

The Lord's Day

August 25, 2024 ~ 10:30 AM

Scripture for Meditation: "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." -Mark 1:2-3 (ESV)

Prelude Carol Jones, piano

Announcements

* Call to Worship (responsive reading) [Psalm 145:10-13](#)

Leader: All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
And all your saints shall bless you!
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
And tell of your power,
To make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
And the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And your dominion endures throughout all generations.

* Hymn 457 [Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing](#) NETTLETON

* Invocation

Old Testament Lesson (Bible, p. 599) [Isaiah 40:1-5](#)

New Testament Lesson (Bible, p. 995) [2 Timothy 1:8-14](#)
(continuous reading)

Hymn 530 [Lord, I Want to Be a Christian](#)
LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

** Silent Prayer of Confession

* Assurance of Pardon

* Hymn 648 [My Jesus, I Love Thee](#) CARITAS

** Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

* Hymn 731 [Doxology](#) OLD HUNDREDTH

* Prayer of Dedication

* Congregation Standing

** Congregation Kneeling

Sermon *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Pastor Will Snyder
Text: [Mark 1:1-13](#) (Bible, p. 836)

* Hymn 164 [O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing](#) AZMON

* Benediction

Postlude

As you enter the Sanctuary, please be considerate of others who are quietly preparing for worship. Please silence your cell phones before the service begins.

Nursery care is available for infants through age 3 in Rooms 2 and 4.

Backyard Fellowship, 5:30 PM:

We will meet for a Backyard Fellowship today at 5:30 PM at David & Rachel Embree's home located at 120 Mullen Hill Road in Windham. Please plan to come for a time of food, fellowship, and prayer. Each individual or family should bring chairs or blankets, meat to grill for their own family, and a side dish and/or dessert to share. All plates, utensils, and drinks will be provided. (The rain location is at the church). Please plan to make these gatherings part of your summer routine! It is a great way to get to know each other better in an informal setting.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

August 25, 2024

Worship Leader: Sterling Harmon
Greeters:
Deacon in Charge: Scott Bolliger
Ushers: Peter Benedict
Nursery: Danielle Bolliger, Amy Bassett
10:30 (Worship)
Coffee Clean-up: Harmon Shepherding Group

Evening: *Backyard Fellowship at 5:30 PM at David & Rachel Embree's home*

September 1, 2024

Worship Leader: David Augustine
Greeters:
Deacon in Charge: Jeff Edwards
Ushers: Walter Mayo
Nursery: Dee Volkert, Sierra Hilinski
10:30 (Worship)
Coffee Clean-up: Jones Shepherding Group

Evening: *Backyard Fellowship/Ice Cream Social at 5:30 PM at PCC*

This Week at Church

Wednesday 6:00 PM Midweek Recharge
Sunday 9:30 AM Bible Overview Class
5:30 PM Backyard Fellowship/Ice Cream Social at PCC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

BREAKING NEWS!!! BONUS BACKYARD FELLOWSHIP!!!

On **Sunday, September 1st**, PCC will have one final Backyard Fellowship here at PCC to close out the summer. And what better way to close out our season of Backyard Fellowships than with an ice cream social? Join us at **5:30 PM** for dinner (bring meat to grill and a side dish to share), fellowship, a time of prayer and devotion, and then get ready for the best ice cream sundaes you can possibly make!



ALL-CHURCH POT PROVIDENCE

On **Sunday, September 8th**, immediately following morning worship, we will be holding an all-church pot providence meal at the church. Please plan to stay to enjoy a meal with the people of God in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a slow-cooker meal, side, or dessert—drinks will be provided.

PCC BARN DANCE

Please join us for our second PCC Barn Dance! **Friday September 20, 7:00-9:00 PM**. Rich Sbardella will be our caller. No experience necessary and families encouraged to attend. Please bring a snack or dessert to share. We look forward to enjoying fellowship and FUN with you!



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

MIDWEEK RECHARGE

The next Midweek Recharge will be on **Wednesday, August 28th at 6:00 PM**. Please come and enjoy food and fellowship.

Please contact Collin Robinson (334.464.0142), Abe or Colleen Millett or Pastor Will (860.742.7222) for any questions or if you have a desire to serve meals to others.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Do you enjoy spending time with small children? Are you able to read simple books and get down on the floor? Are you at least 14 years old and a member of the church or (if a minor) your parents are members? Please consider volunteering in our church nursery! Life's ebbs and flows have left our volunteer list approaching low tide and we could use some additional helpers to love and care for our children. Please reach out to Rachel Embree at rachelgembree@gmail.com or 860.336.6517 if you are interested in serving. *All individuals serving with children at PCC are required to pass a background check and participate in a brief child safety training course.

