

Devotion, Week of June 30, 2024
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

I was struck Sunday by the generosity of the members of Philadelphia Pres. I got to the church way early, at 8:45 a.m., only to have Thomas show up shortly thereafter with the doughnuts so he could start the coffee for folks and have it ready at the start of Sunday School. Fred showed up early to put out all the flags around the campus. Debbie and Greg showed up with communion supplies for next week and with Debbie ready to teach.

And then the real treat began after church – loads and loads of incredible food. Thanks to Connie and crew for decorating and serving, and to Fred, Jim and crew for cooking wonderful hamburgers and hotdogs. And to all of you, who brought these wonderful dishes. We had great fellowship while we ate and looked at pictures of military veterans in the PPC family. Table fellowship is one of the most important things that I think a church can do to build community. It provides a relaxing time to enjoy good food and get to know each other outside of worship. Jesus' favorite past time appears to have been table fellowship – the gospels are full of meals where he is a guest. It takes a lot of work, and some of us are Marthas and some of us are Marys – but we all are fed with not just good cooking, but soul food that helps us realize we belong to a family of believers.

I hope this week you celebrate Independence Day some more with good food and fellowship, and I hope to see you on Sunday, as we celebrate the Lord's Supper, "the gifts of God for the people of God." A different type of table, but one that Christians have been invited to share for centuries. A simple act of bread and juice, but an act that unites as sharing in the life of Christ, and in his legacy for us as His people. May you feel His blessing as we commune on Sunday.

Jeanne