

BLESSINGS ALWAYS
September 30, 2020
Association Minister Message
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ROOM AT THE TABLE. There were just 3 persons in my immediate family—mother, father, and myself. My mother's family included 3 sisters and 2 brothers. As the oldest, my mother became the mother to the others when their mother died when she was 15, the youngest was not quite two. She WAS the matriarch from that point on and when Lydia announced a family gathering all were present (except one brother's family because he was a Navy career person stationed in California). The family grew with the addition of 5 in-laws (10 parents) and soon there were 10 cousins. There was always *ROOM AT THE TABLE* to expand the family. When we got together, babies were next to their parents and the other cousins were at a separate table. Even though at separate tables, there are fond memories of the talk, chatter, "gossip," remembrances AND scrumptious food. Minus the Navy family, finally there were 17 of us who joined the family gatherings. Eventually as the cousins got older we were all at one table.

On October 4, 2020, many Christian Churches around the world will be celebrating World Communion Sunday. The Rev. Dr. Hugh Thomson Kerr, as Moderator of the General Assembly of the US Presbyterian Church, proposed World Communion Sunday as a celebration on the first Sunday of every October to promote Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. In 1940, the predecessor of the now National Council of Churches began promoting it to Christian churches worldwide. The intent of this celebration was to bring together the Church of Jesus Christ and to be interconnected as the Body of Christ, for there was *ROOM AT THE TABLE* for all.

World Communion Sunday is like my family gathering with people at tables next to each other sharing a common meal. Adults and children had separate agendas but we were family, aware of the differences of age and expanding families within the family for there was *ROOM AT THE TABLE*. The church throughout the world is very diverse yet we gather as invited family/families together sharing a holy and earthly meal, sitting together at Christ's Table. Christ as host willingly gives Himself totally to us, for us and in us. It is a sacred meal and also a meal of fellowship that has been done and shared before, and becomes ever so new whenever we gather or will gather together in the breaking of the bread and drinking of the cup. The meal nourishes us physically as well as spiritually. There is *ROOM AT THE TABLE* for all God's children. "*The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.*" (Psalm 19:1). **BLESSINGS ALWAYS.**