

Lyons Muir Church
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October 2021 “Peace! Be Still!”

...when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (Mark 4:35-41)



Attendance:

The average attendance for the month of September was 22.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS	Worship on the Lord's Day, 11
MONDAYS	No regular events
TUESDAYS	Office Hours, 9-12
WEDNESDAYS	Bible Study, 6:30-7:30 Ionia First UMC, Cafe
THURSDAYS	Office Hours, 9-2 Bible Study, 12-1

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 20
Ladies are serving lunch to
Literary Club.

Peace be with you in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Among all the questions posed by the New Testament, the only one that matters is the question of Jesus himself. His words and deeds reveal his identity, and yet all the gospels point to the fact that the eye witnesses to Jesus' life struggle to accept him for who he is: the Redeemer, the Creative Logic of God made manifest as a human being. You see, there's not one Israelite who expects the Messiah to come as a nobody from a back-water town and get executed by the government. And nobody expects God to save the world by submitting to its death. Even today, we can't seem to accept the implications of the reality that the victorious Christ is the very same person as the crucified Jesus. We claim the former, but have a hard time obeying the latter. So the disciples' question hangs in the air for all time: who is this man?

Each one of us must answer this question.

*If you claim him as Christ, you must obey him as Rabbi -
Teacher.*

From our vantage point, the disciples ought to have been able to answer their own question. But let us not judge. They have the opposite problem from us today. They follow him as Jesus, but cannot claim him as Christ. Yet who can command the elements of the creation except the Creator himself? Who can sing the song of the wind... who can speak the language of the sea but God? Who can sleep through the storm except the Author of the storm? Now, here's the point: we are part of the creation. Our bodies are made of atoms and cells, just like the wind and waves and all other matter in the Universe. So if Jesus is Lord of the wind and the waves, he is Lord of you and me as well. Every particle in the Cosmos is under his command – every cell in our bodies, all the air we breathe, all the food we eat, all the water we drink.... all of it is under his command.

*Have you taken seriously the universal Lordship of Jesus
Christ?*

I think we struggle with accepting his authority because the world is so broken. If Christ has control, why does he wait to fix it. Hold that thought... For the moment, let's admit that if Jesus is who we say he is, the Living Word, his authority does not stop with the governance of our wills – the energies of the spiritual dimension of our lives. Rather, we must say that his authority knows no boundary. All things are under to his power. Without his gift of life, nothing lives. So in all the frantic chaos of the technological age, the voice of faith says to us: "Peace! Be still!"

But what of this broken world? What of my broken
body? What of my broken life?

Why doesn't God just fix everything?

Now we're in the same boat with the Disciples in the midst of the storm, in the midst of a man-made world of jealousy, fear, oppression, and violence. But what would the human creature become if all God wanted from us was brainless dependence? Would we ever fully become the Image of the Divine? No. We would not. So this is not our fate nor the purpose of God, for Jesus Christ has called us friends (John 15:15). The Lord intends that we should become his companions, his partners, in the work that God has undertaken. This begins with becoming his companions in suffering, for it is in the powerlessness of our suffering that we finally learn to let God be God (Gen. 15:6/Matt. 26:39). The clarity of suffering reminds us that without God, nothing is. Jesus lays down his life and the Father gives it back to him so that this might be revealed. Christ has come as Jesus to show us how to finally begin to be ourselves: to live as those who know the difference between Good and Evil and, in the strength of God's love, choose the good. The love of Jesus Christ teaches us the song of the wind and the language of the sea. So abiding in his love, let us quiet our minds for the work of ministry, as we say to our raging hearts and a chaotic world, "Peace! Be still."



One Great Hour of Sharing

October 17, 2021

Noisy Sunday Offering

in a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression

Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), and Self-Development of People (SDOP) all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



DID YOU KNOW?

- \$4.1 Million granted by PDA in the US and 57 countries in the first half of 2020.
- 50 years of ministry for SDOP.
- 5,676 PDA work team volunteers served in 2019.
- 51,000 trees planted around the world.
- 94 grants impacting 20 countries given by PHP in 2019.
- Over 17,000 people trained nationally and internationally by OGHHS ministries.
- 234 certified PC(USA) Earth Care congregations helped care for creation.
- Over 5,000 projects in economically poor communities in the US and around the world have had an opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges since SDOP's inception.



We're excited to partner with Twin Rivers on Friday evening, October 29th.

This will be in lieu of trunk or treat at the church. More details will be forthcoming after the board meeting on October 11th.



The Gifts of Autumn

Autumn Is The Season To Set Godly Priorities

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

[Psalm 90:12](#)

Autumn Is The Season To Make Every Moment Count

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

[Ecclesiastes 3:1](#)

Autumn Is The Season To Thank God For His Many Blessings

The land yields its harvest; God our God blesses us.

[Psalm 67:6](#)



MISSION STATEMENT

The Lyons-Muir Church is called to be God's healing and hope-filled congregation, and to make followers of Jesus Christ for the positive transformation of our community through lives of prayer, love, forgiveness, honesty, acceptance, and trust.

PUZZLE
Harvest hunt

Directions: After unscrambling each leaf's word, follow the vine to complete the Bible verse.

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Galatians 6:9 James 3:18 John 4:35

Peacemakers who sow in _____ reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18, NIV

Let us not become _____ in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9, NIV

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the _____!
They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35, NIV

Answer: peace, weary, fields

September Finance Report
 Thank you for your ongoing support!!
 Revenue \$4,792.41
 Disbursements -\$4,283.04
 Surplus (Defecit) \$141.61
 Year to Date Surplus (Defecit) (\$40.83)



Thank you to everyone who made time to volunteer this year. We'll start back up in 2022!!

We need volunteers to continue this outreach. At our last pick up, we had 5 people and picked up 14 bags of trash.