



PALMA CEIA
Presbyterian Church

Dear Friends,

Special occasions and special meals call for a certain amount of planning, preparation, and anticipation. The result is people who participate, feel happy and a sense of belonging for having been included and welcomed at the meal. The special meal of the church is called Communion, The Lord's Supper, or the Eucharist. First, the table must be set. The bread and the juice are prepared and set out so we may share in the meal together. An invitation must be issued to the meal. In the liturgy used at PCPC, we often use the words "This is the Lord's Table and all who desire to draw near to Christ are invited and welcomed to share in the feast He has prepared." However, through some conversation and work done by the pastors, educators, and Session of PCPC we came to the realization that our practice in worship at the table wasn't supporting our theology. Many of our youngest disciples are no longer in worship when the family meal is celebrated. After prayer and conversation, we hope you'll join us in trying something new so that our practices in worship reflect our theology.

It's with great excitement that we are introducing *Stay Together Sundays* in August. *Stay Together Sundays* will take place each Communion Sunday for the next year encouraging children of all ages to stay together with the body for the entirety of worship. Logistically, this means there will be no Godly Play option for our children ages 3 through 1st grade as our hope is they'll stay together with us and worship with their families. Childcare will always be available in the nursery area should you need it on those Sundays.

As with any celebration or meal there is work in order for it to happen. We acknowledge that with this new way of participating is more work for the parents of children who typically attend Godly Play. We, as the church, covenant to work alongside of you so we can share together in this celebratory family meal. To that end the Children's Ministry Team has worked and created *A Parent's Guide: Children & Communion* in order to help parents/guardians talk with their children in order to prepare them to participate in the meal. The pastors and educators are also available for conversation as we enter this journey.

Communion has been referred to as "the meal of many meanings" and it will indeed mean many things to us as we learn and grow in faith and maturity. For children, one of the most important meanings is that they belong and are welcome at the meal Jesus gave to his disciples and the church.

Grace and Peace,

Your Pastors