



*Parkwood United Methodist Church*  
*A Beacon of God's Love to All People*

# Parkwood UMC Newsletter

November - December 2022

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## “Wash and Wait”

*A Meditation on Mark 1:1-8 by Pastor Adam*

The beginning of Mark’s gospel immediately introduces John the Baptist, who is preaching a message of baptism and repentance in the wilderness, and then says to prepare for the One who is coming. In a phrase, “wash and wait.”

John is by all appearances strange. He wore wild camel hair. He ate wild honey and locusts. It’s as if there were an unkempt, homeless man living down by Parkwood Lake, who notoriously eats a diet of worms and wildlife. Every day he stands on the shoreline and yells at people. Parents don’t want their kids getting too close to “Crazy Jonathan,” as they call him. Curious people drive by in their cars to get a good look at him. No one wants to come too close.

But, what if we chose, for a little while, to leave the comfort and security of our homes to go to Parkwood Lake and listen to him? What would he say to us? I imagine it would be something like this: “This story that I’m talking about is not about me; it’s about God. And, the kind of baptism I offer at Parkwood Lake is as if you were to walk up to the water’s edge to see your reflection, but instead of peering *at* yourself, you peer *in*.” John tells us, if we are willing to receive this baptism, we will take a long, hard look inward, which means we will see ourselves for *who we really are* – the good, the bad, and the ugly. This is not self-torture. This is self-examination.

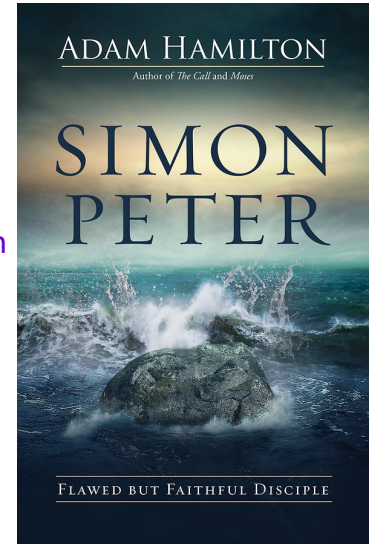
I know a therapist who will often begin a session with a new client this way: “where does the story begin?” For him, the hope of asking such a question is that this person might come to tell a truthful story about themselves without resorting to blaming, resentment, or bitterness. I imagine “Crazy Jonathan” asking a similar question, “where does the story begin *for you*?” Where the good news meets us is when we can finally tell a true story about ourselves in a way that 1) the painful parts of our past no longer have a hold on us, and 2) we can look back at our lives and see how God has been weaving his story in with our story all along.

And once we’ve finished telling our story to Crazy Jonathan, John isn’t finished with us. He’s pointing us towards something in the distance – towards *Someone*. And he’s telling us, “I’m really glad you’ve come, I’m glad you’ve told me your story, and I honestly believe you. But, look: this story isn’t about you, anymore; it’s about God. And He’s coming. Just you wash and wait.”

## Simon-Peter Sunday

### School Class starts Nov. 6

Beginning Sunday, November 6 in classroom 6 (end of the classrooms hallway on the left), you are invited to a study about Simon Peter by Adam Hamilton. There will be a DVD segment with discussion following each segment. We will be discussing what it looks like (and what hope we can gain) from this flawed yet faithful disciple. This study will conclude on December 11. We begin at **9:30 AM** and conclude at 10:30 AM. Rebecca Turner will lead the study.



## “Don’t Look Back” and “Incarnation” Sunday Classes in the Fellowship Hall

Through November (until Advent), on Sundays @ 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall, Pastor Adam will use videos and a book by Bishop Will Willimon in facilitating a conversation on how Methodist congregations can most successfully position themselves on how to get involved in Christ’s mission in the world today: **“Don’t Look Back: Methodist Hope for what comes next.”**

Starting on Sunday, November 27 @ 9:45 AM (also in the Fellowship Hall), we will begin an Adam Hamilton video and book study, **“Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas,”** where we will look more deeply into the significance of the names of Jesus. Bob Newlin will lead this study. By looking at the names and titles given to Jesus at his birth, the prayer is that we will grow in our understanding in what Christmas means, what the incarnation means, and what Christ calls and is asking of us today. Pastor Adam will lead the Children’s SS class during Advent.

### Parents Day Out:

### Christmas and Crafts for Kids

Saturday, December 10

10:30 AM—4:00 PM

On Saturday, December 10, Avivamiento and Parkwood UMC are offering a parents’ day out to go Christmas shopping (or whatever), and we will offer childcare, crafts, lunch, and activities from 10:30 AM—4:00 PM @ PUMC. Stay tuned!