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

The Caring Families' Baby Bottle campaign is winding down. One more week to fill a baby bottle with coins (bills, even checks!) to help them provide essential items and spiritual support to women

facing pregnancy decisions. The bottles are on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. Bottles need to be returned on or before **September 1st**. If you would prefer an online option, please visit www.carefamilies.com. Danielle Bolliger will only be making one trip to the center to return the bottles. If your bottle isn't returned by the 1st you will need to be responsible for returning it to them.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MINISTRIES AT PCC, BEGINNING SEPT. 11TH

This September at PCC, we will continue our Midweek Recharge ministry focusing on fellowship and prayer, with opportunities for adults, children and youth.

Youth Ministry is for Middle School, High School, and recent grads, every **Wednesday evening from 7PM to 8PM**, visitors and friends welcome.

What to Expect: Scripture reading, prayer, music, a lesson and discussion - immersing ourselves in the word of God and turning it back to Him in worship. Youth Ministry will be led by Abe Millett and Nick Rezendes. Please reach out to Abe (abemillett@protonmail.com, 860-458-8047) with any questions.

Kids' Club is for all children through Elementary School, every **Wednesday from 7PM to 8PM**. They share prayer requests and pray for one another, sing songs, have a Bible lesson, and enjoy fun activities. The children are on an exciting trip through the Bible, learning that Jesus "The Snake Crusher" is the center of the story! Kids' Club is led by Ashley Rezendes and Colleen Millett. Please reach out to Ashley (914-456-7301) with any questions.

Prayer Hour is a time for adult members of the congregation to join in corporate prayer and fellowship. We have devotional time, Scripture reading and discussion. "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise." (James 5:13) Prayer Hour will be every **Wednesday evening from 7PM to 8PM**.

Church Dinner will be held on the **2nd Wednesday of every month, from 6PM to 7PM**. Join us for a meal in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity to bring visitors or friends! Please reach out to Collin Robinson (334-464-0142) with any questions and to help. *The monthly meal will be followed by Youth Ministry, Kids' Club and Prayer Hour.*

Notes for the Preaching of God's Word

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Mark 1:1-13

Main Preaching Point: As the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus comes into an unsafe world to herald the gospel—a message and work that will begin the renewal of all creation.

- Ministry Prepared
- Ministry Inaugurated
- Ministry Tested

Questions for Individuals, families, or small groups

Text: Mark 1:1-13

Title: Prepare the Way of the Lord

Questions:

1. What was most important or applicable in today's preaching? Can you summarize the main message?

Ministry Prepared

2. Read Mark 1:1-8. According to the sermon what do we know about Mark, the author of this gospel? Read Acts 16:36-41, Colossians 4:10, and 2 Timothy 4:11.

- What are some of the distinctives of Mark's gospel? How might this be helpful in reading and hearing the preaching of God's Word through this book? Discuss.

3. What is unique and distinguishable about the figure of John the Baptist? How does he dress and what does he eat? Why is this important? What is his main ministry purpose?

- Read Isaiah 40:1-5 in light of Mark 1:2-3. What is the context of Isaiah 40, how does it relate to exile, and what is the application/implication in reading Mark? Discuss.

4. John came with a ministry of preaching repentance. What is repentance? Read Mark 1:14-15.

Ministry Inaugurated

5. Read Mark 1:9-11. Why was Jesus baptized—given that He had no sin and did not need to be regenerated like all others who come to faith? What was the purpose of his baptism and what did it mean/represent?

- Read Hebrews 10:5-10. Discuss Jesus' unique calling and role.
- How is Jesus' baptism and ministry calling one of 'representation' for God's people? Explain.

6. Discuss the uniqueness of the baptism scene—with the presence of each person of the Godhead.

Ministry Tested

7. Read Mark 1:12-13. Consider Matthew 4:1-11, as Matthew's account of the temptation. Why was Jesus led into the wilderness to be tempted and how does this relate to Israel's calling in the desert? How is Jesus fulfilling and overcoming the failure of Israel, as the true Israelite? Discuss.

8. Mark begins his gospel with the words: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ..." How does this opening scene begin to reveal the good news found in the person of Christ? Discuss.