The plans for the Nativity Festival are being put together. Because of COVID-19 it must be held virtually but the committee has rallied around and it should be as inspirational virtually as in person . Stay tuned for more information, the pieces are coming together,

OVPC Blessings Cupboard:

The cupboard is stocked and ready for the sign to be put up at church, hopefully Saturday. It has been publicized in Lord Baltimore School resource letter and many other places. Marie will see if she can get the Coastal Point to come and take pictures or at least give us some publicity. There is extra food stored in Fellowship Hall in the Stephen Ministry Room . If you volunteered to help keep it stocked you are on duty from Sunday till Saturday. If you need more information contact Karen Colwill or Kathy Sheetz.

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

Ecumenical Luncheon to be determined but we voted to do if it is held.

Sue Rizer thanked us all so much for our support of Rwanda Joy. Like other organizations they have been suffering with lack of funds because of COVID-19. The children are back in

Sewing Circle continued...

school but food costs have gone sky high and that has added to their problems. A young man who graduated from their school is a photographer and his pictures had a showing in Brookville, PA last week. Good things are happening.

Lord Baltimore Elementary School Family---Christmas Gifts:

Kathy has visited the school and found 5 families, 11 children. They have written the ages and wants of the children. Elaine is going to send out a sheet to us with children's ages and desires. You could team up with someone to buy gifts or go on your own. Please contact Kathy for information and for signing up. Gifts can be brought to church. Kathy will give us the date she will be taking the items to the school. They are to be put in large garbage bags. Many people volunteered to purchase gifts at meeting.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Since there was no further business we went on to Bible Study, Chapter 3 led by Bev Bailey. After Bible Study we adjourned after saying the MITZPAH.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Peoples, secretary

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Bev Bailey

About ten years ago Kathy Sheetz asked me if I would like to have a stove and sink that Herb had made for their grandchildren, who had now outgrown them. I jumped at the chance and took home two wonderful play items that have been used and loved by my grandchildren over the years. I have added a set of dishes and pots and pans, and a set of food to the mix, and our grands have been playing restaurant every time they visit us. They are painted white and a great item to add to your playroom. Kathy said for me to pass them on when we are finished with them, and so I offer them to you.....They are small pieces of furniture...a perfect size for a preschooler and on up. Please give Bev Bailey a call if you'd like to have the perfect Christmas gift for someone you love. But hurry...they're too great to pass up!! And I will pass them on to Frankford Thrift Shop if I don't get a "taker".



Advent Times of Prayer

“Hope”

Thursdays - December 3, 10 and 17
6:00 pm to 6:30 pm
OVPC Sanctuary and on Zoom

Each Time of Prayer will include **Prayers of Intercession**, a short **Homily** and **Personal Meditation and Prayer**.

We are thankful for those who continue to provide a safe environment for the Self Guided Meditation and Prayer times on Thursday nights. They have offered their time slot (and help!) for the Advent Times of Prayer for three Thursdays in Advent.

We welcome you to join us in the Sanctuary, or join us on Zoom, and we believe these will be special times for your spiritual journey to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul
and sings the tune without the words
and never stops at all.
Emily Dickinson





* CALL TO WORSHIP (Liturgist)

L: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: Who made heaven and earth.

L: We come to worship God in our need,

C: Grateful that our God, in Christ, knows human need.

L: We come to God with our fear – and with our hope.

C: We come as one people, leaning on each other and on the God who hears, and answers.

ALL: Come, let us worship the God of our salvation!

SILENT MEDITATION (Liturgist) (selections from “Glory to God”, Hymn #727)

Will you let me be your servant ... let me be as Christ to you?

We are pilgrims on a journey; we’re together on the road.

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.

Will you let me be your servant ... let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I might have the grace to to let you be my servant, too.

Text Richard Gillard, copyright 1977 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing



FROM THE DESK OF Gloria Bartholomew

Push My Buttons Prayer – by Rev. Austin Fleming, formerly of the Holy Family Catholic Church, Concord MA
Lord, it's likely that sometime today
someone will push my buttons
challenge my good will
misread my intentions
tick me off
try my patience
rattle my cage
judge me in haste
test my kindness
or do all of the above...

