



FUPC Newsletter Update

October 1-14, 2021

The year's largest Lord's Supper will be here October 3, and can be brought to homes

World Communion Sunday, at FUPC and so many other locations across the globe

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our sisters and brothers around the world.

In the Bible, the Apostle 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 (1 Corinthians 11:29).

World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical Church. The first celebration occurred here at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in 1933, when the Reverend Dr. Hugh Thomson Kerr served as pastor.

John A. Dalles, a Pittsburgh native and a pastor who has researched the history of World Communion Sunday, reported in the October 7, 2002, issue of *Presbyterian Outlook*:

“Davitt S. Bell (the late Clerk of Session and church historian at Shadyside) recalled that Dr. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930). Dr. Kerr’s younger son, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig Kerr, who is pastor emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, was sixteen in 1933. He has related that World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was



their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another.”

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 was not until 1940, when the predecessor body of the today’s National Council of Churches promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world. That the practice became widespread, and today this celebration stretches around the world, transcending boundaries of denomination, geography, and language.

-- *Shadyside Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh PA*

At Edinboro Presbyterian: The Sacrament will be shared at a large table at the front of the sanctuary on October 3 during the 11:00 worship. The bread and cup can also be brought to you where you are sitting. For those not attending this sanctuary worship, the ordained leaders of the church can schedule a time to bring Communion to you where you are. Please call or e-mail the pastor or the church office, or you can speak with a deacon or elder.

About the Artwork: This six-foot banner at the denominational offices in Louisville was created to illustrate the Peacemaking Offering for World Communion Sunday in 1997. This design was originally drawn in oil pastels by Dorothea B. Kennedy and was translated into fabric by Gloiela Yau Dolak. As the mountains and hills rejoice, the thirsty of all nations are invited to come to the water; the hungry are invited to come to the table. Everyone is welcome.

From the Pastor

“Bouncing back” ... from Covid and whatever else

September was a strange month. They *all* seem to be strange months lately!

For me, the month began with a semblance of renew and restarting. Plans were being formed for church activities and ministries which would be typical for most autumn relaunches. Not everything was going to be as it was in years past. Still – even with some significant anxieties swirling in the culture around us – some of us felt this might be a season which was going to feel a bit more, ummm, “normal”.

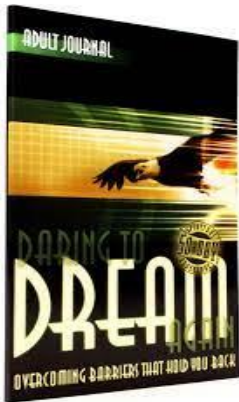
For me, that perception disappeared rather fast.

Contact tracing for me and a son who had tested positive for this virus meant my household members went into ten-day lockdowns. No one here ever did show symptoms while we were cooped up, but good medical advice we received from our local experts said it was possible that we could be contagious and spread something to other people. So I stayed home, not wanting to risk either medical conditions OR the peace of mind for the people I would normally encounter during that time. (Even while at home, we stayed distanced from each other as best we could.)

So, THAT was my fall launch. Thankfully, the Gillispies are all healthy and back to school and work.

During that time though, I worked from home. That brought to mind how I “did” church *last* summer... separated from each other... connecting through devices like phones and e-mails and videoconferencing. I also had some uninterrupted time to sort through some boxes that had been “on hold” since the time I started here as your pastor. As it turned out, I lived in four different places during those early days, including a need to rapidly relocate two college-age sons whose campuses closed on short notice in those early days of Covid lockdowns. Among that collection, I rediscovered a Bible Study which I led years ago. It was created by SundaySolutions.com, the teaching ministry of David Mains. “*Daring to Dream Again*” was their “50 Day Spiritual Adventure” which was developed in the aftermath of the 2001 terrorist attacks on American soil. The theme was so timely, about what people of faith can do when so much of “normal” has been knocked off-kilter.

We are in such a time again two decades later. The list of the barriers to normalcy and contentment is huge: the economic upheaval, public health uncertainties, frustrations due to a lack of consensus on lockdowns and safety protocols, world crisis, political antagonism, and so much more. Plus, that list doesn’t even include the “normal” setbacks and downslides of “normal” life, which also crop up during this time.



