

From Pastor Lisa Schrott

Fall Back into Rhythm

"God's Decree! "Watch this potter. In the same way that this potter works his clay, I work on you, people of Israel." Jeremiah 18:6 (The Message)

And so it goes... the days are beginning to get shorter and our schedules busier. The slower rhythm of relaxation and renewal fades, just like our summer sun glow. And we are left with the question – how have we been changed – as individuals and as a community?

Change is inevitable in our world and our lives. And yet it is not always desired. I know there are days of my life that I have wanted to freeze, wishing they could extend beyond the boundaries of 24 hours. And there are days I can't wait to end, because whatever is next has to be better. We live in this tension of the longing for the way things were in our memories and the reality that the world has changed, the church has changed and we have changed.

This September as we *Fall Back into Rhythm*, our worship services will embrace the theme of change through a scriptural lens. Using material from Worship Design Studios, we will be *Re-Shaped* as a people called to love and serve at PCO.

- **Sunday, September 8** we will commission our youth beginning the journey of Confirmation and our Chancel Choir will return. The prophet Jeremiah words will speak to us about ways we are created to be re-shaped by God the Potter.
- Sunday, September 15 we will rededicate our Peace Pole and consider how we
 can be changed from the inside-out. We will hear the words of Jesus baptism
 from the Gospel of Mark.
- Sunday, September 22 we will explore what it means to let go of prior expectations and attachments to the things of life and embrace what matter the most. Words from the Gospel of John will inspire us to recognize the cycles of life.
- **Sunday, September 29** we will recognize that it takes courage to change. We will be reminded that we are not alone in this journey of life changes as we hear the story of Peter walking on the water in the Gospel of Matthew.

I hope that your fall rhythms will include our life together at PCO. The are some wonderful opportunities for service, fellowship, and study for all ages throughout the Grapevine!



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Deadline for the October Grapevine is Sunday, September 22nd

Sunday Morning Education Hour in September

September 8: Intergenerational Education - Rhythms of Prayer. Join us as we take a Prayer Walk around the church. Learn new prayer practices to deepen our faith. This is appropriate for all ages.

September 15: Age-based classes resume for children and youth. Pastor Lisa will present a summary of the actions of the PC(USA) General Assembly.

September 22: Age-based classes for children and youth. The Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence, Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, will present Boundaries Training for Congregation Members. (Note this will be from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and include lunch).

September 29: TBD—watch announcements and worship bulletins for updates

Presbytery of Lake Michigan Book Study

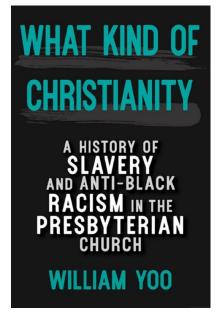
Rev. Dr. William Yoo, Associate Professor of American Religious and Cultural History at Columbia Theological Seminary, will be the presenter for the Annual Henry & Annabel Larzelere Memorial Lecture at the People's Church in East Lansing on November 10 at 1:00 pm.

Dr. Yoo's presentation is titled Striving and Struggling for a More Perfect Faith and a More Perfect Union: The Past, Present, and Future of Racism and American Christianity.

In preparation for Dr. Yoo's presentation, the Presbytery of Lake Michigan will host a book study of Dr. Yoo's book, *What Kind of Christianity*, led by Rev. Dr. Fran Lane-Lawrence. The book may be purchased through local bookstores, the publisher Westminster John Knox or through Amazon. There is also a copy in the church library.

The book study will be offered both in-person (in the Presbytery office in Portage) and also via Zoom on the following Mondays, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. on **September 30, October 7, October 14, October 21, and November 4.**

- Pastor Lisa will be attending this book study in person and can take up to four others with her. If you are interested in participating in person, please contact Pastor Lisa.
- If you would like to participate online, please register here: https://lakemichiganpresby-tery.breezechms.com/form/a5221c51



What's Happening with Youth Group

Youth Group Kick-Off Picnic

Sunday, September 8 5:00-7:00 p.m. at PCO

Hamburgers, Veggie Burgers, Hot Dogs provided. Please bring a side dish or desert to share, and outdoor games you like to play.

