

#4



PROJECT NEBO

A PROGRAM TO ADDRESS GENERATIONAL TRANSITIONING
AND CALL EACH GENERATION TO LEADERSHIP.

Team Rahab

Sunday, February 4 | 8:30 & 11:00am



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PENSACOLA, FL.



Welcome to First Church

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us this morning! This Methodist congregation was founded in 1821. We are the oldest Protestant church in the area and the mother church of Methodism in Florida. We've been here for over 200 years, and we're looking forward to 200 more! It's an historic church that preserves the past and embraces the future, and there's a place here for you.

Today we are in the fourth week of our series called Project Nebo. During this season after the Epiphany, our church is trekking up Mt. Nebo. In scripture, Nebo is a place of transition. On the mountain, the Lord revealed the promised land to Moses and passed the leadership baton to Joshua—a symbolic transition from one generation to the next. Project Nebo is our response to the recognition of another generational transition in our society and in the Church. Through this program we hope to collectively focus on the future and its challenges, discern God's calling for us, and trust the Holy Spirit to lead us to where God has called. We are using the theme of mountain trekking during the series. And today we focus on our third and final trekking team—Team Rahab. For more on the project and Team Rahab, you can read the "Field Notes" in the back of the bulletin and visit the Project Nebo page on our website. Let us learn from the faith of the outsider, and let us worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

Our Worship of God

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Project Nebo: Team Rahab

8:30 and 11:00am

Entrance

GATHERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Festive Trumpet Tune” *David German* Dr. Rick Branch, *organ*

TRINITY CHIME *

CALL TO WORSHIP *

8:30, Rev. Brandon Bures

Leader: Lord, you have been our
dwelling place in all generations.

11:00, Rev. Emily Kincaid

People: **And we are all your children:**

Called to praise, and to bless, and to show mercy.

Welcome all to this place of love and grace,

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship the everlasting God.

OPENING HYMN *

“The Church of Christ, in Every Age” **no. 589**

COLLECT *

Loving God, who for the redemption of the whole world gave your only-begotten Son to death on the cross: Teach us to love like you; help us to remember that we are all one in your sight—accepted, loved, and eagerly sought after. And, as you have called us to this loving service, give us fresh eyes and a newness of mind, that we may see more clearly the path ahead of us and journey as a people worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

** Stand as you are able*

HYMN *

“This Is My Song” **no. 437**

WELCOME & REGISTRATION OF ATTENDANCE

Please register your attendance on the registration pads. If you are visiting with us, we’re glad you’re here! Please include your address, phone number, and email so that we may welcome you in a more personal way.

ANTHEM

8:30, “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” *arr. Joel Raney* Sanctuary Choir
11:00, “God Who Touches Earth with Beauty” *Alfred Fedak* Heidi Branch

Proclamation and Response

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Children are invited to come down to the front as we sing.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST LESSON

Galatians 3:23-29

Children of God

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.



SECOND LESSON

Joshua 2:1-21

Spies Sent to Jericho

2 Then Joshua son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and spent the night there. **2** The king of Jericho was told, “Some Israelites have come here tonight to search out the land.”

3 Then the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out the whole land.” **4** But the woman took the two men and hid them. Then she said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they came from. **5** And when it was time to close the gate at dark, the men went out. Where the men went I do not know. Pursue them quickly, for you can overtake them.” **6** She had, however, brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax that she had laid out on the roof. **7** So the men pursued them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. As soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

8 Before they went to sleep, she came up to them on the roof **9** and said to the men, “I know that the Lord has given you the land and that dread of you has fallen on us and that all the inhabitants of the land melt in fear before you. **10** For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. **11** As soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no courage left in any of us because of you. The Lord your God is indeed God in heaven above and on earth below. **12** Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the Lord that you in turn will deal kindly with my family. Give me a sign of good faith **13** that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them and deliver our lives from death.” **14** The men said to her, “Our life for yours! If you do not tell this business of ours, then we will deal kindly and faithfully with you when the Lord gives us the land.”

15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the outer side of the city wall and she resided within the wall itself. **16** She said to them, “Go toward the hill country, so that the pursuers may not come upon you. Hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers have returned; then afterward you may go your way.” **17** The men said to her, “We will be released from this oath that you have made us swear to you **18** if we invade the land and you do not tie this crimson cord in the window through which you let us down and you do not gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your family. **19** If any of you go out of the doors of your house into the street, they shall be responsible for their own death, and we shall be innocent, but if a hand is laid upon any who are with you in the house, we shall bear the responsibility for their death. **20** But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be released from this oath that you made us swear to you.” **21** She said, “According to your words, so be it.” She sent them away, and they departed. Then she tied the crimson cord in the window.

SERMON

Dr. Geoffrey Lentz

“Team Rahab: The Faith of Outsiders”

Response:



I am bound for the prom-ised land, I am bound for the prom-ised land;
oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom-ised land.

WORDS: Samuel Stennett (1787); MUSIC: The Southern Harmony (1835); arr. Rigdon M. McIntosh (1895)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD *

“The Apostles’ Creed”

no. 881

GLORIA PATRI *

no. 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Emily Kincaid

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

no. 12

OFFERTORY

8:30, “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” arr. Bock/Larson ... Sanctuary Choir
11:00, “He Leadeth Me” arr. Heather Sorensen Piano

DOXOLOGY *

no. 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Thanksgiving and Communion

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

no. 15

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

You are also invited to receive the elements of Holy Communion. Gluten-free wafers are available at each communion station for those who need them.

