

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update – April 4, 2018

JUST TWO THINGS

This Easter season, we are putting our energy into remembering just two things

1. *Nothing can threaten us.*
2. *My only job is to remember the atonement.*

By dying and then rising from the dead, Jesus reminds us that absolutely nothing can threaten us—astoundingly not even death itself. To say this simple phrase to yourself, “Nothing can threaten me,” will transform anxious or fearful situations into a moment of peace and faith. It may sound corny or unbelievable, but try it a few times and see for yourself. When I do this myself, my body relaxes, my breath deepens, my heart opens, and I see my life from a perspective of love instead of the perspectives of threat or control, giving me options I did not know I had a moment before.

In a similar way, Jesus is able to live as if miracles are ready to happen at every moment because he never loses sight of the atonement—which literally means “being At One with God.” At-one-ment is not an aspiration or hope or far-off possibility; it is the primary fact of our identity right now. When we remember who we are—unthreaten-able and At One—then all things become possible. Love becomes possible, forgiveness, joy, freedom from regret and anxiety, real openness all open like a path of peace before us. That is the promise of Easter. That is the reason Jesus came, that we might have peace.

UPDATE ON DEB CARLSON

At Deb’s meeting with her oncologist last Friday, she found out that she has a very rare form of pancreatic cancer. At this point, her doctors are not talking about cure but about quality of life over the next 10 months to two years. Chemo will start next week. This is difficult news for Deb and for all of us. Eleven EPC folks went to Deb’s house on Friday evening to share our love and prayers and tears and support, and on Easter Sunday we circled around Deb to lay hands on her and ask for the peace and guidance and miracles of the Holy Spirit.

If anyone would like to help with meals or errands or rides for Deb during this time, please contact Jenya Trubnikava, who is keeping a spreadsheet for helpers. Jenya’s email is jenya.trubnikava@yahoo.com.

ANGELIE DIRECTORY UPDATE

Angelie Ryah has gone native and has a new California-based cell phone number, which is 619-394-1933. If you haven’t seen her website recently, it is a worth a visit: www.ryahvida.com.

ENNEAGRAM PRISON PROJECT UPDATE

My (Phil's) work with EPP has been stalled as I waited for permission to go into Shakopee Women's Prison. But permission arrived yesterday, so I will attend a prison orientation on Monday afternoon and then start the first class on next Thursday, April 12! Later in April, I and my two colleagues will be meeting with the warden from Lino Lakes prison to explore starting a second class in Lino Lakes. This is all super exciting for me, and I am so grateful for the support and prayers of the congregation as this moves from a possibility to a reality.

Happy wintry Spring & may God's peace surround you all today! Pastor Phil