



# The Messenger

September 2023

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\* ARTICLES NEED TO  
BE SUBMITTED TO  
PETE BY THE LAST  
SUNDAY OF THE  
MONTH - FOR THE  
NEXT MONTH'S  
PUBLICATION.

## On the Journey with Pastor Mari Lyn



I've been thinking about the Sacrament of Communion lately and reflecting on how it has shaped my faith journey so far. As a possible *conversation starter*, I will share here one of my experiences with Communion. Perhaps reading it, you will be encouraged to share a recollection of Communion with me at one of our *Conversations and Connections*.\*\*

I grew up in the church. As a young child, I attended Sunday School and morning and evening worship services with my family. When I started 4<sup>th</sup> grade, I also began to attend mid-week Mission and Bible study weekly. As a teenager, I added Sunday evening Youth Fellowship to this weekly schedule. But when I left home to attend college, things changed. Overwhelmed by the number of students on UT Austin campus and the population of Austin, I felt like a tiny fish swimming among too many other creatures in a vast ocean. Even in the churches nearby, it seemed impossible to make my place among all the other students in the Sunday School classes and to carve my niche in the worship services. By my sophomore year in college, church activities no longer had a place on my calendar.

Then ... mid-morning one Sunday as I was brushing my teeth in one of the shared bathrooms of the women's dormitory where I lived, 2 of my hallmates walked in. With notes of surprise in their voices they said, "Mari Lyn, what are you doing here? You'll be late for church." I replied, "I don't go to church anymore." They looked at each other, then turned to me, "Well, in that case, you can come to Folk Mass with us this evening at the Catholic Student Center." It was less an invitation than a command. But these young women were part of a group of 10 Pharmacy students who had transferred together from UT Pan American in the Valley. All of them had been kind and friendly with everyone in our dormitory. So, I agreed to join their group attending Folk Mass that evening.

Later, as we walked together across the UT campus, I told them I had never attended a Catholic Mass. "The only thing I know about Mass is I am not supposed to take Communion since I am not Catholic," I said. All together, they stopped walking. Turning to me,

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## Calendar of Events

- Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
- Communion on First Sunday each mo.
- Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
- Men's Prayer Breakfast Tues. @ 8 am.
- Chair Yoga 1pm Tues and 10:30am Thurs
- Oct. 1 - Worldwide Communion Sunday
- Oct. 15 - Session Meeting
- Oct. 19 - Women's Monthly Devotional
- Oct. 29 - Fifth Sunday Celebration
- Nov. 5 - Congregational Meeting

October 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**Mari Lyn Comments Cont.**

one of them replied, “Mari Lyn, you **need** Communion.” Everyone around the group nodded and continued, “We’ll show you what to do and when to do it.” “We’ll tell you what words to say, and when to say them.” “It will be okay. You will be able to participate.” When we entered the sanctuary where the Folk Mass was celebrated, my hallmates surrounded me. Some sat in front of me, some behind me, some beside me. In front of me, I had visual cues for when to stand or sit or kneel. Behind me, I had audible cues for when and what to sing and say. When the priest gave an invitation to come forward and receive Communion—whispering, my friends on either side of me explained what everyone was doing and why.

As it turned out, these hallmates who became my friends were right. I **did** need Communion. I needed the community of Christ to surround me with love and grace. *And they did.* I needed the community of Christ to show me the way back to the God who runs to welcome the prodigal daughter home with open arms. *And they did.* I needed the community of Christ to feed me with the word of God (Scripture) so that I might re-encounter the Word of God (Jesus). *And they did.* My hallmates-turned-

friends were right. I **needed** Communion.

For the remainder of that school year, I was nourished spiritually in Sunday evening Folk Mass, in Wednesday Mid-day Prayer, and in daily meals and conversations with my Catholic hallmates-turned-friends. I am so grateful that these young women invited **me** to join the feast that Christ sets for all who seek him, the feast that Christ shares with all who want to love him. I am so thankful that these devout young women continued that fellowship beyond Christ’s table. For they helped me find my way back home to Jesus the Christ.

How can we—who are the Presbyterian Church of Salado—show our acquaintances, neighbors, and friends the way “back home” to the God who creates us, the Christ who redeems us, and the Spirit who sustains us?

\*\* Please join in these *Conversations and Connections*:

Thursday, 10/5/2023 11:45 am – 1:00 pm

Tuesday, 10/10/2023 11: 45 am – 1:00 pm

Monday, 10/16/2023 11: 45 am – 1:00 pm

Meet me in the Sunday School classroom (where the tables are set up). Bring your lunch, and I’ll bring dessert.

