



Message from Pastor Bill Vincent

Fellowship: *“companionship, company. community of interest, activity, feeling, or experience. a company of equals or friends.”*
(Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary)

Fellowship is vital to the existence of the Church. We are called into community, to share in our life together. There is no such thing as a solitary Christian. This doesn’t mean that we all have to enjoy doing things with other people equally. But God does not call individuals to be solitary Christians. God calls individuals to join together into community – the family of God, the people of God, the body of Christ, the Church – to enjoy fellowship with one another.

Have you ever noticed how many opportunities for fellowship include time spent sharing a meal together? That is no chance occurrence. There is something about sitting down to a meal together that invokes fellowship, that strengthens community. We share together in the same food in each other’s presence. As Frederick Buechner says, *“To eat any meal together is to meet at the level of our most basic need. It is hard to preserve your dignity with butter on your chin or to keep your distance when asking for the tomato ketchup.”* (Wishful Thinking)

You’re invited to “meet at the level of our most basic need” this Sunday as we join around the table for a brunch following our joint worship service at Union at 10:00 am.

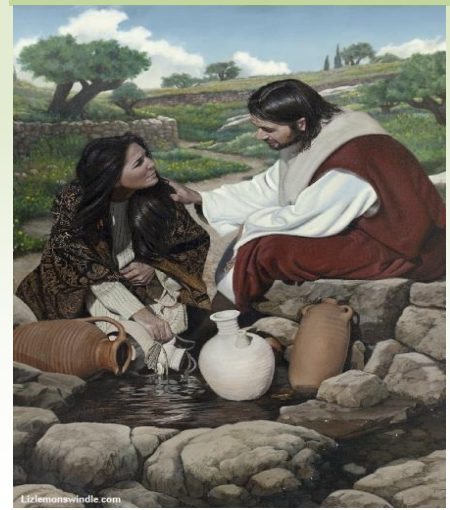
Jesus also used the time around the table to emphasize the fellowship of God’s people: the solidarity and oneness of all people with each other.

We all need to eat in order to survive. We all have that in common. And commonality is the basis for community. In particular, we, as Christians, have in common our belief in God’s love and mercy and grace, especially as seen in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It is that common belief that we affirm so visibly and profoundly when we gather around another table and share in a meal together – a special meal called the Lord’s Supper. This coming Sunday, we celebrate that meal in a most special way, for October 1st is World Communion Sunday. As we will gather around the table here in Union/Pacific, so also Christians throughout Franklin County, the State of Missouri, the United States of America, and the world, will gather around the same table – the Lord’s table – to share fellowship with each other and with our Lord.

That fellowship is essential to our lives as Christians: the fellowship at a meal, the fellowship around the Lord’s table, the fellowship with fellow Christians. So come and let us join in that fellowship. For World Communion ... and for brunch. Come and join in fellowship every Sunday morning as we gather to worship and gather together. Come join in fellowship – with each other and with our Lord.

*Together in Christ,
Bill Vincent*



SAVE THE DATE:**Joint Worship Service with Pacific Presbyterian on World Communion Sunday- October 1st**

"In celebration of World Communion Sunday, First Presbyterian (Union) will be hosting a joint worship service with Pacific Presbyterian on **Sunday, October 1st at 10:00**. There will be a brunch following the service. The Union Presbyterian Women will provide Egg Casseroles, Quiche, and Fruit Cups. The Pacific Presbyterian Women will provide Coffee Cakes, Sweet Breads, and other Pastries. Juice and Coffee will be provided.

The Brunch will be served in the Northex of our Church. All are welcome to attend this event.



The October Meeting of the Presbyterian will be held on Friday, October 27, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.

The meeting will be at the home of Deanna Vincent in Washington. The Hostess is Deanna Vincent and the Co-Hostess is Susan Buchanan. We will meet at Church at 8:30A.M. to carpool to Washington.

The Bible Study will be Lesson 1 in our new Study Book.

**Prayer Request**

You are asked to keep in mind our brothers and sisters in Christ of the Pacific Presbyterian Church. After a process of reading, prayer, and good conversation (including tears), the Pacific congregation is exploring opportunities for a new chapter in their life together – a new way of being church – including considering the sale of the whole or part of its property. As you might imagine, this can be an anxious and disconcerting time; it can also be a time for anticipating where God is leading them.

Let us lift them up in prayer, remembering that they – and we – are in God's hands.

***Worshiping and serving God, loving, and accepting all*****A reminder:**

Prayer concerns can be shared with me via email or phone before worship (preferably by Saturday evening); or you can write them down (legibly, please) on a piece of paper and place them in the basket that will be located near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Pastor Bill

Sunday Worship service will be Streaming live on Facebook on Sunday at 9:00 am. The bulletin will also be available on Facebook and the church website (www.unionfirstpresby.org), posted by 8 am Sunday morning.

Link to Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/firstPresbyterianChurchUnion/>

Bulletin can be found here: <http://www.unionfirstpresby.org/church-bulletins/>