



# FUPC Presby Press

## October 2022 Church Newsletter

### World Communion Sunday



Edinboro Presbyterian Church October 2 will join with millions of Christians in thousands of places, using hundreds of local bread recipes and dozens of languages, all to demonstrate our commitment to Christian unity and Christ-centered discipleship. The first Sunday of October is observed as World Communion Sunday across [many congregations and denominations](#), as the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper becomes a visible indication of how vast Christ's church is. You are invited to participate with us at FUPC Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m.

Obviously, not all Christians observe World Communion Sunday, but this likely *is* the largest celebration of Communion across the world and its time zones each year. The occasion's [history](#) has Pennsylvania and Presbyterian roots dating back to 1933. It saw widespread growth during and in the aftermath of World War II, as Christ's followers in many places needed familiar and new signs of hope.

In the Presbyterian Church, this Sacrament is open to all people who love Jesus and who want to love the Lord more, regardless of church membership status. When a family decides children can understand the significance of the sharing of a holy meal (including its joy and fellowship), appropriate to the child's age and maturity level, young people are welcomed to receive the bread and the cup here. The congregation has the privilege and responsibility of guiding children in their faithful participation.

## Spuds-n-Suds Luncheon is October 23

FUPC's annual "Spuds-n-Suds" is back this month. Our Deacons and Fellowship Team will be creating our traditional baked potato bar (the "Spuds" part) and serving up creamy root beer (our version of the "Suds"). Join us – and invite a friend or two – after the 11:00 worship service on October 23.

This is the annual fundraiser for our Deacons Fund, which support a variety of our mission and outreach ministries throughout the year. Your donations beyond our cost for the groceries will be used to fund local mission projects which help our neighbors in need, to connect with our older and less active members, and to buy and repair medical equipment for our community loaner program.

Your participation will make this yet another fun, meaningful event. Additional volunteers will be needed, either to assist in the kitchen and dining area or to bring a flavorful topping for the potato bar. Contact Linda Rummel, Mary Walker or Sue Johnson to offer your help.

# First United Presbyterian Church

invites

Children 12 and younger  
(and, of course, their family and friends)

to

our first **FUN FALL HARVEST EVENT**  
Halloween Weekend, Sunday, October 30

1:00 to 3:00 PM

4281 Route 6N, on the east edge of Edinboro



a Serenity Garden Maze  
Games for the kids  
Cider for the big kids  
Cocoa for the little kids  
and TREATS (no Tricks offered)

You are invited to wear your Halloween costume  
(nothing too scary, please) or your Very Favorite Outfit

Pictures will be taken by Mike Conway Photography

Each child's or family's photo will be a gift to you  
from the people of Edinboro Presbyterian Church

*(Additional pictures will be available for your purchase)*

**Happy Autumn to All**

For more details or to ask questions, go to  
[www.EdinboroPresby.org](http://www.EdinboroPresby.org) or call 814-734-3511



## From the Pastor

# God's new and renewed calling for me, for all of you, and for us

It is with mixed emotions, great hope, and heartfelt thanks that I shared my big news with this congregation the past weekend. After more than five years as your pastor, I will be moving on to a new God-inspired calling which combines my talents and experience from my first-career work as a radio broadcaster with the service and skills I have developed across 27 years of teaching/leading ministry since my ordination as clergy. Starting next month, I will join the on-air staff of Family Life Radio, meaning a relocation to the Finger Lakes area of south-central New York State. It is a tremendous opportunity.

It has also been a tremendous opportunity to be your pastor. I have made good friends here, in the congregation, in the region, and in our presbytery. I have been honored to be with you in classes and worship events, at weddings and funerals, in your s

homes and at long (and short) meetings. I do not leave out of angst or anger or disappointment, nor at the nudging of anyone else – except, of course, at the leading of our Lord and Savior. Even though this five-year period has seen probably four distinct flavors, you and I have sought to be faithful and open and nimble through it all: a season when I was your in-between pastor after Matt Falco's new calling; the early days of this installed pastorate; the unprecedented season of change and limitations as lockdowns followed the start of Covid; and now as we are regrouping, learning and reorienting as post-Covid opportunities are opened to us. I am truly grateful for all the strengths of this church, your flexibility, and the kind and wise spiritual folks who welcomed me into this segment of my life's journey.

