

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update - Sept 5, 2018

THE LEAP OF FAITH

James 2:13 says, "Mercy overrules judgment." I said this to my family yesterday, and one of my kids said, "What's your proof?"

"I don't have any," I replied.

"Then it is clearly not true."

"Maybe," I admitted. "Or it just means that we need to believe it first, and then we will start experiencing it."

This is one of the hardest lessons of faith. Instead of seeing it to believe it, in the spiritual world, you need to believe it in order to see it. Theologian Soren Kierkegaard called this "the leap of faith." First we step out in trust, and then the way becomes clear. First we accept that God loves us completely, that indeed God is nothing but love, and then we start to see love everywhere. First, we start forgiving everybody for everything, and then gratitude and peace floods our hearts.

My skeptical child was not convinced by this fatherly reasoning. Take a moment to review your own life of faith. How has faith and healing worked in your story?

PASTOR JULIE BOOK GROUP

some people have asked me to talk a bit more about the content of my august retreats 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 11-20.

GREETINGS FROM DORICE VAN VORST

Dorice is a long-term EPC member (first came in 1972!) who now resides at Lyngblomsten. Dorice misses being in church and sends her greetings and goodwill to you all!

BACKWOODS WORKDAY

We hope to have a backwoods workday on Saturday morning, September 15, 9-11am. The main purpose would be to clear branches and brush in preparation for tree-planting. If we have gravel delivered by then, we could also start laying the pathway. And of course, there is always plenty of buckthorn to pull!

What would happen if you let yourself completely trust God's love today? Pastor Phil