

“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 3rd, 2023
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Burning Bush

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

“From Curiosity to Call”

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

Liturgy for Sunday, September 3rd, 2023

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord." Romans 12: 9-21

Ringing of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b (responsive)

Elder Rich Wright

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.

And the LORD made his people very fruitful, and made them stronger than their foes,

whose hearts he then turned to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants.

He sent his servant Moses, and Aaron whom he had chosen.

Praise the LORD! Amen.

Prelude

Choral Introit: "America the Beautiful"

*** Hymn "Moment by Moment" #351**

*** Passing the Peace**

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Current Prayer Concerns:

Shirley Warren, Chris Hazard, Kent Mitchell, Dixie Porter, Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Christina Moore, Amy Etheridge, Bonnie Hancock, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Russ Shallcross, 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, Cindy Blackwell, Margie Baugher Cramer, Harvey Smith, and Kendal Snyder.

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 10	Jackie Bates & Dawn Butler
Sep 17	Lisa Bayles & Beth Fisher
Sep 24	Barbara & Betsy Kipila
Oct 1	Nancy Wright & Carol Reese
Oct 8	Karen Eberly & Marty Cropper

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	5	Mobile Showers	9:00 AM
Wed Sep	6	Food Pantry (<i>volunteers needed</i>)	9:00 AM
Wed Sep	6	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Fri Sep	8	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
Sat Sep	9	Sligo-by-the-Sea	9:00 AM

Birthdays: Benjamin Cropper (9/3) Joy Steger (9/8)
Mable Rogers (9/8)

Flowers: ~ Flowers in the chancel vases are given:

~ In praise of our Lord and Savior and in honor of Mabel Rogers and the celebration of her September 8th birthday. we are thankful to have you as our Mom and Granny. Love, Dawn and Emily

~ In honor of Ben Cooper as he celebrates his birthday today. I am so proud of you. Love, Grammy

~ In memory of our parents, Irv and Juanita Mumford as they celebrate their 74th wedding anniversary in Heaven, with our Lord and Savior, their parents and daughter Sue. They were married on September 4th, 1949, in our "old" church (now the Baptist Church) by Rev. Keith Postlewaite . ~ David and Julie, Danny and Liz.

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.



Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God,

We confess that our love for you and for others has not been genuine. We have not held fast to what is good, and we have lagged in affection for our brothers and sisters.

We have not been patient in suffering, nor have we persevered in prayer. We have repaid evil for evil, and have failed to live peaceably with all. Forgive us our sin, free us from fear of the power of evil, and help us trust in the power of your everlasting goodness; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Friends, hear the good news: Christ has broken the power of sin and evil, and has opened to us the way of eternal life.

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

The apostle Paul encourages us: do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. In loving service to this loving Lord, we now return to God a portion of the bounty God has provided.

* 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 of holy ground, like Moses, we question our fitness to serve heaven's purposes on earth. Overcome our qualms with the assurance of your presence; bless these offerings that, through them, we may do your will; in the name of the triune One. Amen.

Choral Anthem: "I Sing of the Glory of the Lord"

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Holy Spirit, who spoke to Moses from the burning bush,
speak to us now in the reading and proclaiming of your word.
Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: Exodus 3: 1-15 [NIV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."⁴When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." ⁵"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. ⁷The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." ¹³Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" ¹⁴God said

Movie Night! - Ruth

Our next Movie Night will be on **Friday, September 15th at 6:30 PM** in Fellowship Hall. Beverages and snacks provided. No charge!

Filmed in front of a live audience at Sight & Sound Theatres in 2006, this remarkable story of second chances is one of their most beloved productions.

Journey alongside an ordinary woman whose faith in God ignites a chain of events that change the course of history.



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.

Rummage Sale

Our next Rummage Sale will be held on **Saturday, September 16th** from 7AM - 1PM. The shed will be **OPEN** for donations from today (Aug 27) through Sunday, September 10. See Jan Owens for questions.

Please consider volunteering, especially at setup time (6:00 AM) or at close-up time (12:30 - 1:00 PM)

Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Help us, O God, to love as Christ loved. Knowing our own weakness, may we stand with all who stumble. Sharing in his suffering, may we remember all who suffer. Held in his love, may we embrace all whom the world denies. Rejoicing in his forgiveness, may we forgive all who sin against us. Give us strength to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection, when with the redeemed of all the ages we will feast with you at your table in glory.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. Amen

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

Listening God, you heard the prayers of the Israelites groaning under oppression.

Hear now our prayers, both spoken and silent:

For peace where there is conflict . . . (silence)

For food where there is hunger . . . (silence)

For hope where there is despair . . . (silence)

For health where there is sickness . . . (silence) we pray for

For faith where there is fear . . . (silence)

For life where there is death . . . (silence)

We pray in the name of Jesus, who conquers all that would defeat us, who makes all things new and 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 "God Be with You" # 602**

Charge

Benediction

Postlude and Response "Four-Fold Amen"

to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.'

"This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.

2nd Scripture Reading: Exodus 4: 1-17 [NIV]

Robin Quinn.

Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The Lord did not appear to you?'" ² Then the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied.

³ The Lord said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. ⁴ Then the Lord said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. ⁵ "This," said the Lord, "is so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you." ⁶ Then the Lord said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous it had become as white as snow. ⁷ "Now put it back into your cloak," he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh. ⁸ Then the Lord said, "If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second." ⁹ But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground." ¹⁰ Moses said to the Lord, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord?" ¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." ¹³ But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else." ¹⁴ Then the Lord's anger burned against Moses

and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. ¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. ¹⁶ He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. ¹⁷ But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it."

Time with Children & Youth

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: "From Curiosity to Call"

Rev. Dan McKenty

*** Hymn "Take My Life and Let It Be" # 379** vs. 1, 2, 3, 5

*** Affirmation of Faith - Apostles' Creed** (unison)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting, Amen.

Sacrament of our Lord's Supper (responsive)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal God, holy and mighty, it is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, and to worship you in every place where your glory abides. You laid the foundation of the

earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They shall perish, but you shall endure. You are always the same and your years will never end. You made us in your image and called us to be your people, but we turned from you, leaving sin and death to reign. Still you loved us and sought us. In Christ your grace defeated death and opened the way to eternal life. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells, to be for us the way, the truth, and the life. Revealing your love, Jesus taught those who would hear him, healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him and lifted the burden of their sin. We glorify you for your great power and love at work in Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people by water and the Spirit.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your