I will not repeat here all the information I shared in my original letter last weekend, but I trust you will peruse it (again) from your inbox, your mailbox or the church website. I do want to lay out a few key points to reassure you about what will change in coming weeks, affirm the ways God's calling for *your* new chapter can be vibrant and enlivening, and answer some questions about uniqueness of the Presbyterian process.

- I will continue to fully be your pastor through these four Sundays of transition, including October 16 which I anticipate will be my final Sunday leading worship. (That date is proposed, but cannot become official until action by our local Session and the regional Presbytery's Committee on Ministry [COM].)
- There will be a congregational business meeting soon, to act concurring (or not) with my request to conclude our pastorate. Our Session has already endorsed this, but the schedule is tentative until a guest moderator from the Presbytery is arranged. That date and agenda will be publicized when it is ready.
- COM folks will meet with our elders October 13 (and on other occasions) to help arrange for immediate short-term and mid-range ministries. You will still worship. You will continue to care for each other in good times and hard moments. Events and relationships which are core to this church's life will roll along.
- Following the official closing date of my pastorate, you and I will follow the "separation ethics" standards required by the Presbytery. These, honestly, are not harsh rules thrust upon a church in transition, but are healthy guidelines which demarcate the beginning and end of a pastor/congregation relationship. The return of a former pastor for too much, too soon, or for the wrong things could make it harder for your next church leaders to function well, gain your trust, or guide you into the next new chapter. Invitations for a previous pastor to lead or share at baptisms, weddings, funerals and the like must be *initiated* by the current pastor or Session moderator. As FUPC has done before after other transitions, those standards will be communicated to you by the elders and the Presbytery. (*While I am still your pastor, you and I can talk about options for such religious rites here at Edinboro.*)

Even though my pastoral role among you comes to a conclusion, you and I can, should and *will* remain friends and prayer partners. Our faith still unites us. I look forward to watching and hearing how you and the Lord work together to strengthen the ways you serve and involve our younger generations, how you emphasize that each church event has a larger goal of enhancing relationships in-house and beyond, and how our outward mission will be the keystone of faithfulness and success, as God measures true "success".

Jesus' Peace, Jesus' Joy, *Greg*

## ***First Wednesday Supper: October 5***

### **Enjoy a congregational meal, and informal conversation**

Our next First Wednesday Supper will be October 5 with the meal beginning at 6:00 p.m. (If you can't quite make it until some time after 6:00, please drop in when you can.) Over the dinner tables, there will be plenty of time for conversation with friends and fellow church members.

After the meal, some of our Ministry Teams will gather for some planning and brainstorming. You do *not* need to be an ongoing member of a team to sit in on the chat, hear what is going on, and share your ideas and requests. Pastor Greg will also lead one of the small groups, to hear comments and answer preliminary questions regarding our upcoming transition with the pastorate. That will be an informal – and hopefully uplifting – conversation.

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### **Connections with our young families**

### **We seek your guidance on how we can best be helpful**

Edinboro Presbyterian Church is blessed to have connections with **15 families** with children who are school-age and younger. As we move into this post-Covid era, we want to gear up our relationships with children and teens and their parents. Our Children and Youth Ministry Team is reaching out to ask for your guidance.

A short four-question survey is being distributed to everyone for whom we have up-to-date contact information. If you have not received one yet, please call or e-mail the church office and we can send one, or you can download the questionnaire from the [📄 Resources for Families](#) section of EdinboroPresby.org. Send it back in the next couple of weeks, so we can work with you to know of your needs, scheduling preferences, requests and recommendations. A gathering of families will be scheduled to continue this conversation.

You do not need to currently be a parent of children to take part in the survey or the upcoming meetings. Grandparents and other motivated adults are welcome to add your ideas to the mix. We are eager to see how we can best shape our relationships, ministries and events to address the current realities which young people and young families deal with these days. The faith community has answers and we have compassion. Let's see how we can best serve our young families, as well as offer them great ways to enhance their lives and faith and church involvement.

