For your safety, every other row in the Sanctuary has been marked with red ribbon. Please DO NOT sit in these rows. Also, sit 6-feet away from anyone not in your immediate family. Face masks covering your nose and mouth must be worn at all times.

We will not have an offering during the service. Please leave any offerings and pledge cards in the plates on the table in the gathering space either upon entering or upon leaving. Thank you!

A Member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) And the Presbytery of New Hope

This is God’s House! All are Welcome!
The Order of Service for the Lord’s Day

When the prelude begins, all are invited to begin personal preparation for worship. As a kindness to fellow worshippers, please silence all electronic devices.

♦ = Congregation Standing as Able
♦ = Appropriate times to be Seated when Arriving After Service Begins

~ We Gather Together as God’s People ~

THE HANDBELL/ORGAN PRELUDE.............................. The Jubilate Ringers & Jason Evans, organ
“The First Nowell”................................................................. arr. Margaret Tucker
“Away in a Manger”................................................................. arr. Margaret Tucker

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

~ The Liturgy of the Advent Candle ~

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY............................. The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore Family

THE SPOKEN RESPONSE: “He Came Down”

He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
Hallelujah forever more.

THE OPENING PRAYER............................................................. The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore Family

~ We Gather Together as God’s People ~

♦THE CALL TO WORSHIP.......................................................... Barbara Hardy, Liturgist

ONE: We gather in this holy place to bear witness to the Light.

ALL: The love of God shines upon us and reveals the truth of God’s mercy.

ONE: We gather in this holy place to bear witness to the Truth.

ALL: The truth of our gospel is good news for the oppressed and a balm for the brokenhearted.

ONE: Let us worship almighty God!

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Spoken in unison)

Your love is good news for the oppressed, O Lord, and you bind up the brokenhearted. Forgive us, O God, when we think that your good news is only for us. Forgive us, O God, when we twist your gospel into something that fits comfortably into our lives. By your light, let us see you leading us beyond ourselves and into the world you love. By your grace, forgive us, and free us to try again. Amen.

THE SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION
THE ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

THE MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP ................................................................. Ike McRee

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE (Spoken Responsively)

ONE: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
ALL: And also with you.

You are invited to greet your neighbors by putting your hand over your heart as a sign of love and friendship that highlights our unity as a church family.

(Children in K-5 are dismissed to go to Children’s Church)

~ The Word of the Lord ~

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION ....................................................... Barbara Hardy, Liturgist

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1st Thessalonians 5:16-24 ............ Barbara Hardy, Liturgist

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

THE SPECIAL MUSIC: “Were You There on that Christmas Night?” ... arr. Martha Thompson
Jubilate Ringers & Jason Evans, Piano

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 ......................... The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

ONE: This is the Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God!

THE SERMON: “Righteousness and Praise” ............................................. The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore
~ We Respond to the Word ~

THE HANDBELL MEDITATION: “Still, Still, Still” .................................arr. Charles Youcom
   Jubilate Ringers

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Spoken in Unison) .............. A Declaration of Faith (from Chapter 3.4)

   The Lord has blessed and judged God’s people. When God’s people worshiped the gods of the land, when they put their trust in military alliances, when they failed to do justice and oppressed the poor, God sent the prophets to condemn their sins and to call the people back to obedience. There were times of repentance and reform, but in the end their kingdoms fell. When we forget the Lord and worship our possessions, when we fail to deal justly with the poor, when we seek security no matter what it costs others, we can expect God’s judgment upon us. In the end, we declare God’s goodness and justice. God has truly blessed us beyond our deserving. Amen.

~ We Go Forth in Jesus’ Name ~

THE CLOSING RESPONSE: "Emmanuel” ............................................................... McGee
   (Spoken Only)

   Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;
   God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION


All lyrics printed with permission granted by CCLI#2728243

We now go forth in peace to love and serve God and God’s people in Christ’s name!
2021 Pledges
We continue to accept pledges for 2021. We ask that you place your pledge cards in one of the offering plates on the table in the gathering space. Or, you may mail it to the office. If you need a pledge card, please let an usher know.

