

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church,

Midweek Update – June 28, 2017

Communion & Brunch around Tables This Sunday

After being outside last weekend, we are back in the sanctuary this coming week. Since it will be the first Sunday in July already, we will gather around tables for worship and communion. If you haven't experienced this yet, these services are both meaningful and fun and yummy. Again this time, you are invited to bring food to share if you desire!

Our text for Sunday is one of the most important and most difficult passages in the Bible, Genesis 22:1-14, which is the story of the almost-sacrifice of Isaac by his father Abraham. This text is important because of how it points to the story of Jesus and also how it points to a faith beyond our usual expectations. This text is also terrifying because it asks us to be willing to let go of absolutely everything that might get between us and God. Sometimes what we might need to let of is inside of us—part of our ego or personality, or a habit or thought pattern or a fear. Sometimes, in order to discover the true goodness of God, we need to let go of something outside of us that is very precious to us—an addiction, a relationship, money, a possession. Genesis 22 helps us ask this terrifying but freeing question: Is there some part of my life that I am not willing to surrender to God?

If that is an appealing question to you for exploration, then you will certainly want to be at worship this Sunday. If that question terrifies you, then you will certainly want to be at worship this Sunday. See you there!

Outdoor Worship Thanks & Links

Outdoor worship this past Sunday was chilly but wonderful. It was great to have special musicians Matt Patrick, Tony Lehr, and Chet Carlson with our own Deb Carlson. Special thanks to the EPC donor who underwrote this event, to Eleta Pierce and family who provided treats, and to Ron Eggert who took pictures. Here are the links to those photos and a video of the sermon:

photos: http://www.epchurch.org/slideshows/2017_06_25_Outdoor-Service/os.html

sermon: <http://www.epchurch.org/sermon-archive.html>

More Outdoor Worship Services coming soon

- 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.

July 4 Church Closures

On Tuesday, July 4, the EPC office will be closed and the contemplative prayer group will not meet (gathering again on Tuesday, July 11, at 3pm in the sanctuary).

Pastors' July Vacation Time

Pastors Julie and Phil will be taking two weeks off, being gone from July 10 – July 24. The GebbenGreens will be visiting Phil's mom in Michigan after her knee replacement surgery and doing some camping around Minnesota.

While the Pastors are gone we are having two preachers from our congregation: Angelie Ryah on July 16 and Fred Clary on July 23. Angelie will also be leading a forum on Self-Care on July 23—look for more details soon!

July Bible Study Dates—July 10 & 31

Our next Bible Study dates will be next Mondays, July 10 and July 31, both at 6:30pm at the home of the Eggerts (1868 Simpson, Falcon Hgts 55113). All are welcome and a light dinner will be served!

AA Memorial Service Thanks

Our service for Peter Farley was last Thursday. Peter's gathered community was deeply grateful for the service and the hospitality of EPC. Thanks the EPC folk who set up, served food, and provided overall hospitality (and medical care!) for the folks were here.

Project Home

EPC is once again hosting Project Home at First Presbyterian Church in South St. Paul on July 21 and 22, 2017. We are responsible for evenings and overnights on those dates. Please see sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex and ask Eleta for more information. This is a great all-church opportunity to assist homeless families in our community.

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Elaine Allen – July 3

Ron Eggert – July 9

Carol Schweickhardt – July 16

Linda Omps – July 17

Lily LeClair – July 19

Jenny Turnure – July 19

Heather Clary – July 23

Frank Alden – July 24

Isaac GebbenGreen – July 28

Happy Anniversary to:

Marge & Jim Litman – July 18, 1982

Elaine Allen & Bryan Kingsriter – July 23, 1988

Prayers

- For the woman (Gerrie) who fell and hit her head on our front patio after the memorial service last week.
- For ongoing wisdom and discernment about how God wants us to use the gift of our beautiful big back yard.
- For each one of us as we strive to surrender 100% of ourselves to God's perfect and loving will at every moment.
- For parents and children everywhere from Abraham and Isaac to today, from Saint Paul to Syria to Venezuela, from newborn infants to aging parents, from happy and loving to struggling and hurt-filled, from noisily overcrowded to achingly lonely. May God give every person and family exactly what they need right now.

May the sun of God's grace shine through the clouds of your heart today. Pastor Phil