

It's Complicated: Friendships  
Sunday, April 14, 2024

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Covenant Presbyterian Church

- The text highlights examples of deep friendships found in the Bible that differ from other, more traditional or institutionally sanctioned relationships.
- Friendships like Paul and Silas, Shiprah and Puah, the disciples of Jesus, and Jonathan and David, show the strength of emotional connections and shared experiences among friends.
- The story of Naomi and Ruth emphasizes the profound, unshakable commitment and love that go beyond societal expectations and roles.
- The preacher reflects on the idea of creating rituals for developmental stages of the 21<sup>st</sup> century; but, she posits that friendship flourishes organically, unexpectedly, and as a gift, not something solidified by prescribed routines.
- Jesus addressing his disciples as friends before his death emphasizes the value of friendship and the ultimate act of love – the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.