



The Lord's Supper and Children

By Pastor Debbie

Beginning on Sunday, September 4, our children will stay in worship on Communion Sundays, rather than leaving for Sunday School. The purpose of this change is to 1) provide them with an opportunity to learn more about worship, our traditions, and rituals, and 2) at their parent's discretion, to receive communion. The Children's Message will become part of the sermon to help the kids stay engaged, and the liturgy for the Lord's Supper will be made more kid-friendly. These changes are important for the faith formation of our children, and also for the spiritual growth of the congregation. We are their role models in the faith, and they are our inspiration and creativity to see our faith in new ways. And, we know that the best way to learn something is to practice it!

To this end, it is important that we understand the value of children observing communion and, when ready, to receive communion. Our Book of Order states that *"around the Table of the Lord, God's people are in communion with Christ and with all who belong to Christ.... All the baptized faithful are to be welcomed to the Table, and none shall be excluded because of"*...and there is a long list here! The point is, all are welcome.

However, because not all children (or adults) who are in worship may be

baptized, the question remains, "should they receive communion?"

AS PRESBYTERIANS, WE DO
NOT PUT UP FENCES
AROUND COMMUNION. WE
PUT OUT WELCOME MATS.

That is a very good question. Let me explain my philosophy on this issue. When we serve communion, we do not perform an "are you baptized" reference check. All who come, may receive. If I am approached afterwards

(or before) by someone who is not baptized and they ask me if they can receive communion, I will say a resounding "Yes!" And then I will encourage them to enter into the faith community and be baptized. This applies to our children, as well. As Presbyterians, we do not put up fences around communion. We put out welcome mats. If you have a child who has not been baptized, please talk with me if that is something you would like to do.

Continued on the next page: Preparing Children for Communion

IN THIS ISSUE

Youth Sunday and
Gospel Sunday,
Page 3

Presbyterianism 101,
Page 4

What's New in
Worship? Page 7

Calendar of Events,
Music Schedule,
Learning New Hymns,
Page 8

Prayer List, Birthdays,
Anniversaries,
In Service Schedule,
Page 9

Changes in the Office

Michael Clover is no longer with us. There are no immediate plans to look for a new church secretary until after the Session retreat in mid-August. If you can help fold bulletins on an occasional Thursday morning or do small tasks in the office, let Pastor Debbie know.



Preparing Children for Communion

How can we make the Sacrament of Communion a memorable and meaningful ritual for children as they grow in their faith and in their understanding of their Christian identity? Here are some ways.

1. Allow your child to receive Communion. What is old enough? Basically, if they are able to understand that this "meal" is different than a meal at home, that it is something special and related to God, then that is a good start. Children come to understand the meaning of the sacrament best by actually participating in it. Whenever a child does start we should make it a special occasion and actively talk about it ahead of time.
2. Read feeding stories from the Bible with children. Whether it is the story of the Last Supper or the story of Jesus' walk to Emmaus after the resurrection, the gospels provide a number of stories of Jesus sitting at table with his closest friends.
3. Make Communion something that you look forward to as a family. We in the church business keep track of which Sundays are "Communion Sundays," but not everyone does. What if your family made an effort to remember when Communion Sunday was and to make it something that you looked forward to?

4. Talk with your children during Communion, just as you would if you were taking them to their first baseball game. You wouldn't make a child sit through an entire sporting event without helping them understand who is doing what when and why. Point out to them what is happening, who is saying what words and what they mean, what elements/objects are on the Communion table, how the pastor breaks the bread and pours the cup. Explain who is serving the congregation, whether it is pastors, elders or deacons.

5. Seek out ways for them to take communion in different settings/styles. Our usual style of Communion allows the congregation to remain seated in the pews while the elements are distributed by the elders. But at certain times of the year (Lent, Maundy Thursday) we choose to celebrate and share the sacrament in other ways. Include children in those different moments, because the uniqueness of it will make it even more memorable.

If you have any questions about preparing your child for communion, talk with Pastor Debbie. She is excited to welcome our children into all parts of worship and to help them grow in faith.

