

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

April 24, 2019

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CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

We had two wonderful worship services here last week on Maundy Thursday and Easter morning. Thank you to everyone who helped with food and clean up and music and greeting! Here is a recap of the message from Easter worship, from the text Luke 24:1-12.

1. The resurrection isn't a big deal because of what happened 2000 years ago. It is only a big deal if we are actually experiencing new life and miracles in our lives right now.
2. In all four of the Gospels (Matthew Mark Luke John), it is the women who discover the resurrection of Jesus first. These women tell the male disciples--who do not believe them. Maybe the Bible has so many men in it because it is men who have the hardest time believing and trusting that love is the foundation of the universe and our lives. Maybe men need to how to listen to and trust the spiritual wisdom women in their lives. Maybe women need to start trusting their own spiritual instincts and not waiting for the approval of the male ego.
3. If Luke and the other resurrection stories are any clue, then the way that we tend to react to miracles and transformation is with fear and awe and confusion and disbelief and wonderment. So if you are feeling confused or afraid—that is exactly the place where the spiritual journey of growth begins!
4. Not one of the Gospels tells the actual event of the resurrection. There is no description of Jesus rising from the dead--only an empty tomb. Why? I suspect it is so that we do not think the process of resurrection ended with Jesus. It is just the beginning. Jesus is letting us know we have nothing to fear, not even death itself. So then how are we going to live?

BIBLE STUDY

Our next Bible Study will be next Sunday evening, April 28, at 6:30pm in the church office.

PASTOR PHIL TO PORTUGAL

Next Tuesday, I am flying to Lisbon, Portugal, for a European Enneagram conference representing the Enneagram Prison Project (EPP). EPP already has a chapter in Belgium and will begin teaching in prison in both France and the United Kingdom over the next few months, so building contacts and connections in Europe and beyond is part of the goal to bring the transformative spiritual work of the Enneagram to every prison in the world.

Being on the teaching faculty of the Enneagram Prison Project is expanding my own heart and life in new and exciting ways. It is feeding my church ministry but is also a developing constraint on my time. Just so you know, I am deeply committed to the work of being a pastor at Edgumbe Church and am not planning on going anywhere in the near future! I greatly appreciate the added flexibility from the congregation and Session and Pastor Julie caused by my new responsibilities, and I plan to remain as open and transparent as I can, welcoming your feedback at any point.

PRAYERS

- Prayers of celebration for Carol Schweickhardt new grandchild Bruce Frederick, born to her daughter Heidi. Heidi and Bruce had a hard birth with intensive surgery for Heidi afterward, but both mother and son are doing better everyday.
- More celebration for Meredith and Tom Holt who welcomed new grandchild Kaiya Florence Noreen Holt on Easter day—see photo at top!
- Prayers of wisdom for the Elders and Pastors of our church who meet as the Session this Thursday.