See the announcements or contact the church office for link to a sign up sheet.

Contact Roy Meland and Barbara Fretwell-Cooke (info in the directory) for more infor-



Middle & High School Overnight Friday & Saturday, September 13 & 14 8:00 p.m.—8:00 a.m.

All Middle & High School students are invited to an overnight retreat at the church. This will be a time to deepen relationships with God and each other. And have fun (Yes, it is Friday the 13th!). The overnight begins at 8:00 p.m.

If you are attending the Cass Mission Trip to Detroit (see page? For details), you will leave directly from the overnight at 9:00 a.m., so come prepared. If you are not attending the mission trip, pick-up time from the overnight will be 8:00 a.m.

Youth Parents' Night Out Third Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. Joe's on Jolly, 2364 Jolly Road, Okemos.

(September 19, October 17, November 15)

Conversation and Contemplation

The C&C group will meet on **Wednesday, September 4** from 10-11:30 a.m. on Zoom # 905-709-104 password 48864.

We will begin the meeting with a Prayer Service in Jean Kocher's memory. Jean led our group in weekly prayer and we would like each member to share a prayer that has special meaning to you. Whether you write one or have a special prayer that someone else has written, we welcome your offerings. We will have time for reflection, as Jean always encouraged, following each prayer.

As the 2024-2025 year begins, we will devote some time to discuss the future meetings of the group and leadership roles. We will also look at possible books for future study. For those who haven't yet attended C&C, this is a good time to start. Both men and women are welcomed.

Women's Dinner Out in September

Our next Women's Dinner Out is scheduled for **Monday, September 9,** at 5:30 p.m. at Soup Spoon Café, 1418 E. Michigan Avenue in Lansing. Note the date change due to Labor Day on the first Monday of September. In October, we will return to the first Monday.

If you will be attending, please notify Candy Boldrey by Sunday, September 8. Her email address is *cbold67* at *gmail dot com* (standard email setup) and phone number is (859) 421-0014.

Birthday Cake Sunday

We will celebrate our September Birthdays on **Sunday, September 15.** If you celebrate your birthday in September please check the Birthday List posted on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall and add your name by Sunday, September 8, if it is not there.

Retirees Regather this Month

You are welcome to come to a picnic at the home of Tom and Jane Bobay on **Monday, September 16** at noon. Our address is 2320 Shawnee Trail in Okemos. Please RSVP at (517)505-0211 or email at *Janebobay at amail dot com* (standard email setup).

Meat and beverages will be provided. Please bring a food to share. We will be discussing plans for the 2024-2025 year and what topics would be of interest. If you cannot attend and have ideas, please contact Jane.

The Retiree group meets on the third Monday each month at noon. We meet in Fellowship Hall during the spring and fall and on zoom in the winter months. You are welcomed if you are retired, partially retired or desire to be retired!

Adult Christian Education & Fellowship Opportunities

SUNDAYS

Writing Life's Stories—Monthly, 1st Sundays, 2:00 p.m. Zoom # 848 6124 7191. Next meeting is Sunday, September 1.

Education Hour—Weekly, 11:30 a.m. in person and on Zoom 434 304 558

Birthday Cake Sunday—Monthly, 3rd Sundays, following worship. **September 15.**

Women's Connection, Monthly, 4th Sundays, 12:30 p.m. in Room 108. Next meeting is Sunday, September 22. See info on pg. 4

MONDAYS

Women's Dinner Out, Monthly, 2nd Monday in September due to Labor Day. 5:30 p.m. See info on left.

Retirees Group Monthly, 3rd Mondays 12 noon. Next meeting is **Monday, September 16**. See info on left.

TUESDAYS

Men's Group on Zoom at 8:00 a.m. every week on Tuesday. Zoom #813 7514 8286. Hybrid meeting is 1st Tuesdays, September 3.

Crafts Ministry, Monthly, 1st Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Next meeting is **Tuesday, September** 3

Artists Circle, Monthly 2nd Tuesdays, 1:00—3:00 p.m. at PCO. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10.