Thanks to our New Zealand Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Christ for these helpful tips.



August 28

Our youth will plan and lead us in worship. Please come and support our youth as they share their faith through worship leadership.

Presbytery of Northern Kansas

PNK @ The K

Minnesota Twins vs Kansas City Royals

Tuesday September 27

6:15pm

Every year churches in the presbytery are invited to purchase tickets and sit together for



a Kansas City Royals baseball game. If you are interested and would like to go, tickets are \$19. Please RSVP to

mhancock@pnks.org by September 1.

Interfaith Dialog Opportunity

The Dialog Institute of Kansas City and the Lutheran Campus Ministries are sponsoring a gathering and coffee. The event will be held on Thursday, August 25 at 7 pm. at the Lutheran Campus Ministries, 18 E 13th Street, Lawrence, Kansas. The event is free and the congregation of West Side, along with others, has been invited. This is an opportunity to get to know people from other faith traditions in an informal atmosphere. If you are interested in attending, please contact Debbie Liddel.

Gospel Sunday, September 4

We'll sing hymns from hymn writers who were at the forefront of "gospel" music in the late 1800s to early 1900s, teach our kids "Jesus Loves Me," and enjoy a rousing (hopefully) sermon! After worship, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship, food, and games.

We need a few outdoor barbeques (and people to do the barbequing) for hamburgers and hotdogs. Please let Elizabeth Gabel know if you can help in this way.

Bring a potluck side dish, salad, or dessert. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board by the back door.

Hamburgers, hotdogs, drinks will be provided.

Bone up on your Bible trivia for a competitive "pub quiz" style game, with prizes!

We'll have outdoor water games for youth and kids (and eager adults).

Dress casually!

Leave the suit jacket at home.

Be comfortable.

Bring a friend!



Presbyterianism 101: To Be Connected

By Pastor Debbie

Have you ever wondered what “Presbyterian” means? Many of our congregants come from a variety of church backgrounds – this is a trend in the U.S. So, we can’t assume everyone knows all the Presbyterian lingo. This month, I thought I would tie together a bit of Presbyterian history with one of the hallmark identities of being Presbyterian – our connectedness. The italicized portions below are from The Presbyterian Historical Society website.

Presbyterianism in a wide sense is the system of church government by representative assemblies called presbyteries, in opposition to government by bishops (episcopal system), or by congregations (congregationalism).

This means that, as Presbyterians, we are connected “across” rather than “hierarchical.” Our most immediate collaboration in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is with other churches in our **presbytery** (the Presbytery of Northern Kansas, which comprises 63 churches). Presbytery meetings provide regular opportunities for us to meet with, share, and learn from one another. Our presbytery is connected to other presbyteries to form a **synod**, the Synod of Mid-America, which, as the name implies, spans many of the states in the Midwest. Synods provide resources that build upon the gifts of its presbyteries and congregations, such as loans with favorable

terms, training for elders and deacons, support for pastors, and much more.

Presbyterianism is the name given to one of the groups of ecclesiastical bodies that represent the features of Protestantism emphasized by French lawyer John Calvin (1509-1564), whose writings crystallized much of the Reformed thinking that came before him.

Reformed thought emerged out of the 16th century Swiss Reformation, shaping theological understanding that distinguished that movement from other church reform movements of the era – particularly the Lutheran and the Anabaptists. Some of the principles articulated by John Calvin remain at the core of Presbyterian beliefs. Among these are the sovereignty of God, the authority of the scripture, justification by grace through faith, and the priesthood of all believers. Meaning, that God is the supreme authority throughout the universe. It is God’s mission to which we are first, and foremost, connected.

The most important standards of orthodox Presbyterianism are the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms of 1647. The chief distinctive features set forth in the Westminster declarations of belief are Presbyterian church government, Calvinistic theology, and the absence of prescribed forms of worship.

As a Reformed church, we are a **confessional** church. That is, we frequently profess or confess what we believe, formally written down statements called “confessions” (not to be confused with the Catholic confession).

