



World Communion Sunday

"All who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves." (1 Cor. 11:29)

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to "discern the body" when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration. One is not to go hungry while another is drunk! (1 Cor. 11:21). This is scandalous behavior opposed to the Way of Christ. Thus it is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need.

Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn't until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.

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A Posting from the Pastor

Let me begin this month's sharing with a quote from Madeleine L'Engle, a writer of some note (*A Wrinkle In Time*) and thoughtful apologist for a life centered in faith: "Does enjoying my faith imply protection from the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune? No. It did not stop my husband from dying prematurely. It did not stop a careless truck driver from going through a red light and nearly killing me. My faith is not a magic charm, like garlic to chase away vampires. It is, instead, what sustains me in the midst of all the normal joys and tragedies of the ordinary human life. It is faith that helps my grief to be creative, not destructive. It is faith that kept me going through the pain at the very portals of death and pulled me, whether I would or no, back into life and whatever work still lies ahead."

Faith is a word, a concept, a question and a reality for those of us who make Christ our savior and friend and the Church our faith community. We can pull quotes from favored hymns (*My Faith Looks Up to Thee, Faith of our Fathers/Mothers, O Come All Ye Faithful*), from scripture (*if you have faith the size of a mustard seed; where is your faith?; I have kept the faith...*), and from various other sources in our lives and learnings. People pray for more faith, greater faith, deeper faith. We confess/affirm the ground of our faith each Sunday in worship.

Still, it is a nebulous word. We've been reading through the book of James, where he says, clearly: **Faith without works is dead.** I was being faithful going to Puerto Rico, you were faithful filling flood buckets here, we engage faith whenever we pray, extend ourselves on behalf of others, even push through the resistance to be part of worship. The link is unmistakable: loving God in Christ compels us to be about the work of God's realm: healing, helping, feeding, clothing, having compassion for the poor and broken.

But we also try to quantify faith, to have it be a substance we can grasp, expand, control, use to ward off the threats to what we hold dear. We're tempted to think that those good works of ours buy us influence over the future, that God will surely notice them and prevent misfortune. I've joined the choir of voices lamenting the littleness or ineffectiveness of my faith, saying with the parent who responded to Jesus: **I believe, help my unbelief.**

The kind of faith we are moving toward in our journey of belief is a confidence that God is present to and with us whatever happens. It is a trust that is tenacious, even if all we can manage is holding on by a fingernail. It is surrender to Love's promise when there seems no earthly reason to let go. It often is like a flame that comes to life when we look back and see or read about or rediscover for ourselves God's care in bleak and uncertain times.

Faith isn't a contest where we see who has the most. It is what lives at the heart of Christian practice. We explore that on Sundays here at FPC, in our ministries, in our missions. We share it, admit to being confused about it, look to God for meaning. Like Madeleine L'Engle, it will *pull us back into whatever life lies ahead.* Blessings and peace to you.

Pastor Steve

Photo Show & Competition

Artists Reception

Our photo show will be held **Saturday October 13th 3p-5p!** Also this year we will be holding an Artists Reception at the Berwick Theater **Saturday October 20th!** Please help us spread the word! Registration forms and info can be found at valleyclick.weebly.com! **Don't forget to join us for the evening!** Vote on your favorite photo, check out some awesome work by locals and enjoy some refreshments!



Communion Dates 2018

October 7
November 4
November 25
December 24

Apple Dumpling Sale

Fall is just around the corner, the pumpkin spice craze is in full effect but not to be outdone are apple dumplings! The Deacons have begun there apple dumpling sale. **Orders for regular and sugar free dumplings will be accepted until October 14th. Pick up will be Friday October 19th in the kitchen.** The price is \$3 per dumpling and checks can be made payable to the Deacons. Thank you in advance for your continued support!

Reformation Sunday

October 28th

Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds their faith on Reformation Sunday. It is always the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Look for more information in your bulletin!

Youth Lounge

Our youth group has a home! Painting began in September (thanks kids!) and phase one is almost complete. The next phase will be décor. This new space is sure to inspire learning, creativity, fellowship and fun. The youth are happy with their new digs and have claimed ownership of the space! Yes folks we have teens and they are an active lively bunch! Get ready to hear music and lots of laughter coming from upstairs!

Flower Chart

Just a reminder that the flower chart is totally open from now through the remainder of 2018. Please check out the flower chart to place flowers today!

Who's in the Pulpit?

We welcome back Judy Wadsworth as our guest preacher October 14th.

Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat will be held **Saturday October 27th from 4pm-6pm.** We are in need of cars to make the event successful! Cars make this event. Please let Heather or Penny know if you can attend. All you need to do is bring your car to church and park. Please bring a bowl of prepackaged candy to hand out to the kids and we will take care of the rest! It's a great way to participate in Trick or Treat night in a safe friendly environment and to see allot of smiling faces!



Study on Doubt
**October 14th during
worship**

Trunk or Treat
October 27th 4pm-6pm

Hallo-Fun Knoebels
October 28th



October Birthdays

Kendra Bailey	10/4
Jordan DiValerio	10/9
Rosie DAngelo	10/26
Shirley Birt	10/30
Tom Bomboy	10/31

October Anniversary's

Mike & Radel Doll	10/19
Dave & Christina Force	10/30

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!

October Assistants

October 7

Greeters: Carol Ross
Ushers: Al West, Kevin White
Assisting Elder: Jim Ross
Acolyte: Morgan West

October 14

Greeters: Janice Moskaluk
Ushers: Bill Birt, Steve Hiller
Assisting Elder: Penny Siesko
Acolyte: Tyrone Birt

October 21

Greeters: Walter & Alison Hause
Ushers: Joan Thomas, Eugeniu Grigorescu
Assisting Elder: Eugeniu Grigorescu
Acolyte: Emma Botto

October 28

Greeters: Ernie & Joan Botto
Ushers: Tom & Barb Huntington
Assisting Elder: Barb Huntington
Acolyte: Leighton Force

Deacon Visitor for October: Al West

Have a wonderful month with family and friends!

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Worship service 10:15am

Sunday school for all ages during worship

Salt + Light Youth Group

Nursery available

