



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH APRIL 2020



FROM THE PASTOR: TERRY DOUGHERTY

Sisters and Brothers of the congregation of Ocean View Presbyterian Church, Friends, and Visitors to this page, Grace and Peace to you in our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is odd, from the point of view of the church year, that the peak of our isolation and social distance from one another will not be occurring in Lent, the classic season of introspection and self-examination. No, it will occur in the season of Easter, the time of joy in the saving action of Jesus in the world. You and I know, of course, that the church year is an artifice, seeking to regularize the Gospel events of 3 (or 4, per John) years into a coherent whole every year. We do, all the time, know the whole story, how it began and ended and what seasons and perils and growth and disappointment are included along the way. We live into parts of the story deliberately in the seasons of the church, making the Gospel story more and more our own. We will celebrate as an “Easter People” when we are all back together; in the meantime, we have many opportunities to live our faith a little differently. I want to focus on one.

A place of very happy memory for me is Emery House, a retreat house in West Newburyport, Massachusetts run by the brothers of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, a monastic society of the Episcopal church. I have been on retreat there both in the main house, and in one of the guest cottages. Those cottages are quite small and quite spare (also quite simple and quite beautiful), yet each makes room in one corner to have a deliberately set prayer space. In that space there is provision to sit, or kneel (or stand), to read, and to focus. The sense of austere calm is palpable; like in many places on Emery House’s grounds, the sense of being in a “thin place” is very real. Yours truly is a very distractable pray-er, who does much better when walking, yet I was able to avail myself of this quiet space, and a lot of quiet time, to deeply reflect not only on what I had learned each day, but on my relationship with my God.

Matthew 6: 5-15 is often subheaded “**Concerning Prayer**”; there we are invited to go into our “room”, or “closet” (the Greek word is *tamieon*, and means “inner” or even “hidden” room), close the door, and pray to our Father in heaven in secret; there we will be heard. Jesus was not offhandedly condemning public prayer; after all, Jews prayed three times a day, and might very well not be at home. No, He was condemning the manner in which some people prayed

publicly: to receive attention. Prayer is not about the magnification of ourselves, but the magnification of God. We are to look to God, and not the one praying; a lesson many televangelicals would do well to observe. We offer ourselves up humbly in prayer, knowing God sees our distress, whether for ourselves or for others. Private prayer is where we can be most fully available, and vulnerable, to God's will (and if you turned in your Bible to this passage while reading here, you will have noticed that this is where Matthew offers Jesus' teaching on prayer in general that we know as the Lord's Prayer. We pray it publicly, but its private power is not to be foregone!).

So, after all this preamble, what is my point? Simply this: set up and use your prayer space; or, go there and use it still more, in this time of personal and national and global stress. If you are unfamiliar with where or how you best pray, now is a great time to explore that question. As I said earlier, I (and many others) pray best alone outdoors. But I would risk to say most folks do better indoors, in a place they can count on not being interrupted. That means expressly telling others in your household about what and where your practice will be, so they will know to offer respect and quiet to you. My own Pam already has her own sacred space; it coincides with where she prefers to read, and she just separates the uses. In her reading chair she does her devotionals every morning, at a time when a bumbling, noise-making me will not disturb her.

What works for Pam will not work for everybody, though; many of us need a sense of deliberate purpose and difference to enter into our quiet, attentive state. So, a basic prayer space, like the ones at Emery House: it should *already* be a space of quiet and calm; you should *already* like to be there. A seat, or a kneeling bench, should be there – and it should be comfortable and aesthetically pleasing to *you*, its user. A rug is nice – keep it small and simple, and yes, beautiful. A candle or candles, if you like them. Favorite pictures, if you pray visually (and don't be afraid of icons – they work for many people!). Art paper, if you pray in color. It goes without saying, a Bible – again, your favorite. Devotional books you love and return to. And, *if it helps you*, a source of quiet, non-verbal music. All this can take up a 4X4 corner in a room, or grow out to a bit bigger; a warning is that if it becomes a *room*, with many objects, you will likely become distractable. By the way, a window is nice – if it's high or shaded, so you won't just watch what's going on outside! [Someone among my readers is going to turn out to be that person who enters into meditation by watching the world until its all one thing, and they are at peace!]. I wish you joy, and peace, and love in this, your prayer space!

