

Announcements and Upcoming Events

August 3, 6 p.m.. Sessions evening retreat. Rain date is August 10.

All are welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon beginning Wednesday, August 9, to begin prepping dresses that will be sent to Karazim Ministries for distribution in the villages. If anyone would like to join us (no sewing experience necessary) please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Also, we are collecting pillowcases and material that can be used to make the dresses.

We are collecting toilet paper and paper towel rolls to be given to ARC to use for crafts.

Gloria patri

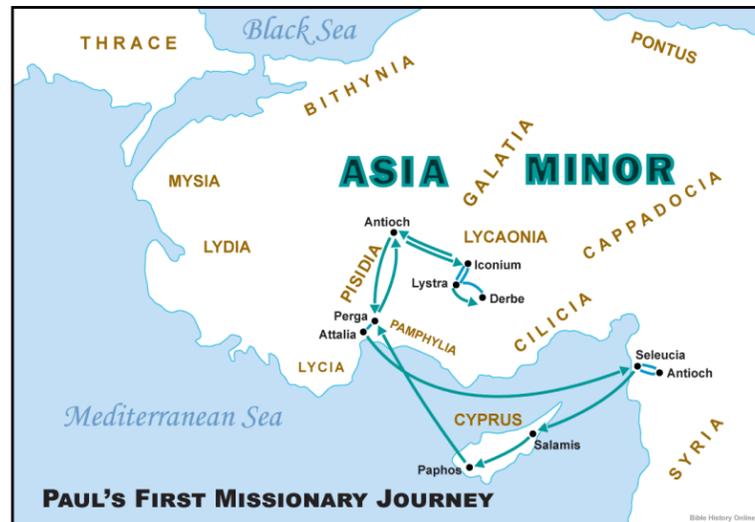
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be
— world without end.
Amen, amen.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen!



Taken from <http://www.bible-history.com/new-testament/pauls-first-missionary-journey.html>

Spiritual Food for Thought

“Hardship often prepares an ordinary person for an extraordinary destiny” C.S. Lewis

Session:

Class of 2017
Barbara Matlack
Randy Niederer

Class of 2018
Patti Manz
Tim Shaub

Class of 2019
Mark Niederer
Kristine Schmidt, Clerk

Deacons:

Class of 2017
Judy Niederer, Secretary

Class of 2018
Gail Butterfoss
Lettie Ritner, Vice-Moderator

Class of 2019
Chris Manz, Moderator

Ministers: All members of Titusville Church
Pastor: Rev. Kenneth Good
Worship Assistant: Patti Manz
Music Directors: Jon and Helen Eastburn

The Rev. Dr. R. William Shaub, *Pastor Emeritus*
Barbara Matlack, *Office Administrator*

July 30, 2017

THE EXTRAORDINARY

GOD'S MAJESTIC WORK of
REUNIFICATION & ADOPTION

Let us worship God! Today is the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Our extraordinary story identifies the complexity and sadness that deceit brings to Jacob's family. We read this alongside the first of three missionary journeys made by the Apostle Paul that are recorded by Luke in Acts. We have stories of choice, path and consequence: one story of dysfunction and one of

blessing. Here and now, we meet the God who longs to direct our will. Together we will pray that “Thy will be done on earth, just as it is done in heaven”. We remember God's works from long ago, which direct our work today.



Call to Worship

Today, we use our weekly reading from the Psalms as our Call to Worship.

Psalm 136, page 443

If you are sitting on the pulpit side of the sanctuary, please read the odd numbered verses as part of our responsive reading.

If you are sitting on the lectern side, please read the even numbered verses.

Prayer of Confession

Bless our families;
mothers, fathers,
daughters, sons.
Protect them
from all that might harm.
Prosper them
in times of hardship.
Instruct them
in the ways of goodness.
Prepare them
for both joy and sorrow.
Unite them
within your arms of love.
Daughters, sons,
mothers, fathers,
bless our families
Lord, we pray

Let us pause for a silent time of personal confession...

Taken from http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_children-and-parents



Order of Liturgy

Prelude

*Call to Worship (below)

*Opening Hymn (below)/ Prayer

Confession (below)

—call, prayer, assurance

*Gloria patri (back page)

Scripture (below)

Message

*Hymn of Response (below)

*New City Catechism (inside, bottom left-hand)

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Offering

Offertory: “O The Deep Deep Love of Jesus”

*Doxology (back page)

*Sending Hymn (below)

Benediction

Choral Benediction: “O The Deep Deep Love of Jesus”

*Please stand if able

Scripture

Genesis 29-30:24 (page 21)

Acts 13-14 (page 781)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Songs for Today

Opening Hymn

#790 “We Gather Together”

Hymn of Response

Insert “We Thank You Lord, For You Are Good”

Sending Hymn

#63 “All Creatures of Our God and King”

(With Optional 5th Stanza)

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Notes on Morning Scripture

Genesis

29:27 we remind ourselves that in the narrative sections of the Bible, some behavior is descriptive (what happened) and some prescriptive (what we should do)

29:32 Leah's self-awareness that Jacob did not love her as he did Rachel is also found in 29:33, 29:34, 30:9, 30:15, 30:18 and 30:20

30:4 As was custom in the ancient world, the wife (not the concubine) named the child, and was considered their child

30:14 Mandrakes were believed to increase fertility, which both Leah (vs 9) and Rachel (vs 1) desired at the time of the discovery

Acts

9 "also called Paul" Paul is Saul's Greek/Roman name. Saul is a Hebrew name. As Paul transitions to preaching to the Gentiles (the nations), that name becomes more common within Scripture.