WEDNESDAYS

Conversation & Contemplation, Weekly, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom #905 709 104

Caregiver Support Group-Monthly, 4th Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. on Zoom. **Wednesday, September 25**. Zoom # 517-329-2320; **Passcode hello**

THURSDAYS

Adult Bible Study– Weekly, 9:30 a.m. Zoom: https://msu.zoom.us/j/5147440526

Youth Parents Night Out, Monthly, 3rd Thursdays, 8:00 p.m. at Joe's on Jolly Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 19**.

Read more about Education and Fellowship opportunities in the left column & on pages 2 & 4.





Sunday Morning Fellowship Time



Lynnette Cone and Deb Major and a selection of snacks they provided on a recent Sunday morning

Sunday mornings at PCO wouldn't be the same without coffee and the inviting snack table.

Might you volunteer to set up the coffee on a Sunday of your choice? All supplies are under the coffee bar, and instructions are clearly posted.

Would your family, perhaps along with a friend, like to provide snacks on a Sunday of your choice? The idea is to keep it simple! Everyone is free to set out whatever desired, in any combination, with items homemade or purchased (or a combination).

In Prayerful Sympathy Upcoming Memorial Services

A memorial service has been scheduled for **Nancy Kanistanaux on Sunday, September 15 at 3:00 p.m.** It will be followed by a light reception.

Nancy was a long-time member of PCO who was known for her willingness to help anyone and everyone. She was a long-time member of the Chancel and Handbell choirs and had served as a Deacon and as an Elder. She passed away in Houston, Texas in July.

Two memorial services have been scheduled for Jean Kocher. The first is on Monday, September 9 at 11:00 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church at 508 Franklin Avenue in Grand Haven. The second is on Saturday, September 21 at 2:00 p.m. at University Lutheran Church, 1020 South Harrison in East Lansing

Jean and her husband Jim attended PCO for more than a decade. Jean participated in the Conversation and Contemplation meetings and often led the group in prayer. Jean passed away in August.

We remember together the affirmations of scripture and of catechism that 'in life and in death, we belong to God.'

Women's Connection

Women's Connection will "re-connect" after the summer hiatus at our first meeting of the '24-'25 program year. Please mark your calendars for *Sunday*, *September 22*, *12:30 p.m.* and watch the announcements for details.

All women are welcome for lunch, conversation, and a casual introductory talk by one of our members or guests.

If you have questions, contact Shirley Ruminger at 655-4123 or *srumming at yahoo dot com* (standard email setup).

Caregiver Support Group

The support group meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5:00pm on Zoom # 517-329-2320. Password is hello.

You are welcome to "drop in" for a visit anytime. Discussions center around various issues of caring for loved ones when they need extra help and support.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 2:42 (MRSV)

Our Growing Church Family

2024 has been a year of some growth at the Presbyterian Church of Okemos. The church has conducted several New Member classes and welcomed a number of new people into the church family. In case you haven't met them, below are brief introductions to some of the people who have 'officially' joined us this year.

Jim and Julie Boyer have 36 year old twins. Their son lives in Grand Rapids and their daughter (and two grandsons) live in Williamston. The Boyers moved to the Okemos area last summer and needed to find a new church home. They chose PCO because of the open and welcoming policies and congregation. They say they have felt very welcomed. You may have seen Jim and Julie singing in the chancel choir.

Courtney Dale-Burnett is a science teacher at a Christian school in Owosso. She started attending PCO during the Easter season.

Mitch and Vickie Marcus are from Indiana and most recently raised their daughter, Anna, in the Indianapolis area. Anna is 21 years old and stayed in Indiana to take classes and to work. Mitch and Vickie moved to the Okemos area to due to an opportunity for Mitch to work for the MI Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division. Vickie is a fourth-generation Presbyterian and both she and Mitch say they like the friendly, actively engaged congregation at PCO. They also appreciate the worship service with engaging sermons and excellent music.

Sue Nicholson has joined PCO as an affiliate member. She is the mother/mother-in-law/grandmother to the Royal family, listed below.