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
Marti Sommer
Bob Wolf
Cathy Yantz
Karen Colwill
(Clerk of Session)

Deacons
Sue Baer
Cindy Benjamin
Earlene DeFazio
Joni Keller
Eric Neumann
Pam Price

Newsletter Editors
Lorie and Jim Hartsig

Please remember that formal, public prayer, with its more or less cultivated language, is a deliberate practice of inclusion; it toes a careful line between personal and collective expression, and has a language all its own. Practiced well, it can say a lot for a lot of people; it can be beautiful, but can also feel impersonal. Your own prayer life is intensely personal, and does not require a formal language, or a formal stance. Rather, private prayer requests the giving of your inmost self, however it is possible for that to occur. Groaning, nagging, arguing, blaming, entreating, accusing – it's all within bounds (and to be found in your Bible). Just so long as it is honest; just so long as it opens us to God's tender care and careful repair, it is prayer.

We have seen the "pure" and the "perfect" idealized all our lives; God does not want these, anymore than God wants bulls and rams and birds offered as sacrifices. These create distance from God, because they are transactional (go back to that passage from Matthew!). God wants prayer that is honest, broken, inarticulate and needy. God can work with our brokenness and neediness; it's much harder to crack through our pride. It's been said that the greatest prayers we can offer are "HELP!", and "THANKS!" – and there's a lot of truth in that. But an engaged, reciprocal prayer life has so many rewards, including what those two prayers really seek: a recovered companionship and mutuality with God, the one Eden knew. Pray for that.

Go, then, into your room, and pray to your Father who is in secret; may our God bless you in every way.

**Everything will be okay in the end. If it's
not okay, it's not the end.**

John Lennon

March 30, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Ocean View Presbyterian Church,

As our community of faith is physically separated, we hold each other in our hearts and prayers. Through our love of Christ, we are connected in a commitment to His Church, especially here in Ocean View.

Your Session, along with the Finance and Personnel Committees, has met extensively and prayerfully to determine our road forward. (Meetings were held electronically.) In these difficult times, we have committed to fully support our staff and to continue the work of the church for our congregation and community. Rev. Dougherty and his support staff are the hub of our interactions and our spiritual needs.

Due to the Coronavirus, we are at a crossroads. For the safety of our community, our facilities are closed until further notice. We are receiving no rental income. Since our closure, we have seen a drastic drop in giving. Our financial well-being is now totally dependent on the special effort by each member or friend of the congregation to get their contributions to the Church.

In the first two weeks of March, with full use of our facilities, our income was \$6,316.00. With our facilities closed for the past two weeks, our income has been \$3,556.00.

Our ongoing expenses include staff salaries, utilities, office operations, insurance and minimal building maintenance. We have deferred payments to The Board of Pensions and to New Castle Presbytery. Committee chairs have been directed to freeze all expenditures. Cleaning services have been significantly reduced. Even with these actions our anticipated average monthly expenses are \$10,210.00.

Ocean View Presbyterian has an open heart. With love and with confidence we hope you are able to maintain or increase your financial commitment. Currently we suggest you mail in your contributions or place them in the mailbox next to the office. You will be receiving information regarding electronic payments, including PayPal.

Through your generosity, we, as Ocean View Presbyterian Church, will continue to grow and prosper even in these most difficult times. Thank you for all your efforts and prayers.

In Christ's Service,

The Session of Ocean View Presbyterian Church

Bob Clark, Ellen Neumman, Mike Read, Marti Sommer, Bob Wolf, Cathy Yantz;
Rev. Terence Dougherty - Moderator; Karen Colwill - Clerk

WAYS TO CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHURCH AND OUR MISSIONS



Now that we are forced to be isolated and are not able to do so many things the same way that we have become accustomed to, we are learning new technologies and different ways of doing what used to be tasks that we never gave a second thought about. As you have read, and Pastor Terry has reminded us during his messages, the work of the church continues and with that work remains certain financial responsibilities that must be fulfilled. It is also important that we don't forget the missions presented by the

Deacons – especially now, as their contributions are also probably suffering. So how can we continue to give to the church when we can't be there? Here are a few ideas.

