



October 2019

First Presbyterian Church
Gainesville, Texas

October Session

The Session will hold its regular October meeting on Sunday, October 20th in the Seekers' Classroom at noon. All written committee reports are due in the church office by Thursday, October 17th.

Columbus Day



October 14, 2019
Church Office Will Be Closed



October Potluck Luncheon Sunday, October 6, 2019

Following Worship Service

Please bring a favorite and ample dish to share!
We need meats, veggies, salads and desserts.
Bread and drink will be furnished.

Thank you from the Fellowship Committee.



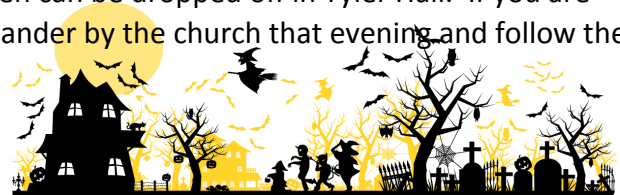
From the Annual Congregation meeting, January 13, 1960:

"The Session reported through the Clerk, Mr. E. P. Shelton, that thirty-six members had been added; twenty-three lost; making a total of two hundred and seventy-five communicant members as of Dec. 31, 1959. The church school enrollment is two hundred and five. The Congregation stood in silent memory of the four members lost by death in 1959 and was led in prayer by Mrs. Austin Reed."

"Ghouls, Goblins, and Groceries"

Come by the church for an evening of excitement on Thursday, October 31, otherwise known as Halloween and for the church "**Ghouls, Goblins, and Groceries**" night, and be transported back to the days of your youth! The costumes will amaze you! The sights will astound you! A cavalcade of heroes from Batman and Superman to Wonder Woman and a slew of Avengers will parade by. Pretty princesses will rule over their kingdoms. Ghosts will try to sneak up on you and watch out for those pesky pirates. As the voices of happy children surround the church, volunteers from the church will be handing out candy and collecting canned food and monetary donations for VISTO.

If you would like to help with **Ghouls, Goblins, and Groceries** beginning on Sunday, October 20, donations of candy that can be handed out to the children can be dropped off in Tyler Hall. If you are interested in helping to give out the candy on the 31st wander by the church that evening and follow the crowd to our table!





World Communion Sunday, October 6, 2019

"All who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves." (1 Cor. 11:29)

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. 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. This year, for the first time at FPC, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday with not only communion, but also with the *Peace and Global Witness Offering* as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need. This is one of the annual offerings encouraged by our denomination, PCUSA. Prior to this year, we have not participated in this offering, but we will begin that practice this year on Oct., 6th. Unlike other national offerings, 25% of what is given to this offering on Oct. 6th, will stay with FPC to use in local mission as we choose. This is an opportunity to not only support our brothers and sisters around the globe, but also to support our brothers and sisters in need in our community right here in Gainesville and Cooke County.

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) (the "southern church" for those church history buffs) 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.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Doesn't it feel good to be 'invited'?

Sometimes the church talks about the work we do as an obligation or a duty. We start thinking about the sign-up sheets and the time requirement, the money and.....But try to remember 'invitation' instead. Every time we are asked to give of ourselves, our time, our talent and our treasure, it helps to think of it as an invitation to imagine and be a part of God's reign on earth. And on World Communion Sunday, we can think of no more appropriate word than 'invitation'.

Christ invites, and we also offer ourselves to the pursuit to end violence and bring about reconciliation through the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Through our gifts, we offer a healing hand to women experiencing abuse, here in this country and in places like Guatemala. This offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world.

- 25% of this offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.
- 25% of this offering will go to our mid-council, joining with other congregations in our area to support peacemaking work in our region.
- 50% of this offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians around the globe.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns.

The peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere. Let's help make a difference by giving generously to this special offering. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

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CANDY
Donations
NEEDED

We need Halloween candy for our Ghouls, Goblins & Groceries on Halloween night. There will be a place to drop off your donations in Tyler Hall beginning on October 20th.

Thank you!

These Days daily devotional guides for October-December 2019 are now available. You will find them in the windows of the Sanctuary.