



October 2, 2016

## Neighbors in Need and World Communion Sunday

**go together, like wine and bread!**

**Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.



**World Communion Sunday** offers congregations a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church.

On this day, we remember that we are part of the whole body of believers. Whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations. World Communion Sunday can be both a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith.



*Getting to Know:*

**St. John's United Church of Christ**

500 W. Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446



Just over a year ago, St. John's UCC, Lansdale, dedicated a beautiful labyrinth and meditation garden, made possible by the generosity of St. John's members and by repurposing space once occupied by MANNA on Main St. (a soup kitchen begun by St. John's in the early 1980's) and The Good Samaritan House (which had been home to a family in need for over 30 years). With MANNA having relocated to a larger building and the family having outgrown its need for the Good Samaritan House, prayerful thought was given to how the space might best be used.

It was decided that a peaceful place for prayer and meditation ~ to be enjoyed by both church members and members of the community ~ was a good way to use this open space in the heart of Lansdale. In one of the gardens surrounding the labyrinth, the 10 foot tall three dimensional cross and orb, that once graced the roof of the Conference Church House in Collegetown, found a home. This large symbol of the UCC made its way to Lansdale shortly after the Church House was sold, largely because Dr. Herman C. Ahrens, Jr., a longtime member of St. John's and past member of the Conference staff, had been the person who suggested that a three dimensional version of the cross and orb would be a fitting symbol for the Church House roof. The cross and orb will soon bear a plaque honoring Herman's memory.

Our prayer is that all who avail themselves of this beautiful space in the midst of our community will sense the presence of a loving God and feel the welcome of St. John's people.



Prayers are requested for St. John's UCC in Lansdale and Rev. Dr. Susan C. Bertolette.