### **FUPC's 2022 Ministry Teams (and contact people)**

|                   |              |                                       |                             |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Worship</b>    | Sue Payne    | <b>Stewardship &amp; Storytelling</b> | Pauline Kraus               |
| <b>Property</b>   | Doug Roberts | <b>Finance &amp; Personnel</b>        | Shari Gould                 |
| <b>Mission</b>    | Jan Schulz   | <b>Children &amp; Youth Ministry</b>  | Milly Williams & Brian Long |
| <b>Fellowship</b> | Linda Rummel | <b>Session (Council of Elders)</b>    | Jan Zeart                   |
| <b>Deacons</b>    | Mary Walker  | <b>Office Manager</b>                 | Sue Johnson                 |

# We doubled our CROP Walk Goal! ...and more is coming in

Thanks be to God for the exuberant, faithful response of the people of this church who responded to a specific way to battle hunger here locally and around the world. Our Edinboro Presby team set a goal of raising \$1,500 in donations for the annual Erie County CROP Walk. As of the date of the walk, September 25, our team better than doubled that goal, bringing in **\$3,050** so far.

There is still time for you to participate and grow this 2022 effort even further. A link for online donations is on the home page of [www. EdinboroPresby.org](http://www.EdinboroPresby.org). You can also mail a check (payable to FUPC and marked “CROP Walk” to the church at P.O. Box 789, 16412. Please make your gift by October 5, so these funds can be put to work to provide food and hope to hungry neighbors here and elsewhere.



The Erie County CROP Hunger Walk is a long-standing tradition under the umbrella of Church World Service. This local event is often one of the top 10 or 12 walks in the entire nation. (*Speaking of “umbrellas”, thank you to Lianne and Randy Walker, Leslie Lawton and Shari Gould who took part in one of the soggy CROP Walks of recent years!*)

## 40 BIBLE VERSES *on* COMMUNION

|                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>1 Corinthians 10:16</b> | <b>Hebrews 10:24</b>   |
| <b>1 Corinthians 10:17</b> | <b>Hebrews 10:25</b>   |
| <b>1 Corinthians 11:22</b> | <b>Hebrews 3:13</b>    |
| <b>1 Corinthians 11:23</b> | <b>Isaiah 53:5</b>     |
| <b>1 Corinthians 11:24</b> | <b>John 1:29</b>       |
| <b>1 Corinthians 11:25</b> | <b>John 17:21</b>      |
| <b>1 Corinthians 11:26</b> | <b>John 17:3</b>       |
| <b>1 Corinthians 11:27</b> | <b>John 6:33</b>       |
| <b>1 Corinthians 11:28</b> | <b>John 6:35</b>       |
| <b>1 Corinthians 11:30</b> | <b>John 6:51</b>       |
| <b>1 Corinthians 11:32</b> | <b>John 6:53</b>       |
| <b>1 Corinthians 5:7</b>   | <b>Luke 22:19</b>      |
| <b>1 John 1:3</b>          | <b>Luke 24:30</b>      |
| <b>1 John 1:7</b>          | <b>Matthew 26:29</b>   |
| <b>1 John 1:9</b>          | <b>Numbers 9:10</b>    |
| <b>2 Corinthians 13:14</b> | <b>Numbers 9:13</b>    |
| <b>2 Corinthians 6:14</b>  | <b>Philippians 2:1</b> |
| <b>Acts 2:42</b>           | <b>Revelation 19:9</b> |
| <b>Acts 2:46</b>           | <b>Revelation 3:20</b> |
| <b>Acts 20:7</b>           | <b>Romans 5:8</b>      |



## Garden of Edin Update

Growers in the Garden of Edin Community Garden continue to donate “first fruits” and extra produce to the Edinboro Food Pantry. Through the end of September, this bountiful harvest of neighbors helping neighbors has totaled 427.5 pounds of fresh produce. With more weeks to go until the end of the season, that number is expected to “grow”.

## All Saints Day commemoration

On a Sunday near All Saint Day, November 1, Edinboro Presbyterian presents a commemoration of all the saints of the church who entered the Church Triumphant in the preceding twelve months. We also encourage you to let us know of other loved ones who passed away recently, so that they can be included in our listing and in our prayer ritual. If you have someone who wish to include in this annual remembrance, please call or e-mail the church office with the full name, date of birth & death, and your relationship to that person. The earlier in October you can provide this, the better.

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*Presby Press* is the monthly newsletter for our members, friends, and the community at-large. Archived newsletters are available on the website. All information is provided as general information. It is not medical, tax, legal or financial advice.. Only the Session (Council of Elders) can make official statements or positions of this congregation.

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