13 John Mark leaving becomes a source of tension between Paul and Barnabas. See Acts 15:36-39

51 dust off feet. See Luke 10:11. Rejoicing during a mission, see Luke 10:17

14:12 In Greek mythology, Zeus was the father of the gods and assigned them their roles. Hermes, Zeus' son, was a messenger of the gods.

14:19 outside the city Compare with Hebrews 13:12

Web Link

<http://theancientbridge.com/2015/11/torah-portion-toldot-did-jacob-have-four-wives-or-only-two/> very readable biblical and ancient custom study communicated by a teacher to teenagers

<https://discovertheword.org/?p=5964> identifying envy within the sisters Leah and Rachel

<http://www.biblestudy101.org/Lists/12tribes.html> meanings of the names of Jacob's children, and other organized lists of the sons of Israel

<http://www.womeninthebible.net/women-bible-old-new-testaments/leah/> Commentary, Background and paintings (you can also find more on Rachel by typing in her name at end of the link)

http://www.bible-history.com/pauls_first_mission_map/ maps and background on the cities of Barnabas, Saul and Mark's first mission trip

<http://www.christianstogether.org/face--endure-hardship-together.html>

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/29/health/couple-12-sons/index.html> yes, someone else is thinking about these things

New City Catechism

A 52 question catechism developed by Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York. For an introduction to this catechism, visit: <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/intro.php>

Part 2: Christ, Redemption, Grace

Question 31 What do we believe by true faith?

Answer: Everything taught to us in the gospel. The Apostles' Creed expresses what we believe in these words: We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

To learn more about Question 31, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://newcitycatechism.com/new-city-catechism/#31>

Editorial: Labor and Rest

Unlike Isaac, who remained in the promised land his entire life, Jacob leaves that land to find a wife. And again, in contradistinction to Isaac, who did not labor for his wife, Jacob ultimately ends up laboring 14 years for his desired bride, Rachel. The significance of this passage cannot be overstated. The idea of laboring for one's own desires (like Jacob) versus resting in God's promises (like Isaac) is a biblical theme throughout the Bible, including the New Testament. ---- Lifebearingwilderness.wordpress.com

This quote suggests that we learn more about Isaac by what is not written than by what is recorded. We face the tension of forging our own path--with our choices and desires -- and trusting what God has spoken--with its sufficiency for our blessing and fulfillment. Isaac rests in God's promise, and was given the gift of Rebecca, who he loves. Jacob, who for all his deceitful ways is consistent in this story in his love for Rachel, is the other part of the paradox. He wanted to be with Rachel. Scripture doesn't identify this as wrong. But how he got to where he was, is questionable. He was sent out by conflict and deceit, and it follows him all the way to his wedding night.

We contextualize this message with all the choices and decisions that we deal with. Is the choice before me something I desire? What about those close to me, and those who I am in community with? What about God? Does my choice fall into the realm of Christian liberty? Or is there moral consequence to what I am choosing?

The Lord longs to bless us. That is his stated intent in Scripture. We are to listen to the Lord's call. Identifying what is important to God shapes how we fill our time, energy and choices. When we consider the honor and the glory of the Lord, what we choose will provide enough adventure to last a lifetime, yes, an eternity. If we make choices, with God's promises in mind, they shape us, and bless us. To the extent that we mix what God has promised with vain desire, we will know conflict.

This isn't to say that everything will be perfect in life, or that we won't know difficulty as we seek to align our desire with God's. It is about trajectory: when God is my vision, my movement is toward the Lord. We might struggle, or trip, or stumble. Yet we still move toward the One we seek. God's promise is a blessing to those who seek.

“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.” Isaiah 55:6-7

Hint: Read the rest of Isaiah 55 to see where God will lead you.

Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life (offered in 7/30 worship by the congregation)

Dear Tabby, Raising Life (issues) Acts 9:36

Dear Tabby,

Our culture is so experience-based. I want to enjoy experiences, but also remember them. I'm tired of chasing one experience after another. How do I balance making and preserving memories?

Experiencing in Ewing

Dear Experiencing,

Wow! This is a big, important question. Ultimately, we trust in God to be the perfect record keeper. The Lord will preserve and grow the life that we experience, redeem our wandering, and judge that which should not be preserved.

On the first journey that Saul and Barnabas endeavor, they are traveling from city to city, across the Sea and into places they had never been. They stay for relatively short times, announce the gospel, get to know the people, and in an act of faith, appoint Elders to watch over the believers. It really is an amazing act of trust. Essentially: here is what you need to know, follow it together, keep each other accountable, God be with you till we meet again.

They keep the appointed elders in prayer as they go from place to place. They remember them by name, and experience shapes their prayers.

To tie this in with your question: Paul and Barnabas have a tremendous amount of experiences: in different place (new and familiar) and with many people. After they arrive home from their journey; they gather the believers together and give a report to the church of what they experienced and, more importantly, what God had done.

What are some building blocks we can use to balance experience and memory?

1. Recording. Identify a time of the day to journal or blog. Make a recording with your children of what they experienced. Have them draw a picture.
2. Testimony. Spend time in worship and small gatherings to give praise to God for something you have experienced. This allows the community to be alongside of you (in rejoicing or mourning) and to preserve memory and story.
3. Prayer. Before our Holy God, speak to the one who perfectly preserves and records. Say praises. Express your hopes and concern. Identify what weighs you down. God will keep what needs to be kept, and lead us away from that which does not.
4. Meals. Talk with one another about the day. Laugh and question and share together. Being together slows you down a little bit: in a very healthy way. You are freed to remember so that pursuing other experiences is not an idol, but a life lived in the presence of a gracious Lord.

The investment of preserving provides greater meaning and pleasure to the experiences we pursue.