Give me the grace I'll need at such times
to respond with patience
to trust and accept
to listen carefully
to reach out in peace
to be fair and just
to anticipate goodness
in all my words and deeds...
I know this is a lot to ask, Lord,
but I need your help
to do for others
as I'd have them do for me...
Amen.



*Rev. Dr. Karla Ann Koll
Serving in San Jose, Costa Rica
Latin American Biblical University
Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission
Co-worker*

Dear companions in mission,

Watch and wait. Toward the end of the gospel according to Mark, in the text the lectionary offers us for the first Sunday in Advent, Jesus tells his followers to watch and wait when they hear news of events that cause human suffering. The Son of Man, the Human One, is coming, but no one knows when.

Watch and wait. It seems I have been watching and waiting through recent weeks. In November, we watched and waited as first Hurricane Eta and then Hurricane Iota, fed by the warm waters of the Caribbean, churned away before making landfall in northern Nicaragua and tearing across Central America. There is no need to wait any long for the impacts of climate change; they are already here.

Watch and wait. In many places in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, people are watching and waiting for the flood waters to recede to see if there is anything left of their homes, their farms, their dreams. In crowded and makeshift shelters they are watching and waiting for help to arrive. Weak governments riddled with corruption have little ability to respond to the magnitude of the need. Presbyterian World Mission and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance are moving to send initial solidarity grants to mission partner institutions in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. Please follow the link below for more information about how you can help in these efforts.

Watch and wait. The whole world is watching the surging Covid-19 pandemic. The daily figures for new infections and deaths from the United States are greater now than for the entire ten-month course of the pandemic here in Costa Rica. My Facebook feed is once again full of news of friends and family members of friends who have fallen ill or who have died from the virus. The whole world is waiting for the vaccines, though in these small countries of Central America there are many questions about who will have access and when. It seems many people have grown tired of waiting to be with family and friends. Just as in the United States, small social gatherings are the greatest factor in the spread of the disease here.

Watch and wait. Professors watch and wait while students prepare final papers at the end of the academic year. This year there are more obstacles than usual: a laptop ruined by flood waters, marches to protest the removal of Peru's president by that country's congress, and Covid-19 infections. Yet our students press on, believing that theological studies will be a light for their path into the future. Registration for the coming academic year is now open here at the Latin American Biblical University.

Watch and wait with thanksgiving. I am thankful for many things during this pandemic, not in any particular order. For this beautiful house and garden that have been our refuge and shelter. For the many species of birds who visit daily. For conversations with our daughter. For our dogs and my cat who accompany me. For my colleagues at the Latin American Biblical University who are giving so much of themselves in spite of restrictions and salary cuts. For my students who reward my efforts with ever more profound questions. For the technology that allows me to connect with students, churches and friends around the world.

I am also grateful for those who are reading this letter. Your prayers and gifts make it possible for me to continue to serve here in Costa Rica with Presbyterian World Mission, despite all the shifts and changes the pandemic has brought. I hope by God's grace and with your support that I can continue accompanying our students in the coming year.

As I close, I want to share a special announcement. My husband, Javier Torrez, has spent this time of staying at home by organizing the poems he has written over the decades to publish in a book. Through his poetry, Javier tells the story of his generation of Nicaraguan Christians whose faith moved them to get involved in the revolutionary struggle. He also touches on other parts of his life, including our decision to join our lives together and start a family. The final poems in the collection denounce the current dictatorship in Nicaragua. Javier will be presenting his book via Zoom and Facebook live on Saturday, December 5th, at 2:00 PM. Let me know if you would like information about how to join the celebration, which will be in Spanish.

Watch and wait. With the start of Advent a new liturgical year begins, even though the calendar says there is still a month left to go in 2020. The new emerges within the old, if we can perceive it. Watch and wait is not a passive stance, but rather a call to an active yearning for a world renewed. The Human One is coming; we are not left on our own.

In Advent hope.