(Continued on next page)





Our corporate confession in worship connects our faith experiences with what we believe God call us to be and do, and the ways we fall short of our call. It is through our deep and historic confessions that we are connected to all the saints before us who have struggled with living out their faith in a particular time and place. Our newest confession, the Belhar Confession, connects us to our brothers and sisters in the Reformed faith in South Africa, and their struggles with apartheid and oppression.

Presbyterians were only one of the reformed denominations that dominated American colonial life at the time of the Revolutionary War. Presbyterians participated in the writing of state and national constitutions. Reformed views of God's sovereignty and of human sinfulness moved the new nation toward checks and balances and separation of powers. Independence forced adjustment in church as well as government structures. In 1788, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA) was formed. It adopted a constitution that included a form of government, a directory of worship, and subscription to the Westminster Confession and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms. In 1789, the General Assembly held its first meeting in Philadelphia.

The **General Assembly** ("GA") meets every two years to conduct business, wrestle with theological, missional, and public sphere issues. The most recent GA was held in Portland Oregon in June of this year. Who attends? Primarily, the assembly is comprised of representatives from every presbytery, including presbytery staff, youth advisors,

special advisors, and others from the denomination.

Presbyterian denominations in the United States have split and parts have reunited several times. Currently the largest group is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which has its national offices in Louisville, KY. It was formed in 1983 as a result of reunion between the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (PCUS), the "southern stream," and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (UPCUSA), the "northern stream." Other Presbyterian churches in North America include: the Presbyterian Church in America, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

Over the years, conclusions reached at GA, and for many other reasons, have caused some churches to leave the PCUSA. But the Church's story does not rise and fall with denominations, synods or presbyteries, or with individual congregations. If we are first, and foremost, about the mission of God, or *missio dei*, then it is through our continued desire to be **connected** with brothers and sisters in faith, as well as people of other faith traditions, and those we encounter every day, that will sustain, nurture, and grow God's mission of love, mercy, and justice in the world.

(Continued on next page)



As Presbyterians, we choose to be partners, knowing that God calls us not to do it all, but only to do our part.

All of this connectedness may seem “invisible,” but consider the following: Our special offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, Christmas Joy) are collected by PCUSA churches across the country. The results are woven together to create something greater and stronger than we could do on our own. This is just one example of how we partner, collaborate, cooperate, and relate beyond West Side Presbyterian Church. We should be proud of the word “Presbyterian” in our name.

How Can We Connect with the Work of Our Denomination?

- ❖ Congregations can be a part of helping Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) in U.S. by offering their facilities as a **Presbyterian Volunteer Village or volunteer hosting site**. Presbyterian Volunteer Villages are guided by a spirit of Christ-like cooperation among congregations, mid-councils, partners, the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and volunteer work teams. Another way congregations can help is by serving as a way station or wayside – a place where volunteer work teams can stop and rest while they travel to or from a Presbyterian Volunteer Village.
- ❖ The **Presbyterian Coffee Project** offers a special link between congregations and communities around the world. Churches can now reach out to neighbors overseas not only with the prayers and offerings we give, but with the goods and products we purchase. A warm cup of coffee (or tea) in our hands is perhaps the most

tangible daily connection we have with farmers around the world. It represents warmth, hospitality, fellowship, hard work and life’s pleasures both fine and simple. Buying **fair trade** through the Presbyterian Coffee Project ensures that more of the money we spend on coffee reaches the hardworking farmers who actually grow it.

- ❖ We can connect with Presbyterian World Mission by discerning ways we can support one of the three critical global initiatives identified by Presbyterians at home and around the world:

Evangelism: Discerning how can we become *agents of transformation*—not with imported, “cookie cutter” solutions, but as leaders who reflect theologically and lead their community towards local solutions.

Global Poverty: Educate a Child, Transform the World. We could partner with a PCUSA Mission Co-Worker who is working in education.

Reconciliation: Speak Up! Stop Sexual Violence Build peace and reconciliation in cultures of violence, including our own. We can educate ourselves on ways a culture of violence expresses itself in Lawrence and Kansas.





