

# PARKWAY—

## THE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 54, No. 38

September 29, 2021

### Celebrate World Communion Sunday With Us!

Anyone who has been to a Disney theme park knows the attraction, “It’s a Small World.” Originally created for the 1964 World’s Fair it is a “must stop” for every Disney visitor. Part of the appeal is the dream of international peace and harmony.

That same dream is at the core of World Communion Sunday. On the first Sunday of October, Christians around the world come to church anticipating the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. As worshippers are reminded of Christian brothers and sisters around the world there arises in every heart and mind a wish for peace and harmony.



World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) originated in the Presbyterian Church (USA). In 1936, for the first time on the first Sunday in October, the Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated in Presbyterian churches in the United States and overseas. From the beginning, it was planned so that other denominations could participate and, after a few years, the idea spread beyond the Presbyterian Church.

The Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) was first associated with World Wide Communion Sunday in 1940 when the department's executive secretary, Jesse Bader, led in its extension to a number of churches throughout the world.

As the Parkway family gathers this Sunday (In-person or online) our worship will take on a joyful spirit as we recognize our place in a church that knows no national boundaries, but welcomes all Christians to the table of bounty and peace.

### Vital Congregations Mark #3: Outward Incarnational Focus

The Vital Congregations program directs us to assess our ministry by seven marks. Week #3 is about an “outward incarnational focus.”



Many churches have a primary focus on “inward” things like worship attendance, the size of the youth group, and activities for young adults.

“Outward” facing churches are more concerned about their impact on the world outside the walls of the church. These churches ask, “Can we respond to this need in our community in a creative and helpful way?”

For many churches, the major impact in the community is in the form of financial contributions. “Incarnational” means “in the flesh.” In other words, is the congregation engaged in more ways than contributing financially? Are people from the church actively involved in the work of helping their neighbors?

Vital churches have an outward incarnational focus.

## Peace and Global Witnessing

"MAY THE GOD OF PEACE ... GRANT YOU PEACE AT ALL TIMES IN ALL WAYS."

It was a daring prayer, all things considered, to ask the Thessalonians to pray — and it is also a daring one for us, I imagine. The second letter to the Thessalonians arrived at a time of turmoil, strife and confusion. The Christian community was experiencing persecutions so severe that some believed the time of judgment had come, while others took advantage of their doubt, spreading misinformation and sowing dissent. The letter ends with a benedictory prayer: for God's peace to be granted at all times in all ways.



It might have been daring enough to consider asking them to imagine peace at "any time," much less at "all times," or to imagine peace in some sort of way at all, much less in all of them. Have you ever felt so far from God's peace that you couldn't even imagine it? Peace is so often a daring prayer and so often provoked in the imagination, first. Artistic expression and movements for justice and peace often dance together. In turmoil, strife and confusion, visual artists and theatrical performances can point us to God's peace-creating presence in our midst. We can listen for God's voice in lamenting or angry poems, and in songs of freedom from those most vulnerable to violence and oppression. And the Church can dance with all whom God loves.

Since 1940, World Communion Sunday has been an ecumenical celebration of our oneness in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing churches together in Christian unity. The Peace & Global Witness Offering, established in 1980, will be taken on that Sunday, October 3 this year. It builds on the Presbyterian Commitment to Peacemaking.

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. 25% of this Offering is retained by our congregation to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. The Synod and Presbytery split 25% for their ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world.

In this time of turmoil in the world, with so much pain and suffering, please consider giving generously! Go to <https://onrealm.org/parkwaypc/-/give/Peacetext> to give online.

## Hurricane Ida-Funding Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

At Parkway, we know Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) from the Mission Teams that have stayed in the church and worked the recovery efforts after Hurricane Harvey.

Hurricane Ida made landfall in Louisiana. PDA will quickly mobilize to provide assistance to the recovery efforts. If you would like to donate to the work of PDA, you can give through Parkway's website designating your gift for "PDA: Hurricane Ida," or write a check to the church including the same notation on the memo line.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**  
**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

## In Case You Haven't Heard



The Texas Society of Architects is pleased to announce their 2021 Honor Awards. These awards recognize exceptional members, firms, individuals, and organizations for outstanding achievements in support of the profession of architecture, the built environment, and quality of life in Texas. Recipients will be recognized at the upcoming 82nd Annual Conference and Design Expo, happening in San Antonio on October 7–9. Congratulations to all the honorees!