## Harvest Feast and Fellowship

### A Joint Potluck, Service, and Communion

### At Christus Victor on Sun., Nov. 20 @ 5:00 PM, RSVP

Friends, this is our inaugural Harvest Feast and Fellowship event between our three congregations of Parkwood UMC, Christus Victor Lutheran, and All Saints UMC in our Collaborative Communities on Mission (CCoM). We will plan to do a Rise Against Hunger Event in February of 2023 together, but this is an opportunity to begin being in relationship with one another, as we look towards our future work together. **Please plan to be at this event** and represent Parkwood UMC. This is a wonderful opportunity for different congregations to come together, be in relationship, and be in mission together. Thanks to Autumn Boyer and Rachel Randall for being a part of the Thanksgiving Meal and Service Taskforce, and thanks to Rebecca Turner and Rosemary Marlowe for helping to get this CCoM “off the ground and running!”

### Recognizing our Veterans on Sun., Nov. 13 @ 11 AM Service

On Sun., Nov. 13, veterans will be recognized during the 11 AM service. A special gift has been created for the veterans and will be presented to the individuals or a family member.

### City BBQ Fundraiser for PUMC on Wed., Nov. 16 @ 11 AM-9 PM

We (Parkwood UMC) are having a fundraiser at **City Barbeque Durham on Wednesday, November 16!** Order online or head on over to show your support and enjoy some BBQ on Wed, Nov. 16, and we'll get 20% of sales from everyone who shares this post or uses our fundraiser code when they order at <https://www.citybbq.com/order> or in the City BBQ app! Rules: you must order online or in-person at City BBQ Durham (not another city) on this date, total proceeds from this day must exceed \$500, you must type in **“FundA” in the Add Coupon or Promo** section of online ordering and then **you must press the red + button for it to count**, or you may present a flyer from the event or simply say “Fundraiser A” at Cashier.

### Urban Ministries Needs and Ways to Serve:

**November:** We will collect packaged meals and corn. On Wed., Nov. 9, we will be making sandwiches at Urban Ministries. Meet at the church to carpool at 9 am. I need 3-4 people. On Sat., Nov. 26, we will be serving breakfast at Urban Ministries. Meet at the church at 8:10 to carpool. I need 4-5 people.

**December:** We will collect items for a Christmas dinner, i.e. stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, gravy, vegetables, etc. On Wed., Dec. 7, we will be making sandwiches at Urban Ministries. Meet at the church to carpool at 9 am. 3-4 people. On Dec., 21st we will make sandwiches.—*Jan Schwarze*

**Special Thanks to Knights of Columbus, UMM, Hospitality Team, and all  
volunteers who helped make Octoberfest successful!**



**Worship Volunteers November-December:**

	ALTAR GUILD	COMMUN- ION SETUP	WORSHIP GREETERS	READERS	USHERS	COUNTERS	OFFICE
<b>11/6</b>	Linnie Skidmore	Pam Skidmore	Rebecca Turner	Jan Schwarze	Brenda and Frank	Rebecca and Ann	Marie Porter
<b>11/13</b>	Pam Skidmore	n/a	Charlotte and David Thompson	Autumn Boyer	Ann Farmer	Ann and Rosemary	Marilyn Hackney
<b>11/20</b>	Marilyn Hackney	n/a	Jimmy and Florine	Rosemary Marlowe	Linnie and Pam	Rosemary and Eddie	Jan Schwarze
<b>11/27</b>	Dena Roberts	n/a	Dianne Mitchell	Rebecca Turner	Eddie Hanson	Eddie and Andrew	Arlene McCloskey
<b>12/4</b>	Peggy Minor	Pam Skidmore	Marilyn Hackney	Herb Schwarze	David Thompson	Andrew and Rachel	Rosemary Marlowe
<b>12/11</b>	Jan Schwarze	n/a	Rebecca Turner	Linnie Skidmore	Brenda and Frank	Rachel and Pam	Marie Porter
<b>12/18</b>	Dianne Mitchell	n/a	David and Charlotte	Jan Schwarze	Ann Farmer	Pam and Jimmy	Marilyn Hackney
<b>12/24</b>	Pat Nestler	?	Jimmy and Florine	Autumn Boyer	Linnie and Pam	VOLUNTEERS	Jan Schwarze
<b>12/25</b>	Pat Nestler	n/a	Dianne Mitchell	Rosemary Marlowe	Eddie Hanson	Jimmy and Mike	Jan Schwarze

**November-December Birthdays:** Jackie Clanton (11/1), Herb Schwarze (11/11), Olly Roberts (11/14), Brenda Stephans (11/29), Arlene McCloskey (12/7), Mike Wilson (12/23)

**Anniversaries:** Meghan and Adam Benson (11/8)

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