MINISTRY TO REV. DR. KARLA KOLL

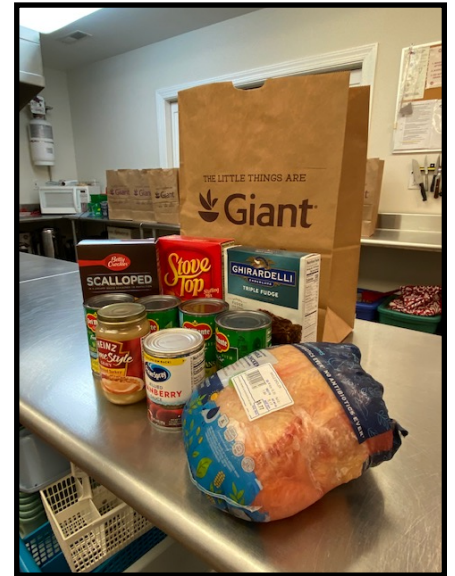
Thanks to all of you who have supported Karla Koll this past year. We have so enjoyed her Zoom visits and the opportunities to talk to her and hear about her ministry in Costa Rica. And we have good news!! OVPC's goal through the Mission Committee of annual support of \$1,250.00 has been met and surpassed. We have a total of \$1,300.00 to send to Presbyterian Mission and then on to Karla. Thanks to all of you who supported her ministry in 2020.



KITCHEN MINISTRY

In 2019, the Congregation of Ocean View Presbyterian Church was invited to partner with Pathways to Success. Pathways provided a program for at risk children through the county with Cape Henlopen being the nearest school. 21 members of the Congregation volunteered to prepare a meal once a month for these students. A financial contribution was made by one member to cover the cost through the 2019-2020 school year.

The meals were prepared and delivered through February 2020. Covid hit and this specific program had to be terminated. Pathways was contacted throughout the months to see what other ways we could help. Pathways has a list of 20 families in need. With the remainder of the initial contribution plus additionally directed funds and the contribution of 10 chickens from Giant, we will be providing Thanksgiving dinner to these 20 families.



Prayerfully, we will continue our affiliation with Pathways and resume our Kitchen Ministry when it is safe to do so.



Guatemala Partnership
of New Castle Presbytery

Thank you!

Because of your generosity, we were able to deliver an incredible 525 [Emergency food kits](#) to vulnerable families in Guatemala, providing a month's worth of food for 2,700 people. This number shattered our original goal of a mere 100 food kits, and we are so grateful that **each and every** woman in the Association has now received one. This outpouring of support came from more than 100 individuals and 14 churches, as well as from New Castle Presbytery. We also want to recognize the exceptional work of our in-country partners, CEDEPCA and the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development, for making this project possible.

So what is next, you ask? Egg-laying chickens, of course!

To date, 140 women of the Association have also received a set of three egg-laying chickens to complement their food kit. These chickens will provide a sustainable source of protein for a family - producing more than a dozen eggs every week. We are now working to ensure that the remaining 385 women also receive chickens. Watch your inbox on Giving Tuesday when we launch this campaign for the Advent season. (Hint: Makes a great holiday gift!).



LABYRINTH PROJECT

Mike Read

We have exciting news! It is an idea that came about over the summer from a meeting with the Pastor Support Team and the Mission Committee. OVPC is considering construction of a labyrinth (and Meditation Garden) across the street on the vacant lot that was purchased a couple of years ago. It will be a lasting gift to the entire beach community! By the end of 2020, we expect to have an architect's rendering of the design available for viewing. Funds for the project will come from a variety of sources, including the Princeton Project, grants, donations, fundraising events, and support from neighboring churches. We are putting together a Task Force of people who would like to be involved in the many aspects of Labyrinth. If you would be interested, please contact Mike or Jen Read, Bev Bailey, or Dale Smith for more information.

Meet Me at The Manger



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020—2:00 PM

**ON THE GROUNDS OF BETHANY BEACH CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

(ACROSS FROM BETHANY BEACH TOWN HALL)

**In event of inclement weather, we will meet in the large round
building on the grounds of Bethany Beach Christian Church.**



FOR ALL AGES



SCRIPTURE READINGS



**CAROLS (Music provided by St. Ann's Contemporary Music
Ensemble)**

**SPONSORED BY THE CHURCHES OF THE
SOUTHEAST SUSSEX MINISTERIUM**



Please help a senior citizen smile this holiday season!

Operation Christmas CHEER

We are asking the Sussex County Community to help us fill the sleigh so that each senior receiving a meal on Christmas day can have a gift along with their meal.

You can help by bringing a generic wrapped gift with a tag indicating whether your gift is for a senior male, female, or either?

