



Park Presbyterian Church

January 7, 2021

Weekly Park Branches

This Weeks Sermon

“Cleansed Within”
Rev. Bob Goossen

Scriptures

[Mark 1:4-11](#)

Contact Us

RevGoossen@parkpres.org
724-775-2936



“John the Baptizer appeared in the wild, preaching a baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins. People thronged to him from Judea and Jerusalem and, as they confessed their sins, were baptized by him in the Jordan River into a changed life.” Mark 1:4-5 *The Message*

Epiphany has come and with the marking of this day in our Christian calendar we put away the last of the twelve days of Christmas. We begin to lean into several weeks of ordinary time before we reach Ash Wednesday on February 17 and the Lenten season which follows. But first we have a special Sunday this week in which we celebrate the Baptism of Christ. We move from thinking about the light of Christmas to the water of Baptism.

As we prepare for worship on Sunday I invite us all to think about water. Living along the Beaver and Ohio rivers and their tributaries, large and small, we live in a land where water is plentiful. We have running water in our homes; drinking, bathing, cleaning up are done without a second thought.

This week, pause for a moment if you will, to consider the cleansing power symbolized by the waters of baptism—the washing away of sin by the grace of God in Jesus Christ. On Sunday we’ll give some space for contemplation of both the sealing in and the cleansing aspects of our baptisms; always giving thanks for the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan.

in the joy of our journey, pastor bob

Sunday Worship as Park Apart

The live worship video will be available on Sunday starting at 11:00 am, and you can continue to find us anytime thereafter at <https://www.parkpres.org/swl-sunday-worship-live>. The bulletin for the service can also be found on the [Sunday Worship page](#) of our site. If you have announcements or prayer requests, please send them to Pastor Bob on Sunday morning via email: revgoossen@parkpres.org or call/text 724-464-4032.

Special Note on Covid-19

If a person who has been in attendance at a church activity has received a positive Covid-19 result, the congregation will be notified as to who that person is and what activity they attended.



Lifeline Screening January 13

A Lifeline Screening will take place on January 13 at the church and all are welcome to sign up. Why participate in a screening? Lifeline Screenings go beyond regular check-ups to look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build-up. You can get up to 5 screenings, including carotid artery/plaque; heart rhythms; abdominal aortic aneurism; peripheral arterial disease; and an osteoporosis risk assessment, for \$139. All screenings are painless and noninvasive. To register, call 1-866-229-0469 or go online at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle.

2021 Giving Envelopes Available

2021 giving envelopes are in the Gathering Area for you to pick up. These will not be mailed out due to the high cost of postage. If you need yours delivered, please contact the church office and we will make every effort to deliver.



thank you!

Thank You for your Prayers

Thanks for all the prayers and cards for Lynn's knee and our Covid scare. We sincerely appreciate all of your concern and well wishes. Bob and Lynn Gourley

Had COVID-19? Consider donating plasma to help others

Allegheny Health Network is participating in the COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Pittsburgh Program (C2P3). If you previously tested positive for COVID-19, have recovered, and are interested in donating plasma that may be used in the treatment of other COVID-19 patients, please contact the AHN C2P3 team at 412-858-C2P3 or C2P3@ahn.org.



HELP WANTED: Favorite Bible Verses

The Membership Involvement Commission is sponsoring a project for some of our less mobile members but we need your help! Please email one or two (or more if you'd like) of your favorite Bible verses that give you hope, inspiration, or comfort to ginny.flick@gmail.com. Thanks in advance for your help with this and stay tuned for the unveiling of the finished product!