The message of Jesus, the message of the Bible, and the message of “*Daring to Dream Again*” are answers to these dilemmas. Real-world, practical answers. Real-world spiritual answers! They are timeless AND timely. The study’s subtitle is also a promise of hope: “Overcoming barriers that hold you back.” I want to bring this series to the people of the Edinboro Church.

One avenue will be a Bible Study which gathers in person and online. I am going to wait to schedule it though, because I don’t want to pick (Tuesdays) or (Wednesdays) or whenever, just to find that I had arbitrarily chosen the only point in the week when you personally are unavailable. (ANY other day would have worked...oops.) So, your action step – if you are interested in taking part in a group process, contact me this week to suggest and veto days and times when we could start this soon. I hope a consensus can become obvious. Call, text or e-mail me now, while you are thinking about it.

Also, there will be other avenues for you to glean encouragement from “*Daring*”. I have study books and journals which you can get, whether or not you take part in group processes. I will lift up highlights in upcoming Newsletter Updates. There can be an on-demand video component, and don’t be surprised when some of these same Scriptures and insights show up in future Sunday messages – those which happen in the sanctuary and through our congregation’s website.

Interruptions and setbacks and barriers need not define us. Dreams and visions and productivity can return, with our intentionality, but even more so with God’s help.

Wishing you the Peace that the world cannot give, *Greg*

Your RSVP is so very helpful as we restart

First Wednesday suppers resume on October 6

A long-standing tradition returns this month, as FIRST WEDNESDAY SUPPERS resume on the first Sunday of October. Everyone – members, friends, families, guests – are invited to share a meal together at First United Presbyterian Church. The supper is served at 6:00, although there typically are a few people who roll in somewhat after that, after they get away from work or complete other tasks. All are welcomed.

Typically we had a good sense of about how many people for whom to prepare. However, because this will be our *first* First Wednesday in 19 months, previous patterns may not apply to this one. Therefore, would you **please let us know** that you are planning to attend and how many people will be with you. This will help us to prepare well for this supper. RSVPs will be taken at the gathered worship service this Sunday, or you can call 814-734-3511 or e-mail office@edinboropresby.org to RSVP. (If your plans change at the last minute and you can attend, we will welcome you even if you did not RSVP.) To know how many people to expect will be so very helpful.

For anyone who has concerns about health matters, we have some distanced seating available. If you have questions or requests, please let us know.

For the supper, there is no other agenda than the food and the friendship, checking in with each other. For this first event, Pastor Greg will also bring a short, entertaining video about how to reframe our self-talk and harness the power of positive thinking.

Some of our ministry teams meet after supper, and you are welcomed to stay to take part in those conversations and to add your ideas. However, the First Wednesday Suppers are separate from each other, so the meal is open to everyone, whether or not you are active on a ministry team right now.

Plan for the SPUDS ‘N’ SUDS luncheon on Oct. 24

Another traditional meal is on the FUPC calendar for the upcoming month. Our board of Deacons have decided to relaunch our annual “Spuds ‘N’ Suds” luncheon. It will happen after 11:00 a.m. sanctuary worship on Sunday, October 24. Donations beyond the cost of the meal are a fundraiser for the Deacons Fund, which is used to provide care toward some of our honored members, help community members in need, and support local and regional mission projects.

The luncheon will have a full baked potato bar, with a full range of fixings. Our version of “suds” is bottled root beer. A few other menu options will be available. (If you are not attending worship in person, but would like to ask to schedule a home delivery, please make that request well in advance through the church office.)

A few “Sunday’s Cool” t-shirts remain

Several years ago, with the recommendation of one of our teens, FUPC renamed – and reoriented! – our Sunday School program. The name became “Sunday’s Cool”, and t-shirts were made. This fall, we have a few remaining t-shirts in various sizes. If you or your child did not get one ...or the young one has outgrown your first one... you are welcomed to get one from the Family-Friendly area to the side of the sanctuary. It is first-come, first-served, while supplies last. If these are something you or your child will wear from time to time, please pick one up.



