



## Westminster Chimes

October 2020

Pastor Message  
*Ellen Gurnon*

Dear Members and Friends,

### SEEKING TO BE FAITHFUL TOGETHER

As I write this, it is just hours before the first presidential debate of this election year. I have to confess, I seldom pay any attention to debates - regardless of who the candidates are, no matter what office they are seeking, or whether it's the primary or the general election. It's not that I don't care about the election; I will be casting my vote. I just can't stand the shameless and juvenile display of poor communication skills from people who ought to know better. I know that I can expect the candidates to raise their voices, interrupt and talk over one another, use insults and name-calling, show generosity in assigning blame while rarely willing to take it (if at all), fail to listen well (if at all), and rarely give a direct answer to a direct question. This is no way to gather information, and it only serves to raise my anxiety to an unhealthy level. Something that came in the mail recently reminded me that good, healthy, respectful communication is BIBLICAL. The document (included in this newsletter) comes from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and is called "Seeking to Be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement." Neither First Presbyterian nor Westminster is embroiled in conflict right now (thanks be to God!), but our country certainly is, and that conflict bleeds into our neighborhoods and even some families. Stress levels are high for so many reasons, and small disagreements can explode into hateful rants in a "New York minute." Disagreement is normal. But disrespect shouldn't be. Seeking to be Faithful Together delineates ten guidelines in the form of a commitment that can be adopted by a congregation, a session, a government (?!?!), a family, a couple, or even an individual. I encourage you to study it, talk about it, pray about it, ask questions about it, refer to it often, and practice it - "in a spirit of trust and love." "I therefore,... beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1-3)

Grace and peace,

Ellen



Presbyterian Mission  
Presbyterian  
Peacemaking Program



**SEEKING TO BE FAITHFUL TOGETHER:**  
*Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement*

*In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will...*

*Give them a hearing...  
listen before we answer*  
(John 7:51 and Proverbs 18:13)

1. Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ;
  - we will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange,
  - we will not ask questions or make statements in a way that will intimidate or judge others.
2. Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.
3. State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.

*Speak the truth in love*  
(Ephesians 4:15)

4. Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teachings.
5. Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity;
  - we will not engage in name-calling or labeling of others prior to, during or following the discussion.
6. Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.

*Maintain the unity of the  
spirit in the bond of peace*  
(Ephesians 4:3)

7. Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.
8. Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension;
  - we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven.
9. Follow these additional guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies;
  - urge people of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously;
  - seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement;
  - be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience;
  - abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways that are consistent with these Guidelines.
10. Include our disagreement in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.



# LECTIONARY

## October 4th

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
Psalm 19  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46

## October 11th

Exodus 32:1-14  
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 22:1-14

## October 18th

Exodus 33:12-23  
Psalm 99  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22

## October 25th

Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
Matthew 22:34-46

# Reformation Sunday

Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds their faith on Reformation Sunday. It is always the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany.

## Calendar

### October 4<sup>th</sup>

**Worship Service**  
**9:15a.m.**

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Communion Served

 Livestream Worship Service  
**10:45 a.m.**

### October 11<sup>th</sup>

**Worship Service**  
**9:15a.m.**


Westminster Presbyterian Church

 Livestream Worship Service  
**10:45 a.m.**

### October 18<sup>th</sup>

**Worship Service**  
**9:15a.m.**


Westminster Presbyterian Church

 Livestream Worship Service  
**10:45 a.m.**

### October 25<sup>th</sup>

**Worship Service**  
**9:15a.m.**

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
**REFORMATION SUNDAY**

 Livestream Worship Service  
**10:45 a.m.**



*(Taken from [presbyterianmission.org](http://presbyterianmission.org))*

### *A Presbyterian Gift*

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 at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor.

John A. Dalles, a PCUSA pastor who has researched the history of World Communion Sunday notes this in his blog entry, reprinted from 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. When I asked Donald Kerr how the idea of World Communion Sunday spread from that first service to the world wide practice of today, this is what he replied,

“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.”

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 wasn't until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.



## Westminster Chimes

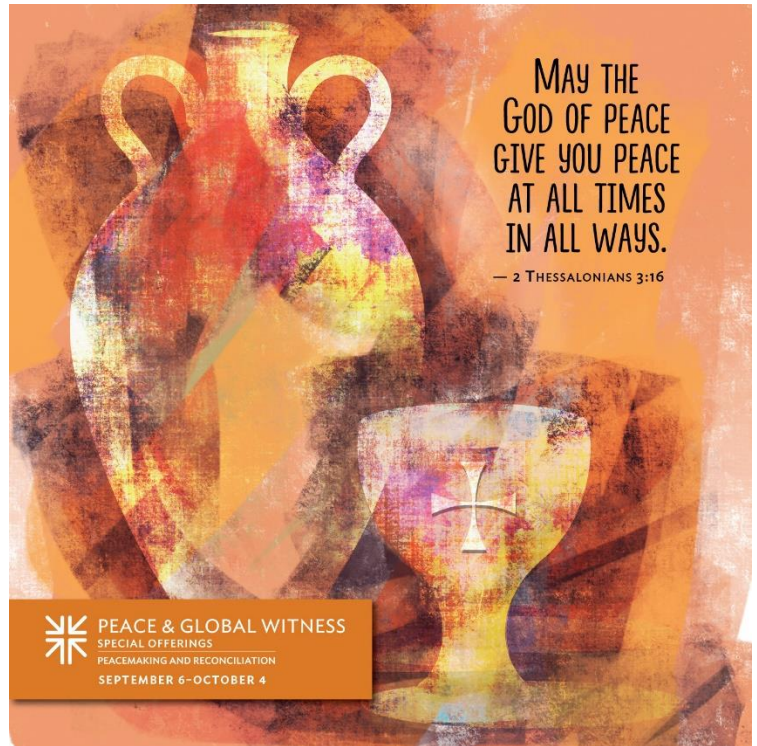
October 2020

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

SPECIAL OFFERINGS ~

Collected on World Communion Sunday  
October 4, 2020

25% of funds from our congregation  
Will go directly to the local  
Safe House for Women



*Jason Stieneke*      *Oct. 10*

*Lori Scott*      *Oct. 16*

*Trudy Lee*      *Oct. 24*

*James Borders*      *Oct. 27*

*Charlene Linn*      *Oct. 27*

