

“The Parables of Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes”

Pastor Dan’s Brown Bag Bible Study Is Back!

On Thursdays at 12:30 beginning September 28th, hear the parables of Jesus as his disciples, the crowds and the religious authorities heard them. Step back in time and see Jesus through 1st century Middle Eastern eyes. Discover amazing new insights and perspectives on some of history’s most famous stories!

Pastor Dan is offering this 10-week course beginning September 28th. The format is casual lecture and discussion. There are no books to buy, and the only assignments are to read and contemplate the assigned parable before each class. Bring your lunch and we will break bread and learn together.

Because each week tackles a different parable, missing one or two weeks will not put you behind for the next class or, pick your favorite parables and attend then. A sign-up sheet is on the glass table in the back of the sanctuary.

- ❑ 9/28 The Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10: 25-37
- ❑ 10/5 The Parable of the Rich Fool – Luke 12: 13-21
- ❑ 10/12 The Parable of the Great Banquet – Luke 14: 15-24
- ❑ 10/19 The Parable of the Unjust Steward – Luke 16: 1-8
- ❑ 10/26 The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector – Luke 18: 9-14
- ❑ 11/2 The Parable of the Compassionate Employer – Matthew 20: 1-6
- ❑ 11/9 The Parable of the Serving Master – Luke 12: 35-38
- ❑ 11/16 The Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man – Luke 16: 19-30
- ❑ 11/23 The Parable of the Pounds – Luke 19: 11-27
- ❑ 11/30 The Parable of the Noble Vineyard Owner and His Son– Luke 20: 9-18

Sunday, September 17th, 2023
Twenty-Fourth in Ordinary Time



Parting of the Red Sea

**First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Rev. Dan McKenty - Pastor**

“Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea”

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**Office Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Noon
Tuesday - Friday**

Liturgy for Sunday, September 17th, 2023

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: “Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. Romans 14:10

Ring of the Church Bell Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 103:(1-7), 8- (responsive)

Beth LaBrunda

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits--

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

As far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

Amen.

Prelude

Choral Introit: “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

* Hymn “He Leadeth Me” # 461

Current Prayer Concerns:

James Coughlin, Shirley Warren, Chris Hazard, Shane Warren, Kent Mitchell, Dixie Porter, Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Christina Moore, Amy Etheridge, Bonnie Hancock, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Joyce & Jack Vavrek, Bob Lebo, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna, Larry (Black) Blackwell, Marie McCallister, Betty Ignash, Tom Taylor, Lake Scott, Bryan Wayne-Records, Debbie Kelly, and Algernon John-Baptiste, Kathy Smith, Larry Steele, Margie Baugher Cramer, Harvey Smith, Kendal Snyder, and Joni Eareckson Tada.

Those homebound or undergoing treatment:

John Snyder and Marie McCallister (Marty Cropper’s sister)

Berlin Nursing Home: For all those who we were unable to visit or sing with during this time of virus.

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

Sep 24	Barbara & Betsy Kipila
Oct 1	Nancy Wright & Carol Reese
Oct 8	Karen Eberly & Mary Snyder
Oct 15	Jan Owens & Sue Latour

FOOD PANTRY

Our Food Pantry is being utilized by many this summer. If you are able, please consider picking up some of the below items to help us restock:

Rice in small packages
Tuna Cans
Beef / Chicken Ramen Noodles
Cheese & Peanut Butter Crackers
Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
Fruit Snacks
Fruit & Granola Bars
Fruit Cups

Thank you for your compassion and generosity!

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Tues	Sep	19	Mobile Showers <i>(note new time)</i>	1:30 PM
Tues	Sep	19	W.O.W Meeting	11:00 AM
Tues	Sep	19	Book Club	1:00 PM
Wed	Sep	20	Food Pantry <i>(volunteers needed)</i>	9:00 AM
Wed	Sep	20	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Thur	Sep	21	New Members Class	7:00 PM
Fri	Sep	22	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM

Birthdays Virginia Miller (9/23)

Flowers: ~ Flowers in the chancel vases are given:
~ By Robin Quinn and dedicated to all our church volunteers who give their time and love serving others.

~ In celebration of our 40th Anniversary today and for our new church family. ~ Brenda & Reuben Wilkinson

** September 24th 2nd Vase open for dedication*

New Member Class

Pastor Dan will be hosting a new members class on **Thursday evening, September 21st at 7PM** in Fellowship Hall. If you're considering joining First Presbyterian or if you're just interested in learning more about our congregation, the PCUSA, or reformed Christianity, this class is for you! The sign-up sheet is on the glass table.

WOW - Women of Worship

The Women of Worship will meet on Tuesday, Sept 19 at 11:00 AM. We invite **ALL** women to come for bible study and fellowship. We have read the Gospel of Luke over the summer and will now add the first two chapters of Acts.

