

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

July 22, 2020

In this issue: Pastors' Time Off, Sunday Worship, Reflections on Sunday's Worship, Backwoods update, News Release from the Denomination, Challenging Inequality, Zoom Mtgs, Racial Justice Team Update

Pastors' Time Off

Pastors Luna and Phil will be off July 13-26.

Worship for this Sunday, July 26

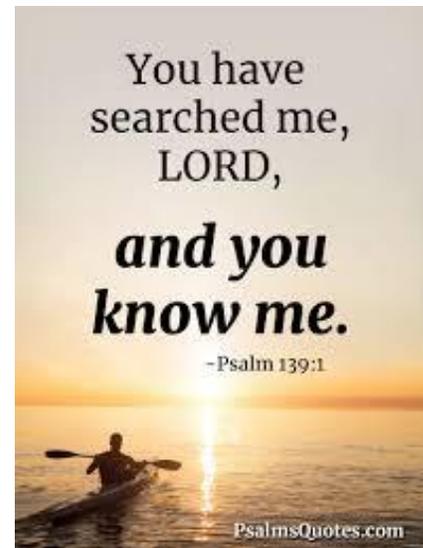
This Sunday we will watch a video that has been made available from our Presbytery. The Scripture / sermon only video will feature PTCA moderator the Rev. Anna Kendig and PTCA vide-moderator, ruling elder Jean Emmons, in dialogue with the text and with each other. Here is the link to that video so that you can watch it when it works for you: <https://youtu.be/WVJ2REh-q0w> Just like this past Sunday, we will gather for discussion, sharing and fellowship at 11 am on Zoom, using the same link on our website as for the 10 am worship service. Please watch this video prior to our gathering. For a BONUS, here is the full-service video our Presbytery recorded specifically for this Sunday. Does the Sanctuary look familiar to you? https://youtu.be/YLzg_tsDH6c

Reflections from this past Sunday's Worship & Zoom Gathering

This past Sunday, while pastors Luna and Phil were on vacation, we watched the worship service video for First Presbyterian Church in South St. Paul. Pastor Katie Estes' message centered on Psalm 139 and how God has searched us, knows us, and calls us. We also got to experience the ordination and installation of their Deacons and Elders during the recorded worship service. Thirteen of us gathered on Zoom afterwards to share stories of our own callings both in life and in the church. Some also shared their hesitations because we sometimes tell ourselves that we may not be worthy of the task, even though God sees otherwise.

Backwoods update

While Pastors Luna and Phil are away, it would be so appreciated for **continued help in removing the burdock**. There are shovels in the shed, and a wagon to haul out the plants to put in the dumpster. **Another need** is to haul the pulled-out buckthorn to a



compost site. There is a pile on the east end of the episcopal's parking lot (between the dumpster and the cottonwood tree) that is ready to go.... thank you!!!

News Release from our Denomination: 224th General Assembly elects Street-Stewart, Bentley co-moderators

Elona Street-Stewart and Gregory J. Bentley were elected as Co-Moderators of the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in an historic Zoom based virtual national gathering. Their election came on the first ballot. Street-Stewart is executive for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, a regional judicatory of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She was elected by the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area as a ruling elder commissioner to the General Assembly, and endorsed by the Presbytery to stand for election as co-moderator. She is a 35-year resident of Saint Paul and has been regularly honored for her community service and commitments. Her colleague, the Rev. Gregory Bentley, serves as co-pastor of Friendship Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, Alabama.

"The world needs a church that has no fear over its diversity," said Street-Stewart, a descendant of the Delaware Nanticoke tribe and the first Native American to serve as a moderator as well as a synod executive in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Bentley is the first African American man to serve as co-moderator. Street-Stewart and Bentley will moderate the remainder of this year's virtual General Assembly and then serve the church until the 225th General Assembly in 2022. They bring to their two-year term a passion for addressing systemic poverty, institutional racism, and the vitality of congregations that appealed to the 560 commissioners and delegates from around the country. Official denominational press release:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/224th-general-assembly-elects-street-stewart-bentley-co-moderators/>

Challenging Inequality: The Six Degrees of Segregation

Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul is offering a Learning Community Event on Thursday July 23rd 7pm - 8:30pm via Zoom titled "Challenging Inequality: The Six Degrees of Segregation" In this presentation Dr. Williams will explore the history of racial inequality in America from the end of the Civil War through the murder of George Floyd through the lens of what he calls the Six Degrees of Segregation, six firm barriers to equality that continue to bar access to first class citizenship, economic stability, and health and safety for African Americans, Indigenous People and Immigrants of Color in the United States. To receive the Zoom link please RSVP

to <https://interfaithaction.org/programs/opportunity-saint-paul/learning-community-events/>

Zoom 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 **cancelled** until Pastors return from vacation.
- 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/>

Racial Justice Team Update

The Racial Justice And Me (RJAM) group is continuing to educate ourselves by gathering and organizing racial justice related information that is available on the web, as books, in podcasts, in movies, as online classes, or through interaction with other churches and their similar groups. Our plan is to provide a spreadsheet that is arranged by topic in order to assist other members of the congregation in reaching any personal goals they may have for education and/or actions related to racial justice. This week we settled on a proposed timeline for activities and future actions.

By July 30th we will have an organized spreadsheet available containing the list of educational information outlined above.

By July 30th we will describe the process that will be used to get other interested members of the congregation engaged in their personal education activity.

By August 1st we will ask members of the congregation who are interested to make a pledge (by August 8th) to complete a personal goal (by September 8th) related to becoming more educated with respect to racial justice issues. As mentioned in last Wednesday's update some possible personal goals are:

I want to learn more about
the history of racism

I want to get a better
handle on the statistics/numbers around racism

I want to be able to tell
my story about how racism has affected me

I want to explore how
white privilege has affected my ancestors and me

I want to learn what
other churches are doing about Racial Justice

By early September we expect to have opportunities for those who made a pledge to be involved in discussions related to what they have learned and possible future actions to be taken. As always, please feel free to email any of us with questions or comments.

Your RJAM team - Eleta Pierce, Pastor Luna, Liz and Rich Schiferl, Leslie Snow, and Connie Howe-Vielmetti.