The Roya Family—Nadine, Juan Carlos, Nina & Emma have participated in youth group and intergenerational activities, in fellowship gatherings and during the worship services.

If you've been attending PCO for awhile and are interested in learning more about becoming an 'official' member, please contact Pastor Lisa Schrott.

Whether you choose to officially join or not, **everyone is wel-come** to attend worship and take part in the life of the church!

2024 Season of Peace in PCUSA

September 8th – October 6th

Every fall, the Presbyterian Church's Peace-making Program extends an invitation to join with people of faith from around the country and the world for A Season of Peace, a monthlong pilgrimage designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregations, small groups, families, and individuals. This season is a time of growth, encouragement, challenge, inspiration, and education which invites you to consider your own relationship to peacemaking and justice.

Rev. Timothy Chon's recent presentation at PCO regarding the peace walk he took part in on the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Korea in 2023 was an excellent early start to this years' PCUSA Season of Peace.

One of the opportunities from PCUSA during this Season of Peace is you can receive a daily reflection titled "Path of Peace." This year's Path of Peace offers a vignette each day of a Presbyterian who contributed to the civic and spiritual well-being of our church and world and made a significant impact on the common good here or abroad. Some battled injustice, others broke down barriers and dividing walls. Many advocated for marginalized communities and made room for them within the church. Each offers us an example of how peace can be pursued in tangible ways.

You can sign-up to receive these daily devotions for this one month at the following website: https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/season-peace/
Scroll down for a link to subscribe.



Update from the Green Team

In addition to the important environmental benefits of our solar panels, PCO is also benefiting financially. Over the past three months we have received net credits from Consumers Energy of \$15 and \$42 in June and July and finally have an actual invoice of \$15 for the August billing period. The excess clean electricity we generate and send back to the grid offset any electricity usage we had during the past three months as well as our monthly natural gas charge. Overall we have saved \$5,350 so far this year in utility costs.

PCO Library News

The PC(USA) is observing the 2024 Season of Peace from September 8 through October 6. Throughout the month of September, the PCO library will feature a display of books related to peace. The books will cover a range of topics from inner peace to world peace. The books on display will include these three titles that are new to the library (all quotes are from the publishers):

Five Risks Presbyterians Must Take for Peace: Renewing the Commitment to Peacemaking in the PC(USA) by Christian Iosso

"The Presbyterian Church recently spent six years reflecting on peacemaking. Building on past policy documents, people at all levels of the church studied and discussed what peacemaking policies needed to be modified given the world context today. The 2016 PC(USA) General Assembly affirmed five affirmations the church must make to fulfill its peacemaking calling. In this timely resource, author Christian losso explains what the five risks are, how they differ from previous positions, and what taking each risk might look like today."

Common Ground: Talking about Gun Violence in America by Donald V. Gafffney

"Common Ground explores the place of guns in our individual and national histories, violence in Scripture, the legal issues surrounding gun rights, and ways in which we as moral, life-valuing people can bridge the divide to help solve the problem of gun violence in the United States."

Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World by Max Lucado

"Stop letting anxiety rule the day. Join Max on the journey to true freedom and experience more peace, joy, clarity, physical renewal, and contentment by the power of the Holy Spirit."

As always, these books and more are available for borrowing. Borrowing a book is easy, and the instructions are posted in the library.

Coming in October to the PCO Library – new fiction! *Kathi Cook*



Author Max Lucado

PeaceQuest 2024

PeaceQuest is a community-wide celebration in the Greater Lansing area held every September to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace. PeaceQuest aims to bring people together for fun and interesting activities with friends, family, and community while focusing on ways we can promote peace, resolve conflicts, learn about other faiths and cultures, and encourage mutual understanding.

PeaceQuest is coordinated by Greater Lansing United Nations Association in partnership with many community organizations and sponsors. Some of the many activities include: a Peace Pole Pursuit, a Peace Vigil at the Capital, a "Sing Out for Peace", an Outdoor Story Walk, an AIDS Walk, and more.

