

## **Mission Moment**

**September 29, 2019**

Next Sunday, 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.

It is an effort to promote Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. The tradition was begun in 1933 by Hugh Thomson Kerr who ministered in the Shadyside Presbyterian Church. 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 individual church is interconnected with one another.

It was then adopted throughout the US Presbyterian Church in 1936 and subsequently spread to other denominations, including ours. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods and resources with those in need.

According to the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline there shall be a World Communion Sunday offering to support the division of chaplains and ministries, Crusade Scholarships and the scholarship fund for minority groups. Next Sunday, on World Communion Sunday your giving will help to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve.