

Park Presbyterian Church

July 30, 2020

Weekly Park Branches

This Weeks Sermon

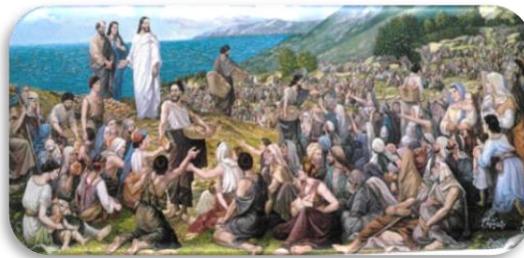
“Wading In”
Rev Bob Goossen

Scriptures

[Matthew 14:13-21](#)

Contact Us

RevGoossen@parkpres.org
724-775-2936



Exploring Becoming a Matthew 25 Church A Bold Vision and Invitation

Dear Park Family & Friends,

Today we look at the second aspect of the Matthew 25 invitation, dismantling structural racism. Last week I discussed becoming a vital congregation, and next week we will look at eradicating systemic poverty.

Growing up on a Nebraska farm, my family participated in a program called “Fresh Air Kids.” Each summer one or two children would come from Omaha to spend a week on the farm. They lived with us, sharing our table, toys, chores, and s’mores—always s’mores over the coals after a summer cookout. Almost all of these children were African American. On Sunday afternoon we drove them home, where we visited with their family and saw, however briefly, their neighborhood. My dim memory says they lived in smallish homes with small yards, little or no grass and fences, chain link fences.

At that early age, in the mid-sixties, I had no idea that I was being exposed to what we call structural racism. I had no idea that the ancestors of these children may have been freed slaves who found their way north and then west in search of a better life, only to live with continued limitations on their freedoms. For me these were the first steps of what has been a lifelong journey of walking with people of color, here and abroad, that has ever so slowly opened my eyes to the structures of society that keep certain people trapped.

As we think together about the Matthew 25 invitation this week, we look at the concept of dismantling structural racism. The following is adapted from our denomination’s resources:

Why do we talk about structural racism?

Racism is not primarily about individual prejudice or an individual’s beliefs and attitudes. Rather, racism in the U.S. is a socially constructed system. Some people are advantaged, and others are disadvantaged, merely



because of their skin color, ethnic identity, or their ancestral background. Social power and prejudice have combined so that people are treated differently, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Some people are privileged while others are oppressed. As a consequence, there is unequal and inequitable access to resources such as money, education, information and decision-making power.

Structural racism can show up in multiple ways, including:

- Housing discrimination that limits where people can live and steers them to rental markets rather than home ownership.
- Laws and policies that deny access to quality education, employment, and adequate health care.
- Food apartheid — areas devoid of quality, affordable fresh food.
- Justice systems that disproportionately target people of color.
- Environmental racism — the dumping of hazardous waste, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of access to clean water that results in a range of serious health problems in communities of color.

Confronting deeply ingrained racist systems and structures in our communities and country takes sensitivity and stamina. Before congregations and worshiping communities can confront the harsh realities of racism, it is helpful to have a good foundation.

For more reading on this topic, one might consider the following resource which has additional links. There is a plethora of other material available as well.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/racism/>

As we move through August and September, the various commissions of session will consider the Matthew 25 invitation in their discussions. We invite you to engage with this conversation there and as we create additional opportunities for learning and discernment.

ever in hope, pastor bob

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.



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.

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.

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.



Wheelchair Van for Sale

A Beaver-Butler Presbytery church member is looking to sell their wheelchair-equipped van. If you are interested, please contact Barb Paff at the Presbytery office 724-452-7515 or office@beaverbutler.org.

PW Gives Day

PW Gives Day is July 31! On PW Gives Day, Presbyterian women across the globe come together to celebrate their 230-year mission of bringing God’s light to the world through PW ministry. Let us encourage one another “toward love and good deeds” (Heb. 10:24). We bring love and good deeds to the world through our care of Presbyterian Women and our shared ministry.



Join others on July 31 (or even today) and give!

- Give on line at www.presbyterianwomen.org/give (select PWGDAY20);
- by phone (call 844/PW-PCUSA, ext. 5322); or
- by check (Presbyterian Women, Inc., PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652. Please indicate “annual fund” and PWGDAY20 in the memo line of the check.)

Share your enthusiasm for Presbyterian Women by sharing this email with friends, choosing Horizons Bible study, and taking a stand on behalf of all God’s children through PW’s many ministries.

Gifts to Presbyterian Women’s annual fund make possible every mission, program and resource of Presbyterian Women. Give now to support PW’s witness in the world.

To the Church Triumphant
Pauline Chambers Copeland
 January 13, 1924 – July 26, 2020

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.



Celebrating Birthdays this Week:

Anne Berenbrok

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