

7th Sunday After  
Pentecost  
July 16, 2023

Isaiah 55:10-13  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23  
Romans 8:1-11

"Why Aren't We All Dancing?"  
Pastor Carl McCormack

PARK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
3520 JFK BLVD, NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR 72116  
501-753-9533; parkhillpres@gmail.com

Welcome & Announcements Liturgist

Welcome from the Pastor

Prelude Jo Murry

\*Call to Worship (from Psalm 119:105)

God's word is a lamp to our feet

**And a light to our path.**

God's decrees are our foundation forever.

**They are the joy of our heart. Let us worship God together.**

\*Opening Prayer (Unison) Russ Mathis

**As you have called us to come worship, O God, so breathe**

**into us your Spirit, that we may bear witness to your gentle presence and your powerful love, for we pray in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ the Beloved. Amen.**

\*Opening Song of Praise #475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Call to Confession Russ Mathis

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Gracious Giver of all that we have and are, we confess that each of us is slow to give you thanks and even slower to share with others.**

**Sometimes we deny our oneness with all your creatures, and seek only after our own salvation, our own needs, and our own hopes. Challenge us with a vision for all people, that we may commit our lives to your mission in the world; for we are yours. (Silent Prayers of Confession)**

Assurance of Pardon (from Romans 8:1)

Friends, proclaim with me the wonderful news of the Gospel:  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*Gloria Patri #581

\*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Prayer for Illumination (Unison) Russ Mathis

**For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

Russ Mathis

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Pastor Carl

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: **“Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!”**

“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.

As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.

The gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Third Scripture Reading

Romans 8:1-11

Pastor Carl

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Sermon                      *“Why Aren’t We All Dancing?”*                      Pastor Carl

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

Song of Affirmation #157 *"I Danced in the Morning"*

**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**

\***Doxology** #606

\*Closing Song of Dedication      #36      “For the Fruit of All Creation”

Assisting in Worship:  
 Carl McCormack, Pastor  
 Russ Mathis, Liturgist  
 Cindy Witherspoon-Allen, Greeter  
 Deb & Howdy Frisby, Ushers  
 Jo Murry, Pianist

*Share with Session Elders your questions, concerns, and ideas;  
your thoughts are valuable to our leadership.*

501-352-1648; debmathis3@gmail.com

501-993-5532; William Lowe lowekb@sbcglobal.net

501-529-2720; jenniepierce45@yahoo.com

601-810-1813; liz\_terrell@hotmail.com

501-519-4647; tamarasings247@gmail.com

501-940-2431; carletonphilbrick88@gmail.com

501-517-6101;becky.webster@att.net

501-304-1679; [pastormccormack@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastormccormack@sbcglobal.net)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Seventh Sunday After Pentecost—July 16, 2023**

9:45am—Fellowship Class  
11am—Worship Service  
Pastor Carl McCormack  
1pm—Session Meeting

### **Monday, July 17, 2023**

10:30am—Monday Morning Prayer Group—Conference Room  
6:30pm—Arkansas Scottish Dance Society—Steen Hall

### **Tuesday, July 18, 2023**

10:30am—Caregivers Meeting

### **Thursday, July 20, 2023**

9am—AR Food Bank Team  
10:30am—"Taste & See Bible Study—Carol Clark  
Parlor

### **Friday, July 21, 2023**

7pm Arkansas Country Dance Society—Steen Hall

### **Seventh Sunday After Pentecost—July 30, 2023**

9:45am—Fellowship Class  
11am—Worship Service  
Pastor Carl McCormack

\*\*\*\*\*



## - PRAYER NOTES -

**Recent:** Diana McCray, Shirley Rose, Phil Terrell

**Continued Prayers:** Patt Bond, Pat Clark, Donna Ellis, Bill Jones, Ginny Jones, Jesse Macon-Teague, Ann McCollum, Jack McCollum, Judy Peters, Luke Peters, Wendell Phillips, LaVonne Smith

**Prayers For Friends Of The Church:** Charles Clark, Darnell Clark, Judy Faulkner, Constance Hughes, Travis Kasper, Terri McMaster, Shirley Norton, Stephanie Phillips, Elizabeth Pollard, Norma Smith,

**Prayers For Those In Home Confinement:** John Atterbury, Ann Cother, Bunn Falls (Johnson County Health & Rehab), Clarksville, LeMoyne Jones (AR State Veterans Home), Steve Pollard (AR State VA Home), David Rennie, Ann Woods.

**Prayers For Those In Grief:** For those who are still mourning the loss of a loved one.

\*Please contact the church office if you need someone placed on or taken off the prayer notes. Thank you.