

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church, Midweek Update – July 26, 2017

FAITH PRACTICE

Just as you can't learn a new physical or mental skill without practicing, so too do faith, trust, hope, and love need practice. Some of you may have a daily practice to deepen your spirituality and cultivate relationship with God. If you don't, or if you would like to try something new, I (Pastor Phil) am going to add a new feature to the beginning of each EPC update. Each Wednesday I will suggest a very simple and very short exercise for you to try that coming week. Give it a try and feel free to talk to me with questions or feedback.

FAITH PRACTICE: GOD IS LOVE

1 John 1:5 says that "God is light, and in God there is not one speck of darkness." When we recognize the absolute goodness and love and light of God, our perspective on everything is changed. When you focus all your attention on God's love, then you begin to see the world, all people, and yourself through the lens of love. For this week's faith exercise, take two minutes at the beginning and end of your day to say this simple sentence to yourself over and over again:

God is love, and only love.

That's it. Two minutes twice per day. Say it, breathe, say it again, repeat.

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

This week we are looking at the series of mini-parables in Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...like yeast...like a treasure hid in a field...like a fine pearl...like a net full of good fish." People of God, we are surrounded by the loveliness of God and each other and creativity and hope and life. Come, let us worship together!

PET BLESSING – AUGUST 6

We are just 10 days from our pet blessing service. We hope to meet and worship outside, but will move inside in the case of bad weather. Either way, we will welcome you and your critters to join us for 10am worship and a special blessing for the animals who mean something to us. This is a great service for inviting your animal-loving friends and neighbors!

PASTORS BACK FROM VACATION

Pastors Julie and Phil are back after two weeks off. We had a pleasant and refreshing time both in Michigan with Phil's mom and camping on the North Shore of Lake Superior. Thanks to everyone who helped out while we were gone—especially preachers Angelie Ryah and Fred Clary!

BIBLE STUDY —JULY 31

Our next Bible Study and dinner will be Monday, July 31, at 6:30pm at the home of the Eggerts (1868 Simpson, Falcon Hgts 55113). All are welcome and a light dinner will be served! The texts for the 10th are: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; and Matthew 14:13-21.

NEW ART SHOW AT EPC

There is new artwork hanging in our hallway, narthex and sanctuary by artist Jinjer Markly called “**100 day of Colorful Flowers.**” Not only are there dozens of paintings, but also fabric and fun descriptions of her art and process. We hope to have Jinjer join us for an artist’s forum on August 13.

Also, you should notice (you can’t really miss it), the angel wings in process on the east-facing doors by artist McKenna Reedquist.

JOSH LECLAIR GRADUATION PARTY AT EPC – AUGUST 6

After church on August 6, Belinda and Fred are celebrating the High School graduation of Josh LeClair with a party at EPC from 12-3pm. This will be after our outdoor worship (God willing) and pet blessing ceremonies that morning.

LAKE ELMO CAMPOUT

The Reedquist and Pierce families will be camping out at Lake Elmo Reserve Campground the weekend of July 28-30. There are still some camping spots available if anyone would like to join them. If camping out doesn’t work for your schedule, possibly you can join us at the Lake Elmo swimming pond on Saturday, July 29, at 1:00 pm for a “beach day/cook out.” We’ll meet at the beach at 1 pm for swimming, then around 4 pm we’ll head to the campsite for a cookout. We’ll provide hotdogs and buns, bring a side to share. All are welcome. In either case, please contact Eleta or Jennie to let them know that you are coming so that they can plan for food for Saturday.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER ON TUESDAYS

Our meditative prayer group continues to meet each Tuesday at 3pm in the sanctuary. Feeling frazzled or overwhelmed or just in need of some quiet space? Join the circle of silence and support.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays:

Zarrick Humphrey – August 7

John Omps – August 8

Todd Horne – August 9

Brian Manwarren – August 16

Josh LeClair – August 23

Dorice VanVorst – August 27

Anniversary

Ingrid and Ron Eggert – August 11, 1964

PRAYERS

- Prayers of celebration for Josh LeClair on his graduation from High School and preparations for college.
- Ongoing prayers for safety and well-being for Eleta's cousin Mike Bowser, who has been missing from his home in South Carolina for well over a month.

[If you have other prayers for this list, please feel free to email Pastor Phil (pastorphil@epchurch.org) early in the week and we'll get it in.]

God is love, and only love. You are loved, and only loved. Peace, Pastor Phil