

Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

June 12, 2019

In this issue:

- Fire & Forgiveness II
- Pentecost gratitude
- Pastor Julie on Camino
- Bible Study
- New Trees are here
- Mission & Adult Fellowship Opportunities: Project Home, Game Night, and Habitat

PENTECOST FIRE & FORGIVENESS II

If you did it; if you came to worship and put one or several of your grievances into the fire pit (thank you, Belinda, for tending the fire), then the next question is, What next? Or maybe, How do you feel now? Several of you have talked to me about it, and I've heard reflections like: I feel freer, or sad, or lighter, or disoriented, or joy-filled. There is no right or wrong response. There is only you.

The other thing we talked about in worship was the invitation to live every moment in the fullness of love and joy and peace (the first three fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5). Check in with yourself right now. Take a breath, let yourself relax into this moment. Then ask yourself: Would I rather be stressed or resentful or afraid, OR would I like to live this moment in love and joy and peace?

Jesus says in John 14: "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid." People of God, it really can be this simple.

PENTECOST GRATITUDE

Thank you to everyone who helped with worship and hosting the graduation reception for Isaac afterward. It was a lovely experience for the GebbenGreen family and for all the guests who came. This congregation is gracious and generous in your hospitality, and Julie and I are very grateful to you. If you were curious, on Sunday we had people here from the Enneagram Prison Project, neighbors, Phil's handball guys, veteran Camino walkers, GebbenGreen extended family, Isaac's classmates and one teacher, and various friends. It was fun to show such a diverse group the EPC spirit!

UPDATE FROM PASTOR JULIE ON CAMINO

Here is an update Pastor Julie sent from Irun in the NE corner of Spain. She will wake up tomorrow and start walking. This update includes capital letters, so apparently the Camino is changing Julie already.

Dearest EPC folk, I want to express my deepest gratitude to you for not only my Camino blessing, but also for being a part of our son's Isaac graduation reception....

My blessing "took"...I don't know how to say it any other way....I felt blessed by your prayers and presence with me. Thank you for sharing and supporting me in this Camino experience. You have been so generous to me in ways of spiritual, financial, and emotional support....and I truly sense you are walking with me!

You heard of my hope for the Camino was to not resist what presents itself to me. One of the things this is impacting is that the blog was more complicated than I expected to set up. So, the new plan is that Phil will share in the midweek emails some Camino reflections (and hopefully a photo or two) that I send to him. I can internally hear how this development is already allowing me to be more spacious in the moment without having an expectation of needing to "write this down for a blog."

And, as pilgrims here say to each other.....Buen Camino! Julie G

The northern coast of Spain where
Julie starts her Camino walk

Julie's bunk in her first allergies (hostel)

BIBLE STUDY

Last Sunday evening was probably the most powerful Bible Study I have ever attended or led. Tears were shed, lives were changed, wisdom was illuminated, the Spirit was powerfully present. If any of that sounds appealing to you, then please join us for our next Bible Study on Sunday evening, June 23, at 6:30pm at the church. All are welcome.

BACKWOODS TREES

As I write this, a giant auger is in our backwoods digging holes for the twelve new trees being installed today. The first tree you will notice is the Red Baron Crabapple next the church entrance. There are also three Birch clumps that will be dedicated to the

memory of our former Director of Music Deb Carlson near the stage area. Then along the western edge of the property will be three Balsam, three Spruce, and two White Pine (one of which is the lead picture today). Take a walk along our lovely pathway and check them all out! Big thanks to Kathy Young, Gordie Rosine, Teri Rose, and Isaac GebbenGreen for all the help today.

MISSION AND ADULT FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FROM ELDER ELETA PROJECT HOME IN JULY

Edgumbe 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.

GAME NIGHT WITH FPC-SSP

At last month's Session meeting, it was shared that First Presbyterian Church in South St. Paul (FPC-SSP) has invited our congregation to participate in monthly adult fellowship activities along with their congregation. There will be opportunities for Edgumbe to host some of these events as well. Another local Presbyterian congregation has also been extended the invitation. Our Elders were unanimously excited and welcomed the opportunity to fellowship with others in our denomination. The first of these events is planned for Saturday, June 22, and we are invited to join in lawn games from 3:00-5:00 pm at FPC-SSP (535 20th Ave. North, South St. Paul). Games will be set up to play, feel free to bring a favorite lawn game to share (in case of rain, games will be moved inside to their Fellowship Hall). Please bring a snack to share. Ages 16+ are welcome to join, childcare available with advanced notice. There is no sign up for this event, just show up!

Looking ahead to more Adult Fellowship:

- The July event's theme will be "good deeds" featuring a simple hands-on project and discussion. Details are still being worked out on this event, so more information will be available soon.
- The August event will be a Twins baseball game on Friday, August 2. Tickets will cost \$38 each and will include a \$10 food voucher. Mark your calendar for this date and we will let you know the additional details soon.

AUGUST MISSION PROJECT: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

This summer EPC has been invited along with FPC-SSP on a collaboration with Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent Community Engagement to help build a house on the East Side of St. Paul. The dates are August 6 and August 7. The work day is 8:30 – 4:00. The web link for this job with FAQs is: <https://www.tchabitat.org/faqs-about-volunteering-with-twin-cities-habitat-for-humanity> Volunteers MUST be there at 8:30 for the Safety briefing. They would like 10 -13 volunteers each day – at least 16 years old. The jobs will include finishing work, like hanging drywall and painting. No experience necessary. There will also be a job for one or two people who are unable to do physically challenging work which will include signing people in, managing tool inventory, setting up lunch, etc. For more information or to sign up, contact Eleta Pierce (email eleta.pierce@gmail.com, text or call 612-719-0758).