



WORSHIP for September 27, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Please remain after 10:45am Zoom worship on 10/11 to achieve required quorum of 19 persons at **special congregational meeting** for election of: ruling elders, deacons, & nominating committee and installation into classes of 2021 & 2023.
- 2) To watch **sermons recorded** on Zoom on our YouTube Channel, go to the FPCP website: <https://www.fpcpataskala.com/> and click on WORSHIP or follow us on Facebook from the homepage. To potentially increase subscribers & views,  like and  share!
- 3) Please invite family or friends, who want to join us for live worship on Sundays @10:45am, to request access by emailing their name, email, & phone number to janetann386@gmail.com
Zoom live worship attendance: 8/2 65; 8/9 62; 8/16 57; 8/23 68; & 8/30 56, 9/6 45 (Labor day), 9/13 55, & 9/20 55.
- 4) **Phone chain for prayers & info**, now headed by Pat Landis (even from Arizona)! Thanks, Pat!
- 5) Please leave a message at the church office for **prayer request needs** from Th 9/24 thru Sa 10/3, since Pastor Janet will be on leave. *She thanks FPCP for the opportunity of time "away," to be spent at home with online study.*
- 6) Have **communion** elements of bread and juice of the grape vine, at table in your home on Sunday October 4th. Pastor Janet will lead us through communion on Zoom worship at 10:45am. If you need elements provided to you, call 740-901-1232 to reach the Johnsons, who lead the Christian Response Team.
- 7) If you need a COVID-19 **cloth mask** call 740-901-1232 for the Johnsons, who lead the CRT. Thank you to Gage Marcum and Katie Slaymaker, who have been making masks available.
- 8) **Anxiety & depression** is especially common during the stress of this time.
9/10 was suicide prevention day, and September is recovery month.
National Suicide Prevention Hotline -- 1-800-273-8255 ; 24/7 Ohio Careline: 1-800-720-9616
Crisis Text Line -- Text 4HOPE to 741 741 to field messages about suicidal thoughts, abuse, sexual assault, depression, anxiety, bullying and more.
- 9) Junior Church & Good News Club (by FPCP) New Lessons on Zoom for 2nd thru 5th graders 4:30-5:30pm Wednesdays 10/21-11/18;
Lead Teacher, Linda Glenn; email: lindaifglenn@gmail.com

Prelude played by Brent Miller, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

public domain; by Joseph Schriener, 1855

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9dTAR9KJ0w>

Call to Worship: Lamentations 3:22-26 *Responsively*

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord..."

Opening Hymn: **"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZD4B9Q6nTo0>

Prayer of Confession: Lamentations 3:28-29 *Unison*

Lord, often times of lament call for quiet, like the friends of Job who rightly sat in silence in the ashes with him. Yet we may speak too soon or too much, when your will is for us to not speak at all. Forgive our wagging tongue. Amen

(Pause now for a time of silent confession.)

Assurance of Forgiveness: *Responsively*

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail."

We believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

"The Gloria Patri"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgcYD_m4OhU

Hymn of Preparation: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYrTqBiaZ4>

Call to God's Word: *Unison*

"Scripture cannot be set aside... What does Scripture say?" John 10:35 & Romans 4:3.

Prayer for Illumination: *Unison*

Lord, through your Spirit enable us to consider your Word, and to enact it in our lives to bring

you glory and praise. Amen.

Gospel Reading: 1 Timothy 1:1-11 (NIV)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+timothy+1%3A1-11&version=NIV>

SERMON: "Goal of Love" by The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford

Watch sermon on: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAdy2hvW6PL93B6hbgswTxf93Evs575yd>

Having completed the Gospel of Matthew, we now move to New Testament letters. The letters are almost entirely written to a particular area church or to the early Biblical churches in general, but a few of them are written to particular persons who oversee churches. These persons are referred to as pastors. A hierarchy of vocations or offices for the building up of the church are listed in Ephesians 4:11, Paul says these were given by Christ. In hierarchical order, "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers." Therefore, Paul, the apostle, oversees, Timothy, the pastor, who oversees the teachers under him.

Today we begin a preaching series on Paul's letters to Timothy, one such pastor, whom Paul

oversees. Paul's letters to Timothy gave instructions for his pastoral call in the church. Hear Timothy 1:1-11, the first passage. In this letter Paul defines Timothy's call to "command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer." Throughout the history of the Church, pastors are responsible for assuring that only true doctrine, according to Scripture, is taught, for the first mark of the Church is that Scripture is rightly preached & heard. Our focus today is that Paul's charge to Timothy to command right "orthodox" teaching has a goal. The goal is love. V. 5: "The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith." Truth and love are always paired. They cannot be separated. When one is missing, so is the other.

Since a pastor is called to convey truth in love, I pray that Jesus thru the Holy Spirit enables me in love to measure everything against the truth of the Word of God, like the Bereans did, whom Timothy met when Paul preached to them, as recorded in Acts 17:10-15.

Regarding my particular call to FPCP, there were many points in the church MIF that immediately attracted me to apply as pastor to FPCP. Here are the top 2: the emphasis on love & Scripture. Ever considered how these 2 themes bookend our sanctuary? First, entering the main entrance at the back of the sanctuary is 1John 4:8&16: "God is love." Then, behind the chancel & the cross is the Berean room. Entering in love & facing the truth of Scripture, lends to a pure heart, a good conscience, & sincere faith, pastoral requirements stated by Paul. Speaking truth from Scripture is love. The Gospel message of Jesus Christ is love & truth. Truth in love is the goal for pastors and, thereby, for all faithful members of Christ's church. Let's us strive toward the goal together.

Now to understand why Paul chose Timothy as a pastor, trusting his ability to reach the goal of love, consider Timothy's history, which enabled Paul to see Timothy's pure heart, good conscience, & sincere faith. May Timothy's account be held up to our own stories as a parable for comparison.

