



OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MARCH 2020

## FROM THE PASTOR: TERRY DOUGHERTY



### **Grace to you, friends, and peace, in Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

I have found it both pleasing and terrifying that, as we enter and embrace Lent, I am leading an exploration of the Christian Way through stories inspired by Augustine of Hippo. In Augustine's *Confessions*, he owns up to just about every human fallibility as having variously been in him – whether or not he can ever be free of them this side of paradise. It is the work of God, in and through Jesus, to confront and reveal human sin and fallibility, and to overcome both with compassion, forgiveness and grace. But the “pervasiveness of sin – embodied both in Sin and sins – has the force of habit that is difficult to unlearn. Indeed, the habit of sin eventually takes on the force of necessity...we find it increasingly difficult, if not impossible, not only to escape sinfulness, but even to *desire* to escape it” (L. Gregory Jones, *Embodying Forgiveness*, p. 62). We are not unlike Augustine, or the Prodigal, or the sorrowful rich young man: even knowing we need to give up our ways, we'd rather put it off for a more promising (and always receding) future.

So Jesus, born shockingly vulnerable, and vulnerable all His life, invites us into a new way of living, a way He demonstrates unfailingly in His own person and actions. This way of life is soaked in the traditional understanding of God Jesus learned from His Mother and His own study: fierce yet forgiving, all-powerful yet gracious, holy yet loving. From Jesus' own lessons, as reported by His hearers and His collectors, we can tell He loved the Wisdom tradition of Proverbs and the Psalms, embracing their difficult moral and ethical demands. As well, we see Jesus' understanding of all God desires for us, and all the ways we fall short. Above all, though, we see Jesus the Beloved embrace the saving, reconciling vision of God and make it real in our world: we see Jesus, who lives in the Kingdom of God eternally, live out the values of that kingdom for our sake and to His cost, in this our fallen world.

What Jesus offers is “a different way of seeing people – not with cultural categories such as important or unimportant, deserving or undeserving, but as beloved of God”. (Borg and Wright, *The Meaning of Jesus*, p. 70). So, Jesus consistently approaches people – approaches us – with patience, compassion, forgiveness and acceptance. And it doesn't matter the slightest who those people are: Jew or gentile, woman or man, adult or child, well-intended or

malicious. We are to embrace this way ourselves, to accept Jesus' call into a community, a communion, of those who forgive and reconcile, who nurture and make whole.

We already know how this begins and ends, and how exhilarating and dreadful it is, all mixed together. We know that the power of sin never relents, and that Jesus never gives in. We know that He dies and rises, and that He continues to have glorious expectations of us. More difficult, we know that knowing all this is not enough. The call for transformation is a call upon every bit of our lives, not just the parts we find easy to give up. We need to wrestle all our lives with what Augustine called our "perversity": that we actively wish that which is not good for us, and decline the good that God wishes us. We need to just as actively seek change, and make changes. I am hoping that in our six weeks of examining our lives, in the light of Jesus' life, we will find inspiration and peace, the will to continue and the will to love as boldly as Jesus loved.

Brothers and sisters, we are in this inextricably together: let us step into the road again.

**CHANGE YOUR CLOCK**



**CHANGE YOUR BATTERY**

**SPRING FORWARD**

**MARCH 8th**

## 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  
Pam Price  
Cindy Woodruff

**Newsletter Editors**  
Lorie and Jim Hartsig

## SESSION REPORT

Karen Colwill, Clerk of Session

The **Session of OVPC** met on Monday, February 3, 2020 in Memorial Hall.

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

### Orders of the Day:

**Welcomed** new prospective member Dottie Nicholson to our meeting. Dottie has lived in Ocean View for 3 years and has been attending OVPC. She is active in the morning Bible Study. **MOTION** to receive Dottie Nicholson in membership on Reaffirmation of Faith was approved. Welcome Dottie!

**Bill Colwill**, representing the **New Sign Group**, gave a recap of the previously approved motions. All requirements have been satisfied including raising more than half the cost of the sign. The contract is being finalized. **MOTION** passed that in accordance with the previous motions on 3/11/19 and 10/14/19, Session gives final approval to proceed with construction of the new sign.

**Earlene DeFazio, Moderator of the Board of Deacons**, presented the Deacon's 2020 scheduled activities. We reviewed the monthly missions. **MOTION** passed that monthly mission monies received in January and February will be used by Deacons to provide food to the Pyle Center. Session thanked Earlene and the Board of Deacons for their commitment to OVPC and shepherding of our sheep.

**MOTION** passed to approve the minutes of the **January 13, 2020 Session Meeting**.

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

**Pastor Terry's** report was received.

The **Monthly Committee Reports** were received.

**MOTION** approved to schedule the Ordination/Installation Service for Deacons, Joni Keller and Cindy Woodruff, during the worship service on February 23, 2020.

**Facilities Committee MOTION** approved to purchase and install materials for a chair rail in Memorial Hall. Herb Sheetz will manage the project.

The clerk reviewed **The PCUSA Annual Statistical Report for 2019**. **MOTION** approved to file the report as amended by February 20, 2020.

**The Mission Statement Work Group** has developed a Vision Statement and is continuing to meet each Thursday evening in February to develop a Mission Statement. Thanks to Pam Price and Jennifer Read for facilitating this process.

**Thanks** to Marti Sommer, Bob Wolf and Don Bailey for assisting Lori in preparing the Annual Report for the February 2, 2020 Congregational Meeting.

