“May the Lord... give you peace at all times and in all ways...” ~ II Thessalonians 3:16

Dear Members,

Most of us don't get any mail except for what? Bills and junk. But once in a while, now and then, a pretty envelope, perhaps hand-addressed and with something nice inside, is nestled among the coupons, ads, and utility bills.

*An invitation.* It’s different and it feels... good. It feels good to be invited, does it not?

Sometimes the church talks about the work we do as an obligation or a duty. We start thinking about the sign-up sheets and the volunteer time and the money... But if we think of it as an *invitation,* our attitude changes. Every time we are asked to give of our time, our talent, and our treasure, thinking of it as an invitation to participate in God’s reign on earth shifts it from a duty to an alluring opportunity. World Communion Sunday is certainly an invitation; an invitation to join in God’s reign of peace.

Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, invites us—in invites you—to the table of grace. Christ also invites believers from all over the world, in every time and place, to join us. As we open the doors and prepare the meal, Christ invites all—despite our differences, experiences, and pasts—to come to the table as one body and to make peace through reconciliation and advocating for God’s justice.

Christ invites us to join in the ministry of reconciliation and the pursuit to end violence through the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Through our participation in this Offering and the ministries it supports, we offer healing, peace, and reconciliation. In joining the Offering, we serve God’s people in Guatemala, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, and the USA, as our hands serve women experiencing abuse, our words bear peace to the incarcerated, and our relationships enable conversations of reconciliation to begin. This offering will [share your story of peace/reconciliation] with the 25% we retain for our own ministries of peace and reconciliation.

Our Session and I invite you to join in this ministry. Visit the Peace & Global Witness Offering website [www.presbyterianmission.org/peace-global] to find more information on how our gifts promote peace in our world. As a community of God’s people seeking to be instruments of peace bearing “peace, at all times and in all ways,” we want to make our commitment and participation in ministries of peace visible to all. I pray that the God of Peace might inspire us to be peacemakers in every word and deed as we celebrate World Communion Sunday on Sunday, October 1 and give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

May we claim Jesus Christ as Prince of Peace and pattern our lives in the compassion, kindness, and grace that he shows us.

Yours in the Peace of Christ,

Rev./Pastor ____________