



# The Open Door - September 2024

The Reformed Church of Bushkill  
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[www.bushkillchurch.org](http://www.bushkillchurch.org) (Website)

*“Striving to Do What Christ Tells Us through Scripture”*

Reminder:

Communion is now being served using  
gluten-free bread only.

The Thursday Community Dinner  
has been postponed until further notice.



We will be serving breakfast on Sunday,  
September 1, from 8:30-10:00 AM.

Articles for the October *Open Door* are due  
by Monday September 16th.

Please e-mail them directly to the church office,  
[bshklch@ptd.net](mailto:bshklch@ptd.net), or leave them in the church  
office mailbox in the narthex.



Remember to support Angels Closet as they  
are surely busy helping out Mom’s and their  
little ones ! 119 bundles went out already !  
They continue to thank you for all your  
support!



Very happy birthday wishes to



Kristen Vanwhy 9-3, Tiffany Quijano 9-26  
Jorge Rodriguez 9-1, Peter Soni 9-2  
William Adu-Amanfoh 9-21  
Happy Anniversary 9-16 Caroline and Angelo  
Agusto



## Prayer Retreat - September 21

We will hold a Prayer Retreat, “The Vine” on  
Saturday, September 21st in our church from 9:00  
-3:00 PM. The fee is \$10 per person with break-  
fast and lunch included.

There is a sign-up poster in the narthex;  
please sign up so we can plan more effectively.

We will hold a Community Yard Sale on  
Saturday, August 31st from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Spaces are \$15.00 each.

There will be food for sale in the church kitchen.

**All proceeds will go to the mission trip for  
summer 2025 to a reservation out west.**

\*\*\*Please only yard sale items ....

**NO businesses, NO exceptions \*\*\***

Volunteers are needed for parking and  
helping in the kitchen.

For a spot or any questions,  
please call Kristen VanWhy 570-994-3056.

## Notes from Seminary -

### Bryon Kenne

Email: bkkenne@liberty.edu

Last month I promised you an article on the Biblical parallels between Moses and Jesus, since these two figures are arguably the most pivotal. While Moses is central to the Old Testament narrative and the foundation of Israelite identity, Jesus Christ fulfills and amplifies the law that Moses imparted. This article explores the striking parallels between Moses and Christ, hopefully demonstrating that these parallels transcend mere coincidence. Let's take a few minutes to explore these parallels – don't forget to take out your bibles and bring them along!



### Birth and Deliverance

Both Moses and Jesus were born into perilous times marked by the threat of death to innocent children. In Exodus 1:22, Pharaoh commands all Hebrew male infants be cast into the Nile. Similarly, in Matthew 2:16, King Herod orders the massacre of all male children in Bethlehem aged two and under, attempting to kill the newborn "King of the Jews."

### Divine Protection in Infancy

Providence intervenes to safeguard the lives of both leaders. Moses is saved by being placed in a basket along the Nile (Exodus 2:3-6), while Jesus is taken by Joseph and Mary to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15), escaping Herod's decree. Further, both figures spend their early years in Egypt, fulfilling a bond of divine protection and purpose, symbolized in Hosea 11:1, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

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### Mediators of a New Covenant

Moses serves as the mediator of God's covenant with Israel, receiving the Law on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:1-6; 24:1-8). Jesus, in the New Testament, is seen as the mediator of a new and better covenant. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), He provides a fuller understanding of the law, emphasizing its spirit rather than mere letters and words.

### The Law Givers

Moses hands down the Ten Commandments and the Mosaic Law (Exodus 20:1-17). Jesus, on the other hand, is often depicted as the *new lawgiver*. He offers the 'Greatest Commandments' in Matthew 22:37-40, summarizing the Law with the principles of love for God and for one's neighbor.

### Miraculous Feedings of the People

Both Moses and Jesus perform acts of miraculous provision. At God's direction, Moses provides manna in the wilderness for the Israelites (Exodus 16:14-15). Jesus, as God, feeds 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish (Matthew 14:13-21). These miracles signify God's provision and foreshadow spiritual sustenance – with Jesus portraying Himself as the "bread of life" (John 6:35).

### Faces Glowing After Communion with God

After speaking with God, Moses' face glows and radiates with divine light (Exodus 34:29-35). Likewise, during the Transfiguration, Jesus' face shines like the sun and His clothes become as white as the light (Matthew 17:1-2). These instances underline divine approval and heavenly glory.

### Intercessors on Behalf of People

Moses consistently intercedes on behalf of the Israelites, pleading with God to forgive their transgressions (Exodus 32:11-14, 31-32). Jesus, as the ultimate intercessor, prays for His disciples and all believers, seeking their unity and sanctification in John 17, as we talked about in last month's sermon.'

<sup>a</sup> . Moreover, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross becomes the ultimate intercession, advocating humanity's reconciliation with God.

### **Rejection by Their Own People**

Both Jesus and Moses face rejection from their own communities; and Jesus, in fact, is still posthumously rejected by his own people. Both before and after liberating the Israelites from Pharaoh, Moses endures complaints and rebukes from the Israelites, especially throughout their wilderness journey (Exodus 5: 21, Numbers 14:1-4). Jesus is rejected by the Jewish leaders and His own people, culminating in His crucifixion (John 1:11, Luke 4:14-30, Matthew 27:22-23).

