

Dear FPC family and friends,

World Communion Sunday is probably not on your calendar as you read this enews. Even though it has significance, probably only in the church is where you are able to know that it is something different from every other Sunday that we come together for worship. Let me give you a bit of background to how it got started and what it means that we celebrate it this Sunday.

In 1933 at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Rev. Hugh Thomson Kerr established the first Sunday in October as a Sunday where Christian Unity would be emphasized within the church. In 1936 it was picked up by our Presbyterian denomination and then in 1940 the National Council of Church in the United States picked it up as something that they wanted to promote, especially in the throes of WWII.

So, what was happening in the world in 1933 that drove Rev. Kerr to see the need for a service that would draw Christians together in unity? Well, in short, the world, and US society was divided. 1933 was the year of the darkest and most difficult days of the Great Depression. The storm clouds of Nazism and Fascism were all over Europe and threatened the entire world. The prevailing mood was anxiety – people were anxious about the economy, anxious about politics and the future.

World Communion Sunday this year, in 2026, is coming at the right time as I sense that we find ourselves confronted by many of those same fears and anxieties. I speak to people on a weekly basis who are worried about their finances, anxious about the politics of our nation that are dividing us, having a hard time imagining a future where people can unite themselves over any one thing. We do have a lot in common with 1933 in what concerns people of the church.

But the same is also true in Scripture as well. Jesus' primary message to all of us in Scripture revolves around not worrying about the future and do not be anxious about the financial necessities that we have in life, for our anxiety cannot add a single day to our life. You can find that Scripture in Matthew 6:24-34. World Communion Sunday is something that should be on our calendar as it takes all of us to be unified over the body and blood of Jesus.

I want to encourage you to come to church this Sunday as a sign of your unity with brothers and sisters in Christ. We have a church that is not monolithic in its political beliefs or its understanding of God's presence in our lives. We have diverse understandings of how God is at work in each of our lives, but what draws us together, what keeps us together, is our love for Jesus who binds us together. Our unity in Christ is crucial in order to keep our common goal of bringing people to a mature relationship with Jesus Christ.

See you in church on Sunday, and remember that Christ calls us to be one (John 17:21-23).

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Bob

HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF FPC...

Food Bank: WATCH FOR IT!! Saturday, November 14th. It's a really BIG day for our Food Bank. It's the Annual Boy Scouts Food Drive, and all donations support our FPC ministry.

We are so thankful for our local communities' generosity. We will need lots of help from 9am -12:30pm to sort, date and stock all the food that is delivered. Please consider helping us. Any amount of time will be greatly appreciated and we thank you in advance for donating a bit of your valuable time.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: We started a new Bible Study on Tuesday, September 22nd, but it's not too late to join us! Classes are held at 9am and 7pm in room 4. All are welcome! This fall, we are using a study by Kristi McLelland entitled "The Gospel on the Ground - The Grit & Glory of the Early Church in Acts." For any questions please contact Linda Bredin, Stacy Bronkema, or Sandy Wenger.

TRUNK OR TREAT: at FPCS will be held this year from 5-6:30pm on Sunday, October 25th. Sign up at the table under the TV in the welcome area and have your car parked and decorated with a suitable theme by 4:30pm. Children should arrive in a costume between 5-6:30pm. Anyone who would like to donate candy and snack items should sign-up under the TV in the Welcome Area. For more information, contact Beth Feiler at [717-572-9683](tel:717-572-9683) or bfeiler@straspres.org.

Pray for the Nickel Mines Shooting victims: 20 years ago today this community suffered the horrific attack on the most vulnerable of our society. The impact still is felt and the repercussions for the families of the victims remains significant. Pray for the families of the victims and for those who were injured.

CLUBHOUSE HELPERS: Another year of Clubhouse is here and WE NEED YOU! Clubhouse is a monthly program for children preschool through 5th grade that meet from 6 – 7:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month, September – May. The children are from our church family, preschool family, and the community. The program is Christian theme incorporating music, crafts, games and Bible stories. Volunteers are involved with these activities and "shepherd" a group of children to these activities as a group leader. You certainly don't need to commit to each month. Please see Beth Feiler or Amanda Allison if you are interested. The next Clubhouse is this Wednesday, October 7th.