



Park Presbyterian Church

July 23, 2020

Weekly Park Branches

This Weeks Sermon

“Nuggets of Joy”
Rev Bob Goossen

Scriptures

[Matthew 13:31-33 & 44-46](#)

Contact Us

RevGoossen@parkpres.org
724-775-2936



Exploring Becoming a Matthew 25 Church A Bold Vision and Invitation

Dear Park Family & Friends,

At the July session meeting we began a discussion around the PCUSA’s invitation across our denomination to become Matthew 25 churches. This is an initiative that has grown out of overtures brought to previous General Assemblies. It was rolled out in the spring of 2019. Over the next few weeks I’ll use this space to share some of the resource material and provide a link for further reading, for those who’d like to do this.



“Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. We recognize Christ’s urgent call to be a church of action, where God’s love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious.”

The Matthew 25 Invitation has three foci—building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. Each congregation may choose one, two or all three of these areas for engagement. Or, they may begin working in one area and move on to others over time. This week I’ll provide some information about building congregational vitality from the Matthew 25 resources.

“A community’s vitality is primarily its spiritual strength and its capacity for purposeful mission. Congregational vitality is evident in a worshipping community when its structural systems, finances and discipleship practices are aligned in such a way that the community is actively engaged in the mission of God in their local community and the world, and they are powerfully focused on growing as disciples in the way of Jesus Christ. Faith comes alive when we boldly engage God’s mission and share the hope we have in Christ.”

“Seven marks of a vital congregation include:

1. A commitment to forming disciples over every member’s lifetime. This leads first to personal transformation, as people put on the heart of Christ, and then to social transformation, as people joyfully go forth into the community and tackle the issues facing today’s culture.
2. Embracing the call to evangelism. We show forth the love of Christ by our actions and our lives even more than by our words. Our relationships are genuine and caring. People know we are Christians by our love.
3. An outward focus. Our church is not a place to escape from the world, but rather our gateway to our community where we may be the hands, feet, heart and mouth of Jesus Christ for people who are suffering or marginalized.
4. Empowering every member to discover their individual calling and the gifts God has given them so they can go forth and serve.
5. Spirit-inspired worship that challenges, teaches, transforms, convicts and energizes us so when we are sent out, we have experienced the wonder of God and are changed for the better from when we arrived.
6. Caring relationships modeled on God’s love. We open our doors and hearts to all people, and we build relationships modeled on God’s love, which leads to genuine reconciliation and peace.
7. Congregations with healthy systems. Our mission focuses are clear. There is fiscal responsibility and accountability. We have thoughtful decision-making structures. Our leaders and staff enjoy a sustainable balance of work/rest time.”

In my brief experience here at Park there are many signs of health and vitality, as well as growing edges for exploration and fresh commitment. How might a Matthew 25 discussion invigorate us individually and as a congregation in these days?

For further reading: presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/

In the joy of the journey that is ours, 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 Sunday 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.

Technology Grant Received

We celebrate that Park Church has received a \$1,000 grant from the Synod of the Trinity to assist in upgrading technology for the long term live streaming of worship. This, combined with local dollars, will allow us to purchase a fully refurbished laptop (from a generous member), a camera and other pieces to make live streaming a permanent part of Park’s ministry. We are grateful to Elliott for using his personal gear to get us through to this point.



Vacation Bible School – Save the Date!



Join us for a virtual Vacation Bible School rainforest adventure!

Park Pres VBS will take place Monday, July 27th through Friday, July 31st. Children of any age are welcome, but the event is targeted for children from preschool to 5th grade.

This event will be ONLINE and FREE! Register at: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/parkpres-vbs2020>

There will be take-home kits and fun daily activities and videos, then we will have a Zoom hangout each night from 6:30-7:00pm for kids to do a game, a song, and a prayer together.

Park Shrub Trimming Festival

Saturday, August 8, 9:00 AM

Bring your trimming tools, rakes, water bottles, energy, imagination and love. All welcome, safe distancing will be observed. Masks required when working near a neighbor. Join us in making the landscaping around God’s house beautiful.



Congratulations

We extend our best to Bob and Carol Fedeles on the arrival of grandson Corbin Robert Fedeles, born on July 6 to Garen and Katie. The family lives in New Brighton.

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 our 230-year mission of bringing God's light to the world through our 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.

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:

Bruce McCowin	23
Bill Flick	24
Robert Gourley	26
Donette Budicak	27