The Senior Sleigh will kick off November 23, 2020 and gifts will be accepted until December 18, 2020.

Gift Ideas....

Sweat Shirts
Socks
1 Size Fits All Slippers
Hats and/or Gloves
Scarves
Fragrance Gift Sets

Disposable Razors
Food or Beverage Sets
Shampoo & Body Wash
Personal Items
Deodorant & Soap
Face Cloths

Towels
Lap Robes
Gift Certificates
Candy
Adult Coloring Books
with Markers

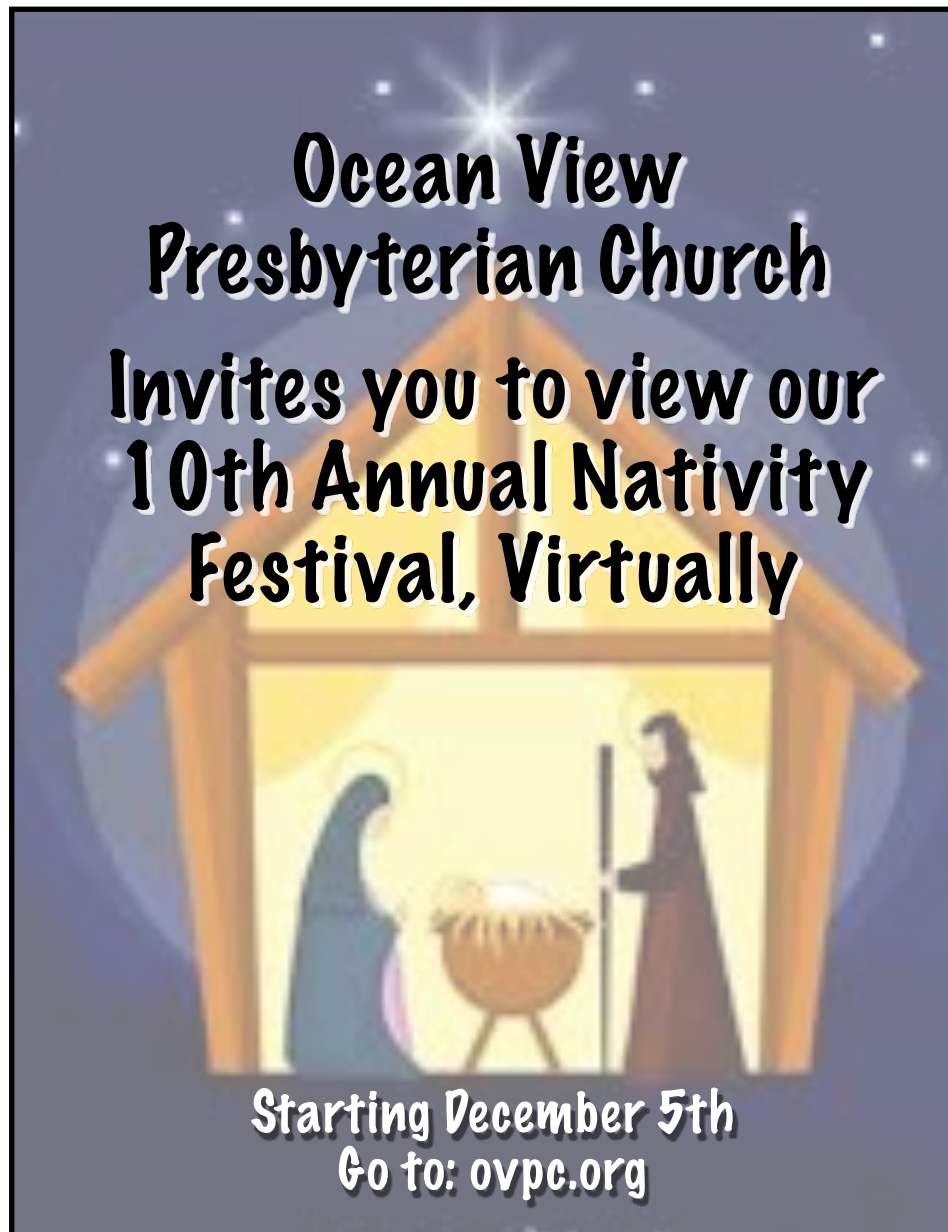


MEALS on WHEELS

Sussex County, DE at **CHEER**

TOGETHER, WE CAN DELIVER.





