

2021

# August

OPEN DOOR

God freed the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt. They spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness before they entered the Promised Land of Canaan.

Ray Schulte from the Center for Parish Development observes that, “the wilderness experience was not necessarily a negative experience for the Israelites. It wasn’t a positive experience either. It was a very difficult experience. It was confusing, often disorganized, disruptive, sometimes frightening, bewildering, uncomfortable, unsettling. Yet the wilderness experience was one of the great formative experiences for the people of Israel. It shaped them for the future that lay before them. It helped them leave Egypt behind and look ahead. Even though they headed directly for the border of Canaan, they were much too weak, too confused, and too poorly organized to invade Canaan. So, they wandered in the wilderness, during which time they were shaped into a hardened, resilient, determined, well-organized wilderness people capable of [claiming the land that had been promised to their ancestors...]”

Churches are living today in a new era. We have left “Egypt”...whatever holds us as slaves. Together we are wandering through a wilderness. How should we live in this new time? How do we let go of the past and prepare for the new future God is creating?

Beginning this month, our Wednesday Kum Ba Zoom gatherings will explore some of these questions. I hope you can join us and be a part of the conversation!

*Pastor Ray*



# The First Presbyterian Church of Miami Choir

**Singers!** We are exploring the idea of starting a choir for Sunday worship services.

We are planning to begin in September, starting with only one or two Sundays a month.

Let Pastor Ray or Celeste Rector know if you are interested or have any questions.



# Puzzle!

Answer each statement by circling the letter in the correct column. Then write the circled letters on the numbered lines below to complete the biblical word.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Naomi is Ruth's mother.	D	<input checked="" type="radio"/> R
2. Ruth is a Moabite.	T	P
3. Naomi wants Ruth to leave her and return to Moab.	N	L
4. Orpah is Naomi's hired hand.	H	S
5. Boaz lives in Bethlehem.	C	B
6. Boaz is a farmer.	U	V
7. Ruth makes a living begging at Bethlehem's gates.	X	E
8. Boaz instructs his field workers to leave extra grain for Ruth to glean.	E	J
9. Boaz invites Ruth to eat with the harvesters.	R	Q
10. Boaz is related to Naomi.	I	W
11. Boaz refuses to marry Ruth.	F	R
12. Ruth is the great-grandmother of King David.	O	G

R

9 7 4 6 1 11 8 5 2 10 12 3

Answer: L R 2 T A N 4 S F C 6 U 7 E 8 E 9 R 10 I 11 R 12 O RESURRECTION



# No kidding

Whatever our age, God calls us to model holy living for others.

Directions: Match the animal young with its parent. Then write the letter answers in order below to complete 1 Timothy 4:12, NIV.

1. ___ bear	9. ___ monkey	A. fry	I. hatchling
2. ___ frog	10. ___ platypus	B. fawn	K. foal
3. ___ owl	11. ___ alligator	C. gosling	L. owlet
4. ___ horse	12. ___ giraffe	D. cub	M. puggle
5. ___ kangaroo	13. ___ goose	E. kid	N. joey
6. ___ deer	14. ___ swan	F. cygnet	O. polliwog
7. ___ goat	15. ___ dog	G. infant	P. puppy
8. ___ fish		H. calf	

"\_1\_ on't let any \_2\_ ne \_3\_ oo\_4\_ down o\_5\_ you \_6\_ ecaus\_7\_ you \_8\_ re youn\_9\_ but set an exa\_10\_ ple for the bel\_11\_ evers in spec\_12\_ in \_13\_ onduct, in love, in \_14\_ aith and in \_15\_ urity."

1 TIMOTHY 4:12, NIV

Answer: D, O, L, R, N, B, E, A, G, M, I, H, C, F, P



- August 1** Hungry for God
- August 8** Sharing Bread
- August 15** Pursuing Wisdom
- August 22** The Protection of Prayer
- August 29** Hearers and Doers



Interested in Membership?  
We will have a class after worship on  
**Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>,**  
to explore what it means to be a Christian, a Presbyterian,  
and a member of this congregation.  
Let Pastor Ray know if you would like to participate.