Partners in life and work for over four decades, David Richter, FAIA, and Elizabeth Chu Richter, FAIA, have made an indelible mark on the architectural profession and the state of Texas. Their firm, Richter Architects, is a globally recognized design and sustainability leader whose work reflects intrinsic natural beauty, function, and cultural pride. Together, they've dedicated countless hours over 30 years to nonprofit groups, city planning agencies, and local organizations. They have also both served as presidents of their local chapter and the Texas Society of Architects, championing several programs, including The Shape of Texas, Tour des Monuments, and the Consortium for Sustainability. Chu Richter was the 2015 president of the American Institute of Architects; she was the fourth woman, the first woman from Texas, and first Asian American woman to serve in that role.



**Medal for Lifetime Achievement  
in Honor of Llewellyn W. Pitts FAIA**  
David Richter, FAIA, and Elizabeth Chu Richter,  
FAIA Corpus Christi

Article by Monica Cavazos    Corpus Christi Caller Times    August 22, 2021

### Congregation-Wide Bible Study Opportunities

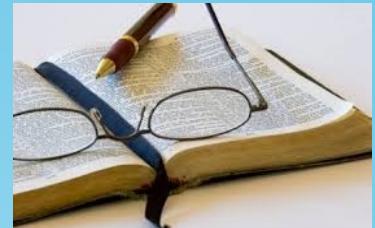
Sunday morning from 9:30-10:30 Conference Room.

Sunday evening from 4:30-5:30 Conference Room.

Tuesday at noon, WOW Class ZOOM only

Wednesday evening from 5:30—6:30 ZOOM only.

If you are interested in participating in either of these, please call the church office so that the Zoom link can be provided to you.



The seven class sessions will focus on each one of the seven marks of a Vital Congregation. These are:

1. Lifelong Discipleship Formation
2. Intentional Authentic Evangelism
3. Outward Incarnational Focus
4. Empower Servant Leadership
5. Spirit-Inspired Worship
6. Caring Relationship
7. Ecclesial Health

Please help us in the ongoing assessment of Parkway's ministry by participating in one (or more) of these classes.

# Calendar of Events

## October 3 - October 9

Sunday  
9:30 Sunday School  
11:00 In-person and Online Worship  
4:30 Vital Congregations Bible Study  
(in-person)  
12:00 Member Care Committee Meeting

Monday  
9:30 Staff meeting

Tuesday  
12:00 WOW (Zoom only)  
5:45 Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday  
5:30 Book Discussion Group  
(Zoom only)  
6:30 Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday  
9:00 Pyrography Class  
5:30 Mission Outreach Committee  
Meeting

Friday  
4:30 Loaves & Fishes

**Prayer Concerns** If you would like to place a prayer concern onto the prayer chain, please call or text Karen Wesson at 361-815-2099, or send an e-mail to [klwesson@stx.rr.com](mailto:klwesson@stx.rr.com). If you are not currently receiving the prayer chain emails (or your email address has changed) and wish to participate in lifting up concerns of the congregation, you may add yourself to the distribution list by going to your Realm account at [www.parkwaypc.org](http://www.parkwaypc.org).

Judy Forbes  
June Baker  
Dallas Marek  
Elizabeth Falk  
Don Liljestrand  
Shana Lipstreu  
Peggy Clark

Molly Mauldin  
Nancy Graves  
Walter & Harmony  
Conn



## LOAVES & FISHES

Anne Veech is the contact person. Questions? Call (361)937-6455

10/1 Charlene and John Chessir



## Want to be a Parkway Pal?

Parkway Pals is an undertaking of the Member Care Committee and links our members who are in college with members who aren't in college. Who doesn't like an occasional box of cookies?

To sign up, you can contact Lou via email at [lou@lmpexploration.com](mailto:lou@lmpexploration.com),



## Flower Calendar Signup

We have October 10, 17, 24, 31 available. Please use Signup Genius or contact Cheryl to sign up.

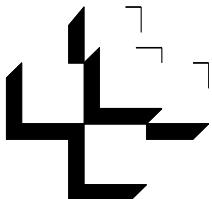


**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
**Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 1:00**  
**Friday 9:00 - 12:00**

THE NEWSLETTER USPS 389-100  
published weekly except Christmas week by  
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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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