On December 5th, Ocean View Presbyterian Church will release its TENTH ANNUAL NATIVITY FESTIVAL, DIGITALLY on the church's website. ovpc.org. Because of Covid restrictions, this festival, usually held in Memorial Hall on the church campus and a much-anticipated community favorite, will be online this year. As in past years, creches from many countries, music from the talented OVPC musicians, Kathy Rhodes and Eric Neumann, and this year, spoken stories about some of the manger scenes, will be featured. As Elsie Young, the Festival's originator has said, "We do this as a gift to the community to start the Christmas season. Because we get so busy during the holiday season, it is important for people to take the time to look at the different creches.....to talk about them." This year the event can be enjoyed over and over from the comfort of one's home, just by going to the church's website. Have a glass of hot cider and enjoy. To view the video, starting Dec. 5th, go to OVPC.org and click on the Nativity Festival icon.



From the AARP newsletter.

Unfortunately, one of our AARP members had her email hacked. She was “notified by Yahoo” saying that she needed to update to the latest version. She did what she supposed was a legitimate request and her contact information was hacked.

Covid Scam

The email message began:

“How are you? I need a favor from you.

Sorry for the inconvenience. I need to get an eBay gift card for my nephew, its his birthday but i can't do this now because I'm seriously ill and my doctor said I should stay indoors for some reasons. I have tried to purchase it online but unfortunately no luck with that, can you get it from any store around you? I'll reimburse you as soon as possible. let me know if you can handle this.”

I replied to the message very late at night saying that I would get back to her in the morning. This is the next message that I received:

“Yes, I just contracted COVID-19 and I'm self isolated and I will be fine soon.

The amount needed on the gift card is \$200. My nephew told me to scratch the back of the card to reveal the pin and then take a snapshot of it and forward it to him online, you will do that and send it to me here online so that I can forward it to him as he said, he says that is the easiest way to get it to him. I will be glad if you can get it as soon as possible. Please keep me updated thanks.”

I DID NOT fall for this and contacted the sender directly when I noticed that the email address listed for her was different from her actual address. She told me that she had been hacked.

I understand that other of her friends listed in her contact information have received similar messages. Unfortunately, two of her friends DID fall victim to this scam.

I implore you to be very vigilant about messages that you receive. If asked to purchase any type of gift card, call your friend or family member directly before acting on the request. Chances are it is a scam. Very unscrupulous people are preying on the generosity and kindness of the good people in the world.

May and October, the best-smelling months? I'll make a case for December: evergreen, frost, wood smoke, cinnamon.

FROM THE DESK OF TOM BENTZ

the hills are still alive
with the sound of music
of ballots
and ballads
ringing in,

Baron von Bent

This from Robert Francis:

Nothing is far that once was near.
Nothing is hid that once was clear.
Nothing was God that is not here.
or in the story there
and here
on the west
or the east
& the best
side
of Delaware
or where
you are:

<https://youtu.be/FOOPMjKLOOUr>

Former West Sider

When I was going out in Wisconsin,
a colleague carved me a tree ring
with a crack in it
and these words on it:

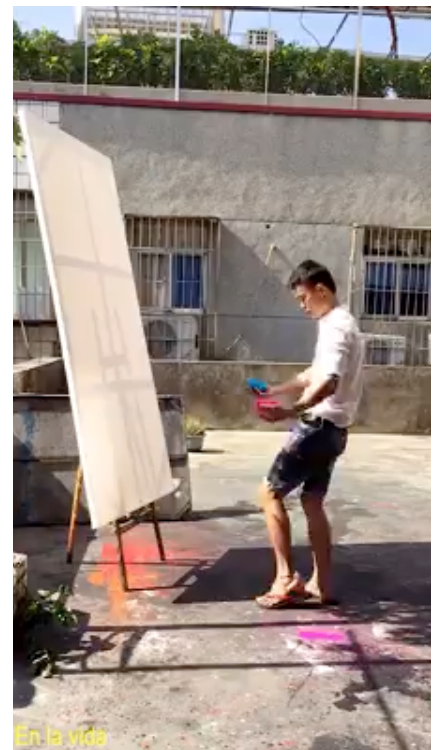
There's a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in

so we can see
we are not all we are cracked up to be
until we
and the country
let the light in, through, and beyond the
cracks:

<https://youtu.be/mDTph7mer3I>

casting our light & lot
with Joe & Kamalot

Take this
splash
of color
and valor
amid the present
pallor,
and make yours
from your palette
as a castor
if not a master of art
and grace
in this place
and slime . . .