All events can be found here: https://
peacequestgreaterlansing.org/2024-events-schedule/



Celebrating the Ministry of Rev. Peggy Casteel-Huston

Pastor Peggy Casteel-Huston, PCO's former interim Pastor (2020 – 2021), has officially retired from active ministry. Pastor Peggy's retirement will be recognized by the Presbytery of Lake Michigan at its **September 14** meeting. Pastor Lisa and three Elders from our Session will be on hand to celebrate this ministry milestone.

If you would like to pass on a card or note of celebration for Pastor Peggy, please drop it off at the church office by Thursday, September 12 and Pastor Lisa will deliver them to Peggy at the Presbytery meeting.

Pastor Peggy led PCO through a pandemic and the process of selecting a called and installed permanent pastor. She has retired from active ministry.



MISSIONS

BLANKETS FOR REFUGEES

As the cold weather approaches, we will be collecting new and gently used blankets of all sizes (baby, throws and bed-sized) for the many refugees who will be coming to Michigan. Please place your donations in the coat room on the top shelves of the coat rack. **We will be collecting for the month of September**. In Early October these blankets will be distributed to St. Vincent's Refugee Services, Michigan Refugee Hope and the Refugee Development Center in Lansing. Please see Jayne Zuhlke or Lisa for any questions.

To learn more about terms associated with refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers, see page 8.







AUGUST COLLECTION

The picture to the right shows Ellen Hoekstra (center) and the staff of Communities in Schools Michigan (CISM) standing by more than 500 spiral notebooks collected by PCO in August.

The photo was taken at Techsmith in East Lansing, where staff would be stuffing backpacks with school supplies for kids in our area.



Save These Dates!

SEPTEMBER

Annual Mission Trip
Cass Community Social Services
Saturday, September 14.
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sign-up sheets are available in the magazine rack in Fellowship Hall or by contacting Ellen Hoekstra. You may contact her with any questions as well. (contact info in church directory)

Please sign up by Wednesday, September 11.



Save these Dates!

OCTOBER

The Greater Lansing CROP
Hunger Walk
Sunday, October 13
Time TBD

CROP Walk has long been a tradition at PCO. Sign-ups for this year-will begin later this month. Watch the e-announcements and next month's Grapevine for more details.



Save These Dates!

NOVEMBER

Alternative Christmas Market In PCO Fellowship Hall Saturday, November 16 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Several new vendors will be joining us this year. Please come and shop for unique gifts that will help those in our local community and around the world.

Stay tuned for more details.



Who Are Our New Neighbors?

In September, PCO will be collecting blankets for our ministry partners serving the refugee community. (See article on top of page 7) Questions have arisen about terminology regarding immigrants. Below is a list of definitions. This information is from the following agencies:

The Office of Global Michigan at https://www.michigan.gov/ogm/about/refugee-services

The American Immigration Council at https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/

The UN Refugee Agency at https://www.unhcr.org/glossary

Who is an Immigrant?

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) broadly defines an immigrant as any foreigner in the United States, except one legally admitted under specific nonimmigrant categories.

Who is a Non-immigrant?

A person who temporarily enters to the United States for a specific purpose. They must have a permanent residence abroad to qualify. Examples include: visitors for business or pleasure, students, temporary workers, and fiancées of U.S. citizens.

Who is a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR)?

LPRs, or "green card" holders, are non-citizens authorized to live permanently in the U.S. They can apply for citizenship after meeting residency requirements.

Who is an Undocumented Person?

A person who enters the US without a valid immigrant or non-immigrant visa or someone who overstays their visa.

Special Categories of Immigrants

Who is a Refugee?

Any person outside their country, unwilling or unable to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Who is an Asylee (Asylum Seeker)?

An individual who applies for and receives asylum while in the U.S. or on U.S. territory, based on the same qualifying reasons as a refugee. Note that other countries besides the U.S. grant asylum.

Who is a Special Immigrant Visa Holder? Individuals who assisted U.S. military objectives in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are eligible for the same services as refugees.

Who is a Humanitarian Parolee?

Certain individuals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela who have a sponsor in the U.S. and pass a background check. They can come to the U.S. for a period of two years to live and work lawfully.

