



First Presbyterian Church

436 East Second St – Salem OH 44460 – 330.337.9555

September 18, 2012

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, October 7, we will join with churches around the planet in celebrating World Communion Sunday. Although World Communion Sunday is observed by other denominations, the first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor. (And where some young women who grew up in this congregation are now members!)

Dr. Kerr's son Donald said in an interview: "It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity.... to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another. ...The concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

On World Communion Sunday, we receive the Peacemaking Offering, one of the four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Half of the contributions received are used to support the denomination's Peacemaking Program, and will be used in part to develop resources for congregations on discernment and bullying. A quarter of the money supports peacemaking efforts on the presbytery and synod level. Within Eastminster Presbytery, those funds have been used recently to support Goodness Grows, an agricultural mission project of the Common Ground Church Community in North Lima, and the Open M, an agency that helps the needy in Akron.

The remaining quarter of the Peacemaking Offering stays with the local congregation. The Mission Interpretation and Stewardship Committee is recommending to the Session that this portion be once again dedicated to the development of our Peace/Prayer Garden on the northwest corner of our property. We dedicated this Garden on World Communion Sunday in 2011 and more plantings are planned for this fall.

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

The Mission Interpretation and Stewardship Committee

Rev. Dr. Meta S. Cramer, Pastor

Please Note – Peacemaking Offering envelopes are located in the Sanctuary Pew Racks.