After our study, Karen Eberly will go over the 2023/2024 Agenda. We can then enjoy our bag lunches as we fellowship with one another. Jackie sent an email out earlier this week regarding the study. Let us know if you need another copy.

*** Passing the Peace**
Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Prayer of Confession (unison)
Loving God,
we confess that we have failed to live in harmony with our sisters and brothers. We have been self-righteous in our attitudes, closed-minded in our beliefs, and judgmental in our opinions. We have shunned those whose ways we do not understand, and we have despised those who do not endorse our convictions. Forgive our sins of discord and conceit, and heal our divisiveness and quarreling. Help us to be charitable in our regard for others that we may dwell in peace with Christ, who is Lord of all. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)
Friends, the Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*** Gloria Patri** (unison)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering
God is unfailing in blessing and love. With thankful hearts, let us offer up to God a portion of what God has given us.

*** Doxology** (unison)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly Hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication
O God, we thank you for these gifts. Multiply them, and enable the work of love and the righteousness of your kingdom in the world. We thank and praise you. Amen.

Choral Anthem: "I Will Sing of My Redeemer"

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Holy God, your Word is strong and leads our feet to your holy dwelling place. Strengthen and guide us with your Word through the power of your Holy Spirit; in Jesus' name. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: Exodus 14: 19-31 [NRSV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." ²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Household Prayer: Morning

*Gracious and loving God,
thank you for this day.
Strengthen my resolve to love and show mercy
throughout the day.
Lead my feet to your holy dwelling place,
and guide the work I have to do for today.
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Household Prayer: Evening

Merciful God,
thank you for keeping me in the safety of your arms
and for new mercies and the glory you showed
through the day.
Keep my family and me through the night.
I thank and praise you!
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Book Club:

The next Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, September 19 at 1PM**. We are reading "**The Watchmaker's Daughter - the Life of Corrie ten Boom**" by Jean Watson.

The Watchmaker's Daughter traces the life of this outstanding Christian woman from her childhood in Haarlem (Netherlands), through her suffering in Nazi concentration camps, to her world-wide ministry to the handicapped and underprivileged.

Updated Statistics for the Ocean City Beach Patrol 2023 Season:

Last week we honored the **Ocean City Beach Patrol** for the sacrificial work they do during our busy beach seasons. As of last week, we only had the numbers for the Labor Day Weekend. Captain Butch Arbin was able to supply us with the statistics for the 2023 season (as of last week):

- ⇒ **2,038** individuals were rescued from the ocean (not all are life and death, but they all need some assistance);
- ⇒ **100,000** preventative actions were recorded. This is when the SRT (guard) uses a whistle and flags to move someone away from danger so they don't have to initiate a rescue;
- ⇒ Over **1,500** minor First Aid services were provided;
- ⇒ **220** more serious medical cases where we requested EMS;
- ⇒ The Beach Patrol is also responsible for the beach wheel chairs and recorded over **400** separate uses.
- ⇒ The Beach Patrol SRTs are also responsible for enforcing all of the laws and ordinances on the beach. This includes alcohol, dogs, smoking, ball playing, etc., and we had over **12,000** enforcement interactions this season. Smoking accounted for over **4,000** and alcohol was another major issue.

Captain Arbin also called our attention to the fact that the first official activity they do each season is a public Prayer Service at 7AM on the Saturday on Memorial Day Weekend.

He added that they are most grateful for our prayers.

2nd Scripture Reading: Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 [NRSV]

Lisa Bayles

The Song of Moses

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea. ²The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him; my father's God, and I will exalt him. ³The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name. ⁴Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea; his elite officers were sunk in the Red Sea. ⁵The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. ⁶Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy. ⁷In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries; you sent out your fury; it consumed them like stubble. ⁸At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. ⁹The enemy said, 'I will pursue; I will overtake; I will divide the spoil; my desire shall have its fill of them I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.' ¹⁰You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. ¹¹Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?"

The Song of Miriam

²⁰Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. ²¹And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Time with Children & Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea"

Rev. Dan McKenty

* Hymn: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" # 59

***Affirmation of Faith Taken from "A Brief Statement of Faith"** (unison)

In life and death, we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the broken hearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

We trust in God whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (unison)

Let us pray for this world God so loves, saying,
God in your mercy, hear our prayer.
O God, your unfailing love has been
the source of our strength.
It has led us through troubled waters
and away from our enemies.

In your infinite love,
you have had pity on us and heard our cries.
Because of your faithful love and mercy,
we bring our concerns to you, O God.

For the universal church—
that it would be an instrument of your love,
forgiveness, and grace. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the global community—that we would learn to live for each other in peace and cooperation, and share collective responsibility. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer in their minds, bodies, or souls— wrap your arms around them in love and help us, the church, be what they need. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** And we pray for

For the silent intentions we hold in our hearts. [A time of silence is kept.] God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Glory be to the Father, and to Jesus Christ the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*** Hymn: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" # 252**

Charge

Benediction

Postlude and Response "Go From the Pews"