

“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
- ❑ 10/26 The Parable of the Unjust Steward – Luke 16: 1-8
- ❑ 11/9 The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector – Luke 18: 9-14
- ❑ 11/16 The Parable of the Compassionate Employer – Matthew 20: 1-6
- ❑ 11/30 The Parable of the Serving Master – Luke 12: 35-38
- ❑ 12/7 The Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man – Luke 16: 19-30
- ❑ 12/14 The Parable of the Pounds – Luke 19: 11-27
- ❑ 12/21 The Parable of the Noble Vineyard Owner and His Son– Luke 20: 9-18

Sunday, December 10th, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent
10:30 AM



John the Baptist

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

“#####”

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

Liturgy for Sunday December 10th, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: *"See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed he is coming, says the Lord of hosts."*
Malachi 3:1

Ringling of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (responsive)
Elder Marty Cropper

LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps. Amen.

Prelude

Choral Introit "This is My Humble Prayer"

* Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" # 123

* Passing the Peace

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Current Prayer Concerns:

Thomas Simpson, Chris Hazard, Kent Mitchell, Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, 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, Algernon John-Baptiste, Kathy Smith, Larry Steele, Margie Baugher Cramer, Mark Payne, and Beth Miller.

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:

Dec 10	Karen Eberly & Mary Snyder
Dec 17	Jan Owens & Peggy Webster
Jan 7	Lisa Bayles & Jonelle Jones
Jan 14	Dawn Butler & Sue Latour

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Tues	Dec	12	Mobile Showers	9:30	AM
Tues	Dec	12	Deacon's Meeting	10:00	AM
Tues	Dec	12	Session Meeting	1:00	PM
Wed	Dec	13	Choir Practice <i>(Canceled)</i>	6:00	PM
Thu	Dec	14	Brown Bag Bible Study	12:30	PM
Fri	Dec	15	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00	PM

Birthdays *Dawn Messick (12/10) Beth LaBrunda (12/14)*
Marty Cropper (12/16)

Flowers: *Large Red and White poinsettias are in memory of:*

~ **Chris Rogers**, given by his parents, Donald and Mable Rogers and Chris daughter, Logan Rogers. A precious memory.

~ Placed in loving memory of our son **Troy Wainwright**, given by Bettie and Graison; Troy's brother Scott and family, and Jeanne,, Troy's wife. May Troy have a Joyous Christmas in Heaven.

~ A basket of Christmas flowers is in honor of our daughter Julia and the celebration of her birthday on December 9th.

Rich and Nancy Wright

~ A basket is placed in loving memory of my husband Dick Snyder. "You went too soon". Love, Mary

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (responsive)

Buzzy and Lisa Bayles

Reader 1: O God, we light the second candle of Advent.

Reader 2: We seek your comfort. Both mighty and tender, you come. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.

Reader 1: Isaiah announced God's coming to a people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness. He declared that God's redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain. God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock. This Advent, we seek such a God.

People: Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent teach us to be tender and just, as you are. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness.

We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace.

We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love.

Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Brothers and sisters,

by the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven,

for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God. 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

The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. May your righteousness go before God and prepare a pathway for the Lord. Let us offer our lives and labor to God and fulfill our vows to the Most High.

*** 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

Lord, we give you thanks that in the coming of Christ your steadfast love and faithfulness have met and your righteousness and peace have kissed. May the gifts we offer this day lift up those in need and prepare the way of your salvation. Amen.

Choral Anthem "Lift Up Your Heads"

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Mighty God, send your Holy Spirit to speak peace, that the good news of this age may be proclaimed through your word, which stands forever. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-11 [NIV]

Chris Greenwood

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her

that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Congregation Financials as of November 30, 2023:

Year-to-date **giving/income** (\$142,356.00 from giving; remainder from parking, building use, etc.): \$208,283.82

Year-to-date **disbursements** (includes \$20,000 for replacement windows at the Manse): **\$218,217.17**

Fellowship Christmas Tree

We will be collecting gloves, hats, scarves, socks, and long underwear to 'decorate' our Christmas Tree in Fellowship Hall. All donated items will go to Samaritan's Shelter in Pocomoke. Your choice on size/gender. All will be appreciated.

Advent Reading Challenge

The WOW ladies are challenging the congregation to join them in reading the Bible during Advent. Starting on December 1st, read a chapter in the Gospel of Luke every day until Christmas. Luke has 24 chapters so that by Christmas, you will have followed Jesus' birth, teaching, death, and resurrection - all in time for Christmas Day!

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord, how I love this season of new beginnings,
the opportunity to turn toward you and start again.

Empower me to be a messenger of good news,
and a leveling influence along the way,
as I seek to be one with you

in smoothing out the rough places I encounter. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord, you have comforted me throughout this day
and rescued me from my exile.

Where I have flourished, I give you thanks;
where I have erred, I ask your forgiveness.

Protect me through the night
that I may rest in your realm of peace
where righteousness makes a home. Amen.

FOOD PANTRY

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

Tuna Cans
Fruit & Granola Bars
Fruit Snacks
Fruit Cups
Deodorant
Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
Soap
Disposable razors & shaving cream

Thank you for your compassion and generosity!

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out."

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass,

and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall,

because the breath of the Lord blows on them.

Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall,

but the word of our God endures forever."

⁹ You who bring good news to Zion,

go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,

lift up your voice with a shout,

lift it up, do not be afraid;

say to the towns of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

¹⁰ See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,

and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,

and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in his arms

and carries them close to his heart;

he gently leads those that have young.

2nd Scripture Reading: Mark 13: 24-37 [NIV]

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The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way" —

³ "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a

leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Time with Children & Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: "#####"

Rev. Dan McKenty

*** Hymn "Once in David's Royal City" # 155**

***Affirmation of Faith** (unison)

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

As heralds of God's good tidings,
let us lift up our voices with strength this day
praying to the One who comforts, restores, and heals.

Let us pray for all leaders and people of the world.
You have created one human family to live in
righteousness and peace.
Give us the wisdom to order our common life
according to your loving purposes,
that your glory may be revealed and all people shall
see it together.

Let us pray for your church.
You have given us the gift of the Messiah
so that your church may be steadfast and true.
Give us strength to follow your Son
until all have come to repentance and are reconciled
by his love.

Let us pray for those who are sick, who suffer need,
who are exiled or in danger.
You have made us for a holy purpose,
to comfort and care for each other.
Give us compassion to love our neighbor
and patience to care for those in need. And we pray for

Let us pray for your creation.
Your faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and your goodness looks down from the sky.
Rid us of the laziness and greed that diminish life
as you teach us to care for your creation together.

Let us remember those who have died.
Ever-living God,
one day in your presence is like a thousand years,
and a thousand years are like one day.
Make us one with the saints,
who have found their eternal home in you.

Make us better disciples of your Son, our Lord and Savior who
taught us to pray to you by saying, **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 "Away in the Manger" # 157**

Charge

Benediction

Postlude and Response "Six-Fold Amen "