### **Kum Ba Yah aka Kum Ba Zoom**

**We meet every Wednesday on ZOOM for fellowship, study and prayer.  
7:00 PM. The link to the Zoom Meeting is sent in the Wednesday eMail  
each week.**

#### **Kum Ba Yah topics:**

- August 4** Faithfulness
- August 11** Self Control
- August 18** Wilderness Assumptions: It Starts with God's Mission
- August 25** Context Matters

#### **Adult Sunday School**

**Sundays at 9:30am on Zoom and in Person!**

- August 1** The Book of Judith
- August 8** The Additions to the Book of Esther
- August 15** The Wisdom of Solomon
- August 22** Ecclesiasticus
- August 29** The Book of Baruch



July 2021							July 2021							July 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3					1	2	3					1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>2</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>3</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>4</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	<b>5</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 Gamblers Anon.	<b>6</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Deacon Mtg 11:30 am New Member	<b>9</b> Office Closed in the AM	<b>10</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>11</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	<b>12</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 Gamblers Anon.	<b>13</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>16</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>17</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 11:00 Mission Mtg 7:00 Session Mtg	<b>18</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	<b>19</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 Gamblers Anon.	<b>20</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>23</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>24</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>25</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom Newsletter Submissions	<b>26</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 Gamblers Anon.	<b>27</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>30</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>31</b> 10-12 Food Pantry				

September 2021							September 2021							September 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31		26	27	28	29	30	31		26	27	28	29	30	31	

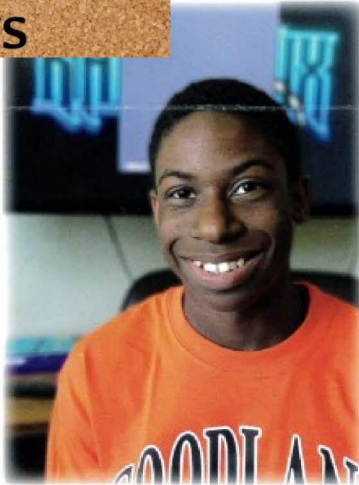


# Back to School



Even though the mission committee did not meet in July we wanted to share this neat story from Goodland Academy with you.

The Mission Committee supports the Goodland Academy/Home with yearly donations.



“Life isn’t black and white,” Shiloh declared when asked what the most valuable lesson he’s learned at Goodland. He continued, “it’s really grey. For every problem, there can be different solutions and you have to look at it from every angle.” This attitude will come in handy as he pursues his passion in life: computer science. Shiloh has always had a knack for thinking outside the box and loves to be a problem solver. He credits Goodland for helping him learn to never give up. “I’d say after being at Goodland for a while, it has taught me to be tenacious,” he explained, “I used to give up so easily any time a solution wouldn’t come easily. Now, I’ve learned to be disciplined and stick with it!”

Shiloh’s brilliance is evident in the classroom. At 15 years old, he’s already tested into college-level courses and has begun the enrollment process to start working on his basics for college. He hopes to take his academic studies all the way to get a degree in computer science and help in the areas of cyber security and

law enforcement. “Cyber security is a really big deal. We store everything on our devices nowadays and it’s always evolving,” Shiloh stated, “I hope to able to help law enforcement not only track down criminals but recover whatever data they’ve tried to take.”

Will you join Shiloh and his classmates to help them reach their dreams? At Goodland Academy, we’ve made it our mission to make exemplary people. We provide the resources for these young men to unlock their future; however, we can’t do it alone. Goodland Academy is over 98% privately funded and all of our students are on scholarship. That means we need you to partner with us in this crucial work.

A gift of \$300 will provide the technology and resources needed to sustain our student’s goals. After this past year, we have seen that this endeavor is more important than ever. We thank you for your consideration in this vital work to train the next generation.



David Dearing, CEO - Goodland Academy

First Presbyterian,

Thank you for the churches donation of \$500 to our Summer Program! Providing a safe & fun summer for kids is much easier with this blessing. Your gift will keep bellies full & minds filled with memories!

thank  
YOU

Thank you,  
Mackenzie Garst, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Club of Ottawa County



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF OTTAWA COUNTY

Hey folks; I'd ask "how's the world up there?", but I'm there mostly every other week to see CB. He's doing ok, I'm sure Nancy keeps folks posted. He can still be "CB" and if anyone out there keeps the crew on their toes it's him. Thanks to Nancy I get a report even for the weeks I'm not there. :) Love you guys. AND.....As always, appreciate your support. I know you don't need a receipt as you're a non-profit too but hey... you all know I'm a professional, remember. - Ha.

