January 6 (Communion Sunday)

Scripture: Matthew 7: 24-27 (Rock and sand)

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. 25 The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

Sermon Title:

Theme: Foundation (Jesus Christ is the only foundation not churches…)
GRACE – when we build on sand, can rebuild on rock
Grace gives us a multitude of chances
God is always present and is continually seeking to reveal the presence of the Holy in our lives
Prevenient, Justifying, Sanctifying

Resources: Contrast church building and church being the people
Continuation of church when natural or manmade disasters destroy the buildings
Misnomer/misapprehension – “Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and see the people”

Images: Buildings, foundations, rocks, sand, Baby in manger, Cross, Tomb, Resurrection

Videos for use:

Quotes:

Prayer/Literature:

Children’s Sermon: Bring rock and sand (sealed in little bag) for each child

Music:
January 13

Scripture: Isaiah 43: 18-19  (Former things, a new thing)

Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.  

19 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, 
do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Sermon Title:

Theme: Desert (Culture)  Fresh
Expressions Resurrection(s)

God is always present and continually working in the world  
Revealing divine love and the divine presence

Resources: Statistics about church life and culture  
re: belief, attendance, prayer, higher power, generational changes  
Ask church members to think about their children and grandchildren  
and their relationship with the church – what do they think?  
What are they looking for? How do they relate to God? Jesus?  
Barna studies, Lewis Center for Church Leadership, 
Use statistics from Fresh Expressions of Church by Travis Collins, 
41-43 
In reference to the church of England for “It’s Working” stats.

Images: Photos of deserts, of waterfalls, springs, rivers, lakes  
Winds of change, tornadoes, storms, fire (releases nitrogen/new life)  
Are there pictures of new churches where old churches once stood?  
Caterpillars/butterflies – or do we need a more fluid image that does not have an endpoint?  
Cycle of water???
Exists in the form most appropriate to its environment?  
Ice in some locations, flowing water in some, steam in others  
https://www.google.com/search?q=images+water&tbm=isch&tbo=u&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiSr87m6MffAhVQiwKHXIcDLIqQ9C6BAgBEBs&biw=1205&bih=1092&dpr=0.8#imgrc=QxQpaN9zBM-wwM:
Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. 

The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that
will belong to me.’ So, he divided his property between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

17 But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ 20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

25 ‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27 He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ 31 Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Sermon Title:

Theme: Questing

Encouraging NOT the suppression of questing.

How do we facilitate seekers and questers looking for experiences in community and serving the community?

How do we facilitate seekers and questers looking for experiences of the divine?

Example: Christmas Eve candlelight services… Easter sunrise…

Resources: Q and A – what are the essentials? Nonessentials we can give up?
Exercise did with Michael Beck…

Images:
Old phrase - finding yourself, photos – backpackers hiking Europe
Hide and seek
Backpack – what are the essentials we must have?

Videos for use:

Quotes:

Prayer/Literature:

Children’s Sermon:

Music:
Seek Ye First

January 27

Scripture: Matthew 25: 14-29 (Parable of talents)

14 “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you
did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’

26 But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return, I would have received what was my own with interest.

28 So take the talent from him and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

Sermon Title:

Theme: Balance
Mixed Economy (Ecology) - Tradition and Fresh Expressions
Risk Taking

Resources: Talent makers find fresh expressions, begin Fresh Expressions
Talent makers are RISK TAKERS

Stories from Fresh Expressions movement

Stories of Risk taking from the history of St. Paul’s UMC, Papillion

Stories of people who are risk takers in sharing their faith, taking their faith into their workplaces, into the community

Images: Balance beam, scale of justice
Sack of money (resources), how balance it between new and old?
People resources; how balance between the old and new?

Videos for use:

Quotes: "There is a fabric of the old way of being society and being church. We are not about patching the fabric of that old garment but seeking to set up a new loom to weave the new fabric for tomorrow's society of the kingdom." Sister Mary Clare

Prayer/Literature:

Children’s Sermon:
Music: “Make new friends but keep the old, one is silver and the other gold”

Does this phrase come from the psalms???