- You can still drop off your envelope to the church office by placing it in the black mailbox outside of the office during normal hours Monday thru Thursday. Lori, Liz, Pastor Terry and our security crew will make sure it makes it into the office.
- Mail your contribution to the church.
- Use your bank's Bill Pay service. If you bank online (if you don't – now is a perfect time to set it up!) you can use the bill pay service to send money to the church. When you set the church up as a payee (or biller) and are asked for an account number – use your envelope number – if you don't have an envelope number use 999. You will then set up what date you want the money to reach us and the amount you want to send. The bank will take care of it from there and mail a check to us. You can reach out to your bank's customer service representatives for assistance – but be patient as there may be a wait since many companies are running with reduced staff and increased traffic.
- Use PayPal from our website. On the homepage of our church website you will see a 'Donate' button. Simply click on it and if you have a PayPal account you can log in and generate a payment to the church. You will be asked to designate your payment for either regular contribution or mission – it would be helpful (but not a requirement) if you would enter your envelope number in the Notes section of the transaction. If you do not have an account, you can set one up or you can generate a payment using your debit or credit card.

Every gift is a blessing and your support is so very much appreciated. Your church leadership is working diligently to monitor our financial health by analyzing income vs expenses, suspending non-critical expenditures, prioritizing payments and working with our vendors and suppliers to make sure we fulfill our fiscal responsibilities.

SESSION REPORT

Karen Colwill, Clerk of Session

OVPC Minute from Session – March 9, 2020

The **Session of OVPC** met on Monday, March 9, 2020 in Fellowship Center.

Rev. Terry Dougherty, Moderator, opened with prayer and devotions at 7:00 PM.

Orders of the Day:

Welcomed new prospective member, Judy Sharon Parker (Sherry), to our meeting. Sherry is new to Ocean View, from California, and is adjusting to our beach community. She was very active in the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos, in Los Gatos, California. Sherry is looking forward to opportunities at OVPC once she is settled in. **MOTION** approved to receive Judy Sharon Parker into membership in OVPC on Letter of Transfer from the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos. **Welcome Sherry !!**

Buildings Committee - MOTION approved to replace the crumbling church front steps. The work will be completed by Joe Pascone (Mason who built the new sign.) The cost, \$3,200.00, will come from Capital Improvements.

Jennifer Read, OVPC Vision and Mission Statements Co-Facilitator, reviewed the process to compile the OVPC Vision and Mission Statements. (Pam Price, co-facilitator, was out of town) **MOTION** approved to accept the Vision Statement and the Mission Statement as developed by the Leadership Team (the members of Session and Board of Deacons) which was commissioned by the Leadership Retreat held in November 2019. Thank you Jennifer and Pam for facilitating this project !

Worship Committee Annual Report to Session - document reviewed. Session thanks all members of the Worship Committee for their commitment to worship at OVPC.

MOTION passed to approve the minutes of the **February 3, 2020 Session Meeting**.

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

Pastor Terry's report was received.

MOTION approved for Pastor Terry to perform the Memorial Service for Margery Johnson (former attendee, non-member) on April 4, 2020 in the sanctuary.

The **Monthly Committee Reports** were received.

MOTION approved to accept the Session Statement Regarding New Property. Document at the end of this report.

Session urges all committee chairs to get their Session reports to the office by the Wednesday before the Session Meeting: April 13th Session Meeting - reports are due April 8th.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer at 10:05 PM

Respectfully submitted, Karen B. Colwill, Clerk of Session

OVPC Minute from Session – March 14, 2020

A **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Session of OVPC met on Saturday, March 13, 2020 in Fellowship Center. The Leadership Team, members of Session and the Board of Deacons, met to document our response to the Coronavirus.

Rev. Terry Dougherty, Moderator, opened with prayer and devotions at 10:00 AM.

