

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, February 12, 2023

Free Will

*If you choose,
you can keep the commandments,
and to act faithfully is a matter of your own choice.*

*He has placed before you fire and water;
stretch out your hand
for whichever you choose.*

*Before each person are life and death,
and whichever one chooses will be given.*

*For great is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is mighty in power and sees everything;*

*His eyes are on those who fear him,
and he knows every human action.*

*He has not commanded anyone to be wicked,
and he has not given anyone permission to sin.*

Sirach 15:15-20



Moses Addressing the Nation of Israel

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

“Living the 1st Person Plural”

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

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We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." ~ Psalm 100: 1-2 [KJV]

Ringing of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 119: 1-8 (responsive)

Deacon Beth Fisher

Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD.

Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart,

who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways.

You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently

O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances.

I will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake me. Amen.

Prelude

Choral Introit: "The Solid Rock"

***Hymn "Praise Him! Praise Him!" # 106**

*** Passing the Peace**

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy God,

I greet this day with thanks

and the determination to choose the good.

Help me to walk with you in blessing.

Let my "yes" be yes, and my "no" be no,

as I share the light of Christ.

Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord Jesus, it is night,

and night is for sleeping;

yet, my mind is racing fast.

I give thanks for the blessings this day,

and then I worry—

there is so much left undone.

But you are with me!

You calm my anxiety,

fill me with peace,

and help me choose the way of rest.

Amen.

It's Girl Scout Cookie Sales Time of the Year

Your fellow congregant and member of Girl Scout Troop 812, Summer Brenner, is taking orders for those delicious cookies after church in Fellowship Hall.



Thank you for helping us MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE!

Summer Brenner

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Syria - Turkey Earthquake

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in both Turkey and Syria (where the catastrophic destruction is compounding the damage of the now 11-year civil war).

Please lift your fervent prayers for vulnerable people in such a dire and terrifying circumstance.

If you have a mind and heart to help financially, here is the link for more information. Thank you.

<https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/turkey-syria-earthquake/>

Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Hear the good news! Hope does not disappoint us, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism.

Believe this good news and give thanks: in 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

Jesus said, If you remember that a brother or sister has something against you, first be reconciled to them, and then come and offer your gift. In peace, let us bring our offerings to God.

* 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

Holy God, we offer you these gifts with thanks, so that together we may plant and water the seeds of your new world. May we be your faithful servants as we cultivate your love, knowing that in all we accomplish, it is you who gives the growth. Amen

Choral Anthem: "We Walk By Faith"

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Loving God,

anoint us with your Holy Spirit, as we hear your Word this day.
Fill us with your truth that we may walk in the ways of God and
to the glory of your realm. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: Matthew 5: 21-37 [NRSV]

Elder Marty Cropper

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder,' and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' ²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. ²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. ³¹ "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' ³² But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. ³³ "Again, you have heard

Current Prayer Concerns:

Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Karen Cobb Snyder, Christina Moore, Amy Etheridge, Dawn Butler, Connie Ellis, Bonnie Hancock, Margie Bauer Cramer, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Janice Beckham, Jim Phillips, Russ Shallcross, Carol Nelson, Joyce & Jack Vavrek, Bob Lebo, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna, Larry ("Black") Blackwell, and Jane Zimmer

Those homebound or undergoing treatment: John Snyder, 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

February 19	Karen Eberle & Mary Snyder
February 26	Jan Owens & Peggy Webster

Next Movie Night - Friday, March 3

@ 6:30PM

Straight from the Sight & Sound vault comes **JOSEPH!** Filmed in front of a live audience at Sight & Sound Theatres in 2010, this exhilarating story about dreams and the power of forgiveness is one of our most beloved productions. From the fields of Canaan to the stunning palaces of Egypt, join this adventurous dreamer on a journey to discover God's plan for his life.



Bring family, friends, and neighbors! Popcorn, snacks, and beverages will be provided. The movie is free of charge!

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Sun, Feb 12	Boy Scout Troop # 2173	4:00 PM
Wed, Feb 15	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Wed, Feb 15	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Wed, Feb 15	Girl Scouts Troop # 812	6:00 PM
Fri, Feb 17	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM

Next Session Meeting will be Wednesday, March 8th at 1:00 PM

Birthdays: Bettie Wainwright (2/18)

Flowers: Flowers in the chancel vase are given:

~ In praise of God and in thankfulness of his unconditional love given to all of us. We love because He first loved us.

1st Corinthians 13:13 'And now these three remain, faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.'

~ In honor of my 'oldest and bestest friend' Bettie Wainwright as she celebrates her birthday on February 18th. I Cherish all the good times we've had shared for so many years.

~ I love you. Mabel.

~ A basket of flowers is placed to the Glory of our risen Savior and in honor of my sister, Marie McCallister and the celebration of her Birthday on February 13th. As sisters, we share the memories of yesteryears; the joys of today and the hope for a beautiful and heathy tomorrow. *~I love you, Martha*

We have open dedications for the following Sundays:

February 26...two (2)

Volunteers Needed ...

We are seeking volunteers to help at our **Wednesday Food Pantry**. From **9AM - 11:30AM** greet people, guide them to the Food Pantry, and help restock the pantry from our storage, as needed. A sign-up sheet is on the glass table in the back of the sanctuary. Please consider participating in this much needed ministry.

that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.'³⁴ But I say to you: Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

2nd Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 [NRSV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

Time with Children & Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: "Living the 1st Person Plural"

Rev. Dan McKenty

***Hymn "The Church's One Foundation" #277**

Affirmation of Faith – Colossians 1: 15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;

in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.

All things have been created through him and for him.

He himself is before all things

and in him all things hold together.

He is head of the body, the church;

he is the beginning,

the first born of the dead,

so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,

whether on earth or in heaven,

by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

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

For the leaders of all nations that they may pull back from the carnage of war and seek peaceful resolutions, Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

For those who preach your Word in hostile and dangerous places that they may be kept safe and given the courage to continue your work, Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For the children of this world, that they be loved, nourished, kept from harm and come to know you. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For those who grieve and suffer loneliness, that they be comforted by your presence, Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For those close to us who are sick and struggling, Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** And we pray for

.All of these prayers and petitions we bind together in the strong name 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 "Peace Like a River" #498**

Charge

Benediction

Postlude and Response: "Go Into the World"