February 3 (Communion Sunday)

Scripture: Acts 17: 16-34

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. 17 So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. 18 Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, “What does this babbler want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.” (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) 19 So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.” 21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortal’s life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

29 Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

32 When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, “We will hear you again about this.”

33 At that point Paul left them. 34 But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman
named Damaris, and others with them.

Sermon Title:

Theme: Listening/Adaptation

Paul listens and frames his ministry to the culture around him
Paul discerns their questing, speaks “their Language”
and tells them about Jesus

Resources: Diagram from *Fresh Expressions of Church* by Travis Collins, page 27

Images: Pictures of Church – PEOPLE not necessarily the places

People in mission, at lakeside, at camps, at orphanage in Nigeria, UMCOR sites
Youth pictures laying down in circle, heads to center,
Using hands to make the form of a cross

Use Great Plains Annual Conference images from website
Use images from St. Paul’s, from youth trips, from Club 4,5,6 trips
Look at pictures in the history room upstairs, in the scrapbooks

Videos for use:

Quotes:

Prayer/Literature:

Children’s Sermon: Story of Circuit Riders in America, this was an adaptation to life
Frontier where there were not church buildings but gatherings of people interested in Jesus
Story of St. Paul started in a dugout, moving to a school, ultimately getting a building, then other buildings
Now - keep and use building but move out from the building too

Music:

**February 10**


After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs…
To every town and place where he himself intended to go.

He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Sermon Title:

Theme: Teamwork
2 by 2…
Growth through spreading outward
Healthy viral growth – not by sneezes and germs
But by loving acts of discipleship and of testimony/storytelling

Resources: Fresh Expressions is a team supported way of living out our Christian faith and personal life as disciples
Stories of how specific churches decided to be sent out into their community to listen, learn, serve, and help others become followers/disciples too
Introduction of terminology from the Fresh Expressions books and from the Great Plains website
https://www.greatplainsumc.org/freshexpressionsresources

Fresh Expressions Terms:

- **Mission-Shaped Church**: A report commissioned by the Church of England that laid out the foundational principles of Fresh Expressions.
- **Unchurched**: Persons who have never been to church and have no historical or social memory of the church.
- **Dechurched**: Persons who did participate in church but no longer
participate.

- **Nones**: Persons who do not currently practice a religion.
- **Dones**: Persons who have practiced a religion and no longer observe this practice.
- **Open unchurched**: Persons who have never been to church but are open to church.
- **Closed unchurched**: Persons who have never been to church and are closed to the idea of going to church.
- **Denomination**: A branch of the Protestant Christian Church (e.g., United Methodist, Presbyterian).
- **Ecumenical**: A desire for unity and representation among many different denominations.
- **Connectional Church**: A church that is not independent but connected to other churches through a denomination or network of churches.
- **Discipleship**: The process of teaching and mentoring someone in the faith to be a follower of Jesus Christ.
- **Membership**: A promise made by a person to be a member of the church by committing to serve the church through their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.
- **Investment in People**: Rather than investing in buildings or property, investment in people occurs when an organization moves its focus to investing in staff, experiences, and immersion for the people connected to the organization.
- **Social Innovation**: Creating new opportunities, new businesses, and new models to bring about positive social change, often leveraging society itself to bring about those changes.
- **Bi-vocational Ministry**: A person who works in ministry part time and also works in another vocation; a part time salary from either vocation would vary by context and contract.
- **Attractional Church**: A church that sees itself as the center toward which people and resources flow.
- **Missional Church**: A church that sees itself as a gathering from which people and resources flow toward the world.
- **Inherited Church**: The orderly process by which a generation passes the faith, wedded to participation in a particular congregation, to the next generation or two.
- **Nomad**: Someone who travels from church to church without a clear “church home”.
- **Prodigal**: Someone who has left the church.
- **Exile**: Someone who feels that they have been left out by the church and thus been forced to leave.
- **Networks**: The groupings of people who come together due to interest or hobby.
- **Social Capital**: Gain to be made within social groups.
- **Third Places**: The space in a person’s life where they spend the most time apart from work and home.
- **Social Holiness**: The notion that one’s personal holiness is connected to the well-being of other persons, primarily friendships, networks, and communities.
- **Mixed Economy of Church**: A church that includes the traditional and
nontraditional worship styles, strategies, places, and language.

