

## World Communion Day October 6



*Open Table*  
by Lauren Wright Pittman

Since that time, the practice has grown and expanded beyond denominational lines, emphasizing ecumenical partnership and unity throughout the Christian tradition.

World Communion Sunday is a celebratory Sunday that invites us to think beyond the walls of our own congregation. On this day, people around the world celebrate Communion as an act of radical unity. While we gather at our own Table to celebrate Christ's joyful feast, we will also remember, with fondness, our siblings in faith celebrating this same meal around the world.

This tradition, always held on the first Sunday in October, was originally conceived by Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr of Shadyside Presbyterian Church (USA) in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933. He had served as a moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.

The U.S. Presbyterian Church adopted World Communion Sunday in 1936, then in 1940, the National Council of Churches endorsed it and promoted it to churches globally.



# Updates from the Arkansas Presbytery

## Presbytery of Arkansas Honduras Mission Trip, March 15-22, 2025

Mission-minded children/youth age 10+ with a parent or adult, college students, and adults are invited. High physical ability and Spanish-speaking skills are NOT required. Applications are available [online](#) or within this [Honduras Mission Trip Application packet](#) which is also packed with additional info.

Contact Leigh Woodruff at (479) 601-1437 or by e-mail, [leighwoodruff83@gmail.com](mailto:leighwoodruff83@gmail.com), if you have any questions.

## Ruling Elders Save the Date!

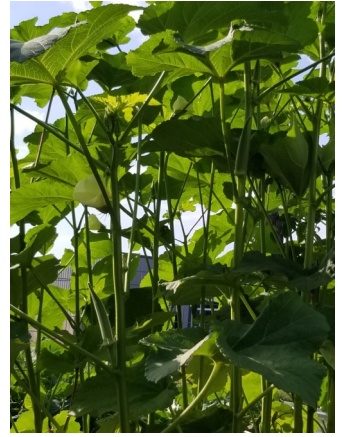
The next edition of the Elders' Retreat (now Ruling Elders in Ministry) will be held at the University of the Ozarks **November 15-17**. We will host Beth McCaw from Dubuque seminary, and explore pastoral care and worship planning. Stay tuned for more details!



The Presbytery of Arkansas is working to ensure the full inclusion of under-represented groups in the presbytery. As a part of the current strategic planning process, the Presbytery would love to hear of initiatives or ministries supporting under-represented populations or historically marginalized groups. If you know of a church, committee, program, or person that does a fantastic job of inclusion, or has an incredible ministry for a specific population, please share that with Julie Price at [julietannerprice@gmail.com](mailto:julietannerprice@gmail.com). If you are a member of an under-represented population and you're interested in helping the Presbytery move forward, email Julie! *In addition, if you know of any experts in diversity and inclusion within the bounds of the presbytery, including DEI staff at universities or in the corporate field, please email Julie with their contact info!*

## Garden Report

The garden is still producing green peppers and a few tomatoes to share with our friends at Jacksonville United Methodist Church. Soon the second batch of okra plants will be ready to harvest!



Jacksonville First  
United Methodist Church  
in partnership with  
First Presbyterian Church



## Update to the Shower Program

The Methodist Church has begun a shower program for the homeless at their church. The session has decided to stop our shower program and support theirs. They are offering showers on the first and third Sundays of the month from 1:00-3:00. If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, let Karen or Mary Jane know.

## Session Report

The session met with Sara Ann, who told us about an intern program being offered at the University of the Ozarks where students are placed in churches to perform community service. She wondered if our church would like to sponsor one or two students. The session is investigating the possibility at this time.



## New Additions to the Community Care Room!



We recently received blankets and hygiene kits from Church World Services. These will be given out to those who need them from our community. Thank you to Karen for requesting these supplies and thank you to Duke for picking them up at Ferncliff and delivering them to the church!

## Sign Up Now for Adultquake!

Need a retreat where you can enjoy camp activities, singing by the campfire and more? Well, come and be a part of the very first ADULTQUAKE, November 8-10 at Ferncliff ... a Sabbath retreat just for adults!

What can you expect? Come and enjoy camp activities, games, s'mores, small group discussions, energizers, songs, time by the fire, Sabbath time, and meet new folks from around our Presbytery at a retreat. Our theme is Sabbath, Rest, and Renewal, so there will be plenty of hang out time too.

Registration is open now! [Click here to register.](#)

To find out more information, see Mary Jane.