Orders of the Day:

Numerous documents from New Castle Presbytery were reviewed and discussed.

We addressed:

- Public Worship
- Church Meetings
- Office
- Service to our congregants
- Outside Groups
- Buildings
- Community Connections/Outreach

MOTION approved to suspend OVPC worship and all church activities through the end of March 2020 with Session reassessing within the next two weeks, by March 28, 2020.

MOTION approved response document to the congregation. Document to be send via an email blast and letter mailed to congregants without email. Deacons will contact their assigned congregants and inform them of our suspension of worship and all church activities through the end of March 2020.

MOTION approved the OVPC Closing Procedures.

All groups that utilize OVPC facilities will be contacted and informed of our closing through the end of March. Lori LaPointe, Administrative Assistant, will contact all renters and in-kind users.

Update: All renters have cancelled. In-Kind users of Fellowship Center, if used at their discretion, have been advised of sanitization procedures to be performed at the close of use. Sanitization documentation is in Fellowship Center.

Pastor Terry adjourned the meeting and closed with prayer at 3:25 PM

OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VISION STATEMENT

Shaped by God, We Love and Serve

MISSION STATEMENT

Ocean View Presbyterian Church celebrates God and the gifts given us by God. Guided by scripture and inspired by the holy spirit, we keep Christ at the heart of our thoughts, prayers, and actions. Worship centers us. A passion to learn, with freedom to question, guides our Bible study and our engagement with God's world. As we are loved, so we love each other, in times of joy and sorrow. Shaped by faith and sustained by grace, we reach out to our neighbors in love, to serve, to help, and to heal.

SESSION STATEMENT REGARDING NEW PROPERTY

SESSION APPROVED MARCH 9, 2020

The purchase of the property located across the street from the church (1 Church Street) was a strategic move on the part of Session primarily to ensure that nobody else would have the opportunity to purchase it and build on it. Secondly, it provides a sound investment for the church. In the course of long-term planning scheduled to commence in 2020, we will be asking for and accepting ideas for the future use of the property through the committee chairs. Until such time as that occurs, Session is introducing the following measures:

- The perimeter of the property should not be cleared as to provide a natural barrier between it and adjacent properties
- The property will be maintained by the landscaping company contracted to care for the main church campus and/or cemetery. This maintenance is primarily but not limited to grass cutting. Funding will be through the Grounds Committee budget. Monies for special needs/projects will be approved by Session.
- On a normal basis, parking will not be allowed on the property. Session will work with the Grounds committee to plan and construct a fence (both attractive and safe) which can be easily dismantled in the case of a need to use the property for additional parking for special events. Initial idea is some type of split-rail fence but other avenues should be explored.

OVPC'S CHURCH SERVICES IS NOW "LIVE" ONLINE ON FACEBOOK

The Facebook logo is displayed in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Join us this Sunday, April 5th, at 9:30 for worship. We will be gathering via Facebook Live, paste the following link into your web browser.

<https://www.facebook.com/oceanviewpc/>

Please invite everyone you know to join us as we continue this experiment in virtual worship. For those that do not have access to Facebook or prefer an alternative way to worship, an audio message will be available on the homepage of our website;

www.ovpc.org after the live broadcast is finished, a recorded version will be posted to the church's Facebook page.

If you would like to preview or print the bulletin, it will also be available on the home page of our website.



Jeannette & Charlie O'Neill emailed us about an online service that their former church, Highland Presbyterian of Lancaster, PA is doing on YouTube. To view it copy the following link into your web browser:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKLtk4E8sfA&feature=youtu.be

It is done by Rev. Dr. Noe Juarez of the Highland Presbyterian Church.



Peter Maurer	April 3rd
Susan Baer	April 4th
Jim Dietsch	April 6th
Sandy White	April 10th
Cindy Benjamin	April 15th
Pam Dougherty	April 20th
Bill Colwill	April 23rd
Jim Ellis	April 26th
Dick Register	April 26th
George Price	April 27th



Marge and Jerry Egger	April 10th
Ellen and Eric Neumann	April 30th



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

Knit or crochet or just watch and learn.
Now may be the time to start a new project!