I don't have much more news of late as I trust you got the newsletter recently. That was most everything. However, I did attached a couple photos I did not have when I put the letter out. This is a photo of our University of Georgia (UGA), Veterinary student. (mentioned in the newsletter) She was doing vaccination on all the animals in many places including our villages we support. It's part of her 4th year vet student work.

My operations guy in-country there is a Veterinarian and we've worked some agreements to get more help for the folks we're helping. She helps at the university there a week or so in animal studies, then runs around the country doing actual work, vaccination mostly. Didn't cost us anything except our time setting things up as UGA and Hayley herself foot the bill for the experience.

She helped many, many, people all over Ghana I can tell ya. She just left there this past week, had been there since late May. Thought you'd enjoy the pictures. She was living in a house we use in Yua village where we built the church and support the women's group & choir etc.; she lived with about 14 kids and 5 other women. It does feel really good to see young folks that dedicated. And as you can tell the conditions are not all airconditioned with running water etc.. :) You all stay well, and I ask the church group to take care of Nancy Gee as she's my main "Intelligence Officer" and good friend. I'll keep you posted. You saw in the news letter we have a new helper for out operation in Belize and I personally (Lord willing) hope to go to Ghana in Africa this fall and check on our future plans for the school, nursing students, Yua and other village micro-finance, water wells etc. as haven't been since Feb of 2019 thanks to Covid... :(

All the Lord's best to you guys and thanks so much for all the support for the Roberts' family from the start. - J.

1 John 3:17

John E. Roberts

President/Founder

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Hayley  
UGA Veterinary Student



## Yumm! Garden Goodies

A special thanks to Shawn and Cari!

Several weeks Shawn and Cari have blessed us with some of the bounty of their hard work in the garden!

There is nothing more delicious than homegrown vegetables! Unfortunately home gardens are also extremely hard work. It's wonderful that Shawn and Cari are willing to share their hard work with us!

Thank you guys, you are awesome!

Nancy Gee snapped this photo of their gifts one Sunday last month:





## Servers in the Lord's House

	Usher	Coffee Host
August 1	David Foster	Open
August 8	David Foster	Open
August 15	David Foster	Open
August 22	David Foster	Open
August 29	Deanna Duvall	Open

Please call the office or talk to Pastor Ray to sign up for the above servers slots!

### The miracle of summer

A team of Sunday school teachers faced boisterous youngsters on Rally Day, the start of a new education year. Because kids were reuniting after a break, they were eager to chat about vacations. To restore order, a teacher asked the children to take turns sharing a favorite Bible verse, story or miracle. One, who still had summer on the brain, exclaimed, "I like the time when everybody loafs and fishes!"



