



Friends,

On Sunday, May 31 we will celebrate Pentecost. As part of our worship we will have virtual communion. An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* says: *According to the Day of Pentecost story in Acts 2:1-13, God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower witnesses to the resurrection. The Spirit is the "unseenness of God" working among us. Without the gift of the Spirit, Christ's church dries up and withers away, and we are left with only our broken selves. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible. A spirit-filled community of faith opens eyes to needs in the world and sees its missing as God's new people. The Day of Pentecost is the climax of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, celebrating as it does the gift of the Spirit to the body of Christ — the church.*

What kind of bread should we use? Our Directory for Worship says: "Sacraments are signs of the real presence and power of Christ in the Church, symbols of God's action." *The communion bread should convey fullness — in other words, it should be big enough to hint at the abundance of God's love, and to suggest that it can satisfy the hunger of body and spirit. The taste or goodness of the bread matters too! Traditionally, wheat bread has been used among Western Christians; however, simple bread made from maize, rice or barley would be perfectly appropriate in other cultural contexts. Whatever the case, the communion bread ought to be delicious, appetizing, inviting, even slightly sweet.* Ultimately the kind of bread does not matter, as long as the bread (and beverage) that are used remind you of the fullness and grace of God. On Pentecost I suggest you throw a birthday party for the church at your home and for communion feel free to use bread, crackers or even birthday cake!

As always, if you are ill or unable to leave your house and need anything, please call me at the church office and leave a message on my voicemail, call my cellphone, or email me at pastor@rpcusa.org. You can also call your Deacon. Know that I am keeping all of you in my thoughts.

If you would like to stop receiving the weekly packet delivered by the post office please contact Linda in the church office.

Peace, Dale

For information on joining worship on the internet or phone please see the bulletin. Worship is offered on our YouTube channel, and folks can join us on their telephone via Zoom. If you don't have a computer or tablet but do have a "smart" TV, you should be able to go to the YouTube channel on the TV and watch the service. If you would like a DVD of the service please contact me. The entire RPC building is closed. There are no in-person meetings and the only people allowed in the building are those stocking the food pantry and staff on an as-needed basis.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS



ZOOM COFFEE TIME—Sunday mornings after the worship service you are invited to join Zoom coffee time. Here is the information you need to join us.

<https://zoom.us/j/198259471?pwd=VFJuSDJmOE5uK2N0SWtKY2hYmxKZz09> or to dial in 1(312)626-6799
Meeting ID: 198 259 471, Password: 928313

TITHES & OFFERINGS—The Session is committed to paying all staff during these difficult days. The ministry and mission of the congregation not only continues but is more important than ever. Please mail your tithes and offerings to the church at 116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL 60546. You can also give online.



YOU CAN BE A PART OF WORSHIP – Have you ever wished you could be the liturgist but are uncomfortable speaking in front of a crowd of people? Good news - if you are able to do an audio recording Reverend Jackson would love for you to participate in worship. You could read Scripture, read a poem, offer a prayer or lead the Call to Worship and never have to stand in front of the congregation! Reverend Jackson will provide everything you need. Reach out via email pastor@rpcusa.org.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS—If you would like to donate canned goods (especially meat), please contact Dale and arrange for drop off. Please DO NOT place items directly in the pantry. All items are being wiped with a disinfectant and then pre-bagged. You can also make a monetary contribution.

THEOLOGY ON TAP Join us Mondays at 7:00 on Zoom for a movie study. For Monday, May 18, please watch *Heaven and Hell* which is an episode in season two of *The Story of God* on Netflix. Here is the login information for Zoom for Theology on Tap each week:

<https://zoom.us/j/935547600?pwd=cTV0YTR4YkErT0twWmExUXlTc3ozQT09>

Meeting ID: 935 547 600 Password: 636553

WORSHIP SERIES – In June Reverend Jackson will begin a new worship series called *Prophecies and Pottery: Journey with Jeremiah*. The story of Jeremiah deals with heartache, displacement, violence, helplessness, and homesickness which are part of our story as well. Our faith story invites us to deal openly and honestly with these things, helping us to remember the presence of God and the hope of a better future. We will journey with the prophet Jeremiah during a time of exile in this worship series and encounter the familiar imagery of God as the Potter who can reshape and remake us, making us vessels of living water ready for a brighter tomorrow. A companion book called: *Soulwork of Clay: A Hands-On Approach to Spirituality* is available on Amazon. Reverend Jackson will lead a weekly study on the book. If you are interested contact him at pastor@rpcusa.org

PENTECOST OFFERING – On May 31 as part of our celebration of Pentecost we receive one of the special offerings of the church. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering is retained by individual congregations to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

GRACE SEEDS MINISTRY—Grace Seed Ministries and _____ to the Rescue!
The blank space is where you insert your name in case you were wondering. We need to grow fresh produce for those in need and are looking for people to grow veggies this year. Traditionally we have pepper plants, cucumbers and tomatoes. The need has never been greater, and the Mission Committee is hoping you can help. Once you decide what you can grow, contact Steven Teune at scubateune@gmail.com, or call 636-579-1475. Once the plants arrive, Steven will deliver them to your house.



EQUAL EXCHANGE FAIR TRADE ITEMS —We have many organic fair-trade items for sale (tea, coffee, baking cocoa and hot cocoa, chocolate chips and chocolate bars). If you'd like more detailed information on products or to place an order, contact the church office to arrange contact-free pick up. Here is a list of what is for sale:

Tea \$6.00 for a box of 20 bags

Green and Black Teas: Chai, Jasmine Green, Earl Grey, Green, Darjeeling

Herbal: Peppermint, Chamomile, Ginger

Decaf Black: English Breakfast

Hot Chocolate \$6.50 for 12 oz, Dark Chocolate or Spicy (chili & cinnamon)

Baking Cocoa \$6.50 for 8 oz

Chocolate Chips \$4.00 for 10 oz

Coffee \$8.00 for a 10 oz bag

Caffeinated: Breakfast Blend (ground), French Roast (whole bean), Mind, Body & Soul (ground) and Decaf (ground)

Chocolate Bars \$3.50 for a 2.8 oz bar (dark chocolate with caramel, dark chocolate with coconut milk)