Timothy's inclusion in Scripture begins in the context of Paul's 2nd missionary journey with Silas. Hear Acts 16:1-5. First to note is that believers spoke well of Timothy. He was well regarded. One who is not loving is not usually loved so well. Although it might be said that what others think of us is not our business, that adage does not apply in the job market, where good references are essential. So, PNC's check & sometimes double check references of candidates. Nowadays social media is another test of character, & poor social presence damages reputation. So, with the goal of love we need to ask Jesus to show us, where we are not of pure heart with a good conscience & sincere faith.

Note again the task in V. 4: "As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles & elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey." The decisions in Acts 15 conveyed that Gentiles were to refrain from food sacrificed to idols & from sexual immortality, but Gentiles were not required to adhere to Jewish customs & traditions such as circumcision. Yet interestingly, though not required, Timothy was circumcised. For the sake of presenting the truth of the Gospel and out of love for the Jews he would encounter, Timothy made the sacrifice of circumcision.

Question is what sacrifices do we make in love to present the truth of the Gospel? As a pastor, I have more than once been called make sacrifices of love. The first time was early in

my 1st call. The church was in decline, as many mainline churches, like FPCP, have been. But the church had decidedly sought renewal & transformation. For the effort, we paired with Covenant Presbyterian church 3 miles away, who was also seeking transformation. Covenant housed the community service of meals on wheels, who was finding it increasingly difficult to offer their service in a church that was not handicapped accessible, due to aging volunteers. So MOW prayed for a new site. Whereas, the church where I was pastor that had handicapped accessible entrances into an ample kitchen & hall prayed that God would make use of church facilities. MOW found out from Covenant church about us, and called to speak with our session. The decision was unanimous to move MOW, answering both prayers. Then my phone started ringing off the hook. Rumors spread around town that the 2 churches were merging. The idea had once been broached between sessions, but the timing was not right. Now the timing was right. Since Covenant also discovered structural issues, when the 2 churches closed, the new church, called New Hope, opened in the facility where I was originally pastor. But this meant that the congregation from Covenant had to leave their building, which felt like home to long time members. FPCP knows that feeling.

My heart went out to the congregation from Covenant. As their soon to be new pastor, I prayed about how they might know that they were loved, just as much as the members of the church where I was originally pastor. I was afraid that they might feel like less loved foster children. In seeking God's will in how to show love, I had a strong impression that I was to make a sacrifice by moving out of my family homestead where I lived with my mother to buy a home near New Hope. It was quite a sacrifice, on numerous counts, like Timothy's sacrifice of circumcision, but I did it, to convey love to the congregation. Others, too, made sacrifices for the sake of truth & love. My mother in showing love to me & my family, sold the family homestead, & found an apartment located between my house & New Hope, which is where she still lives. She also became a member of the church where I was pastor, a wonderful gift to me. Further, New Hope in love recognized the needs for an aging population in the church & the community for full handicapped accessibility. Did you know that more than 1 in 3 households have someone with some kind of handicap? Therefore, the proceeds from the sale of the Covenant building were used to accomplish the vision that God set before us, through MOW. Within the footprint of the building, we became fully handicapped accessible. Our vision was "that all may worship," the motto of a program advocating for disability awareness & accessibility in churches. So, the goal of love was exemplified all around.

In coming to FPCP, I was asked to make another sacrifice of love for the sake of truth. Like Timothy who came to permanently reside in Ephesus far from his original home in Lystra, I left SW PA my place of origin & my family. The decision was not easy and has become even more challenging with COVID, but it was done out of love. I have not seen anyone in my family, since last fall. A trip was planned around my birthday in late March. But since COVID hit, my visit had to be cancelled. Due to my high health risk with asthma, my doctor has also urged me not to travel and to remain socially isolated. My mother's doctor says the same. So, I have still not seen my family. Thank God for telephones & Zoom that keep us connected. But as a pastor these are sacrifices made with the goal of love from a pure heart, a good conscience, & sincere

faith. I do not regret them. Please know that I love you & Jesus love you more, and that truth is very, very good news. Not the first time that you've heard that, & won't be the last.

Back to Timothy. After Galatia, Timothy goes with Paul & Silas thru Turkey, to Greece & back to Turkey through Ephesus, the very city over which he is now pastor. But he does not remain in Ephesus at that time. Timothy continues to support Paul in mission even into Rome, where Paul is imprisoned. In fact, Timothy helps Paul to write letters from house arrest in Rome & to deliver them. Starting at Advent, sermons will be derived from these prison letters. Timothy is most certainly devoted in his love to Paul, but even more to Jesus, working constantly to deliver the truth of the Gospel. Timothy is steadfast in love, a characteristic of God himself. He is long faithful. No wonder that Paul assigns him as pastor over the church of Ephesus. No wonder that Paul entrusts Timothy to speak the truth with the goal of love. Speaking truth with the goal of love is God's command to Timothy, to me, and to all pastors for the good of building the church of Jesus Christ. Help us, O Lord, in reaching the goal of love. Amen.

Hymn of Response: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPsxgQsnzJA&list=TLPQMDEwNTlwMjDawnz6aEwPSA&index=1>

PRAYERS of Joy and Concern, followed by:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Please Continue to Give in Dedication to Our Lord and Savior, Jesus

Prayer Of Dedication: *Unison*

God, in view of your mercy help us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to you, O God. Amen. *Romans 12:1*

Doxology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqpXWF15avU>

Closing Hymn: "Come We that Love the Lord"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygwY2BUBnI0>

Benediction: *Responsively*

Let us take the Good News into the world that many will come into your flock, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

TABLE TALK

When have you spoken the truth of Scripture in love?