

Park Presbyterian Church

August 6, 2020

Weekly Park Branches

This Weeks Sermon

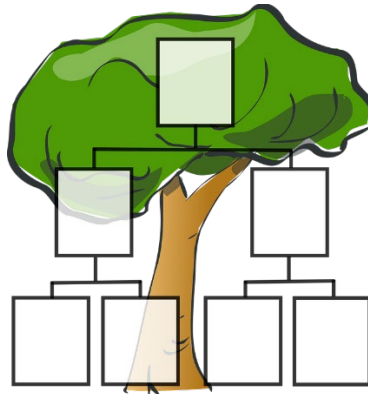
“When Life Gets Complicated”
Rev Bob Goossen

Scriptures

[Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28](#)

Contact Us

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Exploring Becoming a Matthew 25 Church A Bold Vision and Invitation

Today we look at the third aspect of the Matthew 25 invitation, *eradicating systemic poverty*. In the last two weeks I discussed *becoming a vital congregation and dismantling structural racism*. Again I draw on the Matthew 25 resources from our denomination for this article.

We all see the world through the experiences of our own lives. Some of us have known hunger, days or weeks of not knowing where the next meal will come from or how the rent will be paid. Some may have known homelessness. I have not had these experiences. I've never gone to bed hungry, except when we did an intentional fasting experience. Only one time did I have less than \$20 to my name. Still, I/we can recognize and be empathetic towards those who experience poverty. It has been a significant presence in the Valley in our lifetimes.

Still, you may be startled to learn that 25 percent of children under 6 now live in poverty in the U.S. Their families lack sufficient income to meet basic needs for nourishment, clothing, shelter, health care and stable family life. As alarming as this statistic is, what is even worse is the fact that poverty is the greatest threat to the healthy development of children and has long-lasting, negative consequences: inadequate quality and quantity of food, exposure to violence, underfunded schools and lack of early childhood educational opportunities, frequent housing mobility, and exposure to pollution and other health risks.



In a developed society such as ours in the U.S., poverty also means a lack of access to social goods, such as education, that are essential for employment, as well as other measures of dignity, freedom and participation in communal life.



Why do we speak of systemic poverty?

There are structures in our society that all but guarantee that people living in poverty will stay that way. Systemic poverty refers to laws, policies, practices and systems that perpetuate their impoverished status. Poverty is complex and overlaps with many other social ills and oppressive structures in our society.

- Racism, classism, ageism and sexism are well-documented and mutually reinforcing trends.
- Acute inequality, declining lifespans and higher infant mortality rates have continued to trend upward for the poor.
- High debt loads and retirement insecurity are also characteristics of poverty.
- Disenfranchisement of people and violence lead to poverty.
- Poverty, climate change and ecological injustice are interlocking issues in which environmental ills disproportionately fall on individuals and communities already experiencing poverty and hunger.

The theology behind eradicating systemic poverty

A crucial part of our worship and mission is to stand together for the common good. The PC(USA) is guided by policies of the General Assembly.

We Presbyterians evaluate any economic system not simply on the basis of the material goods and services it provides, but especially on the basis of its human consequences: what it is doing to, with and for people, particularly the most vulnerable among us. In our tradition, economic behavior, like all behavior, must be subject to moral scrutiny...that, in Christ, a more just order is arising.

— “Living Through Economic Crisis,” 219th General Assembly (2010)

The full resource is available at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/poverty/>

Sunday Worship as Park Apart

The live worship video will be available on Sunday starting at 10:00am, 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.



Park Shrub Trimming Festival

Saturday, August 8, 9:00 AM Bring your trimming tools, rakes, water bottles, energy, imagination and love. All are welcome and safe distancing will be observed. Masks required when working near a neighbor. Join us in making the landscaping around God's house beautiful.

Back to School Backpacks

This is a time of many uncertainties, especially regarding things related to heading back to school this year. As school districts struggle with the logistics of students returning this fall, we know students and their parents are also extremely worried about how things will be during this Covid-19 pandemic situation.



Typically our congregation has supported many local students on their trek back to school by providing those in need with a new outfit. This year of adjustment to the new and ever-changing "normal," the Children and Youth Services in Beaver Falls cannot accept clothing for the children they service. So we have a new way to help many young and older students: by providing a new backpack filled with the supplies needed to get this new school year off to a better start.

We are asking you to bring your donation of a brand new backpack filled with all the necessary items (notebooks, pencils, erasers, folders, etc.) **to the Gathering Area by August 20th** to get these students excited and ready for the school year to begin.

Thank you for your support of this worthwhile project. –The Mission Commission



Pastor Bob on Vacation

Pastor Bob will be on vacation August 12-18. He and ChrisAnn look forward to camping at Hills Creek State Park near Wellsboro.

Guest Speaker

We are delighted that our own Luke Hardy, professor of English at Youngstown State University, will share the sermon on August 16. He will share touches from his research and writing on the Rhetoric of Pain in 17th and 18th Century New England. Luke sees a strong connection between the ubiquitousness of the word affliction in that time and societal and faith formation. We invite everyone to join in this time of reflection and worship.



Live Stream Team

Would you like to become part of a live stream team? We will begin to develop a cadre of folks to support this part of Park's ministry over the next months. If you'd like to help with camera or computer operations on Sunday, or development of worship slides and resources, please contact Elliott Cramer, Jan Pasuit or Pastor Bob.



Pop-up Pantry

Any and all help is appreciated!! If you would like to help with the daily restocking, please contact Bob Davis at rj6davis@gmail.com or contact the church office at 724-775-2936.

Thank You, The Mission Commission

Financial Update

During this time of social distancing and the need for streaming of our Church services please remember to mail in your pledges and support. The Church's missions and bills do not take time off during this outbreak. Please fill out your giving envelopes and giving donations to Park Church. Please fill out your giving contributions with your name, envelope number, where you would like it placed, for example: (the chiller, normal pledge or another specific area) and then check amount. Thank You!! Then please place in the mail to:

Park Presbyterian Church, Attention: Financial Administrator, 275 Commerce St., Beaver, PA 15009



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Charlie and Marjie O'Neill

Marjie's father Andy Towcimak celebrated his 102nd birthday on Thursday July 30th. Then on Friday, Charlies and Marjie's oldest son Andrew celebrated his 34th birthday. And on the same day, Andrew's wife Danielle gave birth to 2 healthy babies (a girl and a boy)! Both babies and mom are doing well and both parents are overjoyed. The twins' names are Roslyn Felicity O'Neill (6 pounds 4 ounces) and Fredrick "Freddy" Charles O'Neill (7 pounds 15 ounces). Congrats to the O'Neill family!

Cards for Sale

Betty Brosch has made greeting cards for sale. They are on a rack in the corner of the gathering room. All proceeds will go to the air conditioning fund. The cards are blank on the inside, perfect for any occasion!

Cloth Face Masks

Hand-crafted cloth face masks are available for the Park family! You'll find them inside the 3rd St door during normal office hours, Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-1:00 pm.

Park Helpers

We have some individuals who are willing to do a grocery run or a pharmacy pick-up. We also have some young adults who might come by and rake a yard or do a little outside work. Contact Matt Stewart, Elliott Cramer or Pastor Bob and we'll try to connect you. Always remembering, safety first.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Celebrating Birthdays this Week:

Becky Becze

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