



# WBPC Messenger

The Small Church with a BIG Heart!

10/2017

West Berlin Presbyterian Church

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## From the Pulpit...

By Robert J. Gustafson

Sometimes I, like you I assume, can be frustrated by the way our denomination spends its time and issue it seems to get hung up on. But I recently came across a piece that makes me proud to be a Presbyterian Church (USA) member. I will share below just a portion of a three-page document entitled “Affirmation of Creation”. (Full copies will be available at the church information table or send email to [gustafson15@gmail.com](mailto:gustafson15@gmail.com) to get electronic copy.) It deals well with what is sometimes perceived as a conflict between scientific inquiry and religious beliefs in the context of creation. As a Pastor, scientist and engineer, I would commend it to your reading and welcome the opportunity to discuss it with you some time.

*Pastor Bob*

### Affirmation of Creation Communication from the General Assembly PC (USA)

From early in its life the Christian church has affirmed metaphorically that God is the author of two books of revelation: the Book of Scripture (the Old and New Testaments) and the Book of Nature. Because God is the author of both and God neither deceives nor is incoherent, these books cannot in principle be in conflict even though they are expressed through fallible creatures.

However, over the centuries some Christians have sought to deny observations of Nature by reference to Scripture. In the 5th century CE Augustine warned that claims about Nature, contrary to human reason and experience but supposedly derived from Scripture, should be avoided, lest they make Christians seem ignorant and the objects of scornful laughter. Yet we recognize that God has called forth in Homo sapiens an exploratory curiosity and a critical intellect. A fruit of these gifts is our capacity for scientific inquiry.

The results of this inquiry are provisional because they are open to new discoveries and revision. Yet these results are also highly reliable because the Creation itself, through observation and experimentation, attests to them. Scientific inquiry to date has provided descriptions and ever more profound understandings of the scope of God’s creation in space and time, of the myriad of creatures that inhabit and have inhabited this Earth, and of the means by which the Creation itself has shared in the work of creation.

## October 2017 Mission & Ministry

### World Communion Sunday – October 1, 2017

World Communion Sunday takes place on October 01, 2017. World Communion Sunday is a celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place on the first Sunday of every October that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. (See special prayer on the last page of the newsletter.)

### Shelter House Service and Church Picnic October 8, 2017



Be sure to plan for our second service in the shelter house, October 8, 2017. Based on our positive experience earlier this summer, the Worship and Outreach Committee is planning this event. This will be followed by the church fall picnic. Please join us for a potluck immediately following worship service. This Women's Society sponsored event will be hosted by Tommy and Jerianne Gooding; Leora Hughes, Scott and Cindy McGraw; and Roy and Kitty Contrill. Brats and hotdogs will be provided. Bring a covered dish to share and join in an afternoon of friends and fellowship!!!

This event replaces the regular Women's Society Meeting for October. The next Women's Society will be a dinner meeting on November 1, 2017.



### Crop Walk 2017 – October 8, 2017

The Delaware CROP Hunger Walk will take place on October 8, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Hamilton Williams Campus Center at Ohio Wesleyan University. If you would like to sponsor Bob and Yvonne as walkers, see the envelope on the bulletin board at church. Last year's walk raised \$9,812 to help hungry people in the U.S. and around the world through the work of Church World Service, an interdenominational organization which has been doing walks since 1969. Twenty-five percent of proceeds remain in the local community. This year's local recipient is People-in-Need (PIN).

### Membership Information Class - October 15, 2017



Session has authorized offering a Membership Information Class on October 15, 2017. After a light lunch (provided), Pastor Bob will present class covering a) what it means to be Presbyterian, b) why we worship the way we do, and c) what are the opportunities for members of WBPC. Anyone interested in joining WBPC and current members interested in these topics are encouraged to attend. If you are interested but cannot attend on October 15th, please let Bob know. We will try to schedule another session.

### Speaker for Worthington Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast – October 19, 2017



The Honorable Scott D. Holmes, Mayor of Worthington, has invited Pastor Bob to be the featured speaker at his annual Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast, October 19, 7:30 AM at J. Liu Restaurant in Worthington. He will be giving a talk entitled "A Farm Boy's Reflections About Prayer".



**REFORMATION**  
500TH ANNIVERSARY

## Sunday School Begins - Learn About the Reformation

Since 2017 is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the reformations, it is very timely we spend some time on the reformation and reformers this year. Our first Sunday school series will deal with reformation efforts, people and how they affect our worship today. Five sessions in October are listed below. Two will have invited presenters. Each session stands independently, so come to as many as you can.

October 1	Martin Luther and the Lutheran Tradition
October 8	John Calvin and the Reformed Tradition
October 15	Anglicanism (D. Piermont)
October 22	Anabaptism (D. Schumacker)
October 29	Dividing Theological Issues

## Family Promise Donation Items for October 2017

Items needed for the month of October are body wash, toothpaste, adult toothbrushes, and female deodorant. Please place your donated items in the box in the Church Annex. Family Promise appreciates our support of their mission serving the homeless families in Delaware County.