**OVPC Contribution Statements** were mailed on January 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have any questions, please call the office.

**Session** urges all committee chairs to get their Session reports to the office by the Wednesday before the Session Meeting: March 9<sup>th</sup> Session Meeting - reports are due March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Rev. Terry Dougherty adjourned the meeting and closed with prayer at 9:57 PM



## LENTEN/EASTER SERVICES SOUTHEAST SUSSEX COUNTY MINISTERIUM

### **Lenten Worship & Lunch**

Wednesday, March 4th, noon, at Bethany Beach Community Church

Wednesday, March 11th, noon, Community Lutheran Church

Wednesday, March 18th, noon, Ocean View Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, March 25, noon at Union Wesley United Methodist Church

Wednesday, April 1st, noon, St. Ann's Catholic Church

### **Easter Sunrise Service**

Sunday, April 12, 6am, Bethany Beach Bandstand

A free-will offering will be taken at each event to help the outreach of the Southeast Sussex Ministerium.



June Goldman	Mar. 5th
Amy Peoples	Mar. 9th
Flora Beaver	Mar. 11th
Mary Ann Robling	Mar. 15th
Joe Schaefer	Mar. 15th
Bruce Hobler	Mar. 19th
Jim Trent	Mar. 19th
Lee Grace	Mar. 26th



Marie and Jim Waehler	Mar. 3rd
Sue and Ken Sigvardson	Mar. 21st
Barbara and Jim Dietsch	Mar. 28th

**"One kind word can warm  
three winter months."  
Japanese proverb**



## **YARN...You Are Ready to Needle...**

Knit or crochet or just watch and learn.  
Join us in Fellowship Center  
the first Monday of the month from 10 am-2  
pm...

bring your lunch.  
**See you on March 2nd.**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### ELAINE SMITH

Pastor Terry will seek, for a Lenten Christian Education offering, to explore two themes he finds meaningful in Augustine's *Confessions*. The first is the concept of *Homo Viator*; the idea that our entire life is a road of becoming, and that there truly is nowhere to be "at Home" in the world. This idea is associated with Augustine's famous assertion that there is a hole in the human heart, and that that hole is never filled until we rest in God. The "lonesome traveler" need not be a person of constant sorrow, though. Starting from James K. A. Smith's examination of his life alongside his study of Saint Augustine in *On the Road with Saint Augustine*, Terry will invite sustained conversation about the twists and turns of our own lives, and how we can understand them as part of our growing relationship with God and neighbor. Some headings from Smith to think about: *how to escape; how to aspire; how to belong; how to hope*. Each of these is taken on inside relationships with a spouse, a mother, a father, including events such as leaving, achieving, and facing death. Pastor Terry will offer historical background on Augustine on February 23rd, followed on other Sundays by "Tell Me a Story"-style talks with fellow congregants.

During January, the OVPC Vision/Mission Task Force (from Session and from Deacons) has been meeting to craft an updated Vision/Mission Statement. During the CE hour on March 15, the Task Force will present its work.

**“I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.”**

**Abraham Lincoln**

## PRINCETON SUPPORT TEAM UPDATE

The Princeton Support Team ( PST ) members continue to meet weekly for brief check – in times for discussion and solutions. Rev. Tom Kort, Terry’s mentor from Princeton Seminary, came to Ocean View and met with Terry and the PST for three days in January. Highlights of those days include: enumerating three essential areas of service for a pastor: Preaching, Pastoral, and Administrative, defining 2020 goals and objectives, and identifying and promoting a local mission project. OVPC’s “Way” continues to be: Hospitality, Praying, Listening, and Encouragement.

As part of the Funds from the First Pastoral Call Leadership Program, Pastor Terry gave \$3,000.00 from the Princeton discretionary fund to St. Martha’s Episcopal Van Fund for Alex Rhodes. This amount helped to purchase the Extended Warranty on the 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan which has Handicap Accessibility features. Alex is the son of our Music Director Kathy Rhodes.

As we enter the third and final year of the PST Leadership program we continually pray for God’s direction for Terry and our congregation.

Committee Members: Karen Colwill, Pam Price, Mike Read, Kathy Sheetz, Pastor Terry



Souper Sunday

## SCAM ALERT

FROM THE AARP MAGAZINE

New scams prey on your fear. Scammers try to get you to give them information because you are fearful something bad will happen to you. DO NOT make a snap decision. Examples are:

**The Fake utility Company**

You're behind on your bill, and you'll lose power if you don't provide cash now.

**The Social Security Impostor**

Your SSN has been used in crimes, and you're going to be arrested unless...

**The Dreaded Computer Virus**

You're about to lose all your info and photos and only we can fix the problem.

**DNA Cancer Screening**

People like you have died because they didn't take the DNA test we're offering.

**Missed Jury Duty**

There's a warrant for your arrest because you didn't show up for your jury duty assignment.

**The IRS Warrant**

You made criminal mistakes in your past tax filing and will be arrested shortly.



# PHOTOGENIC

## JIM HARTSIG AND HERB SHEETZ





## FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES



### Is This The Future of Movie Night?

**We think not!** Join us on Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> at Bill and Karen Colwill's home at 5:30 for a pot luck dinner followed by a showing of 'The Two Popes' starring Anthony Hopkins and Jonathon Pryce. This is the story behind the transition of power when Pope Benedict seeks permission to retire and calls Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, one of his harshest critics, to take his place and lead the church in a new direction.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCEAN VIEW

67 Central Ave  
Ocean View, DE 19970

