

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

June 3, 2020

In this issue: Spirit Restlessness, In-Person Gatherings Survey, New Contact Info, Financial Aid, Online Giving, Zoom Mtgs

Following the Spirit of Restlessness

“Spirit of Gentleness” is a Pentecost hymn, #291 in our hymnal that Jenya played and sang this song during worship last Sunday. The refrain goes like this:

*Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind on the sea.*

While the Spirit of Gentleness is always welcome, it has been the Spirit of Restlessness that has been blowing through the Twin Cities over the past ten days, since the horrific death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the subsequent protests and riots. The streets are quieter today, but our hearts and communities are still restless for peace, for justice, for change that matters.

My own heart is blown and restless to the point that I don't have clarity and peace. In the midst of this unrest, here are three things I know.

One, I know that I choose to trust and follow the Holy Spirit. The last time the Spirit blew through my life with so much restlessness was when I heard about the Enneagram Prison Project. I was scared about what I this direction would mean for my life, but following the Spirit into prison has led only to miracles and new connections and beautiful learning. What if this time of restlessness leads us to miracles and new connections and beautiful learning?

Two, the whole book of Acts--from the story of Pentecost through the expansion of the church through the Mediterranean world--is about how the Holy Spirit connects us all--makes us all one. The power of the Spirit is so amazing, that anything we think that divides us, even the way we talk to each other or what languages we speak, is actually a thing the Spirit uses to make us one. This theme is repeated over and over through Acts: anything we use to divide ourselves--like what food we eat, how we talk about God, our racial or national or gender identities, economics or education or violence or fear, absolutely anything--is only an illusion and does not stand in the way of God's love. As a matter of spiritual fact, all of these things are actually tools that the Holy Spirit can use to draw us together (like the different languages of the crowd in Acts 2, like different eating rules in Acts 10). What miracles of connection and love might the Holy Spirit be working in our community right now?

Three, I know we as a church community need to start having new conversations about how our communities are organized--in terms of race, economics, education,

etc. I don't have any specific plan or agenda for these conversations; I am just wanting to listen to the Spirit of Restlessness in myself, in our congregation, and in our society and see where She leads. I believe that the Spirit has been preparing us and will be with every step of the way and holds our future with hope and peace and miracles. I look forward to the journey with you all. Pastor Phil

Survey for Exploring In-Person Gatherings

Yesterday (Tuesday, June 2) the Responsible Building Use task group sent out a message and survey about how to consider decisions about meeting in-person at the Edgumbe Church building. If you have not looked at that email, please do so soon. If you didn't get it and want to see it, email Pastor Phil at pastorphilgg@gmail.com.

If you just want to go directly to the survey, here is the link:

<https://forms.gle/8pE1JVso8r1nEth9>

Please fill out this survey--it's short, there is plenty of room for comments, and your input and ideas are essential for this process. We hope to have all the survey responses by June 10. Thank you!

New Contact Information!

We have several updates about contact information for church staff. All of these changes are effective immediately.

- Office Manager Krysta Niznick is switching to a new church email address: epchurch2149@gmail.com
- Pastor Luna also has a new email: pastorlunagg@gmail.com
- Because we are rarely at the church building anymore, Pastor Luna and I are now going to publish our cell phone numbers. Email is still the best way to communicate with us about most church business, but in an emergency or for a quicker response, feel free to call or text these numbers. Pastor Phil = 651-983-5989. Pastor Luna = 651-983-5989.

Member to Member Generosity for Financial Need

The Community of EPC would like to support each other by offering practical financial help to members. We have established a **Blossoming Fund** to give an assist to folks at Edgumbe who might need a little boost during this time of insecurity and in the future. If you need financial help (to buy groceries, pay a bill, make up a gap in rent or mortgage, ect), PLEASE know that we are here for you and want to help! Contact Phil or Luna with this request. We are blessed in the giving and receiving!

Church Online Giving

Our online giving option is now up and running on our website! Go to www.epchurch.org to click on the Give Now button on the top left, which takes you to the Donate page with all the info you need. I tried this myself yesterday, and everything was smooth and easy. All other options for giving to EPC are still available--checks brought or mailed to the office, or direct deposit from bank or investment accounts (contact Ron). Thank you all for your ongoing support!

Zoom Update and Schedule!

We have four Zoom meetings scheduled for our congregation for each week. All of these meetings are open to you and to everyone. They are:

- Sunday morning Worship at 10am
- Sunday evening Bible Study at 6:30pm
- Tuesday Centering Prayer at 3pm
- Wednesday evening Gathering at 7pm

Updated links for each of these meetings are on the church website at

<http://www.epchurch.org/>

June Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Happy Birthday to:

LaGretta Lunda 6/11

Lisa Holden 6/16

Zack Humphery 6/16

Fred Clary 6/24

Ingrid Eggert 6/24

Eleta Pierce 6/24

Happy Anniversary to:

David & Sherla Mayer 6/8

Fred & Belinda Clary 6/27