New Year Message from the PNC

Dear Congregation,

As 2021 begins, a reflection upon the months of 2020 is both important and necessary. After our election at the end of January, the Pastor Nominating Committee remained steadfast in its work to find a new pastor for Park Church. Not a week passed that each of us did not have a task or responsibility on our plates:

- initial training
- creation of the lengthy Park Church Ministry Information Form that advertises the pastor position
- reading and taking notes on almost 150 10-page Personal Information Forms (PIFs) from candidates seeking a call
- further online researching of each candidate (hunting for recorded sermons, writings, facts about their churches, etc.)
- informal discussing within our group (sharing information found, asking questions)
- seeking guidance from our resources: Bob Goossen and David Oyler of the Presbytery
- weekly or bi-weekly formal meeting to reach consensus on applicants
- communicating our interest to candidates and waiting for responses
- carefully developing the first and second interview questions that would lead us to the right person
- first interviewing of candidates via Zoom
- communicating again with each one
- second in-person interviewing of one candidate
- planning and conducting a “neutral pulpit” worship service with that potential candidate; hosting a safe outdoor meal with the candidate and spouse
- more communicating
- dealing with a rejection
- beginning the search again
- more researching of PIFs, more communicating, more meeting, and more interviewing throughout October, November, and December

What have we learned?

First, we recognized early on that the majority of the candidates are very different from the ministers who have served Park Church in the past.

Second, a substantial number of the candidates state outright in their PIFs that they are looking for an urban, multicultural church. That immediately rules Park out.

Third, even pastoral candidates do not always extend the courtesy of responding to our outreach. Waiting for replies that would never come was an unexpected lesson.

Fourth, a number of potential pastors who interested us had taken other positions, but their PIFs were not removed and appeared to still be active. Often this was not discovered until after we had researched and contacted them.

Fifth, the restrictions and dangers of COVID-19 made every step more cumbersome and difficult, but we now have confidence that our diligence and creativity can surmount those challenges.

Lastly, we have learned anew to always trust in God’s plan for Park Church, knowing that in His time we will find the right new pastor for Park Church. That will indeed be a joyous day!

Your **prayers for us** and **faith in us** are the sustenance we always need. Thank you.

Gail Rackley, chair

Rachel Becze, Kaley Davis, Luke Hardy, Susan Ivey, Sandy Parker, Matt Stewart



Thank You for your Support

Thank you for your prayers and for all you've done during our recent bout with Covid. We really appreciate it. Mary Gaydos

Update from Tiger Pause

Big Beaver Falls Area School District went fully virtual after Thanksgiving. (They had previously implemented a hybrid schedule.) The students who were enrolled in our Remote Learning Center are still coming to us twice a week (as before, half come Monday and Tuesday and the other half come Thursday and Friday). Our large facility allows for social distancing and we have been taking precautions (masks, hand sanitizing stations, etc.) to ensure that we are providing a safe environment for participants and staff. Students participating in the Learning Center are more faithfully completing their assigned work at home, showing growth in their responsibility. Please continue to keep this program in your prayers.



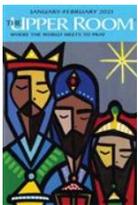
Thank you from Vida Joven Nicaragua

Hola amigos, I'm writing to say thank you for your prayers and support to my family and ministry especially in these difficult times of COVID-19. We're already doing clubs and activities and we're very happy to do so because it helps us to grow and know more about Jesus Christ (Ephesians 6:18-20). Thank you for your love. I hope you and your family are healthy and feel the love of God. With love, Narciso Davila

Congratulations to new Elders and Deacons

We are so pleased to welcome Bob Gourley, Rich Reed, and Sandy Parker to our Elders Class of 2023 as well as Kristin Davis and Bob Davis to our Deacons Class of 2021. We are also thrilled to have Gail Rackely, Lyndsay Owens, June Phillips and Emily Dugan serving in our Deacons Class of 2023, as well as Carol Connelly as our At Large Nominating Committee Member (one year term) and Larry Bittner as our Auditor Class of 2023. Congratulations to all and thank you for your service!

Congratulations!



New Upper Room Devotionals Now Available

The Upper Room devotionals for January and February 2021 are now available. Pick yours up from the racks in the Gathering Area or the main sanctuary entrance. Happy reading!



Celebrating Birthdays this Month:

Dale Fauser	2	Sue Hage	4
L.J. Wolfe	3	Emily Rackley Dugan	6
Harley Allen	3	Barbara Anderson	9
Mary Lou Leslie	4	LeahRae Ringer	10