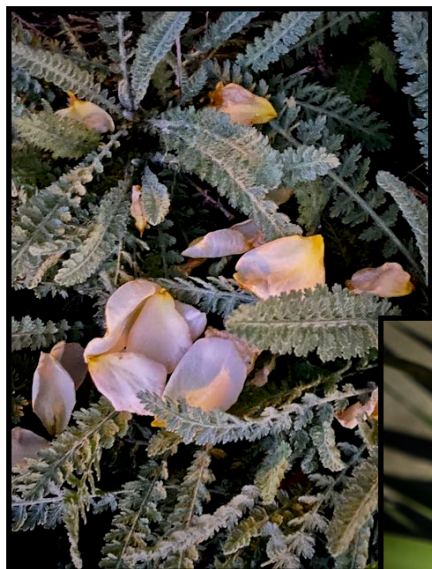
En la vida

Click on image to play the video

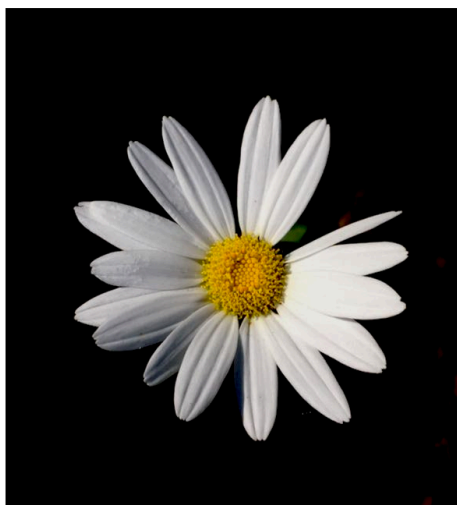
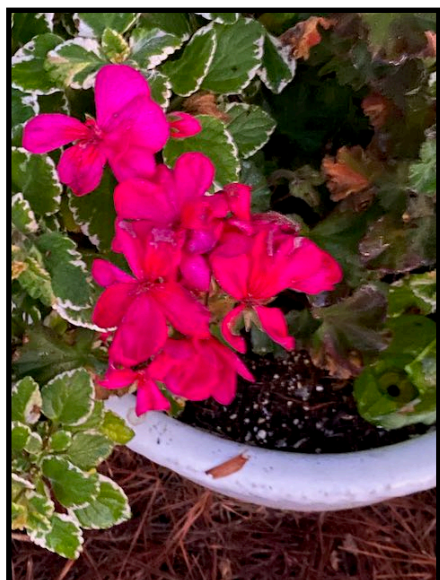


LATE BLOOMERS IN NOVEMBER

Photos by Lorie and Jim Hartsig



Near Elsie Young's front porch.

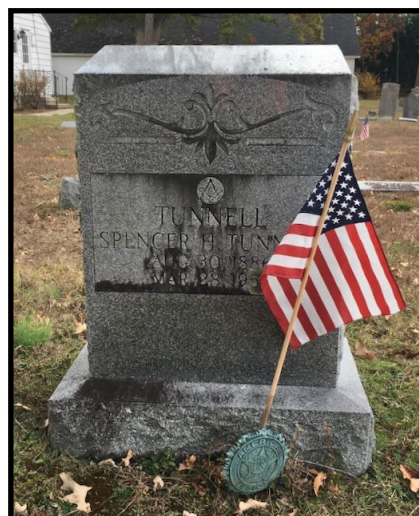


PHOTOGENIC

Jim Hartsig



Thanks to Bob Turner who placed Veterans' Day flags on all the Veterans' graves.



The Sharing Pantry is now open and being used.



And now the Blessing from A Celtic Prayer:

Deep peace of the running waves to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.



OCEAN VIEW
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
67 Central Ave
Ocean View, DE 19970