"For Everyone Born" Shirley Murray

Sending Forth

CLOSING HYMN *

"Pass It On" **no. 572**

BENEDICTION *

GOING FORTH *

POSTLUDE *

"DUKE STREET" arr. David Cherwien



HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is invited to receive communion in the United Methodist Church. The method for receiving communion here is *intinction*; it is the ancient Eucharistic practice of (1)*receiving* the consecrated bread into your open hands and then (2)*dipping* it into the consecrated grape juice before (3)*consuming*. If you need communion brought to you, please let an usher know and communion will be served to you in your seat. Gluten free wafers are available at the each station for those that need them. After you receive communion please feel free to kneel and pray at the rail as long as you like. Any offerings given during communion will go to the pastor's discretionary fund.

DAILY READINGS – EPIPHANY 5

The new year is a great time to commit to reading the Bible each day. These Daily Readings are taken from “The Daily Office Lectionary” in *The Book of Common Prayer*. Read the Bible each week. It will be a blessing.

	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Old Test.</i>	<i>New Test.</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
MONDAY	77, 79	Gen. 25:19-34	Heb. 13:1-16	John 7:37-52
TUESDAY	78	Gen. 26:1-6, 12-33	Heb. 13:17-25	John 7:53--8:11
WEDNESDAY	81, 82	Gen. 27:1-29	Rom. 12:1-8	John 8:12-20
THURSDAY	146, 147	Gen. 27:30-45	Rom. 12:9-21	John 8:21-32
FRIDAY	91, 92	Gen. 27:46--28:4, 10-22	Rom. 13:1-14	John 8:33-47
SATURDAY	136	Gen. 29:1-20	Rom. 14:1-23	John 8:47-59



Field Notes

RELAY RACE

In the scriptural imagination, Nebo is a place of transition. On Mt. Nebo, the Lord revealed the promised land to Moses and passed the leadership baton to Joshua—a symbolic transition from one generation to the next. In our contemporary context, the world faces a Nebo moment, characterized by a leadership crisis and the crucial hand-off from one generation to the next. Project Nebo is designed to help the church talk about the historical transition that is occurring and to help each generation discern what God is calling them to do in this season.

In the dynamics of a relay race, success hinges not on individual runners but on the seamless transfer of the baton. The true victory lies in the baton crossing the finish line, with each runner playing their part in propelling it forward. When a participant hesitates to pass or receive the baton, the entire race is at risk. Trust is the linchpin of a successful relay race.

Quoting Philippians 1:6, we are reminded that God, who initiated a good work within us, will faithfully see it through to completion. In the context of our ministry, we are participants in a relay race, passing down the baton from one generation to the next. The essence of a winning relay race is not about the individual runners; it revolves solely around the baton.

Our focal point is the baton, not ourselves; it's about Jesus. Drawing from Paul's wisdom in 1 Corinthians, we recognize that while one may plant and another water, it is God who ultimately fosters growth. Our ministry, like a relay race, involves a continuous handoff, each generation contributing to the collective movement forward.

Let us remain steadfast, keeping our eyes on the baton and understanding that our role is part of a greater legacy. In the grand relay of faith, the ultimate goal is not personal glory but the triumph of Jesus' message passed down through the generations.



For more on the Fourth Turning and previous week's field notes, scan the QR code or refer to the bulletins from earlier weeks.



TODAY'S TREKKING TEAM: TEAM RAHAB



Team Rahab is made up of those newcomers and outsiders to the church within the younger generation that can bring fresh perspectives. As newcomers, they possess the ability to see things that insiders may overlook. Like Rahab, who became the great grandmother of David and Jesus, Team Rahab is called to welcome others into the community and be pioneers of the next phase of Church life.

GOING TO NEBO:



The primary goal of Project Nebo is to take all generations to the mountain, symbolizing a collective focus on the future and its challenges. Congregants are encouraged to discern God's calling for the future, fostering a shared vision without predefined outcomes. By collectively gazing at the future, we trust the Holy Spirit to guide each generation at this crucial Nebo moment. The metaphor of mountain trekking is used to call each "team."

THE OTHER TREKKING TEAMS



Team Moses: The older generations, analogous to Team Moses, have faithfully led the church through significant times. Now, facing the end of their calling, they are called to pass the baton and offer a blessing. Despite concerns about the younger generation’s capability, they must choose to trust God and lead like Moses to Nebo, rather than succumbing to fear in the desert.



Team Joshua: Representing the younger generations, this team is tasked with offering gratitude and respect to the older generations. Embracing leadership, they are the future leaders we need. As they navigate challenges and failures, they must choose to be strong and courageous, akin to Joshua taking the baton.

PERSONAL NOTES

Pictured right: “Genealogy of Jesus” from the St. John’s Bible - The Genealogy of Jesus is the first full-page illumination in Gospels and Acts, and was the first artwork completed by Donald Jackson. This illumination is a family tree structured as both a tree of life and a menorah (the Jewish seven-branched candelabra). Placed at the beginning of the first Gospel, the menorah serves as a bridge between the Old and New Testaments (Poster notes for The Saint John’s Bible: The Genealogy of Jesus, 2019). Inside the menorah is a series of circles surrounding a swirling mandala-type cosmic image, this signifies a sign of unity and wholeness found in many religious traditions (Sink, 2013, p.213). At the top of the menorah is an arrangement of gilded medallions which come from illuminations of the Koran. The combination of Islamic arabesques and mandalas give an inclusive perspective, signifying that we are all of one family (Genealogy of Jesus, 2019).

Copyright © Genealogy of Jesus, Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002,
The Saint John’s Bible, Saint John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA.



We hope you enjoy the service. We invite you to take this bulletin with you as you go home. Each week in this series has a unique bulletin. And you can scan these QR codes on the backs to revisit the sermon anytime. Content will be available a day or two after the service takes place.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

6 E. Wright St. • Pensacola, FL 32501 • 850.432.1434 • fumcpensacola.com

For pastoral emergencies, contact the Church Office
or Ginger Raines at 850.259.3177