

The month of October opens with **World Wide Communion Sunday**. This will be an intergenerational Sunday. The day is observed in many parts of the world, although not by all churches. We remember that we are one church among many around the world that gather at a common table. Hope you will be at worship to see the colorful display of national flags and partake in the variety of breads symbolically representing all the different foods that are served at the communion table.

We will celebrate our second **Healing Service** on October 4th beginning at 10:45 am in the Fellowship Room. This experience is brief and quiet. We gather in this place and time where we can pray for ourselves and others in a special way. You need not do anything but come to the “chapel” area and sit with others in prayer.

On October 10-11 our church will engage its energy and gifts to participate in the **Apple Festival**. Our industrious and close-knit quilt group will offer a table of beautiful things for purchase inside Riverside Middle School. Outside the festival, another group will gather as “vendors” of good food. At the Saturday evening meal, yet a third “fun-raiser” will be offered beginning at 5:30 pm. The **Harvest Supper** will be an extravagant meal of hospitality for our entire community. We hope for many of you will attend or assist us, especially those who have not been able to attend worship or become elected leaders.

On October 18th we will celebrate **Children’s Sabbath Sunday** followed by an adult class for Faith Formation with the theme of “Who is Jesus?” Our first class had 18 people so we are looking forward to your participation. The class is “come as you are”, event where we all listen to and learn from one another. I was so pleased with the turn out and the sharing. It was really inspiring to me as a pastor.

Lastly, I share a lovely prayer for you from the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum.

We bless you, Holy One, for we know we may cry out to you. We cry out to you, Christ among us, for we trust you to hear. We trust in you, Blessed Spirit, for providing the power to do well, the grace to heal and the call to follow on the way. Amen.

The days ahead are here for us to serve this world as Christ’s disciples. There is so much anxiety in this world and with it, suffering. These are times of challenge. These are also times that bring opportunities to help and heal, providing hope for our family of faith and to meet the needs of those God would send our way. Prayer life and faith formation continue. Generosity and companionship are what we hold dear as a church.

May this time in your life be inspired by God’s paintbrush of gold, red, yellow and orange colors on the leaves that fall on the ground. May your conversation with God and with each other be like the wool blanket you find to keep out the cold or the crock pot stew that simmers over night.

God is real and alive in you. God is good all the time. Blessings of this season, Pastor Christine