

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church,

Midweek Update – June 14, 2017

You Are Good, Good, Good

The first story in the Bible, Genesis 1, makes it very clear how God thinks about all of creation, including us humans. After everything is made, God looks around and says, “This is super GOOD!” Amazingly, nothing in the Bible or in human history or in our own story convinces God otherwise. In the one story which explores the question of whether God should abandon the whole human experiment—Noah and the Flood—the story ends with God putting God’s weapon (a bow) in the sky as a rainbow to remind God to never even think about destroying ever again. After 1000s of years of living with humans, God in John 3:16 re-states God’s love for the whole cosmos. In Romans 5 (and all over the Bible), God says:

When you are suffering, I will teach you how to live in hope.

When you are weak, I will die for you and save you.

When you are lost, I will find you.

When you are sick or hurting, I will make you whole.

No matter what, I, God, know who you are, and I love you, love you, love you.

When you look at yourself, do you see a loved and whole creation of God? Because that is all that God sees. Who are we to tell God otherwise?

This coming Sunday we will read **Genesis 18:1-15**, where God tells elderly Abraham and Sarah that Sarah will have a son. This is so ludicrous that Sarah laughs out loud. Do you have a dream from God that seems so absurd or impossible that it makes you want to laugh? Have you written off that dream like Sarah wrote off hers? What is holding you back from living into your ludicrous God-dream?

Outdoor Worship Flyers

Attached to this email are flyers that can be printed and distributed to your friends, neighborhoods, workplaces, etc. We will also have printed flyers available at church on Sunday. These are flyers inviting the community to our three outdoor worship services this summer:

- **Sunday, June 25** – Guest musician **Matt Patrick** and his band will lead us in an outdoor service of inspiring singing. **FOLLOWED BY ICE CREAM!**
- **Sunday, August 6** – **Outdoor worship and Pet Blessing.** Bring your critter friends to a short blessing ceremony at 10:00. Stay for the whole service if you want!
- **Sunday, September 3** – **Outdoor worship and communion.** Start off your fall on the right foot and stay for the potluck lunch afterward.

Please pass the word, alert the social medias! We could also use volunteers to deliver flyers to the church’s immediate neighbors—both inviting them and letting them know when we will be out in their back yards!

Centering Prayer on Tuesdays at 3pm

This summer, there is a Centering Prayer Meditation meeting happening every Tuesday in the sanctuary. It is an open, 12-step friendly group for all people! The format for this meeting is to have a 20-minute meditation sit, a reading from a Centering Prayer resource, and a time for brief sharing and checking in for all who are interested. The purpose of this group is to support one another in the practice of Centering Prayer, and to help sustain the commitment to a regular practice. Please consider joining us, even if you are new to the experience!! Contact Pastor Julie (pastorjulie@epchurch.org) with any questions.

EPC Youth at Lake Como

Calling all EPC youth!! There is a free EPC Youth Event next Wednesday, June 21, from 3pm-5pm at the Lake Como Dockside at the Wheel Fun kayak and paddleboat rental place. Please let Pastor Julie (pastorjulie@epchurch.org) know if you can join us...and friends would be welcome! I would like a count by Sunday the 19th, to hold our reservations!!

I would also welcome any EPC adult who would like to join us and share some time with these amazing younger people!! I would like at least one other adult to be present, but truly, all are welcome!! Come and kayak with us!!

Outreach & Growth Committee

The Next O&G meeting which will be next Wednesday 6/21 at Nelson's Ice Cream. 6:15 start time, and everyone is welcome, even newbies. See Angelie with questions.

Outdoor Reflection Space

Pastor Julie and Connie Spear spent a day last week at a reflection garden and path in Lino Lakes. Here are some thoughts on the day from Connie:

Heading out to Christos Retreat Center last Friday felt like playing hooky from the daily routine—something my soul was longing for. Julie and I arrived at 9:00 and gathered with about seven other women in the center before heading out for a day in the garden. The gathering time helped set the intention for us to be quiet and listen to messages from God in the silence and beauty of the forested walking paths,

wetlands and gardens.

I began my time in the labyrinth which helped me slow down my thoughts and center myself. The rest of the day was meandering, exploring, breathing, observing, delighting in dragonflies and birdsong. I truly let myself just BE. The messages came gently and were unfiltered by a busy mind and daily tasks. The day was like a reset button. It reset my priorities and my understanding of what is and is not my responsibility.

The hidden nooks and crannies at Christos were delightful. Little benches and resting spots appeared in quiet clearings. I think that we could certainly create a small scale of this in our mini woodland. It would be a beautiful spot to share with the larger community so they could have an opportunity for silence and renewal.

Next Bible Study—June 26

Our next Bible Study will be Monday, June 26, at 6:30pm at the home of the Eggerts (1868 Simpson, Falcon Hgts 55113). All are welcome and a light dinner will be served!

Big Branch on Back Yard Stage

The big storm this weekend knocked down a bunch of little branches at church and one huge branch that is now draped over the back yard stage area. I (Pastor Phil) plan to come to church tomorrow (Thursday) morning at 9:30am to saw up that branch, check out the damage to the stage, and clean up some other storm damage. Anyone who wants to help out is welcome to join the fun!

AA Memorial Service at EPC next week

Last week, a neighborhood man and attender of an AA group here at church died of heart failure. With no surviving family, some of his friends asked for a service to be held here at EPC. The Session graciously agreed. Pending some details, the small service for Peter Farley is planned for next Thursday, June 22, at 6pm. A friend of Peter's is bringing lemonade and others may provide a few snacks. If you are willing and available, we could probably use one or two folks to help "host" that late afternoon/evening and perhaps provide a few cookies, cheese, crackers—if you'd like to help, please speak with Pastor Phil.

Final Thoughts: Good

How would your life be different if you started every day with the clear belief that you are good and everything around is exactly the way it supposed to be? Try it for the next few minutes. Are you inspired, depressed, lazy, curious, peaceful, or something else? "This hope does not put us to shame," writes Paul in Romans 5:5, "because the love of God has been poured in our hearts by the Holy Spirit." Yeah.

Pastor Phil