### **Deliverance and Liberation of People**

Moses delivers the Israelites from physical and spiritual (e.g., not allowing the Israelites to exercise their religious practice of sacrifice for the atonement of sin) bondage in Egypt, leading them through the Red Sea and towards the Promised Land (Exodus 14:21-22). Jesus delivers humanity from spiritual bondage to sin, offering a path to eternal life through His death and resurrection (John 3:16; Romans 6:4).

### **Promised Land and Kingdom of God**

Moses leads the Israelites towards the earthly Promised Land, though he does not enter it himself (Deuteronomy 34:4-5). Jesus preaches about the Kingdom of God, an eternal realm of spiritual fulfillment and sanctity, a new promised land. (John 18:36, Luke 17:20-21).

### **Role in Eschatology (*'the now and what is yet to come'*)**

Moses' position in the Old Testament sets the stage for future redemption, while prophecies like Deuteronomy 18:15 cite Moses predicting a future prophet akin to him. Christians view Jesus as this prophet. In Acts 3:22-26, Peter states that Jesus is the prophet Moses spoke about, marking Jesus as a fulfillment of Moses' prophecy.

### **Deliverance through Water**

Both figures play crucial roles involving water bodies, symbolizing deliverance. Moses parts the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21-22), allowing the Israelites to escape Egyptian slavery. Jesus, in His baptism in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:13-17), symbolizes the initiation of a new spiritual exodus from sin.

### **Final Words and Legacy**

Moses' final words to the Israelites are full of blessings and warnings, reminding them of God's laws and encouraging them to remain faithful (Deuteronomy 33). Jesus, in His post-resurrection appearances, commissions His disciples to spread the Gospel and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20), promising His eternal presence.

### **In Conclusion...**

As you can see, the parallels between Moses and Jesus Christ are profound and multifaceted, and I hope that you can realize that these parallels are not something that simply occurred randomly. Together these parallels highlight a continuous narrative of redemption, where Moses' life and mission foreshadow the coming of Jesus. While Moses delivers the Israelites from physical slavery and provides the Law, Jesus delivers mankind from the slavery of sin, embodying the true spirit of the Law and establishing a new covenant. These connections not only enrich our understanding of biblical history but also underline the continuity of God's plan for humanity's salvation across both Old and New Testaments.

Are there any other parallels you can think of? Let me know on Sunday.

Next month in Seminary, I'll be shifting gears from Old Testament studies and beginning a new course in Discipleship Ministries. I want to get into that class and offer you something interesting from these studies for September. Until then, God bless you all.

About the image: The tile-mosaic of Christ between two freed slaves is 13th Century mosaic by Lorenzo Cosmati. It can be found in San Tommaso in Formis on the Caelian Hill. Rome, Italy.

## Financial Report – MaryAnn Conza

7/01/24 to 7/31/24	1/01/24 to 7/31/24
Income 7,637.00	Income 96,430.48
<u>Expenses 9,516.11</u>	<u>Expenses 116,564.48</u>
( 1,879.11 )	(21,134.00)

The deficit, at \$21,134.00, continues to rise, but God is faithful and has provided through the Lewis Fund. At the end of the year we will transfer the amount short into the checking account.

*Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."*  
**Genesis 28:20-22**

Blessings to you all,  
 MaryAnn

If you have a mid-week prayer request for our e-mail prayer team please e-mail Jen Schoonover, schooent@ptd.net or call/text her at 570-534-5752.

Please bring in your Mignosi's Foodtown receipts; Mignosi's generously donates 1% of the receipts minus several ineligible items. There is a box in the narthex for the receipts.  
 Thank you!

The Angel's Closet has been busy making 111 bundles so far this year. Any and all donations are appreciated, however, they are especially in need of sleepers in newborn and 0-3 months for both boys and girls as well as infant socks, and diapers size 2 and size 4. Quilts for boys or in neutral colors are also needed.

## Missions Trips

We have a fund for Mission Trips!!!

A mission trip encompasses a variety of activities; it could involve traveling to another state or country to assist those in need. This might include building homes, cleaning up neighborhoods, planting gardens, or teaching these skills to others. It's about serving our neighbors in ways that align with God's teachings. We aim to organize annual trips based on what needs to be done, but much depends on the availability of volunteers—it depends on you !!

A mission trip isn't necessarily an overnight commitment; it could be a single day spent aiding an individual or community. If you know of a person or group that could benefit from our mission, please discuss it with one of the Deacons.  
 Thank you,

Deacon Kristen Vanwhy

The Congregational Care Team sends cards, makes calls or just offers a listening ear.  
 If anyone would like to see Dorothy Bush or call her at 201-926-0452

Search Team has interviewed two candidates so far, and they are working on a third the two one chose another church, and the other one we chose not to pursue. Please keep us in prayer as we move forward waiting for God to send us the person we all need. God Bless!