

## **“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, November 19th, 2023  
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City  
Rev. Dan McKenty

*“The Curious Thing About Goats and Sheep”*

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

# Liturgy for Sunday, November 19th, 2023

## Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

**We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds:** *"At the end of our lives, we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made or how many great things we have done. We will be judged by 'I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless and you took me in'"*  
Mother Teresa

### Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship: Psalms** (responsive)

**Elder Marty Cropper**

Clothe yourselves with faith and love;

be confident in your salvation in Christ Jesus.

The Lord is with us! Let us worship God. Amen.

### Prelude

**Choral Introit: "Now Thank We All Our God"**

\* Hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" # 92

\* Passing the Peace

**Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations**

**Prayer of Confession** (unison)

Sovereign God, we confess

that we are not ready for your holy realm.

You guide us toward right paths,

but we refuse to follow where you lead.

You love and feed and care for us,

but we fail to love and serve others.

Forgive us, merciful God,

so that we may return to your fold

and rejoice in your presence;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

the Lamb upon the throne. Amen.

### Current Prayer Concerns:

Thomas Simpson, James Coughlin, Chris Hazard, Kent Mitchell, 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, 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:

Nov 26	Barbara & Betsy Kipila
Dec 3	Nancy Wright & Carol Reese
Dec 10	Karen Eberly & Mary Snyder
Dec 17	Jan Owens & Peggy Webster

### Adorning Our Sanctuary for Christmas ...

Next **Sunday (Nov 25)** after worship, we will be decorating our church for the Advent & Christmas season. If you are able, please stay for a bit to lend a helping hand. Thanks you!



I FEEL LIKE I NEED TO STEP UP MY GAME.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

THAT MAY BE TRUE...



BUT YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS COMES FROM JESUS, NOT YOUR SERVICE. AND YOUR SERVICE COMES FROM YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.



AND JESUS SEES IT ALL. THAT'S WHY I FEEL LIKE I NEED TO STEP UP MY GAME!



MATTHEW 25:31-46

## Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Tues	Nov	21	Mobile Showers	9:30	AM
Wed	Nov	22	Food Pantry ( <i>volunteers needed</i> )	9:00	AM
Wed	Nov	22	Choir Practice	6:00	PM
Fri	Nov	24	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00	PM

**Birthdays** *Pete Hanes (11/21) Pat Mitchell (11/21)*  
*Sharon Sauer (11/25) Emily Hak (11/25)*

**Flowers:** (*Dedications OPEN for 11/26 - one*)

Flowers in both chancel vases are given:

~ By Pete and Olive Hanes in thankfulness to God for all his many blessings and in celebration of Olive's birthday on the 15th; Pete's birthday on the 21st and our 62nd wedding anniversary on the 18th.

~ A basket of flowers is placed by Rich and Nancy Wright and dedicated to the memory of Rich's mother, Rose and the celebration of her heavenly November birthday.

**\*\* Flower Price Adjustment beginning January 2024\*\***  
Chancel Vase from \$22 to \$25  
Flower Basket from \$ 30 to \$35

### 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:

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

Thank you for your compassion and generosity!

**Assurance of Pardon** (responsive)

Brothers and sisters,

God seeks the lost sheep and feeds them with justice.

**Forgiven and freed, we turn, then, and live in Christ, our Lord.**  
**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 has entrusted us with a variety of gifts; let us return to the Lord a generous measure of our bounty with thanksgiving and praise.

**\* 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**

For all that you are and all that you do,  
we give you thanks,

our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

We wait in hope for the coming of your realm

and offer these gifts to further your kingdom on earth;  
in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**Choral Anthem: "He Leadeth Me"**

**Prayer for Illumination** (unison)

Holy God, open your Word.

Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation,

that our eyes may be enlightened

and we may know the hope to which we have been called;  
through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

## 1st Scripture Reading: Thessalonians 5: 1-11 [NIV]

Beth LaBrunda

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

## 2nd Scripture Reading: Matthew 25: 31-46 [NIV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. <sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' <sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' <sup>40</sup> "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' <sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal

## New Member Class

Pastor Dan will be hosting a new members class on **Thursday, November 30th 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.

