

Midweek Update – January 4, 2017

Advent Learnings to take into 2017

During Advent, we wrote tidbits that we were learning onto the mountain of God's teaching (and image from Isaiah 2), which was on a large piece of paper on the wall of the sanctuary. Most of these learnings came from worship or from Saint Benedict's Twelve Degrees of Humility. The list is very impressive. Read through these insights from the EPC congregation and see which ones resound with you.

- Trust
- I do not have all the answers
- Listen, listen, listen
- Gratitude
- Admitting that I do not know
- God's way, not my way
- I AM...in need of wisdom...in community
- Walking: fear & hope, fear & hope, fear & hope
- Acceptance
- Peace (*written four different times*)
- Thy will be done
- Remaining teachable
- The snags in our life have the most potential
- I will expect blossoms and cool water
- The journey is paved with ups and downs...the Spirit is always present
- We can trust in God
- God knows we believe
- Even in our darkest life moments, look for the blooms...God will reveal them!
- Rejoice in all circumstances
- God is within me
- Growth comes only through death
- There is no mountain too high for God
- Life...Learning...Growth

Amen.

New Worship Series: Gideon

During the season of Epiphany and leading toward our Annual Meeting, we will focus on the most amazing stories of faith in the Old Testament—the story of Gideon in Judges 6-8. When the Israelites are oppressed by the invading Midianites, God calls Gideon to lead the people to freedom. The story is dramatic and full of insights about being a people who trusts God in difficult circumstances. On this Sunday, January 8, we will study the call of Gideon in Judges 6:11-25; but we also encourage everyone to read all of Judges 6-8 in the coming days to see how the story unfolds.

Member Notes

Some of you will remember Lois Willshire, who used to worship with us about a year ago with her daughter Kay Willshire. Kay wrote us last week to let us know that Lois died in mid-December. Prayers of blessings for Kay and the rest of Lois' family and friends as they mourn her loss.

Flowers were delivered to both Bob Ekstrand and Dorice Van Vorst this Christmastime. Both pass on their greetings and thanks to the congregation of EPC. If you have never met Bob or Dorice or haven't seen them in a long time, you should know that both of them are complete sweethearts, sharp of mind and faith, and you should feel free and encouraged to reach out them sometime as an act of service and connection and fun.

New Member Class

We will have a New Member Exploration Class for both Confirmation youth and interested adults on Sunday, January 15, after worship. Any interested participants should talk to Pastor Julie.

Narthex Food Shelf

Sometimes our Food Shelf sits mostly unused for months at a time. Right now it is getting so much use that the shelves are almost empty! This is great time to bring in some food if you are able or called to share.

Per Capita for 2017

Per capita for 2017 is \$33.75 per member. We always like to pay this to the Presbytery in January so please place your check in the offering plate. If you don't wish to use a separate check from regular giving, please carefully indicate "per capita" in the memo line.

Prayers

If you have items for the prayer list, please contact the church office or one of the pastors. Thank you!

The GebbenGreens had a wonderful holiday break and trip to Michigan. We wish you a happy new year and ask God to bless every one every day!

Pastor Phil