Hi. Hope you are well.
Wanted to let you know I just completed another prayer shawl. Made it 61". No fringe.
Let me know if anyone needs it during this crazy time.

Sue Sigvardson

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS

DO NOT FEAR SELF QUARANTINE.

THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TRAINING FOR.

WWW.SLIPPEDSTITCHSTUDIOS.COM

REVISED LENTEN TIMES OF PRAYER

BILL COLWILL

"Based on the recent Governor's Order, we will make a final decision on the Lenten Times of Prayer at a later date. If you are interested in participating, please let Bill Colwill know by email (kbcollwill@hotmail.com)."

A number of years ago Karen and I had a course in styles of prayer. One, which was very meaningful to both of us, was to walk in

a continuous path while reading and meditating on a particular scripture. This seems like the perfect time to use this style of prayer at OVPC. Given our unusual circumstances, we have revised our Lenten Times of Prayer for 2020.

We will meet in John West Park at 8:00 am and 6:00 pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week (April 6-8. There will be no noon Time of Prayer.) If the weather is bad, or iffy, text or call me at 717 870 5186.

Our service will be:

Gather in a circle with 6 ft spacing and pray our opening Psalm. (Safely handled bulletins will be available.) Take time for our church community concerns.

Read, reread and contemplate our scripture while walking the continuous sidewalk for about 5 minutes. Single file, maintaining a minimum of 6 ft spacing.

Continue walking, using the time for personal prayer and/or meditation. About 7 minutes.

Gather again in our circle to close with our Lord's Prayer.

We will stay safe as each participant emphasizes 6 ft of separation at all times.

I believe these can be our most spiritually satisfying Times of Prayer. I hope you will join us.



Reading Bill's proposed Lenten Times of Prayer made me think of a labyrinth we observed in Notre-dame de Chartres, a beautiful cathedral in Chartres, France. Watching the people walking the labyrinth in the quiet of that beautiful place, I felt peace and a feeling of community. (from the Editors)

APRIL MINUTE FOR MISSION

JONI KELLER

SUSSEX COMMUNITY CRISIS HOUSING SERVICES

Crisis House began as the vision of the Sussex County Interagency Council. The members noticed the growing number of homeless and decided to offer shelter at no cost to families residing in Sussex County. In 1981, a Board of Directors was established for the formation of Sussex Community Crisis Housing Services, Inc. The state of Delaware provided a one-time grant to purchase the property at 110 Railroad Ave, Georgetown, which became Crisis House. After some minor renovations, the house opened for its first residents in February 1982.

By the onset of the 1990's, the clientele was changing, the number of single parent families were growing and finding permanent low-cost housing was very scarce. At this time, the Board began to search for a new building, with the thought of branching out into transitional housing. This type of housing has been demonstrated to be an effective tool in addressing the cause and problems of homelessness. It offers longer term housing to a select few homeless families who have demonstrated a desire to break the cycle of homelessness. The Board, along with grants from various funders, formed the Northport Transitional Housing Program and was able to secure a property located several blocks from Crisis House on Rosa St, Georgetown. This building was renovated, in the early 90's, into 5 transitional apartments, community room and office. In 1992, a shell of a house was donated by Lane Builders and was relocated to the corner of the existing transitional house on Rosa St. Throughout the next 3 years, funding was obtained to renovate the structure to turn it into a single family dwelling for a family aspiring to homeownership.

As of today, Crisis House still has only these 3 buildings. The one at Railroad Ave was remodeled in the fall of 2019. With a grant from the DE Community Foundation and the State Bond Bill, they were able to gut the kitchen and install new cabinets, flooring, lighting and stainless steel countertops and commercial grade appliances. New flooring was laid throughout the first floor, as well as a fresh coat of paint. Some new furniture was purchased for the community and dining rooms. This residence can house a maximum of 15 people. 6 single women in 3 bedrooms downstairs with a shared bath. 9 single men upstairs in 3 bedrooms with a shared bath. The 5 apartments house 5 families with 5 bedrooms and 3 baths. The single-family home houses just one single family.