## Church Directory

There are NEW Add/Change forms on the glass table at the back of the sanctuary. Please check the directory and give us the updates. This is so helpful for all of our congregation to be able to keep in touch with one another.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Beth LaBrunda.

## Congregation Financials as of October 31, 2023:

Year-to-date **giving/income** ((\$125,048.75 from giving; remainder from parking, building use, etc.): \$189,189.02

Year-to-date **disbursements** (includes \$20,000 for replacement windows at the Manse): **\$203,853.96**

The Deacons of First Presbyterian have chosen the below gifts for our annual Presbyterian Giving Campaign. Contributions may be made by check or through the Online Giving page on the church's website. They are not just gifts, they are doorways to a new life.



**Community Garden**  
**\$200**

**Fishing Kit \$75**



**Sewing Machine \$50**



**Latrine \$350**



fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' <sup>44</sup> "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' <sup>45</sup> "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' <sup>46</sup> "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

**Time with Children & Youth**

Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: *"The Curious Thing About Goats and Sheep"*

Rev. Dan McKenty

\* Hymn "A Charge to Keep I Have" # 448

\*Affirmation of Faith (unison)

We believe the church's story with God did not end with the latest events recorded in Scripture. Across the centuries the company of believers has continued its pilgrimage with the Lord of history. It is a record of faith and faithlessness, glory, and shame. We confess we are heirs of this whole story. We are charged to remember our past, to be warned and encouraged by it, but not to live it again. Now is the time of our testing as God's story with the church moves forward through us. We are called to live now as God's servants in the service of people everywhere.

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

Through Jesus Christ, God has shown us the sovereignty of divine love in compassion for the least, the lost, and the lonely. Therefore, we pray, saying, Compassionate Lord, receive our prayer.

God, we live in a world of plenty in which the poor struggle for daily bread. We pray for those who lack the basic necessities of

life and those who willingly share the resources you have given. Correct those who hoard resources out of anxiety, ignorance, or selfishness. Open their eyes to your presence among the poor of the world and free them for joyful giving. For the poor, the benevolent, and the hard-of-heart,  
Compassionate Lord, **receive our prayer.**

God, you admonish us to offer hospitality to the stranger and to welcome the weary. We pray for travelers, for those who emigrate to new lands, for refugees of political and religious wars, and for those who have no place to call home. Bless those who offer refuge to the wayfaring stranger. Convict the conscience and open the heart of any who would raise walls of self-preservation and isolation. For the stranger, for those who minister to them, and for those who would refuse them,  
Compassionate Lord, **receive our prayer.**

God, you hear the cry of all who are in distress. Heal those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit. Comfort them in their need and help those who care for them. We also pray for those who abandon the sick and suffering out of fear. Teach us to serve our sisters and brothers and to share the burden of disease of body, mind, and heart. For the sick and those in distress, for those who care for them and those who are afraid to offer fellowship to them.  
Compassionate Lord, **receive our prayer.** And we pray for....

God, Jesus our Lord was a prisoner of Rome before his execution, and he instructed his disciples to visit those in prison. We pray for those who are incarcerated: for those who are guilty of crime and for those who may be unjustly imprisoned. Save the lost, reprove the haughty, liberate the captive, and let your disciples be a sign of your forgiving, liberating love. We also pray for those who work in prisons, that they may respect the humanity of the women and men they guard and not be overwhelmed by the moral dangers of their employment. For prisoners, for those who minister to them, and for those who guard them,  
Compassionate Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, confirm our prayer with the dedication of our lives to ministry; in the name of Jesus Christ, 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 "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" # 252

Charge

Benediction

Postlude and Response "Three-Fold Amen"

### *Household Prayer: Morning*

I give thanks this day for the gift of Christ  
and the privilege to follow in his way.  
This is the greatest life-giving treasure  
that I am called to steward;  
may I share this as freely as I have received it  
from the One who gave himself for the life of the world.  
May I be continually awakened to your love this day. Amen.

### *Household Prayer: Evening*

God, I do not like to confront what I cannot control;  
I shrink before my own limitations and human frailty.  
Help me to trust in your steadfast constancy  
and know that your sovereign goodness is all that I need.  
Teach me to number my days  
so that I may grow wise in heart,  
knowing that, no matter their length,  
I dwell in you eternally. Amen.