

Edgumbe Presbyterian Church, Midweek Update – May 17, 2017

Now, Trust, Abide

Three simple messages from this past Sunday's worship and our text, John 14:1-14.

1. The goal of the Christian life is not to live with God forever after you die. According the New Testament, the goal is be fully alive to God's love right now and in every moment, time without end.
2. To reach this goal, our main tools are trust and openness (and love—that will show up in the next text on this coming Sunday). Amazingly, the Christian life has almost nothing to do with what we *believe*.
3. Abiding. That's all God wants. God wants to abide with us and wants us to abide with God. That's the whole ballgame. Easy, really.

Sundays coming up:

- This Sunday: The text will be from John 14:15-21. We will have time to explore and reflect on the artwork in the sanctuary.
- May 28: Music Celebration Sunday with worship led by our choir. We will also be saying goodbye for almost three months to our accompanist Jenya Trubnikava, who will be visiting her parents in Belarus this summer. Ruth Andersen will join the congregation during this service.
- June 4: Pentecost! Communion! Bright color and the Holy Spirit! Maybe sitting around tables again?!

Congregational Meeting—THIS Sunday, May 21

The Session has called a congregational meeting on May 21 to elect members to the offices of Elder and Deacon. The meeting will be very short during the announcement time at the end of worship. Right now we have three open slots for Elder and one open slot for Deacon, so if you are interested either position, please talk to one of the pastors or to Elder Eleta Pierce.

Pastor Phil Teaching Next Week

Pastor Phil and two colleagues will be teaching a class to other pastors in our Presbytery about Non-Violent Communication. We will learn together how to focus on our shared and beautiful needs instead of on our judgments and competing strategies to improve connection. From May 22-25, Phil will be co-teaching this class at Bay Lake Camp north of Mille Lacs.

Birthday Storytelling at the Montreal Hi-Rise

Our next opportunity to share stories with the folks at MHR will be on this Saturday, May 20, from 2-4pm. Pastor Phil will be leading this event, and it would be great to have several folks from EPC join the fun. We are joining their monthly birthday celebration which has its own cake and treats, so we don't need to bring anything but ourselves! Please contact Phil (pastorphil@epchurch.org) if you plan to come.

EPC June Mission Project: Feed My Starving Children

LOVE Somalia Packing Event

Sunday, June 4

3:15-5:30 pm

at the River Center in St. Paul

6.2 million people in Somalia are in desperate need of food and water, that's more than half of the country's entire population. The United Nations is calling the famine in East Africa the largest humanitarian crisis in recent history. A collaboration of faith-based communities in Minnesota believes together we can save thousands of lives.

On Sunday, June 4, we'll join many other people in making 6,000,000 meals for Feed My Starving Children's "Love Somalia" MobilePack event at the River Center in downtown St. Paul (175 West Kellogg Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55102). We are teaming up with First Presbyterian Church in South St. Paul and have reserved a number of spots to help fill MannaPacks that will be sent to feed the children of Somalia in this large-scale packing event. Everyone ages 5 and up are welcome to pack at this event (those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult).

Sign up to help pack meals at Feed My Starving Children on the sheet in the Commons or by calling the church office.

"Jesus calls us to love our neighbor. Minnesota has the largest Somali community in the U.S., so as Minnesotans, our neighbors are Somalis," says Jay Perske, Director of Sarreen Ministries. "As Jesus says love them, what better opportunity is there than to tangibly help their relatives who are dying of starvation and malnourishment in Somalia?"

Art Journaling Workshop on June 3, 1-4pm at EPC

In this 3-hour workshop, you will hear a talk by Expressive Artist and Creativity Coach, Briana Goetzen, MA. She will share the power and positive influences art journaling can have in your life. After the 10-minute talk, Briana will guide participants through the creative steps in making a multi-layered journal spread. At the end of the workshop, there's a good chance you will feel both inspired and more connected to your authentic self.

Cost: \$20 plus materials (list sent when you register)

Contact Carol Schweickhardt for further information or to sign up.

Cschweickhardt@gmail.com [651 468-9888](tel:6514689888)

Next Bible Study—June 12

Our next Bible Study will be Monday, June 12, at 6:30pm at the home of the Eggerts. All are welcome, and soup will be served!

Prayers

- Two churches in our Presbytery are going into active discernment about whether or not they can stay open as an independent congregation. One is the Presbyterian Church in Le Sueur, MN (close to St. Peter), and the other is our Saint Paul neighbor, Dayton Ave Presbyterian Church—where EPC member Chuck Neve is the Church Administrator. We pray for wisdom and grace for these two sister congregations and for Chuck as he ministers to the people of DAPC in the coming weeks and months.

Here is the SESSION COMMUNICATION from the last meeting on May 11:

Session met on Thursday May 11, 2017. The first item of business was reviewing the request from transfer of membership of Ruth Andersen from Elmhurst Presbyterian Church in Chicago. Ruth has a rich and amazing history church history. She is a Macalester (St. Paul) and Wheaton grad. Has been involved in missions in Eastern Europe and her local community (including building a large modern food shelf complete with ramps and refrigeration as well as working to clothe and take care of the basic

needs of refugees coming to America and Canada). She is a lifelong Presbyterian serving as a Deacon and Elder. She is a commissioned lay pastor within our denomination. Her love for missions and the Bible is apparent. Welcome Ruth to EPC.

Session next had a Financial Update and as of today we are on track with our proposed budget. On Sunday May 21st there will be a short 5-minute Congregational meeting during the announcements within the service to elect new elders and deacons.

Pastor Julie made a short-term request to use a room for a contemplative prayer group. All are welcome--contact Pastor Julie. Look for more information coming soon. The Mission committee has a great opportunity on June 4 with Feed my Starving Children...contact Eleta for more information. EPC is having a positive connection with the "Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul." The goal of the organization is to unite the people, resources, and voice of the faith community to build a more just, safe and livable East Metro for all. EPC looks forward to greater involvement in these endeavors.

Session has approved the formation of a "Welcoming Committee" (Name subject to any and all changes and improvements) to explore "What it means to be a Welcoming Church in 2017 in MN." We will discuss and explore ways to make EPC for welcoming and in line with our values. After church on May 21st we will have a 10-15 minute organizational meeting. This will not be the only meeting to help organize.

--Elder Fred Clary