Nametags are here! Look for your name tag on the bulletin board by the parking lot door, or in the basket in the front door entry way (if you have indicated to keep your name tag there). Clip adapters are available if you prefer that style. Please leave your name tags in the baskets by the sanctuary doors and they will mysteriously find their way back to the bulletin board or front door basket by the following Sunday.

Please continue being intentional about **crossing the aisle** on Sunday morning—before worship begins, during the passing of the peace, and following worship. Take a moment to meet someone new or get to know someone better.

We need Sunday School Teachers!

Would you be willing to be a Sunday School teacher for our awesome kids? We need more teachers on the rotation so the folks who have been teaching can attend worship more often. Please consider volunteering, especially parents with young children. We have easy materials to use, and a helper assigned each week. Talk with Debbie Liddel if you can help.

Bulletin Artwork

Are you a budding photographer, artist, quilter, or just plain creative? If so, Pastor Debbie would like to feature your artwork on a bulletin cover during Ordinary Time (now until mid-November).

Possible themes: God in nature, Christian symbols (cross, fish, communion, etc), photos of stained glass windows, a favorite

scripture, and more. Adults, youth, and children are invited to participate. Artwork will be photographed for the cover, but can also be displayed in worship. Talk with Pastor Debbie if you would like to participate. One submission per person to start.

What's New in Worship?





{CALENDAR} OF EVENTS

August 7, Sunday, Worship

Communion

Memorial Tree Planting Ruth Sleeper, 3pm

August 10, Wednesday

Girl's Night Out, Noon, Hyvee 23rd

August 11, Thursday

LINK

August 8-13

Office is closed this week.

Pastor Debbie is on vacation, traveling the Oregon Trail through Nebraska with her Mom.

August 14, Sunday, Worship

Guest Preacher, Gregg VanSickle

Brief Session Meeting

August 15, Monday

Men's Lunch, Big Biscuit, Noon

August 17, Wednesday

Women's Circles, 9:30am

August 21, Sunday, Worship

Session Retreat after worship

August 28, Sunday, Worship

Youth Sunday!

Sunday, September 4

Gospel Sunday

BBQ, Potluck, and Games

Dress Casual, you may get wet!

Music Schedule

Choir and bell choir

Begin rehearsals **Wednesday, August 31.**

Bell Choir

6:30pm-7:15pm



Choir

7:15pm-8:00pm





Prayer List

Wes & Ruth Buller
Diane McFarland
Char & Bob Freitag
Kathy Horton

August Birthdays

3 Don Graham
10 Arlyn Kinsey
16 Garry Braddy
29 Emma Stanwix
29 Sandy Cook

August Anniversaries

6 Bob and Char Freitag
18 Craig and Sara Chappell
28 Brad and Alneata Barrett

In Service This Month

Date	Liturgist	Acolyte	Minute for Mission	Ushers	Fellowship	Sunday School
8-7-16	Elizabeth Gabel	Pam Mooney	Sue Dindinger	Kathy and Charles Hagen, Connie Ducey	Esther Kinsey, Christina Messineo	Barbara Braddy
8-14-16	Pam Mooney	Robbie Messineo	Char Freitag	Anne and Mark Emert, Alneata Barrett	Sue Dindinger & Carol Peters	Pam Mooney
8-21-16	Chance Barrett	Morgan Beer	Deacon	Sara Chappell, Alice Wren, Sue Dindinger	Mary Freeman, Sherry McBride	Debbie Liddel
8-28-16	Youth*	Zoë DeBoard	Youth*	Sondra Collins, Denny Burgess, Lillie Ledbetter	Sondra Collins, Marie Graham	Sue Dindinger
9-4-16	BJ Gray*	Ben Gray	Debbie Liddel*	Bernita and Leland Perry, Jan McElwain	Jan McElwain, Sarah Beer	No Sunday School

*Switched for Youth Sunday

West Side Presbyterian Church
1024 Kasold Dr.
Lawrence, KS 66049

The West Wind

August 2016
West Side Presbyterian Church
www.westsidelawrence.org



August 28