The Daily Advent Devotional
The daily Advent devotional booklet this year is "Praying the Jesse Tree" by author Debra Grant. She brings fresh insights to the Biblical images that lead from the Garden of Eden to the birth of the Messiah. In chronological order, discover everything from rainbows to roses, from sandals to stars. Colorful illustrations accompany devotions for all the days in Advent and Christmas week, each with its own Scripture reference and closing prayer.

The booklet is available in the Gathering Space. If you would prefer to have a copy mailed to you please contact Cathie in the church office.

Food For Thought
Do you remember the “Pennies for Hunger” baskets passed down the rows during the first of the month Sunday worship services? The pandemic has changed that. As a result, one of our treasured charities is hurting. Food For Thought is an important charity that no longer receives its portion of that collection. Yet, this charity is about the students being fed, even in the pandemic, even when they are being schooled remotely. Food for Thought packs lunches for close to 500 students a week! It has doubled its outreach to families that have never needed help before. And, it costs them $275 per student per year. We know that hunger impacts our students’ ability to learn. We can continue to help fund Food for Thought. As Jesus said, “Suffer the children to come unto me”. At its December meeting, the Session agreed to send $150.00 to Food for Thought. Please consider sending an individual donation to:

Food for Thought
PO BOX 1167
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

Next Week’s Sermon
December 20:

Luke 1: 26-38. An angel announces to Mary that she has found favor with God and will soon bear a son named Jesus, who will deliver his people. Mary has faith and believes what seems to be impossible. She offers herself to God. The Good News is that God sent the Son to bring salvation to us and to the world. We will light the candle of Love on the Advent Wreath.

Christmas Joy Offering
Supporting Past, Present & Future Leaders
Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers (ministers, educators, missionaries) in their time of need, and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

There will be a bulletin insert & special envelope on December 20. You may also send your Joy Offering to the church office with "Joy Offering" written on the Memo Line. Address: OBPC, P O Box 2199, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948. Please give prayerful consideration to your gift for these special groups of people.

Christmas Eve Service
The Session has decided that the Christmas Eve Service at OBPC should be online only. The service will be available to watch on our website at any time on Christmas Eve. Having the service online will enable all of us to light candles and sing our favorite Christmas carols.
Session Notes

The Session met on Tuesday, December 8, and made the following decisions regarding church building use:

The Session approved a 10-person limit for all church and non-church groups meeting inside our building (excluding worship services). The effective date is December 14, 2020. Masks must be worn at all times and social distancing of at least 6 feet is required. Hand sanitizers are generally available inside the building. Groups using the church should wipe down with sanitizing cleaners any surfaces touched. The Session may grant exceptions to the 10-person limit on a case-by-case basis.

Holiday Office Hours
December 21-23: Open 9:00-4:00
December 24: Closed for Christmas
December 28-29: Closed for Christmas
December 30: Open 9:00-4:00
December 31: Closed for New Year’s

Note: The office is always closed on Fridays.

Vital Signs
December 6 .................................. $21,736.00
December Total.................................. $21,736.00
Christmas Joy .................................. $50.00

Attendance
November 6.......... 36 in-person + online viewers
Each day, let us remember the many in our church family who are ill, hurting, homebound, and lonely, along with those who have lost loved ones.

**Homebound, Nursing Home & Out of Town Members**

Don & Nancy Bierwerth ...........................................410 Hastings Ln, Apt. 309, Elizabeth City, NC 27909
Margaret Brown ...........Currituck Health & Rehab Ctr., 3907 Caratoke Hwy., Barco, NC 27917
Anne Cramer ..........Spring Arbor, 803 Bermuda Bay Blvd, Room 101, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948
John & Helen Dick ...........................................591 Moyer Rd., Lot 48, New Castle, PA 16101
Claudette Forney ...........................................321 Gunas Drive, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948
Oscar Northen ...........................................P O Box 1331, Gloucester, VA 23061

**Christian Sympathy**

Helen Beshens passed away on December 7, 2020. We offer our prayers to her friends and family including her children Paige Beshens and Stephen Beshens.