## September Report from the Community Care Room

In the month of September, we gave members of our community:

- 9 pairs of shoes
- 26 hygiene packs/individual items
- 57 MREs (Meals Ready to Eat that contain enough nutrition for an adult for one day)
- 8 bags/backpacks
- 51 pairs of pants or shorts and 66 shirts
- 2 blankets, sheets, or other bedding
- 90 pieces of clothing such as socks or underwear
- 176 snack bags
- 5 packages of food or supplies for people's pets
- 14 hats
- 11 jackets or coats

Thank you for giving to this ministry—your donations make a difference!

## Attendance for September

**Sept. 1: 30 Sept. 8: 33 Sept. 15: 3 Sept. 22: 25 Sept. 29: 29**

## Preachers and Scriptures for October

		<u>October 6</u>	
Mary Jane	Communion	1 Cor. 1:10-17	<i>World Communion Sunday</i>
		<u>October 13</u>	
Rev. Michael		2 Tim. 4:9-18	<i>What do you need?</i>
		<u>October 20</u>	
Rev. Marie		Ruth 1:1-22	<i>Where do we go from here?</i>
		<u>October 27</u>	
Elizabeth		Acts 10	<i>Where do we go from here?</i>

## Announcements

Study guides from our series, “I’ve been meaning to ask...”are available for everyone. They include art, reflections, poetry, and commentaries on the scriptures. Our own Rev. Brittany Fiscus-van Rossum has written some of the commentaries. You can pick yours up in the sanctuary or call the church office to have it emailed to you.

Your nominating committee is prayerfully working to discover who God is calling to serve on the session in the next class of elders for 2025-2026. Please pray for them as they seek God’s guidance.

Our next Hospitality Time will be October 6. We will gather after the worship service in the Hospitality Room to enjoy snacks and a time of visiting together.

October 20 will be our Community Potluck. Let’s bring a dish or two to share with our church family and our neighbors in our community.

The Bible Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. For the next few weeks, we will be using the Study Journal from the series, “I’ve been meaning to ask...” Everyone is welcome.

The Ladies Circle will meet October 15 at 10:00 am. All the women of the church are invited to participate.

Please consider signing up on the tablet in the west lobby to help clean the church one weekend this month. We can do it if we all pitch in!

The Community Care Room could use donations of new or used shirt, jeans, and coats or jackets for the colder months.

### **Free COVID Tests Available for Order**

You can receive free Covid tests by ordering them at [covidtests.gov](https://covidtests.gov). There is a limit of 4 per household.

## Prayer Requests from September

The family of Alice  
Ami and Summer  
Amie and Michael  
Barbara  
Bill  
Billie Ann  
Buck and his family  
Cheryl  
Chris, Ella, and Isabella  
The family of Cooper  
The C. family  
Diane  
Duke  
Frank  
Hannah and her family  
The H. family  
The H. family  
The I. family  
Jason  
Jeannie  
Jeff and Pam  
Larry  
Michael  
Miki, Mike, and Yoshi  
Nancy  
The nominating committee  
Pat  
The Q. family  
Rob  
Rodney  
Ron  
Rosemary  
Tom and Christie  
Toni  
The leaders of our city, state, and nation  
People affected by natural disasters  
Peace for those affected by wars  
Students, teachers, and staff at all schools  
Youth

## “Pocket-Sized Moments”

*A meditation for World Communion  
Sunday*

I wonder if we will know when restoration comes.

Will it feel big and dramatic like a summer rain?

Joyful and overwhelming, like an end-of-war parade?

Maybe.

Or will it be small?

Will it be pocket-sized moments, like wishing on stars, the sun through the curtains, or lightning bugs in the yard?

Maybe.

I don't know how God will restore this world, just like I don't know how to make the summer rain.

But I do know how to say I'm sorry.

And I do know how to love with all of me.

And I know how to say, “This cup is for you,”

And I know how to taste grace in grape juice.

So on the off-chance that restoration will be small,

pocket-sized moments of love for all, I will bake bread and save a seat for you.

I will say I'm sorry and say I love you too.

I will plant gardens and look for fireflies.

I will say prayers on shooting stars at night.

And when the sun shines through my curtain windows,

remind me to open them wide.

I would hate to miss God's parade, these holy ordinary days.

—Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed



Nothing Can Separate  
Us From the Love of God  
Romans 8:31-39

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*May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you.  
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out  
your hands to serve.  
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your  
heart to love.  
And as you leave this place, may you see the face of Christ on  
everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face  
of Christ on you.*

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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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