So how does Crisis House receive their residents you may ask? Initially they accepted mostly walk-ins but today they only accept referrals through the DE State Housing Alliance and The Way Home. The Way Home is a program for incarcerated persons who are being released from prison to help them assimilate back into being productive citizens. A person's initial stay is 30 days. They are supposed to be self-reliant. Many of the folks have drug addictions or mental health issues. The ones who show signs of wanting to commit to getting their life back on track and becoming self-sufficient can stay longer. The hope is they will become employed or seek educational opportunities. Crisis House does partner with Southern DE Education Foundation.

Del Tech is a sponsor, as well as DE Building Trades. If they become employed and show signs of self- management, they can be offered one of the apartments to rent. Rent is usually \$300/ month + utilities. The average stay is 2-3 years. One of these families usually transitions into the single- family house where rent is about \$600/month + utilities. The ones who do not want to better themselves just keep cycling through the system as we know all too well. They can end up back at Crisis house 4,5 or 6 months later for another 30 days. There is no private transportation provided to these folks.

Currently they receive no federal funding. They do receive some funding through DE State Housing Authority and Sussex County which has allowed them to develop a pilot program identifying housing opportunities for low income/homeless individuals & families in Sussex County. This program will be working with landlords, housing managers etc. to develop a data base for all agencies that serve the homeless. But most monies come from private donations and any grants they might be awarded. As you can imagine, the wheels of the government move very slowly. Mostly, the government isn't interested in solving the root of the problem which is addiction and mental health. If those issues can't be solved, then no wonder these folks just cycle through again and again. This is not a unique problem to Sussex County or the state of DE, it is a countrywide problem that our government can't seem to figure out how to solve.

My tour, with Marie Marole Executive Director 13 yrs of the Crisis House, left me feeling very sad and depressed. I don't know how she and her 24/7 staff does it. I believe it is their commitment and compassion to the less fortunate that drives them. The bureaucratic red tape that they have to deal with on a daily basis is incredible. Looking around, the house needs a lot of work to bring it up to date. Living accommodations are minimal but that is what I guess one would expect given the volatility of some of the persons residing there. I would loved to have seen the apartments and the single family home and assessed them. If you view their website, they have a long list of sponsors; but, I have to wonder how current and/or how much these organizations actually give. The total 2019 yearly donations of \$46,261 barely covers their operating expenses. St. George's Chapel United Methodist men's & women's sponsored a garden on the property at Crisis House beginning in 2019. They really could use all the support they can get. Along with monetary donations, they always have a need for dry goods (coffee, creamer, sugar, flour etc.), linens & towels and cleaning & paper products. To end on a positive note, I am sure the satisfaction the staff & Marie receive from seeing just one person become educated, employed and self-sufficient puts them over the moon. 2019's annual report says 29 were employed upon leaving Crisis House and 42 found homes.

Contact Info:

To view their website and annual report visit: www.scchsinc.org

Crisis House – 110 N. Railroad Ave Georgetown 302-856-2246 scchs@comcast.net

Offices – 204 E. North St Georgetown 302-856-7524 Marie Marole mtmorole@comcast.net

SCAM OF THE MONTH

[medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov)

Scammers may use COVID-19 as an opportunity to steal your identity and commit Medicare fraud. In some cases, they might tell you they'll send you a Coronavirus test, masks, or other items in exchange for your Medicare number or personal information. Be wary of unsolicited requests for your Medicare number or other personal information.

It's important to always guard your Medicare card like a credit card and check your Medicare claims summary forms for errors. Only give your Medicare number to participating Medicare pharmacists, primary and specialty care doctors or people you trust to work with Medicare on your behalf. Remember, Medicare will never call you to ask for or check your Medicare number.

Warning!
**They've started the
phony IRS calls wanting
your bank account # to
deposit your \$1200.00.
Don't fall for it!**



Bev and Don Bailey would like to say "thank you" to all those at OVPC who have sent cards, phone calls, text messages and much love as Bev has recuperated from her back surgery on February 17. "We are doing well-- Don has been a terrific caregiver, and we are both eager to return to our home in Bethany early in April.... We are thinking of our church family during this worrisome time and ask that you all take care of yourselves, and we pray for you and your loved ones during this scary time....love you all...."

