

# COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MT. BETHEL AND PORTLAND

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Rev. John H. Heinsohn  
Minister of Visitation

October 2025  
Volume 12, Issue 10

I have always enjoyed the study of world history. My favorite classes in seminary were those about Church history. It is not because everything was great and glorious. Quite the contrary, many chapters in the 2000 years of Church history are tragic and sad. But when we see what others who have gone before us have done, we can learn a great deal about our own context.

As I mentioned in the last month's article, I would like to spend some time in the November lunches looking at the various ways the church has responded to the state government of its time.

During the first couple of centuries of the Christian church's existence it had to deal with a hostile Roman Empire that tried in many different ways to stamp it out. But the persecution of Christians did not work and the underground church grew. Down through the ages to the current time, Christians have faced times of persecution under Communist countries, hostile religions (Moslem, Hindu, etc.) and tyrants of various sorts. A familiar saying has been, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church".

When Constantine experienced a 'Conversion', he ended the era of Roman persecution and the church became a protected and preferred religion. When the pagan northern tribes defeated Rome, they destroyed churches and monasteries, but in the centuries that followed the pagan tribes also were converted and for many years the Roman Catholic Church became so powerful that it could control what governments could or could not do.

The Protestant Reformation in the 15<sup>th</sup> century changed that scene, but it resulted in many wars and even in protestant countries, religion had considerable power over citizens and the local magistrates. Most countries thought it wise to have an established religion. Other denominations were often not tolerated. The Pilgrims came to North America to get away from the control of Church of England. But descendants of those pilgrims could not tolerate someone like Roger Williams who espoused a more Baptist expression. He was forced to leave and establish what became Rhode Island and a more open place for believers to practice their faith.

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**Worship Service:** 10:30 a.m.

**Bible Study:** 9:15 am

**Holy Communion:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month

**Session Members:**

Deb Llewellyn

Laura Bocko

Mike Feeney

Lillian Williams

Jonathan Rush—Clerk of Session



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Our nation was founded upon the principle that citizens would be free to practice whatever religion they chose or none at all. But that is easier said than done. And while no state can have an established religion, states have often felt the need to impose some religious scruples upon their subjects.

On the Wednesdays of November 12 and 19, at 12 noon we will review the ways in which church and state have related to each other from the teachings of Jesus, to Paul's words to today in the USA.

History has a lot to teach us.



Below is the link for our Zoom Worship each Sunday.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8336293018?pwd=TmJoNnF1Zy8ranRjT3RMc0l5c3RiZz09>

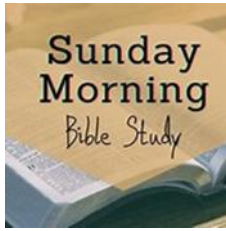
Meeting ID: 833 629 3018 Passcode: 074935



Prayer requests are to be made to Laura Bocko, Prayer Chain leader. If you would like to participate in the prayer chain, please contact Laura.

Laura's contact info is: (610) 452-2620 or [laurabocko24@gmail.com](mailto:laurabocko24@gmail.com)

Remembering Congregation Members in prayer: Jane and David Horn, Carol Farleigh, Henry Deibel, Betty Meixsell, Marcia Pensack, Michelle Dinnen, Phyllis Boisselle.



The Sunday morning Bible study continues at 9:15 am, studying the Gospel of Luke

The zoom account will also be used so that others who are unable to come to Mt. Bethel can join in. The study will be zoomed each week by Rev. John.

The Women of CPC will meet on Tuesday, October 7th at 10 am in the choir room for a Bible study, 11am for a business meeting and meet at a local restaurant at 12 noon for lunch. We welcome anyone to join us for our meetings.



Session will meet on Wednesday, October 8th at 7:00PM, via Zoom.



1. Today I wake in the presence of God.
2. My heart will not be bound by fear or anxiety.
3. The blood of Christ covers me and my family.
4. The Holy Spirit guides me on the right path.
5. I will live this day in peace giving thanks to God.



October 1—Cathy DeMartino

October 2—Sheila Seas

October 23—Jayleigh Figurski

October 26—Sara Flynn

October 27—Rev. John



## *Our Family Photo Album*

The last Bakesale of the season at Driftstone held on Saturday, August 30th at Driftstone Campgrounds.