**Common Lectionary Readings** (Mari Lyn will changes topics at times and may not use these readings)

	18th Sunday after Pentecost - Oct. 1	19th Sunday after Pentecost - Oct. 8	20th Sunday after Pentecost - Oct. 15	20th Sunday after Pentecost - Oct. 22	17th Sunday after Pentecost - Oct. 29
1st Reading	Exodus 17: 1 – 7	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Exodus 32: 1 – 14	Exodus 33: 12 – 23	Deuteronomy 34: 1 – 12
Psalms	Psalms 78: 1-4, 12-16	Psalms 19	Psalms 106: 1-6, 19-23	Psalms 99	Psalms 90: 1-6, 13 – 17
2nd Reading	Philippians 2: 1 – 13	Philippians 3: 4b – 14	Philippians 4: 1 – 9	1 Thessalonians 1: 1 – 10	1 Thessalonians 2: 1 – 8
Gospel	Matthew 21: 23 – 32	Matthew 21: 33 – 46	Matthew 22: 1 – 14	Matthew 22: 15 – 22	Matthew 22: 34 – 46

**Oct. Birthdays**



- Ann Faber 4
- Trish Stebbins 5
- Barbara Tindell 9
- Joan Ray 16
- Linda Lloyd 20
- Jeff Aldridge 21
- Barbara Harper 26
- Jerry Schleicher 30
- Jeanie Miller 31

**About Our Members (and Prayer Requests)**

**Susan Carroll** continues with cancer treatments. We pray for healing from the cancer, strength fighting it, and rest & renewal for Susan.

**Missie Lanham** comes home to Salado a couple of Saturdays a month to see a few visitors and her cat, Luke. If you would like to visit with her, please call her daughter, Claire at 254-931-0596 to schedule the visit.

**Renita Menyhert** continues to experience pain in her recovery from double knee surgery in August. She appreciates our encouraging prayers and cards she received during her healing. We pray for healing and pain relief for Renita.

**Brad Rehm** had successful knee surgery last week. According to his doctor, physical therapist, and wife, he is recovering well and quickly. We give thanks to God for such a good report.

**Pete Stebbins** is dealing with sciatica pain and healing of three lower leg wounds (issues unrelated). Pray for pain control and healing.

**The Van Winkle family:** Both Rip and Michelle have injured their knees. Rip’s injury makes it harder for him to get back on his feet. Michelle’s injury is painful. Rip’s road to gall bladder surgery continues with more doctor appointments and consultations. Richard is still in process with the VA in for back surgery. Shay continues to be the caregiver to “her guys.” We pray for healing and recovery for Michelle, Rip, and Richard. We pray for strength and rest for Shay.

**Several of our members** have been or will be traveling. We give thanks for the reunions and opportunities for rest and renewal which called them onto the road. We ask traveling mercies for those who are traveling now or soon.

**Ian Salcedo**, 17 yr. old grandson of **Jeanette West**, is recovering from wrist surgery this past Friday (9/22). What was expected to be a very involved procedure was not! We pray for Ian’s continued healing.

### Have you ever asked yourself what could I do to help at church?

Well, believe it or not, there are several tasks that could provide you the opportunity to serve!

- \* water inside plants as needed
- \* push large outside trash container to the road for Monday pick-up
- \* assist in preparation for Communion
- \* straighten hymnals after worship service

If any of the things listed above "catches your eye" or if you have noticed something else in which you could assist, please contact the chairman of the worship committee, Jeanette West via phone call or text to 254-760-6563.

## Church Notes

This September 30th there is a fundraiser at **Heart and Hands Ministries** in the Mill Creek Center, Suite 135. See page 5 for more details on how you can help our neighbors.

Anyone who would be willing to learn how to set up our monthly communion service, please contact Jeanette West, 254-760-6564.

The Woman's Third Thursday Devotional series will be held on Oct.19 This session will be led by Debby Aldridge.

### Sunday School News:

John Booher has been leading the class through Max Lucado's In the Footsteps of the Savior: Following Jesus Through the Holy Land which will take us up to October 15th.

On Oct.15th, we will be distributing our next book, Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess by Tom Berlin. Pat Hart will begin teaching that 6 week study on October 22nd. Rev. Berlin accepts that the human condition is "full of messes" but that by God's grace we have the promise of a restored relationship with him. Please join us!

Please join us at 9:00 on Sundays for prayer, fellowship, a bit of old-fashioned learning with a cup of coffee and a cookie or two thrown in!

The signup sheets are in the foyer for anyone wanting to provide flowers, assist with being a greeter, or serve as liturgist between now and the end of the year, or just contact Jeanette. This can include anyone wanting to be a substitute in case someone has to be out on a Sunday.

## COME TO THE TABLE

If you've never visited the Norman Rockwell Museum and workshop, in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, you might want to put it on your bucket list. It is said to be one of the most popular museums in the world. And I highly recommend it.

It's probably been 15 years since Ralph and I visited there. We were on a "bucket list" trip of mine, to visit some New England states, including Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut, and Vermont, when the fall (and falling) leaves were at the height of their glory. Since childhood, I had longed to visit New England in Autumn. I have a birthday in October, so it seemed to be the perfect time for such a trip.

I remember that day like it was yesterday. We were traveling with some friends, a couple from our church. Earlier that morning, we had picked up some sandwiches and some drinks from a Subway shop close to our hotel.

It was a glorious fall day. The sun was shining A little breeze was blowing. It was a perfect day for a picnic. There were tables in the side yard of the museum, where you could have a snack, or a picnic lunch.

