

The Lord's Day

July 30, 2023 ~ 10:30 AM

Scripture for Meditation: "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."
-James 3:17-18 (ESV)

Prelude Carol Jones, piano

Announcements

* Call to Worship (Bible, p. 976) [Ephesians 1:3-6](#)

* Hymn 80 [Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee](#) RIPLEY

* Invocation

Old Testament Lesson (Bible, p. 470) [Psalm 44:1-26](#)
(continuous reading)

New Testament Lesson (Bible, p. 953) [1 Corinthians 2:6-9](#)

Hymn 353 [I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord](#) ST. THOMAS

** Silent Prayer of Confession

* Assurance of Pardon

* Hymn 421 [Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness](#) SCHMÜCKE DICH

** Pastoral Prayer

Offertory *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* PCC Youth Choir

* Hymn 731 [Doxology](#) OLD HUNDREDDTH

* Prayer of Dedication

Sermon *Wisdom from Above* Pastor Will Snyder
Text: [James 3:13-18](#) (Bible, p. 1012)

* Hymn 359 [Blest Be the Tie that Binds](#) DENNIS

* 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.

Backyard Fellowship, 5:30 PM:

We will meet for a Backyard Fellowship today at 5:30 PM at Doug & Sharon Fox's home, 10 Stein Road in Ellington. 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.

* Congregation Standing

** Congregation Kneeling

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

July 30, 2023

Worship Leader: Elder Richard Jones

Greeters:

Deacon in Charge: Walter Mayo

Ushers: David Embree

Audio: Benjamin Bassett

Nursery: 9:30:

10:30 (*Worship*):

Toddler Time:

Coffee Clean-up: Jones Shepherding Group

Evening Audio: *Backyard Fellowship at
the Fox's home*

August 6, 2023

Worship Leader: Elder Doug Fox

Greeters:

Deacon in Charge: Peter Benedict

Ushers: Walter Mayo

Audio: Benjamin Bassett

Nursery: 9:30:

10:30 (*Worship*):

Toddler Time:

Coffee Clean-up: Sundet Shepherding Group

Evening Audio: *Backyard Fellowship at
David & Rachel Embree's home*

This Week at Church

Mon-Fri	9 to Noon	Vacation Bible School
Saturday	7:00 AM	Men's Covenant Group
Sunday	5:30 PM	Backyard Fellowship at David & Rachel Embree's home

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

PCC PLAYGROUND INSTALLATION!

You may have noticed the orange flags on the lawn -- we will be installing a playground in that location this summer! There will be an area for the Tots as well as the Big Kids. Rubber mulch will cushion their play!

Speaking of rubber mulch.... Our 'surfacing work day' will be **Saturday, August 5th!**

We need *4 people at 11:00AM* (laying down the landscape fabric, staking the border)

We need *20 people at 1:00PM* (spreading 3 tons of rubber mulch)

Please contact Colleen Millett to sign up for a time frame!
860.458.8129

It is such a delight to bless the children of PCC with a fun and welcoming place to play! Thank you!!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be on **Thursday, August 24th** from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. You can visit www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

PCC 50TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Save the date: Saturday, September 30th, 5:00 – 9:00 PM, at A Villa Louisa in Bolton, CT. A celebration of God's faithfulness to our church body, past, present, and future. Details to follow!

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

THANK YOU!

Dear PCC-

We are so appreciative of the caring cards, texts, and verbal condolences received in memory of my late father Raymond. It was also very lovely to see the beautiful flower arrangement from PCC at the funeral home in north NJ. My Dad's soul is now at peace, enjoying the splendor and love of our Christ Jesus.

Jeff & Pamela Hofmann

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

The Caring Families' Baby Bottle campaign has begun! Fill a baby bottle with coins (bills, even checks!) and you can help them provide ultrasounds, diapers, wipes, educational and spiritual support to women facing pregnancy decisions. The bottles are on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. You can return the bottles at church any time before September 4th. If you would prefer an online option, please visit www.carefamilies.com. Contact Danielle Bolliger if you have any questions. PCC has been very supportive in the past, and for that they thank you sincerely!

MIDWEEK RECHARGE

The next Midweek Recharge will be on **August 9th**. Please come and enjoy food and fellowship.

For those who would like to contribute meals, there is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Fellowship Hall with a list of needs for the upcoming meeting. Please contact Collin Robinson (334.464.0142) or Pastor Will (860.742.7222) for any questions or if you have a desire to serve meals to others.

MEAL MINISTRY FREEZER

The deacons have purchased a small freezer dedicated solely to the meal ministry. Currently there are four meals in the freezer. There is a list on the outside of the meals and their ingredients as well as side items that go with them. Please take a meal for yourself or give one to someone that can use one and mark off the meal that you have taken. We are also looking for individuals or groups that would be willing

to make meals as they are needed going forward. Please contact Pete or Jill Benedict with questions or to sign up.

Notes for the Preaching of God's Word

Wisdom from Above

James 3:13-18

Main Preaching Point: Through Christ draw from the wisdom that comes from above, so that you may live the good life in your relationships and experience a harvest of righteousness.

- Two Wisdoms
- Relationships
- The Path of Peace

Questions for Individuals, families, or small groups

Text: James 3:13-18

Title: Wisdom from Above

Questions:

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

Two Wisdoms

2. James has already introduced the theme of wisdom. Read James 1:5ff. What is biblical wisdom? How is it to be distinguished from the idea of knowledge? Explain.

3. Read v.15 and v.17. Compare the two wisdoms that James addresses. How are they different as it relates to their:

- A. Origin
- B. Characteristics
- C. Results

4. Can a non-believer demonstrate the appearance of godliness (love, gentleness, kindness, etc.)? And can a believer act in devilish ways?

Recall that Satan masquerades as an angel of light (2 Cor.11:14) and that Peter was rebuked by Jesus with the words, "get behind me, Satan!" (Mt.16:23). Since the unregenerate can act with signs of outward godliness, and believers can act in unspiritual ways, how does James get beneath the surface? See v.14 and the language of the heart.

- The deeper issue is that of the heart and what source it draws from. Envy, jealousy, and selfish ambition must be purged from the heart. Discuss/consider the different ways that people can feel or express jealousy, envy, and selfish ambition in the life of the church? How does the gospel of Christ remedy selfish ambition? Explain.

Relationships

5. According to the overall passage, what does envy, jealousy, and selfish ambition lead to?

6. Think about the uniqueness of the church as a community. How are the relationships to be different than any other organization? What sets the church apart from membership in various social clubs or being a member at gym or philanthropic organization? They all have some purpose, but focus on the relationships—how are they different, and how should they be lived out differently? Discuss.

The Path of Peace

7. According to v.18, what does one's life produce who is drawing from the wisdom of God? According to the sermon, what is meant by "a harvest (or fruit) of righteousness"? How do James' overall words point us to the person and work of Christ? In what ways can you contribute to the unity and peace of the body of Christ?