- **Traditioned Innovation**: A pattern of thinking that includes conservation and change by holding tradition and innovation in tension.

- **Adaptive Challenge**: A willingness to give “work back to the people”. Contextually building a spiritual practice with a group of people using their gifts, language, and learning preferences.

- **Mixed Ecology**: An organic model of mixing traditional and modern, inherited and missional.

- **Oikos**: Greek word for house.

- **Class Meeting**: The Wesleyan introductory meeting of people gathered together to share life’s journey of work, home, and faith with each other.

- **Band Meeting**: The Wesleyan meeting of people who provide accountability to one another regarding study, tithing, mission, participation, and worship.

- **Practitioner**: A person who leads a Fresh Expression. Someone who has the spiritual gifts of apostleship and compassion. Also known as a “pioneer” in Fresh Expressions UK.

- **Missional Mentor**: A person who will coach and encourage the practitioner.

- **Interpreter**: A person who is called to interpret the work of Fresh Expressions for a congregation or institutional body. This person may or may not participate in the Fresh Expression but is able to help others understand the purpose and function of Fresh Expressions.

- **Steward**: A person who will seek and attend to the financial resources that sustain Fresh Expressions of church.

- **Permission-Giver**: A person of influence who is able to use their influence to give permission to a practitioner and/or a Fresh Expression.

- **Prayer Partner**: A person who prays for the Fresh Expression and all involved. This person may or may not be part of the Fresh Expression and may or may not be part of a local church.

- **Collaborator**: A person who is able to partner with the Fresh Expression through a variety of resources such as space, funds, or connecting points in the community. Collaborators are found externally and internally in a local church and institution.

- **Person of Peace**: A person from the community who serves as a bridge between a Fresh Expression and the community.

- **Koinonia**: The Greek word often translated as fellowship and community.

Images: Center pivot point that radiates outward, like wagon wheel with arrows for spokes and no outer rim

Early American Methodism – Circuit Riders, host homes Churches planted Importance of laity: local pastors, lay preachers

In England - Society had both bands and classes at various points
Society/Band – swiss cheese (band is the holes with special groups)
Bands – particular needs; age, gender, spiritual development

Society/Classes – like a cheese wheel
After 1742 had to be a member of a class
Class meetings – basically neighborhood groups

In US
1769 about 600 in societies, mostly eastern colonies
1779 8673 people in societies
Society too big then met in class meetings with no more than twelve
Traveling preachers (sacramental authority) AND local preachers

Videos for use:

Quotes:

Prayer/Literature:

Children’s Sermon: Noah’s Ark – animals on 2 by 2, not just for reproduction of the species but for companionship

Music:

**February 17 (Pastor Denny preaches, Nancy in Gering)**

Scripture: Matthew 28: 19-20

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Sermon Title:

Theme: Journey/Go
Discipleship

Resources:

Images: Rain Shower,
Image of drop of water hitting the surface of a body of water and the ever-spreading ripples
Then imagine hundreds of drops of water and the ripples from each and the intersecting of the ripples throughout the surface of the body of water

See January 13 water images
Videos for use:
Video from Fresh Expressions UK https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LD-RIVMGy4
:49 Published August 16th, 2017
**Capture the circular image for use

1. Listening (and praying)
2. Loving and Serving
3. Build Community (Together)
4. Explore Discipleship (Following Jesus)
5. Church Taking Shape
6. Do it Again

Quotes:

Prayer/Literature:

Children’s Sermon:

Music: “It only takes a spark” becomes “it only takes a drop to get a wellspring going and soon all those around are refreshed by its flowing.”

Nancy says: “I am still playing with this, I’ll let you know if I come up with something workable!”

