

Weekly Park Branches

Thursday, November 11, 2021

This Week's Sermon

"For Such a Time as This"

Scriptures

The Book of Esther, Chapter 4:9-14

Contact Us

adminoffice@parkpres.org

724-775-2936



New recruits at Fort Dix, New Jersey, undergoing basic training, Spring 1999.

Dear Friends,

"Freedom isn't Free"

The tagline to an advertising campaign for the U.S Army.

I well remember this tagline, as I worked on Army account during my days with Young & Rubicam, an advertising agency in New York City. It was my job, as Account Coordinator, to make sure that anything associated with the campaign—from television spots to billboards and print ads---was completed on time, within budget, and reached the appropriate outlets. It was exhausting work, on my end, but I never doubted it was worth it.

Because freedom is not free. The human story proves, again and again, that while some individuals are willing to embrace the challenges that come with freedom, there are other individuals who, for whatever reason, cannot accept this challenge and who act to forcibly restrict—even abolish--the freedoms of others. Back in the summer of 1990—and as part of my work as an Account Coordinator—I was whisked by an Army helicopter out of New York City down the Fort Dix, in New Jersey. Here, I observed basic training for new recruits, as well as spent time in the field with them. I joined them for an obstacle course run (don't ask!), as well as on the firing line (please ask!). Together, we consumed an MRE, or a Meal Ready to Eat, for lunch; to this day, I am still trying to figure out what it was...

I left this day deeply impressed, and even more grateful, for the men and women who choose to put their lives on the line for our freedom. Today, about 1.3 million of our fellow citizens serve as active-duty personnel. That's less than one half of 1 percent of the U.S. population. Currently, around 22 million Americans—or about 7 percent of the current population--have served in the armed forces.

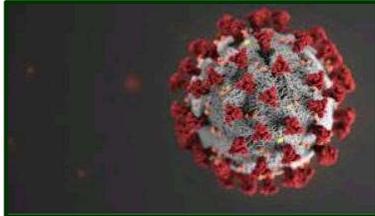
While as Christians we must always work for peace—and while we may not always agree with the decisions surrounding military deployments as American citizens--I hope this Veteran's Day will see all of us unite in giving profound thanks to all who have answered the call to defend our liberty. They have chosen to put themselves in harm's way for the rest of us--because freedom is NOT free.

Faithfully,
Todd

Sunday Worship as Park Apart

The worship video will be available on Sunday at 11:00 am and you can continue to find us anytime thereafter at <https://www.parkpres.org/swl-sunday-worship-live>. The bulletin for the service can also be found on the [Sunday Worship page](#) of our site. If you have announcements or prayer requests, please send them to Pastor Todd on Sunday morning via text at 612-554 6527 or email at revallen@parkpres.org.

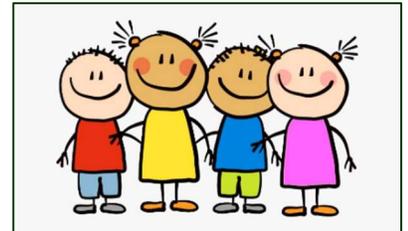
Mask Policy



Due to the highly transmissible nature of the Delta variant, the Session strongly encourages masks to be worn by all, vaccinated or unvaccinated, out of consideration for fellow church members and guests. Should you forget your mask, disposable masks are available in the sanctuary. Thank you for your cooperation in this new policy as we strive to serve one another well.

Nursery Helpers Needed

The Christian Nurture Commission would like our church to be a place where young families can come to worship and feel comfortable so we have opened the nursery during worship services for those who would like to utilize it. That means we need helpers to make this possible. Find a partner and sign up for a Sunday every few months. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Gathering Area. Call Susan Ivey, 724-650-5621, with questions or to volunteer. PS The church service is piped into the nursery!



Thanksgiving Bags



Plan to pack up your Park Cares canvas bags with items for local families in need this Thanksgiving. You may bring your bags with nonperishable items to worship on November 7th or 14th and bring to the front of the sanctuary following the collection of the offering. You can also drop them off to the Gathering Area anytime prior to November 17th.

Poinsettias for the Christmas Season

Starting Sunday, November 14th, we will once again have an opportunity to purchase beautiful poinsettias for the Christmas season in memory or in honor of someone special. Order forms are available on the Park Church website, in the office and at the sanctuary doors. All forms and payment (cost is \$6.30) must be in by December 5th. You can mail your order to the church or place in the collection plates in the sanctuary. Please specify color choice. Any questions, call Cheryl Leonard at 724-728-2606.



Celebrating Birthdays next week:

Mary Lou Vaughn	11/15
Lisa Correll	11/15
Gary Rexroad	11/16
Lynne Shallcross	11/16
Wyatt Ringer	11/16
Lois Hines	11/18
Leo Wolfe	11/18
Mat Myer	11/20