



World Communion Sunday

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate our oneness in Christ with our brothers and sisters around the world. It's perhaps the most appropriate day of the year to receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering — to think about what it means to be peacemakers, to be witnesses and advocates for compassion, peace and justice. To seek "peace in all times in all ways" (2 Thess. 3:16). Celebration of World Communion Sunday, as it was originally known, was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us, extending the celebration to a large number around the world. World Communion Sunday is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical Church, and today it is being celebrated around the world by many denominations. Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, invites us to the table. It is a big table and we share it with many. We share our table with those around the nation and the globe who are united in their belief that a culture of rape is not acceptable. Our Peace & Global Witness Offering supports a multitude of ministries and programs on the local and national level to address the fact that one in every three women has suffered gender-based violence. We share our table with those who are currently incarcerated, and those who were previously incarcerated. Congregations and mid councils around the nation are choosing to use their share of the Peace & Global Witness Offering to help lift up those who seek a better path. We share our table with those seeking refuge and reconciliation arising from conflict. Our Peace & Global Witness Offering allows many to work for Christ's peace on local and regional levels, as well as to extend their witness to more distant and war-torn places. We share our table. We open our doors. We answer God's call, expressed in 2nd Thessalonians, to seek "peace, at all times in all ways." And we do this with open hearts. We do it together. On World Communion Sunday, please think about all those with whom we share our table — with all those with whom we share a commitment to "peace at all times, in all ways." Please give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. For when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

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A Posting from the Pastor

A friend called me yesterday afternoon. She is in her early 70's with striking short white hair, which I mention because she was calling from the BU campus. She takes one or two classes each semester, auditing them, always finding herself surrounded by students fifty years younger. On this day when the sun was bright and the day warm, she realized she was thirsty so she walked over to the student union to buy a bottle of water. As she set the bottle down on the counter, she discovered she'd left her purse in her car, a hike from where she was at the time. The counter person made no effort to offer any assistance but from across the room, a young man came over and said 'Put it on my card.' With a smile, he turned and went back to his seat.

Sandy was touched by his action, as you can imagine. His compassion – and I use that word intentionally – moved her more than the relief that water would give her. She called me because she said 'I've just got to tell someone about this.' The unexpected act of generosity, caring, simple courtesy has that affect. What I know is that she will never forget what he did, although he may not give it a second thought.

We've come to call this 'paying it forward' (the name of a terrific movie from where the movement caught its spark). Liberty Mutual Insurance – before they fell into the pit of having an emu help push their product – had several commercials showing individuals noticing the kindness of others and imitating it for someone else. I was quite taken by the creative and practical message it offered.

For us, of course, this is Christianity 101: love your neighbor as yourself. Loving our neighbor (caring about their welfare, putting ourselves in their shoes, going the extra mile, risking our own plans, money, time to ease their pain) needs only our paying attention. Knowing we can't help everyone doesn't mean we can help *this* person. I doubt the young man was sitting waiting for this opportunity and there wasn't time for him to have an inner debate: a need called for action, something he could do.

Whether he did this from purely Christian motives is not the point; he did what a room full of people could have done, including the woman at the cash register. We've all likely talked ourselves out of a similar action, weighing the pros and cons until the moment passed us by. But I'm pretty sure we've seen and responded, sometimes motivated by a feeling and sometimes without thinking.

In these tenuous times where measuring everyone by the size of their red or blue hat, what the world needs now is still love, sweet love. Simple kindness. An extra zero behind a check to the Red Cross. Putting our phone down long enough to scan the room. Asking God as we start each day to give us eyes to see, hearts to care and hands to reach out. Doesn't matter if the recipient is our wife or husband or parent, a neighbor or coworker, a stranger, someone with whom we have nothing in common. I guarantee you, to act on another's behalf will bring more healing and hope in their life that we can imagine.

That's Job One for you and me, followers of the Risen Christ, member of the human family, God's hands and feet on this planet. Join me for worship this month, beginning with World Communion Sunday, where we can reorient ourselves to our calling.

Blessings as the leaves color our world.

Pastor Steve

Socktober

Our youth group will be holding Socktober! So why SOCKTOBER? Because every night in the United States an estimated 600,000 people live on the streets and need simple things, like socks, to help get them through the night. Plus, the number one needed clothing item for those in need is new socks, but people very rarely ever donate new socks to the homeless!

They will be collecting new socks **all October**. The goal is to collect **100 pairs** of socks. All socks will be donated to Beyond Violence and the Teen Center. If you would like to help our youth reach their goal donations can be dropped off in the office!



Apple Dumpling Sale

Move over pumpkin flavored everything! Apples are in season and so are apple dumplings! The apple dumpling sale is on! The Deacons are holding their apple dumpling sale. Dumplings are available in regular and sugar free and are \$3 each. **Orders are due by Sunday October 27th**. Pickup will be at the church **Friday November 1st from 10-12**. Place your orders today!

Celebration of Women

Girl Scout troop 32455 invites **EVERYONE** to their event Bras Across the Bridge

Saturday October 19th from 4pm-6pm. Please meet on the Nescopeck side of the bridge on the right. A Zumba warmup will begin at 4:00. The Reliance Fire company will be escorting the girls to the location and the event will begin with the troop, breast cancer survivors and the public walking across the bridge in a show of support and solidarity to those who continue their fight with breast cancer and those we lost. Refreshments and music will follow the event.

Church Crawl

Mark your calendars. We will be holding a church crawl **Saturday October 26th from 4p-6p**. Instead of Trunk or Treat area kiddos will make their way through a spooky church while retrieving their treats!

Who's in the Pulpit?

We welcome back Tracy Fetzer **October 20th**!



Communion Dates 2019

October 6
November 3
December 1
December 24



Socktober
New sock collection
during the month

Hike Montour Preserve
October 12th

Study
**October 20th during
worship**

Church Crawl
October 26th 4pm-6pm



October Birthdays

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 6

Greeters: Janice Moskaluk

Ushers: Dave Force, Steve Hiller

Assisting Elder: Penny Siesko

Acolyte: Giuliana Force

October 13

Greeters: Walter & Alison Hause

Ushers: Joan Thomas, Eugeniu Grigorescu

Assisting Elder: Eugeniu Grigorescu

Acolyte: Morgan West

October 20

Greeters: Bill & Shirley Birt

Ushers: Tom & Barb Huntington

Assisting Elder: Jim Ross

Acolyte: Tyrone Birt

October 27

Greeters: Penny Siesko

Ushers: Jim Ross, Ernie Botto

Assisting Elder: Barb Huntington

Acolyte: Emma Botto

Deacon Visitor for October: Keith Botto

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

