

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update – October 17, 2018

GRATITUDE & GENEROSITY

I'm actually feeling pretty cruddy with a cold today, so I am at home trying not to feel sorry for myself. Instead I am trying to focus on stories of gratitude and generosity. Here's a few.

As of last Sunday, we had collected only a few small items to put in our mission bags to be packed next Sunday. After a simple announcement from Eleta in worship, EPC folk gave nearly \$500 for supplies. Wow. That is generosity at work in our midst.

Next week I will be going to the Abbey of Gethsemani for a week of reflection and retreat. To see where I'm going, visit their website at www.monks.org (that's not a joke; it really is their website). I'm going because my friend Kara Root, the pastor of Lake Nokomis Presby Church, wrote this trip for her and her friends into her sabbatical grant. That is a generous friend.

I have taken two training classes and two trips to California this year for the Enneagram Prison Project. This is work that continues to change and bless my life and this congregation. Each of these experiences was paid for by others. Julie's generosity of staying with our family is another essential part of making this all possible. I am so grateful.

We are doing amazing work in our backwoods, including the delivery of almost \$1000 worth of wood chips later this afternoon. That purchase and a bunch of trees and plants and supplies is supported by the generosity of a grant from our Presbytery. Spreading those wood chips will be the work of many folks working together. Generosity and gratitude.

None of us does the work alone. When you look at your life, where are you grateful for the generosity that has been shared with you?

BACKWOODS WORKDAY

We gather this Saturday, 9am-12noon, for our backwoods workday. Isaac GebbenGreen will be leading the distribution of wood chips along our lovely pathway. If there is more time, then we will be clearing some brush and buckthorn as well. We hope everyone from the church can be there for at least part of the time. See you there!

PASTOR PHIL TO KENTUCKY ABBEY

As mentioned above, I am leaving after church on Sunday for six days at the Trappist Abbey of Gethsemani with several of my colleague-friends. This is a very Julie-esque experience for me because there will be no programming or learning goals, just silence and worship and fellowship in the woods and hills of northern Kentucky. While we are off next Sunday, October 28, worship will be led by Rev. Kelly Stone, chaplain at Macalester College.

MISSION PROJECT THIS SUNDAY

During worship this coming Sunday we will be gathering together to prepare the gift bags that we are then encouraged to take and have in our car so that we can offer a bag to anyone on the street who is seeking help from motorists. Please be here to participate in this quite literally, 'hands on' mission project.