

Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

May 29, 2019

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GRIEVANCES & FORGIVENESS

This past Sunday in worship, our assignment for the week was to pay attention to any grievances that arise for us. What is a grievance? Anything that bothers us, hurts our feelings, makes us feel uncomfortable or unhappy or upset. Grievances are often accompanied with feelings of shame, guilt, anger, blame, anxiety, panic, mind-spinning, and gut-churning.

The invitation we are exploring right now is this: What if tried forgiving every person / situation / grievance that arises for us? We don't need to act on this forgiveness, we don't need to tell anyone else we are doing it, we can simply hold the grievance or person in our heart and forgive it or them. And then we see what happens inside us in response, observing our own reactions to forgiveness with gentleness and compassion.

"How many times shall we forgive someone," Peter asks Jesus, "as many as seven times?" Jesus responds, "Forgive 70 times 7 times." If 490 times seems like too much to ask, then just start with seven times. This exercise is free of charge and life-changing.

GRADUATION RECEPTION

Isaac's graduation post-worship reception will be postponed 1 week, to the 9th of June. His ultimate frisbee team is playing in the state competition this weekend. Good luck to Isaac and the Open World Learning Manatees!!

PENTECOST WORSHIP JUNE 9

June 9 is Pentecost, when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is a great day to wear bright, fiery clothes to symbolize the fire of the Spirit in our hearts. Also on that day we will:

- Have a reception to honor Isaac GebbenGreen's high school graduation
- Commission Pastor Julie for her Camino trip to Spain
- Offer up any grievances we wish to give up to the fires of the Spirit.

BIBLE STUDY

Our next Bible Study will be Sunday evening, June 9, at 6:30pm at the church. All are welcome.

PROJECT HOME IN JULY

Edgcombe Mission Project, Thursday, July 11 & Friday, July 12: Every July, First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul (535 20th Ave. North, South St. Paul, 55075) becomes a homeless shelter for families for the entire month through Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul's Project Home. Our church will be the volunteer host once again this year for two evening and overnight shifts. This is a wonderful opportunity to help God's children in a very personal and hands on way, and the volunteers often say that they receive more than they gave.

The evening shift is from 5:30 – 8:30 pm, and is when we'd like the most volunteers. I would like to plan a fun evening for the guests – an art project followed by a special ice-cream treat. If you have any ideas, please let me know. The overnight shift is from 8 pm – approximately 8:30 am the next morning. This shift, although long, is pretty easy because you are sleeping most of the time.

For a more detailed volunteer description, go to <https://interfaithaction.org/programs/projecthome/>

Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or call the church office. Contact me, Eleta Pierce, (eleta.pierce@gmail.com or 612-719-0758), with any questions.

Session Report from May 23 meeting by Elder Fred Clary

The Session of EPC met on Thursday May 23, 2019. Connie Spear was elected as Elder by the congregation and was present at Session to explore the role within the church. She is taking the next steps with scheduling an informational meeting with the Pastors and some Elders. We all look forward to Connie's ordination day.

In other business, session voted to move our insurance to Brotherhood Mutual. The new policy gives all the same liability coverage levels but saves us almost \$2000.00 per year. In the Pastors' report Julie continues to prepare for the Camino spiritual walk June 11th through July 23. Pastor Julie asked that you try to remember her while she is away by remembering a quality about her that is positive and unique. I foresee lots of mismatched bright colors and blue hair dye coming to a worship service near you! Pastor Phil discussed how the Forgiveness Sermon Series is going. This successful series continues to change hearts and minds in our congregation. The pastors are

receiving more positive feedback from this Sermon Series than any previous. Pastor Phil is now part of the Presbytery Leadership Team, this is an honor and Pastor Phil will bring EPC ideals and ideas to the whole region. In Missions, please look for more information on our Habitat for Humanity event in August and Project Home Events in July. More information coming soon.

Session is also working towards a College Scholarship for EPC Members. Application forms are being created and funding will be placed in the Scholarship Funds from our yearly budget or freewill donations. Currently, if any member would like to donate towards the EPC College Scholarship Fund, as we have a member going off to college in August, you can make that donation now (just note in Memo section of your check).

Session Okayed the purchase of hand microphones and a headset. We are currently using borrowed equipment. The price for high quality equipment will be under \$1200.00. Session is contemplating the best for our traditional three outdoor worship services in the Summer. A Saturday Night Worship is being considered.

Many thanks to Bonnie Lonbaken for her efforts to make Room 1 upstairs hospitable and pleasant.