Who is an Unaccompanied Refugee Minor

A child under 18 years of age, a refugee, asylee, entrant, trafficking victim or youth, lacking a parent or guardian.

How do refugees come to the U.S. and to the State of Michigan?

The number of refugees admitted each year into the U.S. is established by Presidential determination, approved by Congress, and implemented by the U.S. Department of State. The State Department works with resettlement agencies to decide the number of refugees to be settled in a particular region.

In the Greater Lansing area, St. Vincent's Catholic Charities (soon to be known as Catholic Charities of Ingham, Eaton & Clinton counties) is the designated resettlement agency. Undocumented immigrants are not designated as refugees in the U.S. and are not eligible for services under federally funded Refugee Services programs.

BOOK NOOK

By Ron Dorr

Biblical Parallelism

Good writing, according to Sheridan Baker, consists of "some length of sentence, some intricacy of subordination, some vigor of parallel, and some play of long against short, of amplitude against brevity."

Parallelism is varying the wording but duplicating the grammatical structure. It is putting ideas into the same kinds of grammatical slots. Parallel construction is putting identical parts in parallel places, or keeping equivalent units such as words, phrases, and clauses on the same track: "I came, I saw, I conquered." The "vigor of parallel" is repeating the train of thought, or parts of speech seeking their own kind—nouns to nouns, adjectives to adjectives, verbs to verbs, prepositional phrases to prepositional phrases: "this government of the people, by the people, for the people."

Such parallel construction brings clarity, coherence, control, balance, even harmony to one's writing and speaking. It can make a complicated concept easier to grasp, add variety to a familiar pattern, and build greater tension and suspense (e. g., "Teachers mattered. . . . Books and ideas mattered. . . . Character, service, and citizenship mattered"). Parallel structure can even bring breathing space to long thoughts: "I have a dream" repeated eight times gives time for the audience to prepare for the next example of a specific dream. And parallelism, used well, adds rhetorical eloquence and beauty to the content: "To err is human; to forgive, divine."

Abraham Lincoln, Dorothy Day, and Martin Luther King, Jr., were masters of rhetoric, in part, because they used parallelism so well. Where did they learn that technique? They knew their Bible, which is filled with parallelism. It is the most outstanding technique in Hebrew poetry. Jesus's Beatitudes provide different subjects but keep the same grammatical construction, "Blessed are . . ." Scholars have identified five kinds of parallelism in the Book of Psalms alone.

The first kind is synonymous parallelism. In this form, the second line of poetry or phrasing essentially repeats the first line. Psalms 101:7 and 91:13 are specific examples. The second kind is antithetical parallelism. Here the second line of poetry presents a strong contrast or antithesis to the first, as In Psalm 30:5 ("weeping may tarry in the night, / but joy comes with the morning"), 126:5-6, and all of the first Psalm. The third kind is synthetical parallel construction. The second line extends, builds upon, supplements, or completes the first, for instance, in Psalm 27:4, 29:1-2, and 103:1-5.

Step, or staircase parallelism is the fourth kind. The first unit cannot stand alone. It needs a second or third phrasing to increase the intensity or come to a climax. Read Psalm 77:18 or Mark 4:8 ("the yield was thirtyfold, sixtyfold, even a hundredfold"). Inverted parallelism is a double form of step parallelism. Lines succeeding the first one build in a certain order, then the remaining lines reverse that order. Ponder Psalm 89:28-37.

The most outstanding example of such parallelism in the Bible, however, comes in Luke 4:16-20.

At Nazareth, Jesus went to the synagogue on the sabbath day,	Α
And he stood up to read;	В
and there was given to him the book of the prophet, Isaiah.	С
He opened the book and found the place where it was written,	D
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,	Ε
because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor."	F
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives	G
and recovering of sight to the blind,	G
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,	F
to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."	Ε
And he closed the book,	D
and gave it back to the attendant,	С
and sat down;	В
and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.	Α

In the italicized portions of these five verses, Jesus and Luke demonstrate their mastery of the five kinds of parallelism in Hebrew poetry.

Presbyterian Church of Okemos

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