



Acts 16:23-34

## Shaken...Empowered...Sent

*with the Love and Good News of Jesus  
in New Ways and New Places*

**Workshop Part 2** (via zoom\*)

**Friday, Nov. 6 & Saturday, Nov. 7**

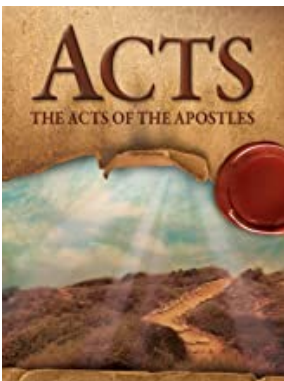
*Friday 10:30 to 12:45; 4:00 to 4:45    Saturday 9:00 to 10:30  
7:30-8:15 (worship with Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri preaching)*

### **Workshop Featured Speaker: Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri**

elder, career educator, lover of Jesus & small churches,  
past Co-Moderator of PCUSA

How can we experience God's hope and power, better understand and cooperate with God's life-giving, unexpected opportunities during this time of adversity, injustice, and being shaken? How can we learn to trust and sing in the "midst of the struggle or chaos?" How do we think and love like Jesus & the early disciples, continually adapting to different or difficult circumstances, wherever God sends us?

### **Yellowstone Presbytery invites people of all ages to an interactive training workshop:**



- Join presentations, large & small group discussion, fellowship, prayer exploring being "Shaken, Empowered, & Sent" as disciples.
- Feed your imagination from the book of Acts & other churches in the Presbytery & around PCUSA who are adapting new creative ways of "being an Acts 16 church in today's world".
- Hear about God's people in our in our Presbytery engaging in "Pods with a Purpose" & how they are being **sent** to join Jesus' mission in their communities & world.

Following each workshop time, a short Presbytery business session will be held. (docket & materials on our website)



\*Join via Zoom /Call alone or in a small group setting with social distancing and other recommended safety precautions.

Watch for Zoom link/call-in details & workshop materials in dedicated link and calendar on our homepage at [yellowstonepcusa.org](http://yellowstonepcusa.org)

## Sent: Acts 1:1-11

### Word-Share-Pray

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning 2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 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." 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

### Questions for discussion:

1. Pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is lifting up. What "shook" you, stood out to you, from the reading?
2. What would you say is the importance of waiting in this passage? In your personal life? In the church context?
3. What does this passage say about the scope of the call to ministry? In what way(s) does this passage inform your own call to ministry? The ministry of your congregation?

\*\*Remember to provide an opportunity to share about the passage and for each person to share one personal request for prayer. Pray for one another briefly before group time ends. Please, watch the clock!

**(3-minute break)**

## Sent: Acts 1:1-11

A Presentation by Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri

**Materials:** Journal/pen or paper/pen (*you may also bring colored pencils or markers*)

### A. Sharing & Introduction

Focus: The “process” of waiting: Active discernment (Verse 4)

- a) Sharing what you heard from the Holy Spirit...
- b) What do you typically do as you wait? (share in chat)

### B. Acts of the Holy Spirit

Focus: Empowered to witness (Verse 8)

*“The Church is the body of Christ. Christ gives to the Church all the gifts necessary to be his body. The Church strives to demonstrate these gifts in its life as a community in the world (1 Cor. 12:27–28):*

*The Church is to be a community of **faith**, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.*

*The Church is to be a community of **hope**, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things. The Church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation.*

*The Church is to be a community of **love**, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down.*

*The Church is to be a community of **witness**, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God’s transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord.”*

*(The Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA), F-1.0301)*

### C. Sent

Focus: “Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?” (Verse 11)

About the **Lord’s prayer**, Revs. Muller & Van Tatenhove share the following statement: “To say ‘Thy Kingdom come...’ is a revolutionary confession of willingness.”  
*(“Neighborhood Church: Transforming Your Congregation into a Powerhouse for Mission”)*

### D. Conversation in small groups

Focus: “Rest if you must... but don’t you quit.”

*(excerpt of the poem by John Greenleaf Whittier, “Don’t Quit”)*

Questions for group discussion:

1. What has “stunned”, stopped, or shaken me-- made me feel “stuck”-- these past few months? What would help me give that first step into moving again?

2. Yesterday we shared (paraphrasing Skinner's words) that in Acts the church is an instrument to promulgate the word playing an integral part of God's comprehensive plan for salvation. In COVID-19 and civil unrest times, what role do we play as a body of Christ? How are we "sent" into this world?
3. Using the word **SENT**, write an acrostic that summarizes the insights learned in our conversations today. (*You may use the space below.*)

**S**

**E**

**N**

**T**

#### **E. Closing Prayer (A Movement Prayer)**

#### **F. For further reflection...**

- ✓ *The Brief Statement of Faith*, The Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as found in "What We Believe" at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-believe/brief-statement-of-faith/>
- ✓ *The Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Chapter One, THE FOUNDATIONS OF PRESBYTERIAN POLITY: "The Church Is the Body of Christ". (F-1.0301).
- ✓ *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation* by Parker J. Palmer (*Jossey-Bass*)
- ✓ *Neighborhood Church: Transforming Your Congregation into a Powerhouse for Mission* by Rob Muller and Krin Van Tatenhove (*Westminster John Knox Press*)
- ✓ *Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God* by Sybil MacBeth (*Paraclete Press*)