## Save the Date - Annual Soup Supper Fundraiser

Friday, October 27, 2017  
4:30-7:00 P.M.  
WBPC Fellowship Hall



**Delicious Food and Fabulous Fellowship!!!**  
**Invite your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to this event!**



## Understanding New People in Our Neighborhood October 29, 2017

The Deacon and Mission Board has invited Dr. Tarunjit Butalia to talk at one of our “after church” sessions, October 29, 2017. He will address faith and cultural traditions of people moving into Ohio and Delaware county, as well as his own experience. Dr. Butalia, Trustee of the Parliament of the World's Religions, works extensively with the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio. (And is a really nice guy.) A light lunch will be served.

## Reformation Sunday – October 29, 2017

Presbyterians celebrate Reformation Sunday the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany.

REFORMATION SUNDAY:  
OCTOBER 29, 2017

**Luther's  
Bible**

The Presbyterian Historical  
Society provides resources  
for Reformation Sunday.

[www.history.pcusa.org/re](http://www.history.pcusa.org/re)



## October 2017 Worship and Calendar of Events

Sunday, October 1, 2017 (10:30AM) -	<b>WORLD COMMUNION</b> <b>SUNDAY/Sunday</b> <b>School/Worship/Communion/</b> <b>Session Meeting</b>
Monday, October 2, 2017 (7:00 PM) -	Deacon and Mission Board Meeting
Sunday, October 8, 2017 (6:00 PM) -	Sunday School / <b>Worship-Outdoor</b> <b>Service/FALL FEST!!! All Are</b> <b>Welcome!!!</b>
Monday, October 9, 2017	<b>Columbus Day Holiday</b>
Wednesday October 11, 2017 (11:00 AM) -	John Rae Class Gathering at Bob Evan's Restaurant (36/37 and I-71)
Sunday, October 15, 2017 (9:30/10:30AM)	Sunday School/Worship
Wednesday, October 18, 2017 (6:30PM)	<b>Ladies' Night Out</b> – Panera Bread (Columbus Pike across from Kohl's/Walmart)
Sunday, October 22, 2017 (9:30/10:30AM)	Sunday School/Worship
Friday, October 27, 2017 (4:30-7:00 PM)	<b>Annual Soup Supper Fundraiser...All</b> <b>Are Welcome!</b>
Sunday, October 29, 2015 (9:30/10:30AM)	Sunday School/Worship

## October Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

1-Joshua Glenn, Jennifer Jordan, 2- Beth Schanck Ball, 4-Rodger Glenn,  
12- Amy Martindale, Scott McGraw, 13-Ryan Cox,  
16-Lou Ann Shy, 24-Joan Jordan,  
28-Karen Hartel

### Anniversaries

1-Coleen & Matt Parrish, 3-Paul & Amy Martindale, 5-Bill & Ann Hanning,  
8-Bret & Julie Clark, 20-Tom & Julia Roll



## From the Pulpit “Affirmation of Creation” (Continued)

In light of these discoveries, today with confidence we can affirm:

- That God has been calling this universe into being for at least 13.8 billion years and continues calling upon the Creation to bring forth new creatures;
- That God’s creative call has resulted in virtually countless stars and planetary systems, and new stars and planetary systems are continuing to be created;
- That, in response to God’s creative call, the Earth took form at least 4.6 billion years ago;
- That, in response to God’s call, living creatures emerged on the Earth at least 3.6 billion years ago;
- That God has connected all life on Earth in a network of kinship by virtue of biological evolution from common ancestors;
- That, in response to God’s call, we Homo sapiens (modern humans) emerged, in our wide diversity and different cultures, as a species over more than 6 million years of hominin development;
- That, since our line of descent split from the line that resulted in our contemporaries, the chimpanzees and bonobos, we Homo sapiens were preceded by at least eighteen already identified hominin species, all of which are now extinct\*;
- That, in the providence of God, we Homo sapiens have come to exercise extraordinary power over other creatures and their habitats, the Earth’s geological structures, and the meteorological systems of the Earth;
- That, by virtue of the powers of intellect and creativity called forth in us by God, we bear exceptional responsibility for the future of the Earth and all its constitutive creatures.

This affirmation provides a framework in which we are called to worship God, are called to proclaim the Gospel of Grace, and are called to live as faithful expressions of God’s love for the whole Creation.



## Sunday, October 1, 2017 - World Communion Sunday Prayer

Lamb of God, as you empty yourself you fill our cups until they overflow.

Your commands, Prince of Peace, call us to come around your ever-expanding table and be welcomed. You call us to make room for more, eat our fill, no need to hold back at this family feast, there is always plenty with baskets left over.

Lord of lords, we look around and see the whole communion of the saints, some singing, some shouting, some letting loose of tears long held at bay. We come, just as we are and through the power of the Holy Spirit we are lifted into your presence. We come and find rest for our souls. We leave imbued with our belovedness and that of our brothers and sisters, too. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. We remember, Lord Christ, as we give you thanks, with our lips and

with our lives.

*(by Jill Duffield)*

*(From PCUSA Scioto Valley Newsletter)*