



Grace Note

September 30, 2021

A Jewish comedian summarized the story of Judaism in nine words: ***They tried to kill us. We survived. Let's eat.***

When we break bread on Sunday, it will be the first time we will celebrate Holy Communion since our return to in-person

Worship. Our experience could be summarized in ten words: ***The isolation tried to kill us. We survived. Let's eat!***

Sunday is World Communion Sunday which means the Christians around the world will be celebrating communion throughout the day. There is a little church where the sun first rises in the east that will get the ball rolling, and throughout the sun's journey across the globe, churches will be breaking bread and raising the cup. At 3 a.m in Evanston, my parents will be in church celebrating communion! And while my parents are watching the evening news, we will be celebrating communion! And some church in the farthest point west will celebrate communion as the sun prepares to don her pajamas and call it a day! Amazing day! If you listen closely, you will hear eleven words spoken in different languages: ***The pandemic tried and almost killed us. We survived. Let's eat!***

The tradition of World Communion began in 1933 by Rev. Kerr when the world felt like it was falling apart. Seeds of the war were beginning to sprout with hatred brewing in Europe. The Presbyterian Church Rev. Kerr served as moderator of the General Assembly was deeply divided. In an attempt to bring the churches together, Dr. Kerr was inspired to see the Communion table as a place of unity, inspiration, and healing. What started in one denomination soon spread to other churches as a worldwide celebration. Hearing the story of the World Communion gives me a slither of hope that this Sunday we might hear the beginnings of a new song with twelve words: ***General Conferences and partisan politics almost killed us. We survived. Let's eat!***

We will continue our



eating on the lawn with a Food Truck. We have ordered 90 meals and have less than twenty-five registered. [PLEASE REGISTER!](#) And more so, please donate a plate or two so that anyone who cannot afford the meal will not be turned away! I hope the neighbors will see us on the lawn and say to themselves: ***They survived! Let's go join them and eat!***



First Church has always been a church that has survived all kinds of calamities. We have survived the terrible blows of grief in the unexpected deaths of pillars of our church, a financial crisis with the electricity almost cut off, murder on our church steps, and now the ugliness of a pandemic. ***We survived! So bring your lawn chair, and let's eat!*** (In incase of rain, pick up your boxed meal.)

This is the perfect day to inter the ashes of our amazing Jean KixMiller MacMillan who died May 9. Jean was a member of First Church for 96 years and from 1949 until her retirement in 1989, taught courses in British History, AP Russian History, AP European History, Modern History, and World History at New Trier Township High School in Winnetka. Jean spent her summers traveling the world she would be teaching about during the school year. Jean's death was a blow to me in a very personal way because she was a source of encouragement and inspiration. I have faith that she survived her death just as I will one day survive my own death, and is now feasting at the heavenly banquet.

As Jesus might have said, "They will try to kill us. We will survive. Let's eat!"

At that table with you,

Grace



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