OUR CHURCH'S NEW VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

Jen Read

For seven Thursday evenings in January and February, the Elders and Deacons of OVPC met with Pastor Terry to write new vision and mission statements for our church. Getting it exactly right was critical and took a great deal of prayer, thought, conversation, and debate.

When the vision and mission of a church are explicit, leaders and the congregation are clear and accepting about the church's purpose, thereby leading to an absence of tension and creating a sense of optimism and hope. Communication is open and trust is high. Vision and mission statements remind the church about their stated goals and enable them to discern whether new projects are congruent with the church's purpose. Vision and mission statements tell the world what the church values and why they have chosen to exist. Visitors, community partners, and others know right away who we are.

The first step the group took was to identify what they thought were the values of OVPC. They brainstormed 30: Supportive ~ Approachable ~ Responsive ~ Open-minded ~ Open heart ~ Open arms ~ Open hands ~ Receptive to change ~ Blessed ~ Thankful ~ Loving ~ Receiving ~ Welcoming ~ Embracing diversity ~ Seeking social justice ~ Accepting ~ Celebrating diversity ~ Experienced ~ Mature ~ Forgiving ~ Sympathetic ~ Caring for our members ~ Humility ~ Striving to be Christ-like ~ Fellowship ~ Energetic ~ Enthusiastic ~ Green and growing ~ Hard-working ~ Curious.

From there, the group spent four weeks writing the vision statement. It is succinct, powerful, reflective of our congregation, and easy to remember: "SHAPED BY GOD, WE LOVE AND SERVE"

The mission statement is the vision statement wearing work clothes. It incorporates the church's responsibility to its members and to the community with whom they work. It identifies the people for whom we are working and gives us a way to measure our progress. Our mission statement describes how our church will get to the goals we set for ourselves. "OVPC CELEBRATES GOD AND THE GIFTS GIVEN US BY GOD. GUIDED BY SCRIPTURE, INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, OVPC KEEPS CHRIST AT THE HEART OF OUR THOUGHT, PRAYER, AND ACTION. WORSHIP CENTERS US. A PASSION TO LEARN, WITH FREEDOM TO QUESTION, GUIDES OUR BIBLE STUDY, OUR THEOLOGICAL INQUIRY, AND OUR ENGAGEMENT WITH GOD'S WORLD. AS WE ARE LOVED, SO WE LOVE EACH OTHER, IN TIMES OF JOY AND SORROW. SHAPED BY FAITH, CARRIED BY GRACE, WE REACH OUT TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN LOVE; TO SERVE, TO HELP, AND TO HEAL."

As soon as Session approved the Vision and Mission Statements, Christian Ed planned an "unveiling" for the congregation after worship on Sunday, March 15, and a small celebration following. That was the first Sunday our church wisely decided to suspend services during the virus outbreak. As soon as it's safe for our members to come back to worship in our sanctuary, we will have this event and all celebrate together.

PHOTOGENIC

Lorie and Jim Hartsig



Going outdoors
is not cancelled, listening
to music is not cancelled,
quality time with our
families is not cancelled,
reading a book is not
cancelled, sharing with
friends is not cancelled,
singing out loud is not
cancelled, laughing has
not been cancelled,
sharing **HOPE** with others
has not been cancelled.
Let's **EMBRACE** what
we have.



FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

The Movie Theater Has Gone Dark



And so has movie night for now - but that doesn't mean you still can't enjoy a good movie on your own. If you have a streaming service like Netflix, or Hulu on your computer TV there is plenty of content out there to watch. YouTube is also a great place to go look for free movies that you can watch. How about going old school and watching *Singing in the Rain*, or *the Wizard of Oz*? In these unfamiliar times we are faced with, look for movies to make you feel good – that give you a chance to laugh – that bring you joy. Please stay safe and healthy and we will gather once more as soon as we are able.

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

