



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

November 1, 2023

10:00 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



“The greatest among you will be your servant.”

Matthew 23:11

SUNDAY, November 5

Communion Sunday

Theme: Kin(g)dom Commitment

Scriptures: Matthew 23:1-12

Guest Article: Looking into the lectionary with Teri McDowell Ott

I thought I knew God. Then I went to seminary.

“Deconstructing” is a term post-evangelicals use today to describe how they are working their way out of toxic Christian teachings. But we could all use some deconstruction – and reconstruction – when it comes to our faith. Seminary shone a light on the ways my faith was not only superficial, but in some ways, even wrong. Theological education, studying the works of Augustine, John Calvin, H. Richard Niebuhr, James Cone, Delores Williams, Gustavo Gutiérrez and so many more can be a radical upheaval; an exercise in humility where you come to know all you don’t know about God.

In Matthew 23, Jesus denounces religious leaders who lack humility — misusing their authority, expecting seats of honor at banquets and in the synagogue. But the scribes and Pharisees of the first century were not a monolith. We should not read Jesus as condemning all the religious leaders — just those who assume they are above others; those who need a lesson in knowing all that they don’t know.

Jesus teaches an egalitarian ordering. We have one teacher God — and we are all students. Despite our tendency to exalt ourselves and judge others, we always have more to learn in God’s classroom.

-Terri McDowell Ott is the editor and publisher of *Presbyterian Outlook*. I will share more of her story this Sunday, when we explore Jesus’ teaching about true commitment and humility.

Your partner in the journey,

Pastor Julie

Pastor Julie Away

Pastor Julie will be away November 7 through November 16. She will be spending the majority of that time at year two of the CREDO conference for recently ordained ministers. It will be a time of rejuvenation and encouragement in Little Rock, Arkansas, at Ferncliff Conference Center. While she is away, please keep her and her family in your prayers.

If a pastoral emergency should arise during this time, please contact Lynette during office hours. After hours emergencies should be directed to Jeverna Mulligan.

Church Birthdays

Nov. 2-Pat Moore,
4-Madison Sjolander,
6-Jim Duncan, 10-Phil
Batchelder, 11-Jean Berry

For Your Prayers...

Brad Witkin (Tom Mulligan’s cousin’s son) has passed away.

Coming Soon...

This Sunday, Nov. 5 is Pledge Sunday. Please see page 3 for more information.

We need you!

We would like a volunteer to be a worship leader. Please sign up below or contact the office. There are plenty of spots available!

Sign up anytime online:

Worship Leader Sign Up:

[Sign Up: Worship Leaders](#)

Or sign up in the narthex!

Thanks for serving last week:

Worship Leader: Lee Nicholas

Computer Operator: Scott Connolly

Videographer: Neal Leeper

Lawn Mowing: Steve Moon

Thank You

Thank you for all of the cards, thoughts, and prayers in response to the recent passing of Kevin's mother.

Kevin & Jan Thedens

Peace and Global Witness Offering

If you have given to the Peace and Global Witness offering this year-thank you! It's not too late to give. Please make your checks payable to the church with "Peacemaking" on the memo line.



Thanks to all of you who donated to our Noisy Offering for UNICEF and Esther Circle's bake sale to also benefit UNICEF.



White Ally Training in the Evenings

If sufficient interest, an evening group will be formed.

This offering is open to our congregation as well as the general public. Consider this valuable opportunity and invite a friend!

Sponsored by Working for Justice: Breaking Bias

Facilitated by the CF Mennonite Congregation

There are seven sessions; an evening schedule would be set by the participants.

Contact Sandy Jensen by **today**, November 1.

Community Ministries - Eye of the Needle

With the weather turning colder, Eye of the Needle is in need of coats and blankets.



If you have gently used items that you no longer need, they can be brought to the church and left on the children's tables in the classroom across from the office (left side.) The Community Ministries team will deliver all donated items to Eye of the Needle.

Coats for all sizes and ages are gratefully accepted.

- International Student Thanksgiving Meal Appeal

ThreeHouse will be hosting a Thanksgiving meal for International College Students on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 6 pm. We need your help! We are expecting between 75 to 100. As we share the Thanksgiving tradition, we are hoping you might provide a dish that is a part of your Thanksgiving. We would like to invite you to provide a dish that makes "Thanksgiving Dinner" to you (for example one person has already indicated that they are excited to prepare their family favorite Orange Cranberry Relish). ThreeHouse will provide the turkey, but homemade favorites like mashed potatoes, yams, green bean casserole, rolls, pie, and such things would be wonderful to share.

Please sign up if you are able to bring something. You do not have to single-handedly provide potatoes for 100, together we can make a great 'cornucopia' meal. FYI - after you sign up you will be able to see what others are bringing and you WILL be able to edit your entry if you change your mind about something, so don't worry. Any leftovers will be sent home with students.

To sign up call 319-266-4071 or use the sign-up sheet here:

[ThreeHouse International Students Thanksgiving](#)

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Upcoming schedule

Wednesday, November 1

10:00 am Working for Justice, dining room

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

Thursday, November 2

1:00 pm Esther Circle, dining room

Saturday, November 4

9:30 am Sarah Circle, classroom

Pledge Sunday, November 5

10:00 am Worship, sanctuary

Tuesday, November 7

4:00 pm Community Ministries, library

5:30 pm Communications, classroom

Wednesday, November 8

10:00 am Deacons Work Day, library

5:30 pm Wednesday Meal, dining room

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary



One Body with Many Members

On Sunday we will be celebrating our gifts to our church; our time, our talent and our treasure. Be sure to include your "Time & Talent Survey" with your "Estimate of Giving" for 2024.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 12, Paul explains that the church, the body of Christ, is made up of many members. *"Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many."* He illustrates this with a metaphor about various body parts; the foot, the hand, the eye, the ear and the nose. Each is different and unique, but each is essential to the whole body. Paul concludes in verse 25 & 26, *"that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."*

Paul's message is that we all contribute to the body of Christ, the church, in different ways. We cannot all give the same amount of time. We do not have same physical abilities or talents to give in service to the church. And we all have different financial resources to draw upon to support our church. However, we all have some time to give, some way to serve, and some money to give to the church.

The Parable of the Faithful Servant found in Matthew 24:42-51, Mark 13:34-37, and Luke 12:35-48 is about how it is important for the faithful to keep watch. In Luke it concludes with, *"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required, and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded."* – New RSV This embodies the Presbyterian concept of proportional giving. We do not have dues or require a specific contribution as a condition of membership in the church. All are welcome by profession of faith alone. Our faith and holy scripture guide us in giving as we are able to give, not from obligation, but a joyful sharing of all that has been given to us.

I know that these are difficult times and some of us may need to reconsider how much they can give. So, it's incumbent on the rest of us to make up the difference. It's tempting to give the same as last year, but if we are to continue to worship and teach and reach out to others, each one of us needs to give generously of our abundance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Neal Reeper'.

Stewardship Chair