

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

*Midweek Update
August 29, 2018*

WE COULD TRY PRAYING

From a very young age, most of us have found ways to armor ourselves against the hurts and threats of the world. Some of us retreat into our minds to hide our feelings; others of us make ourselves strong to avoid vulnerability; others of us make sure that we are competent or loving or fun or knowledgeable enough to keep ourselves safe. Look at the little boy in the picture. Does he look safe to you? Or does he look weighed down? Now check in with yourself. With the armor you have chosen to put on, do you feel safe or do you feel weighed down?

In Ephesians 6, Paul says:

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you can stand your ground.”

Ephesians 6 goes on to list the pieces of armor as representing truth and righteousness and peace and trust and healing and God’s word. To me, it sounds both scary and super appealing to take off my life-long armor and put on God’s armor of peace and trust and healing. Scary because it seems vulnerable to lay down my usual defenses. So appealing because my soul hungers for peace and openness and rest.

Jesus is a frightening fellow to talk to, because every time Jesus talks with someone, he essentially asks that person to shed their old armor and live instead in trust. Here are two questions for you right now: What old armor are you ready to take off? What part of God’s armor are you ready to put on?

PASTOR JULIE BOOK GROUP

some people have asked me to talk a bit more about the content of my august retreat which was based on a course in miracles (acim). i am pondering/praying about offering a book study which would help explain it with the book *52 ways to live the course in miracles*, which has chapters including "love is letting go of fear", and "forgiveness is the key to peace". i would love to know of your interest....please speak or email (pastorjuliegg@gmail.com) directly to me if you are curious!

GOT SILENCE?

Pastor Julie has been on 3 different waiting lists for 10-day Centering Prayer retreats this year, and she has gotten the exciting news that space has opened up! She will be heading back to St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass,

Colorado, in September to join with 24 others to be immersed in silence and Centering Prayer. The retreat dates are Sept 11-20th.

SCHOOL TOOLS

The School Tools materials were delivered on Tuesday to HPHS to great thanks.

BACKWOODS WALK-THROUGH

Join Pastors Julie & Phil for a walk through the backwoods after worship this Sunday to think about options for barrier trees or shrubs along the western border of the church property.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND AN ANNIVERSARY

Happy Birthday to:

Tom Holt – September 4

Lorenz Fett – September 10

Jennie Reedquist – September 19

Bryan Kingsriter – September 25

AND – Happy Anniversary to:

Brian and Faith Dietz – September 19, 1998

PRAYERS

1. For all the students, parents, teachers and staffs of our schools as a new year begins.
2. For Linda and John Omps as they continue to grieve for the loss of their son and work to care for their granddaughter Rhianna.

Gentleness and courage to us all as we seek to let go of the armor we no longer need and put on the full armor of God! Pastor Phil