Original lyrics:
It only takes a spark to get a fire going
And soon all those around
Can warm up in the glowing
That’s how it is with God’s love
Once you’ve experienced it
You’ll spread His love
to everyone
You’ll want to pass it on
What a wondrous time is spring
When all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing
The flowers start their blooming
That’s how it is with God’s love
Once you’ve experienced it
You’ll want to sing
It’s fresh like spring
You’ll want to spread it out

I wish for you my friend
This happiness that I’ve found
You can depend on Him
It matters not where you’re bound
I’ll shout it from the mountain top

I want the world to know
The Lord of Love
Has come to me
February 24 (General Conference in Session)

Scripture: Philippians 4: 6-7

6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Sermon Title:

Theme: Discernment and Prayer Service
Commitment Service

Resources:

Images:

Videos for use:

Quotes:

Prayer/Literature:

Children’s Sermon:

Music:

---

Citation Sheet

Books
“mission-shaped church “ Report by the Archbishop’s Council 2004

Articles
Websites
https://freshexpressionsus.org/
http://freshexpressions.org.uk/

• Fresh Expressions US  www.freshexpressionsus.org
• Fresh Expressions UK  www.freshexpressions.org.uk
• Path One of Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church  
  www.umcdiscipleship.org
• Ministry Incubators  www.ministryincubators.com

“mission-shaped church “ Report by the Archbishop’s Council 2004

Printed by Cromwell Press Ltd  Printed in England  Trowbridge, Wilshire
Church House Publishing, Great Smith Street, London

Podcasts

Video segments

https://www.freshexpressionsfl.org/about?
fbclid=IwAR0QZXy7h0dDxu8hSeGdGHSc5YBV1zhOyjpii3fGwIVyvHOaCzSP0PJe3wx
Y

Florida Annual Conference Fresh Expressions – sampling and titles
Hope at Hardees
Hot Dogs in the Park
Pub Group
3 D
An Open Table
Young Marines
First Friday Live
Urban Soul (Young Adults)
Coffee and Conversation
More Than Softball
Crock Pot Church (Mobile Home Ministry)
Baseball
Tai Chi
Athletic Youth Outreach
Acoustic Jam (weekly at restaurant for music and fellowship)
Harry Potter and the Sacred Text
Lunch and Learn
Caffeine and Christian Conversation
Intro to Holy Yoga
Pointe of Grace
Women’s Craft Night
Kickstands Upward (Bicycling)
Shear Grace Salon: Practicing Soul Hospitality
Bibles and Billiards
Adventure Chapel
Paws of Praise
Painting God’s Creation
Church in the Starbucks
Bibles and Bait
Icons: Theology and Comics
Sprout Breakfast Church
Worship on the Water
A Minute Apart
Curbside Coffee
Community Gardens
High on Jesus (ministry with Opioid Addiction)
Brick Oven project (Harvest UMC)
Donuts in the Park
Word on the Water
The Carpenter’s Shop
New Hope Café
Open Door Cottage
The Portico Contemplative Practices
Jam Session
Pub Theology
Cinema Conversations
Refresh Group
Custom Car Gatherings
Candlelight Trailer Park
Monday at the Movies
Stretching in the Spirit
Finding Hope in Headlines
Exceptional Entrepreneurs
Messy Church
Steadfast
Volleyball FX
Let’s Go
Beer and Hymns
Kayaking with Jeff
Open Table
Word at Wendy’s
Helping Hands at McIntosh Living Facility
The Gathering Table
Trinity Dinner Church
Ball Field Blessings
Wings and the Word
Feast in the Field
The Story Project
Graceful Running
My Body and Soul
Simply Create
Ortiz Flea Market
J Colin English Family Days
Gears, Grease, and Good News (meets in a garage, works on cars)
Tuesday Morning Outreach
Bar Church
Buffalo Crossings (Assisted Living)
The Willows (Assisted Living)
Carriage House (Assisted Living)
Branches Youth program
Café en la Calle
Runner’s Chapel
The Fruitful Field
Community Basketball
The Gathering Table Café and Consignment (showcase Exceptional Entrepreneurs)