Have you been thinking recently about your financial partnership with FUPC?

Not long from now, we will begin the invitations for you to provide an Estimate of Giving for 2022. Each year, our congregational leaders want to be wise, aware and responsible as we make plans for ministry and mission. While circumstances can certainly change from this fall to other points of next year, it is appreciated that you give as accurate of an estimate as you can regarding your planned commitments and offerings.

More details are upcoming, but now is a good time to begin your own process, which in turn will allow our elders and teams to start their processes. The goal is never to do “fundraising” or to “meet a budget”, but to invite each person to generously respond to the goodness and blessings which our Lord provides.

When it is time, if you have questions or wish to talk about financial matters in your life, make arrangements to speak with our Stewardship Team – Pauline Kraus, Greg Gillispie and Lianne Walker. If you want information about your current pledge or estimate, or your contributions so far *this* year, those are confidentially managed by financial secretary Sue Walker.

Thank you so much for your support of our CROP Walk crew

May God bless all the friends and members of FUPC who participated in the September Erie County CROP Walks. These people who walked and raised money were part of what has annually been one of the top twelve largest CROP Walks in the nation. Blessings and gratitude also go to Edinboro Presbyterians who sponsored our walkers and contributed to the cause.

Three-fourths of CROP Walk donations go to international hunger-fighting efforts, while 25% support local food pantries where the money was contributed. When we have all the gifts in and local totals calculated, you will get an updated report.

By the way: **Church World Service**, the umbrella organization which sponsors CROP Walks, also has a separate program which is working now to safely support and resettle refugees from Afghanistan. Details about that life-changing, life-saving work is linked from the [videos](#) page on www.EdinboroPresby.org. *(If you are not an internet user, please let us know, so we can get you a different version of that information.)*



Extras and leftovers from our education closets and kitchen

Our team of Deacons took the lead to clear out storage areas in the back half of the building. We have a surplus of toys, learning activities and school supplies. While many of these items have been donated to local agencies, schools and organizations, there is more on display in the East Sunday School classroom that we would like to pass on to you or someone you know. Please take a moment to “shop”. All items are free.



ALSO: There was a kitchen clean-up, and some items which our members may have left behind have been identified. Look at this photo, then let us know if anything here belongs to you. It will be good to get these back to their rightful owners.

Hospital Equipment

Just a reminder that the Deacons maintain an assortment of medical/hospital equipment including hospital beds, walkers, crutches, canes, commode chairs, shower chairs, wheel chairs and other assorted items. Items are available for loan to anyone in the community who is in need.



Contact the church office to make arrangements to pick up equipment. Delivery may also be arranged if needed. Items are loaned free of charge. Any donations made for use of the equipment is appreciated and is directed to the Deacons. The equipment will now be stored inside the church building on the back, west side of the Fellowship Hall. This will make access easier and will help us to keep all items clean and in good working order.

Our ministry teams seek new members, and people to suggest ideas

As we move into the fall season – eventually toward Advent, Christmas, and 2022 – we will benefit from the involvement of more people in the life and work of the church. Perhaps you will be someone who can help us to shape the activities and priorities of this congregation. Certainly pastors and elders and deacons play these roles in the church, but things happen more quickly and creatively when everyone steps up into the process. Some of this decision-making and priority setting happens among our ministry teams.

Find the one which matches your interests and your God-given talents. You can assist in two possible ways: join as a member of a team (either through the end of this year or until teams re-form next summer), or you can simply offer to help or share a wish or idea. Either level of your participation will foster good Christian care, worship, outreach and fun for the people of this church – and for our guests and the recipients and partners of our ministries.

If you aren't sure which team might be calling toward you, or if you aren't sure whom to contact, reach out to Mary Walker, Jan Zeart or Greg Gillispie. We will help you to get connected, and you can help us all to strengthen what Edinboro Presbyterian can accomplish, all under the Lord's guidance.

First United Presbyterian Church

Newsletter Updates currently are published the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month.

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