

EPC Midweek Update – June 29, 2016

Talking to God Once Per Day, or Maybe More

Each week in Confirmation class, Pastor Julie asks the youth to try “talking to God at least once every day.” This is an invitation to start a life-long conversation with the God of the universe, a spiritual discipline that can bring grounding and clarity to our lives.

INVITATION #1 For You: Do you talk to God every day? The first invitation is to join the Confirmands as they try out simple prayer this summer. Julie and I talked with one congregation member who is starting a pattern this summer of taking a walk each morning—both to move their body but also to take time to check in with God at the beginning of each day. What daily pattern could you set for yourself to remind you to talk to God?

INVITATION #2 For You: Our ultimate goal is not to have one time when we talk to God each day. Our goal is to believe in our heart, mind, and soul that we are completely connected to the love and wisdom of God at every moment. This is a belief that fills each moment of our lives with joy and freedom and peace. So the second invitation is to talk to God continually throughout the day. Here’s a great way to start—every time you feel a little frustrated or crabby or uncertain, check in with God. I was in a meeting this morning—a very good meeting—but at one point I was getting agitated and thinking about interrupting someone whose opinions were clearly (to me) inferior to my own. My heart-rate was going up and I was creating speeches in my head. Right at THAT moment I decided to check in with God. I simply said, silently inside myself, “God, what do you want me to do in this moment?” I took a deep breath and was filled with a sense of peace. My heart-rate and mental spinning both slowed down, and I could listen to others around the table with patience and empathy. Generosity instead of arrogance! Kindness instead of rude interruption! Peace instead of anxiety! Don’t pray because you are supposed to. Pray without ceasing because it releases all of God’s good gifts to you whenever you need them.

****TEXTS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 3: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20**

General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) met last week in Portland, Oregon. We are going to send a copy of a synopsis in another email (or a printed version for the regular mail folks). There will also be copies available in the church narthex.

Project Home Sign Up & Zootopia Snacks

We can still use volunteers for our dates hosting Project Home, Friday, July 8 and Saturday, July 9, at First Presbyterian Church in South St. Paul. Overnight volunteers are especially needed from 8:30 pm to 9 am. An added bonus to volunteering and feeling good after you have done so, those there on Friday will be able to enjoy the movie "Zootopia" on a large inflatable screen on the lawn of the church along with the families from Project Home and members of the church. As a matter of fact, WE are providing the treats too! Willing to donate some zoo-inspired treats to watch a movie with? Talk to Eleta Pierce. All are encouraged to sign up - it will be a meaningful experience.

School Tools for Highland Park HS

As we prepare to support our next door neighbors through a School Tools Drive this summer, the community liaison at HPHS, Kim Sabo, was consulted for a current listing of the most needed items for the classrooms. This is the list the teachers gave:

- Ø *Tissues (#1 request)*
- Ø *Post-it notes*
- Ø *Bus Tokens*
- Ø *Pencils/Pens*
- Ø *Back Packs*
- Ø *Painters Tape*
- Ø *Scotch Tape*
- Ø *Manilla Folders*
- Ø *White Board Markers*

As sales occur this summer, please be on the watch for these particular items. We will start to gather these items in August and bring them to the teachers before classes begin in September. Any questions, contact Pastor Julie.

Session

Session will meet on this Thursday, June 30, at 6:15 pm. Included on our agenda are: welcoming and approving newly elected Deacons Todd Barnes and Belinda Clary; discussing the request for a “Blessed Ramadan” sign in front of the church; updates from the Confirmation class and the Crescent Cove task force; discussion on property use requests for Meredith and Tom Holt’s son’s wedding in September, a one-time 12-step Spirituality meeting, and a request from the Montessori Preschool to add another infant room upstairs and expand the toddler playground.

Crescent Cove EPC Task Force – Bulletin Board

The Session task force on Crescent Cove now has a bulletin board section in the narthex at church. Stop by to see information on Crescent Cove or the task force’s most recent meeting minutes. The next task force meeting will be next Wednesday, July 6, at 6:45 pm.

Mid-Year Giving Update

The end of June means we are half-way through 2016. As of today, our pledged giving is at 49% of annual goal and our non-pledged giving is at 39.8%. Expenses are also under, at about 49%. Midyear giving statements will be distributed in July. Please check your record carefully and let the office know of any changes.

Eagle Scout Project Update

Josh LeClair finished his paperwork and has received Scout approval for the back yard clean-up project. Yea! Josh now plans to lead his troop removing buckthorn on Saturday, July 16. More details to come.

Prayers

- For the Crescent Cove task force meeting tonight to interview lawyers to represent our congregation in the ongoing process and negotiations.
- For several folks in our congregation who are struggling with pain management and medications and medical decisions.
- For the Session meeting tomorrow—that we might have a Spirit-blessed time with our new Deacons and experience God’s creativity and leading in all our work!

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

birthdays

Elaine Allen	7-3
Zarrick Humphrey	7-7
Jenny Turnure	7-19
Carolyn Neve	7/21
Heather Clary	7/23
Frank Alden	7/24
Isaac GebbenGreen	7/28
Marilyn Monson	7/30

anniversaries

Marge and Jim Litman	7/18/1982
Elaine Allen and Bryan Kingsriter	7/23/1988

Peace and love to you all, Pastor Phil