## AUGUST



BIRTHDAYS

*John Gray ... 8/3*

*Irene Waylan ... 8/3*

*Curtis Everhart ... 8/4*

*John Lomax ... 8/4*

*Kathy Prince ... 8/5*

*Bill Hancock ... 8/8*

*Autumn Fuhrman ... 8/21*

*Should your name be here?*

*Please let the office know your birth date so we can include you!*

# August 2021 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship.

## Old Testament

## Epistle

## Gospel

### [Year One]

08/01/2021	2 Sam. 6:12-23	Rom. 14:7-12	John 1:43-51
08/02/2021	2 Sam. 7:1-17	Acts 18:1-11	Mark 8:11-21
08/03/2021	2 Sam. 7:18-29	Acts 18:12-28	Mark 8:22-33
08/04/2021	2 Sam. 9:1-13	Acts 19:1-10	Mark 8:34-9:1
08/05/2021	2 Sam. 11:1-27	Acts 19:11-20	Mark 9:2-13
08/06/2021	2 Sam. 12:1-14	Acts 19:21-41	Mark 9:14-29
08/07/2021	2 Sam. 12:15-31	Acts 20:1-16	Mark 9:30-41
08/08/2021	2 Sam. 13:1-22	Rom. 15:1-13	John 3:22-36
08/09/2021	2 Sam. 13:23-39	Acts 20:17-38	Mark 9:42-50
08/10/2021	2 Sam. 14:1-20	Acts 21:1-14	Mark 10:1-16
08/11/2021	2 Sam. 14:21-33	Acts 21:15-26	Mark 10:17-31
08/12/2021	2 Sam. 15:1-18	Acts 21:27-36	Mark 10:32-45
08/13/2021	2 Sam. 15:19-37	Acts 21:37-22:16	Mark 10:46-52
08/14/2021	2 Sam. 16:1-23	Acts 22:17-29	Mark 11:1-11
08/15/2021	2 Sam. 17:1-23	Gal. 3:6-14	John 5:30-47
08/16/2021	2 Sam. 17:24-18:8	Acts 22:30-23:11	Mark 11:12-26
08/17/2021	2 Sam. 18:9-18	Acts 23:12-24	Mark 11:27-12:12
08/18/2021	2 Sam. 18:19-33	Acts 23:23-35	Mark 12:13-27
08/19/2021	2 Sam. 19:1-23	Acts 24:1-23	Mark 12:28-34
08/20/2021	2 Sam. 19:24-43	Acts 24:24-25:12	Mark 12:35-44
08/21/2021	2 Sam. 23:1-7, 13-17	Acts 25:13-27	Mark 13:1-13
08/22/2021	2 Sam. 24:1-2, 10-25	Gal. 3:23-4:7	John 8:12-20
08/23/2021	1 Kings 1:(1-4) 5-31	Acts 26:1-23	Mark 13:14-27
08/24/2021	1 Kings 1:32-2:4-46	Acts 26:24-27:8	Mark 13:28-37
08/25/2021	1 Kings 3:1-15	Acts 27:9-26	Mark 14:1-11
08/26/2021	1 Kings 3:16-28	Acts 27:27-44	Mark 14:12-26
08/27/2021	1 Kings 5:1-6:1, 7	Acts 28:1-16	Mark 14:27-42
08/28/2021	1 Kings 7:51-8:21	Acts 28:17-31	Mark 14:43-52
08/29/2021	1 Kings 8:22-40	1 Tim. 4:7b-16	John 8:47-59
08/30/2021	2 Chron. 6:32-7:7	James 2:1-13	Mark 14:53-65
08/31/2021	1 Kings 8:65-9:9	James 2:14-26	Mark 14:66-72

Popular Idioms and their supposed origins:

### **Fly off the handle**

**Definition:** To become suddenly enraged.

**Origin:** The phrase comes from the 1800s, when some axes were so poorly made that when swung, the ax heads would fly off the handle.

### **Giving someone the cold shoulder**

**Definition:** To treat someone in a hostile or unwelcoming manner

**Origin:** Back in medieval times, whenever someone had a guest over, it was considered impolite to ask the guest outright to leave.

Instead, they had a custom: when the host gave the guest a piece of meat from the shoulder of pork, beef, or mutton already cold, it signaled that the dinner was over and the guest should get ready to leave.

### **Go the whole nine yards**

**Definition:** To give your all toward something.

**Origin:** Fighter pilots during World War II had nine yards' worth of ammunition. When they gave their all to the battle, they would run out of this whole nine yards of ammunition.

### **Kick the bucket**

**Definition:** To die.

**Origin:** During the 16th century, butchers would slaughter animals by hanging them on a wooden beam, which was called a "bucket" at that time. When the animals were killed, many of them would have a sudden convulsion, causing them to kick violently into the "bucket."



### **Friends with binoculars**

At a beautiful outdoor wedding reception in the Colorado foothills, a group of us noticed a family of black bears on the next hill. We were so excited because we'd never seen them in the wild! When some friends grabbed binoculars from their car, however, we realized the creatures were merely grazing cows.

Now I tell this story whenever I'm asked what exciting wildlife I've encountered in the mountains. It gets a good laugh but also reminds me that I desperately need friends with binoculars. Instead of surrounding myself with people who automatically agree with me and don't challenge my perceptions, I need friends in my life who search with me for answers, accuracy and truth. Let's all be on the "lookout" for friends with binoculars!

—Janna Firestone



August usually means back to school! This year the teachers and kids get a bit longer! **Miami Public Schools will return to school on September 7th.** Our Backpack program will start up soon after that!

We will again be providing much needed food assistance to the poorest among us, providing weekend food packages for students at Roosevelt Elementary who might otherwise have no food through the weekend. It is our goal to provide basic, nutritious food for 2 breakfasts, two snacks, and two dinners.

Because of the reconfiguration of the elementary schools in Miami, Roosevelt Elementary has seen a significant increase in their student census. Last year we fed between 65 and 70 students each week. This year, we expect around the same number.

Your help in the past has been essential as we provide these weekend sacks of food. Please think about making a donation to support this program this coming school year! Thank you for all you do to pro-



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