



Tecumseh United Methodist Church

Christ's compassionate community in Tecumseh;
Loving and serving prayerfully and unconditionally

Wednesday 28 October 2020

All Saints Day & the Communion of the Saints

November 1st is the day we remember and celebrate the saints who have come before us. This year, it just happens to fall on Sunday, and one in which we share in Holy Communion.

In case there is any confusion, we (United Methodists) do not have canonized saints as do Catholics, Episcopalians, Orthodox, and Lutherans. Using the broader conception of the word "saint," we apply it to all of the faithful, living and dead. Thus, not only are the founding members of Tecumseh UMC from the early 1800s saints but you are too.

When we celebrate All Saints Day, we take a moment out of the church year to remember those who have gone before us in faith—our faith ancestors. These include not only our family and church ancestors but the faithful of all ages. We have two powerful images that illustrate this. The first is found in Revelation 7, where we (through John of Patmos' vision) see the vast gathering of the faithful gathered around God's throne in heaven. The other image is that of the saints gathered at the banquet table of Christ in heaven. This image is alluded to in several parables of Jesus, a mention in Revelation. It also represents the ultimate love feast that we merely suggest through our rite of Holy Communion, which looks forward to the heavenly banquet to come.

If you come from another liturgical tradition, such as Catholicism or Lutheranism, you may refer to Holy Communion by its more traditional moniker, Eucharist, which comes from the Greek word for thanksgiving. We use the name Holy Communion instead of Eucharist in part because the latter is an arcane bit of church language. The other reason for preferring the name Holy Communion is that we celebrate the gathering of the saints at Christ's table, bearing in mind that we live our our faith having "a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us" (Hebrews 12:1). Christianity is, and always has been, a communal faith.

This coming Sunday, we will gather with the saints again at Christ's table for Holy Communion, as well as remembering the saints who meant the most to us whom we will name aloud.





Winston wishes everyone a safe and happy Halloween

Tecumseh Service Club - Donation of the Month

Toilet Paper

Bring a bunch to worship on 11/8 and we'll make sure they get to the Tecumseh Service Club. They will make sure it gets to people and families in our area in need.

Witness Committee Meeting

Next Tuesday (11/3) at 7:00pm

Witness is a slightly sideways-named group that does a lot of good work helping facilitate worship. It is not an administrative committee and anyone is free to participate (with the caveat that we'll put you to work, especially if you want something changed that anyone in the group can do).



Handbell Choir Rehearsals Resume

Next Thursday (11/5) at 6:30pm

Come! If you've wanted to try bell ringing, now's the time. If you've been ringing for a while, please come back.