

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

June 5, 2019

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PENTECOST FIRE & FORGIVENESS

This Sunday 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 and lives. The Holy Spirit is about freedom (“The Spirit blows where she wills.” John 3); about vision and prophecy and dreams (Joel 2); about connection (“You received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as God’s children.” Romans 8); about prayer (“The Spirit prays on our behalf with groans too deep for words.” Romans 8 again); about worship (“God is spirit so we worship in spirit and truth.” John 4). We need the Spirit to steer our own lives toward healing and wholeness as much as a sailor depends on the wind.

As we have been talking about the past five weeks in worship, the thing that keeps us from resting in the wisdom and grace of the Spirit is an unhealthy attachment to our own egos. And the primary weapon our egos use to ensnare us is a focus on grievances—hurt feelings, shame, guilt, anger, blame, anxiety, panic. As long as we focus on all the things in life that bug us mightily, our ego has no trouble ruling our inner lives.

So this Sunday, during worship, we are going to write down any grievances that we are ready to hand over to God’s Spirit of forgiveness and peace. And then we are going to drop those papers into a real live fire as a sign of our willingness to let the Spirit burn away the habits of our egos and make room for a fresh wind of hope and freedom. At the moment, it looks like rain on Sunday morning—so plan for an indoor worship service, an outdoor grievance burning ceremony, and a mixed location reception afterward.

GRADUATION RECEPTION

Isaac GebbenGreen graduated from Open World Learning high school this past Tuesday, June 4. This Sunday after worship, we will have a reception to celebrate. Julie and Isaac and I have invited several of our friends, family, and neighbors to join us, so we might well have a bunch of visitors in worship and for the reception. Several of you have already volunteered to bring food and treats and drinks—thank you so much. I think we are doing well for food at this point, but anyone else is welcome to add to the abundance!

PASTOR JULIE LEAVING ON CAMINO

Next week Tuesday, June 11, Pastor Julie will leave for her pilgrimage walk across northern Spain. Here a few details to know as she gets ready to go:

- We will commission Pastor Julie for this faith adventure/crucible/journey in worship this Sunday.
- Pastor Phil will continue to work while Julie is gone (except for two weeks off at the end of July).
- Both Pastor Julie and Phil accept your prayers with gratitude.
- Julie plans to do some blogging about her journey. When she has a web address for her blog, we will forward it on to you all.
- Julie returns from Spain on July 23, God willing. Phil and Julie return to work the week after that.
- Julie has asked us all to think of ways to embody her spirit while she is gone. The joke, of course, is this means we all have to liven up our wardrobe and hair coloration. Why not, right? The deeper invitation here is to remember that we can all do hard things, we can let the Spirit lead us into new and even uncomfortable places, we go to new territory in the world and within ourselves and be surprised by miracles and angels and our own resilience. Allowing Julie to be an inspiration helps us remember that the Spirit is not just calling to Julie but to each one of us every day. Why not, right?

BIBLE STUDY

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

BACKWOODS TREES

After about a year of deliberation and chain-sawing and clearing, we are ready to plant some trees in the Backwoods! About twelve trees in the 6-8ft range could arrive as soon as next week. The purchase and planting of these trees will be paid for with the grant money from our Presbytery. If you are interested, here is the basic plan:

- >>In the NW corner of the property by Dave Busch's house: 3 Spruce and 2 White Pine
- >>On the western edge of the property: 3 Balsam which do better in the lower and shadier area

>>West of the stage area: 3 Birch clumps in honor of former EPC Music Director Deb Carlson

>>East of church building where old cherry/crabapple came down last year: Red Baron Crabapple

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.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

Lagretta Lunde	6/11
Lisa Holden	6/16
Zack Humphrey	6/16
Bonnie Lonbaken	6/22
Fred Clary	6/24
Ingrid Eggert	6/24
Eleta Pierce	6/24

AND – Happy Anniversary to:

Sherla & David Mayer	6/8
Belinda & Fred Clary	6/27