We already had taken the tour of the museum and Rockwell's studio. It was an extensive tour, using headphones, and setting your own pace. It took a while. But I enjoyed every minute of it.

One of my favorite paintings of Rockwell's is titled "Freedom from Want." It depicts a family gathered around a Thanksgiving table, and an aproned woman, her husband at her side, preparing to set a large platter, covered with an even larger turkey, on the table.



"Freedom from Want"  
1943 Painting by  
Norman Rockwell

I don't know exactly what it is about that particular painting that draws me. Were I to venture a guess, I suppose it reminds me of my own family's Thanksgivings back in Pennsylvania, and my own Grandma Valdie, in her apron, serving up just such a huge turkey as the one depicted in Rockwell's painting.

Next Sunday we will celebrate communion. There won't be a turkey on the table, just the wine and the bread. But our Lord invites us to come to the table, as his disciples, to take the bread and the wine. All are welcome.

May God continue to bless this nation, this church, and each of you.

From a Merry Heart, *Linda Lloyd*


## Invitation to Celebrate World Communion Sunday - Oct. 1, 2023

The first Sunday of October is designated World Communion Sunday. On this day, Christian congregations around the world celebrate the Sacrament of Communion together. On World Communion Sunday, we lift up the **unity** of the body of Christ—our oneness in Christ—even as we celebrate the diversity among us—the uniqueness in which God has created each of us.

World Communion Sunday is October 1 this year. **You** are invited to join **our** World Communion Sunday celebration in the following ways:

1. Wear an item of clothing or bring something from another country or culture. Many of us have received gifts purchased during our own or friends' or families' travels outside the United States. These *items* and/or *clothes* will give us **visual** reminders that our Christian siblings around the world are celebrating Communion with us on this day.
2. Bring a word of greetings (“welcome,” “hello,” or “good morning”) from another country or culture. Many of us learned other languages in high school or college, and some of us remember how to greet others using that language. (I admit it: I had to check Google to remember how to offer greetings in Italian.) You'll have an opportunity at the beginning of worship to



say your word(s) of greeting and to tell us from what country or culture that word comes. (I had some greetings from other countries/cultures that people could volunteer to read, so if anyone wants to volunteer, contact me if you forget to “do your homework.”) These *words* will be an **audible**  reminder that our Christian siblings around the world are celebrating Communion with us.

3. During the Choral Call to Worship, help bring (process) the elements of Communion (bread and juice) and the tableware (chalice, plate, pitcher) to the Communion Table. This *movement* reminds us that Christ's invitation to come to his table draws forth a **response** from us.
4. Invite a friend or neighbor to come with you to worship with us this World Communion Sunday. Please include in your invitation that we Presbyterians believe **all** are welcome at **Christ's** table.

*Pastor Mari Lyn*

The picture of children standing on the globe is from Spring Branch Presbyterian Church (for World Communion Sunday 2015) <<https://www.springbranchpres.org/world-communion-sunday-3/>>accessed 2023-09-25.

## ♪ Musical Notes ♪

How we've been blessed during the month of September with our choir's preparations on Wednesday practices! The mid-week time of review, learning, and preparation has provided the choir members with more confidence as they lead us in our congregational singing during worship!

It is good to have Shirley Pinkston recovered after her knee surgery this summer, and back singing once again. We are also excited to have Lisa Houston back and willing to share her musical talent on the organ and piano as her schedule allows. With their shortened time in Alaska, she and her husband, Jeff, are enjoying time with their newest granddaughter, born this past July, as well as with other family members in the area.

What a blessing it has been to have Pastor Mari Lyn

Jones visit a couple of Wednesdays to encourage and reassure the members of the importance of their participation in choir and worship. She even provided a treat of Blue Bell Ice Cream for a brief social time afterward.

It is never too late to come to a choir practice, or even come join us on Sunday mornings as we gather in the choir room about 9:45. The choir receives YouTube video recordings of hymns both old and new to listen to at their convenience each week. If you have ANY questions talk with Shay, the choir director, or any choir member to learn how this ministry can become quite an asset in your growing life as a Christian.

Sharing in Christ's Service,  
Jeanette West  
254-760-6563



## Fundraiser at Heart and Hands - September 30

**SIDEWALK SALE**

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 30 9AM-1PM**

213 Mill Creek Dr. #135  
In Front of Heart & Hands  
(Brookshire Bros. shopping center)

**CLOTHES, SHOES & MORE!**

**\$1 or less!**

*Free! Hotdogs for 1st 100 Shoppers*

*all proceeds benefit*  
**Heart & Hands Ministries**  
*our community food pantry*

The poster gives details for the September 30th fundraiser at Heart and Hands Ministries in the Mill Creek Center, Suite 135.

Donations from our members will be included in this Sidewalk Sale. Our church's participation is appreciated by both the clients and volunteer leaders!



## Fifth Sunday (October 29) Events

October 29 is the Fifth Sunday in the month. We celebrate having this extra Sunday. Representatives from Salado Family Relief and possibly Heart and Hands Ministries will make presentations during the usual sermon time.

“Stay tuned for more information regarding other possible activities October 29.” The Session meets on October 15 and will finalize the agenda.