**Members & Friends**

Jack Abernethy ..................................................................... Health Concerns
Donna Bissell (friend of George & Lynda Wood) ..................Breast Cancer
Jim Carns (friend of Ellen Grove) ..................................Lung Transplant
Tommy DeSanto .................................................................. Health Concerns
Donna Evans ..................................................................... In Hospital with Covid-19
Terry Evans ..................................................................... Recovering from Hip Surgery
Ann Gilbert (friend of Ellen Grove) ................................ Cancer
Jim Goes ......................................................................... Health Concerns
Gayle Goetschius .......................................................... Health Concerns
Judy Goins (friend of Alicia Norwood) .............................. Cancer
Margaret Hartman ............................................................ Health Concerns
Joe Hendricks .................................................................. Recovering from Neck Surgery
Nick Hodsdon ................................................................... Cancer
Carl Lilieberg ...................................................................... Health Concerns
Bettye Machen (Susi Gentry’s Stepmother) ...................... Health Concerns
Ken McGee (brother of Gary McGee) .................. Recovering from Motorcycle Accident
Andy Mallory (Barb & Joe Morgan’s son/stepson) .............. Brain Cancer
Nancy Messinger ............................................................ Health Concerns
Joe Morgan ................................................................. Health Concerns
Louise Roberts ............................................................... Health Concerns
Barbara Rust ..................................................................... Recovering at home from Covid-19
Fred Smith ........................................................................ Health Concerns
Kathy Townsend (Frank & Carol Moore’s daughter’s mother in law) ............... Brain Tumor
Norm Sparks .................................................................... Recovering from Neck Surgery
Lynda Wood ..................................................................... Recovering from Cancer
Don Younkin .................................................................... Recovering from Throat Surgery
John Younkin (Brother of Don Younkin) ................................. Health Concerns
Welcome to the Outer Banks Presbyterian Church. Our Church exists to worship God in Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament; to join others to know the joy of God’s forgiveness in Jesus Christ; to grow under the Lordship of Christ and to serve Christ’s world in His name. We invite you to share with us our trust in Jesus Christ and to join us as we strive to:

- Grow and strengthen our FAITH,
- Love and support our FAMILY,
- Reach out to our FRIENDS in need.

We encourage you to read “Sue’s Story,” the inspiration behind these goals in its entirety, on our website, on a brochure in the Gathering Space or on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will be inspired as we have been.

At OBPC, we recognize all of our visitors as God’s children, united as brothers and sisters in Christ. We hope our service inspires you and strengthens your faith. We hope you will join us again in celebration and worship to God. If you are interested in becoming a member or would like to know more about our church or any of our programs, please contact us!

Our church believes providing worship for visitors is a vital part of our mission. Our building was planned to accommodate the many visitors who come to this vacation community. This places an additional financial challenge on our resident membership. We need and welcome financial support from our visitors.

Disbursing Treasurer
Cathie Feild, Secretary (441-5897)

Receiving Treasurers
Becky Lofton-DeSanto
(480-0724)
Lisa Rhodes
(207-5022)

Another way to give is through online donations via a website link ❤GIVE NOW at:

Church Staff

Ministers
All Members of the Church

The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore
Pastor
revjody.moore@gmail.com

Jason K. Evans
Director of Music Ministries/Organist
ceplanoman@aol.com

Hollie Writtenberry
Director of Youth, Children and Young Families Ministries
holliewrittenberry@gmail.com

Cathie Feild
Office Manager
office@outerbankspresbyterian.org

Heather Day
Nursery Caregiver

Brenda Feury
Sexton

The Stated Session
Gary McGee, Clerk of Session
453-4470

Class of 2020
Bobby Gentry 449-8165
Bob Messinger 202-0935
Barb Nowland 480-0423

Class of 2021
Ron Campbell 412-979-2607
Ike McRee 261-1129
Judy Whittle 255-0705

Class of 2022
Ron Baker 398-2296
Barbara Nock 255-5979
Evelyn Webb 255-1085

Outer Banks Presbyterian Church
www.outerbankspresbyterian.org
907 S. Croatan Highway / P.O. Box 2199
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948
Phone: (252) 441-5897
Email: office@outerbankspresbyterian.org
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9am-4pm