L-r, Karen Williams, Nora Harford, Joan Correll and Laura Bocko

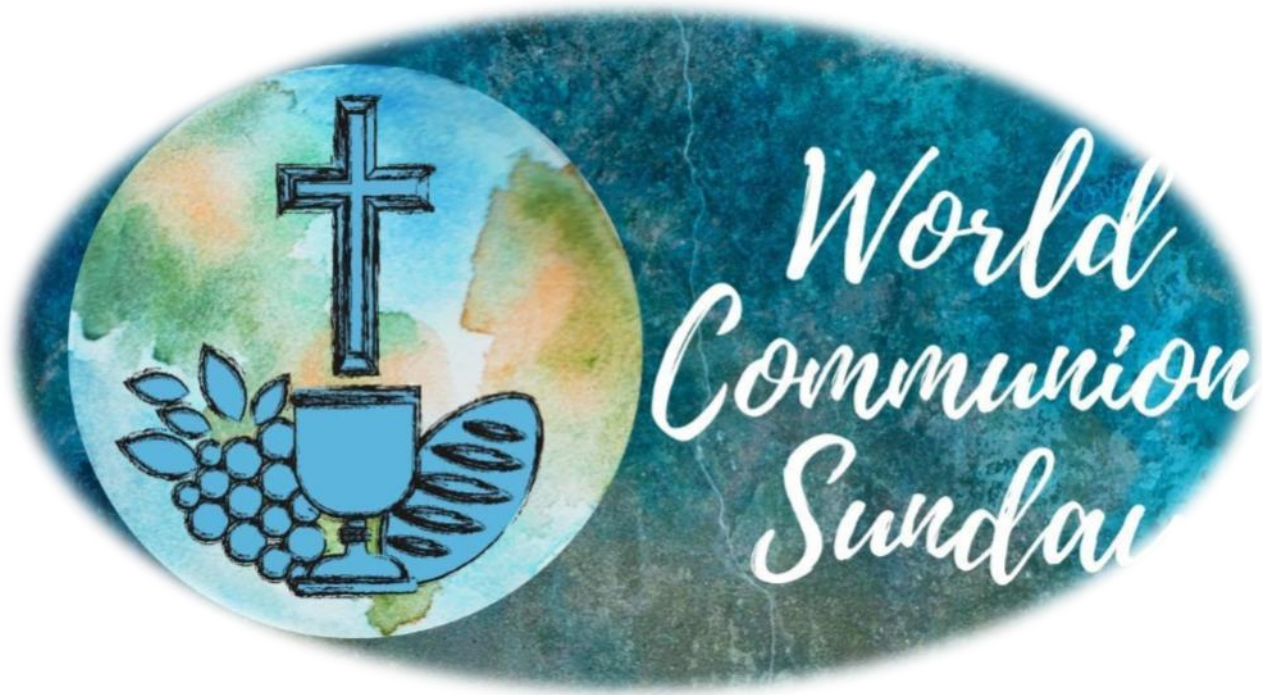
Thank you to all who supported this ministry. See you next year.



Blanket Sunday –September 9th sponsored by Church World Service.

The Women of Community Presbyterian Church put on a skit directed by Joan Correll. Bonnie Pearce played the part of a homeless person, Shirley Rush was a refugee with a child, Mandela and Lillian were earthquake victims. Isaiah carrying water that represented how people have to carry their water and how heavy it is. Supplying water is also one of the many projects in addition to the blankets that CWS supports.





World Communion Sunday will be celebrated on October 5, 2025, promoting Christian unity across denominations, particularly within the Presbyterian Church

### The Significance of World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday is a day to celebrate the unity of Christians worldwide, emphasizing the shared faith in Jesus Christ. The tradition began in 1933 at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA and has spread to various Christian denominations globally. The day serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness of the church and the importance of coming together in faith and community.

### Historical Context

The concept of World Communion Sunday was introduced by Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr, who aimed to foster a sense of unity among different Christian congregations.

Over the years, the observance has gained recognition and is now endorsed by many churches, including the National Council of Churches. The day often includes special service

es, prayers, and the sharing of communion, reflecting on the Last Supper and the call for peace and global witness among Christians.

This observance not only strengthens the bonds within the Christian community but also encourages outreach and support for those in need, aligning with the principles of stewardship and global witness that are central to the Presbyterian faith.

# October 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

|  |                                  |                                       |                   |    |   |    |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----|---|----|
|  |                                  |                                       | 1                 | 2  | 3<br>5:15 Girl Scouts   | 4  |
| 5<br>10:30—<br>Worship. Rev.<br>Nichols  | 6<br>AA 8:00 pm                  | 7<br>10:00 CPC<br>Women<br>AA 8:00 pm | 8<br>7:00 Session | 9  | 10  | 11 |
| 12<br>9:15 Bible Study<br>10:30—<br>Worship,<br>Rev. Heinsohn                      | 13<br>Columbus Day<br>AA 8:00 pm | 14<br>AA 8:00 pm                      | 15                | 16 | 17<br>5:15 Girl Scouts  | 18 |
| 19<br>9:15 Bible Study<br>Rev. Nichols<br>10:30—                                   | 20<br>AA 8:00 pm                 | 21<br>AA 8:00 pm                      | 22                | 23 | 24  | 25 |
| 26<br>9:15 Bible Study<br>10:30<br>Worship<br>Rev. Nichols<br>11:30 Coffee<br>Hour | 27<br>AA 8:00 pm                 | 28<br>AA 8:00 pm                      | 29                | 30 | 31<br>5:15 Girl Scouts<br> |    |