

Calendar of Ministries

✠ Saturday, October 7, 2017

Evening Prayers at 7:30

✠ Sunday, October 8

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship at 11

✠ Monday, October 9

Morning Prayers at 8

✠ Tuesday, October 10

Morning Prayers at 8

College Teaching for Mr. Sherrard at 10 and 1

Food Pantry, 1:30 to 4 p.m.

✠ Wednesday, October 11

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School, 8:08 a.m.

Choir at 7 p.m.

✠ Thursday, October 12

Morning Prayers at 8

College Teaching for Mr. Sherrard at 10 and 1

✠ Friday, October 13

Morning Prayers at 8

✠ Saturday, October 14

Evening Prayers at 7:30

✠ Sunday, October 15

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship at 11

Teens meet at Millboro Elementary at 5

We're looking forward to our next fellowship event on the last Sunday of October, the 29th. We're planning for breakfast together that morning.

Watch for more details in the coming weeks.



The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church

October 5, 2017

Redemption and Righteousness

On World Communion Sunday, October 1, worshipers at Windy Cove focused on two powerful ideas from the Bible: redemption and righteousness. These concepts are found throughout the entire length of God's Word. On Sunday, however, Windy Covians centered their attention on redemption and righteousness in the context of the delightful story in the Book of Ruth.

Ruth begins with the veiled warning, "In the days when the judges ruled. . ." Those were days when the people of God often forgot their relationship to God, went their own way far from God, and suffered loss because of their bad choices. The history of the period shows that it was a time of religious apostasy, moral depravity, and political anarchy. With this beginning, the reader expects that things are not good.

The next phrase confirms a dire outlook, "[T]here was a famine in the land." To escape the famine, Elimelech takes his wife, Naomi, and their two sons to the adjacent territory of Moab. The sons marry, and the extended family lives together for ten years.

This upward trend in family fortunes is only temporary. In a quick turn of events, Elimelech dies as do the two sons. The Israelite Naomi is left alone with her two Moabite daughters-in-law. The situation is desperate since there is no one to take care of the three widows.

Naomi hears that conditions have improved in Israel and decides to go home to Bethlehem. She releases her daughters-in-law to return to their own families, but Ruth vows to stay with Naomi and make the return to Israel. When the two women arrive in Bethlehem, Naomi assesses their circumstances by saying that she

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Take Note

The Windy Cove Negotiating Team did meet with Presbytery representatives on Friday, September 29, at 3:30 p.m. There was some progress evident at this meeting which is now being worked on by Presbytery representatives and our Negotiating Team. When details are worked out to a presentable format, the Session will arrange opportunity to inform the congregation and listen to their input. Please continue your prayers.

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Redemption (Cont.)

should no longer be called Naomi which means Pleasant. Rather, she should be called Mara which means Bitter. From her limited perspective, the Lord has taken away all that was dear to her, and she is now old, useless, and embittered.

At this stage of small prospects and low spirits, the Lord's redemption starts to become evident. First, Ruth's devotion to her mother-in-law is unshakeable. Ruth's vow of loyalty to Naomi was not simply based on the sympathy of the moment. Instead, Ruth carries through by providing continued support for Naomi.

Secondly, God provides food and security for the two women through a relative of Elimelech named Boaz. Ruth gleanes in the barley and wheat fields that Boaz owns, and he is more than generous in his care for her.

Thirdly, when the opportunity arises for Boaz, he marries Ruth and saves the family name and property of Naomi's deceased husband Elimelech. Finally, Naomi's life is filled up again with the birth of her grandson, Obed, whom she herself cares for.

The story is the embodiment of God's redemption. God moves in ways often unseen and unanticipated from the initial emptiness of Naomi's life to its

fullness at the end of the book. That story of redemption is familiar in the Communion story of Jesus' death and resurrection providing redemption for all who were lost, cast upon the scrap heap, and without hope except in God's mercy.

Along the way in the Book of Ruth, we also see people working to exhibit God's righteousness. In all their relationships, the characters seek to live according to the best intentions of God for a particular relationship. For example, Elimelech tries his best to save his family from the famine in Israel.

Ruth is the faithful daughter-in-law who even stands by her embittered mother-in-law. Naomi instructs Ruth about the customs of living amid a people who are not her own. Boaz shows kindness to a foreigner (Ruth) gleaned in his fields. Boaz does the right thing by protecting Ruth's reputation and helping Elimelech's family by marrying Ruth. All these relationships show the righteousness of God in action in ordinary individual lives.

Celebrating the Lord's Supper teaches and empowers God's people through the Holy Spirit to do the same: to recognize and apply God's best intention for the different relationships in their lives. World Communion Sunday was a powerful day!

In Case You Wondered . . .

World Communion Sunday was the brainchild of Presbyterian Pastor Dr. Hugh T. Kerr of Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA. Dr. Kerr thought of the idea in 1930 during his year as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

Dr. Kerr was hoping to bring different Christian congregations together for inspiration and information about each other to strengthen their Christian witness to the world. The practice of World Communion Sunday began in the Shadyside Church and was adopted by the denomination in 1936. The practice spread from there to other churches worldwide through the National Council of Churches.

For smaller churches like Windy Cove, such a celebration encourages local believers to remember that faith in Jesus is worldwide. Indeed, studies show that there are more than 2 billion Christians in the world.

Teen Meetings Resume

Following the retreat at Headwaters Lodge on September 16-17, regular meetings of local teens have resumed on the first and third Sundays of each month. The

teens meet at 5 p.m. at Millboro Elementary School. These meetings include snacks, recreation, worship, and Bible study.

On October 1, the teens had pizza, vegetables and fruit, and cookies. They played dodge ball outside and then again inside in the gym. Recreation also included half-court basketball and just hanging out together.

After worshiping together, the teens had a study on reading through the Bible, its importance and plans for doing so. Then, each of the young people found a place to begin reading Romans 12. Their instructions were to read until the Lord stopped them with a definite message. Then, on a diary sheet, they brought back to the group what their verse was and what the Lord was saying to them through that verse.

In addition to these regular meetings, the teens gather on Wednesday mornings at the High School for Bible Club (usually called 8:08 by those attending or the local huddle of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes). They have a Bible Study and prayer before school begins. Last week Bible Club met at the flag pole for the national Meet at the Pole day for prayer.