

Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

August 19, 2020

In this issue: Step Out of the Boat, RJAM update & invite, Pastor Vacation, Kathy Pedersen Memorial, Prayers, Zoom Mtgs

Step Out of the Boat

For the past two weeks, Pastor Luna and I have preached on the same text, Matthew 14:22-33, the story of Jesus walking on the water. And honestly, we could keep going on this same passage for a while because every line is so full of meaning and insight about who God is and who we are. Both of us recommend that you put this story in your regular devotional life. Here are some nuggets from each of us.

FROM PASTOR LUNA

- >Jesus goes off by himself to pray. Before the storms, before the miracles, there is prayer. Maybe it is prayer that makes the lake-walking miracle possible.
- >When Peter begins to sink, Jesus immediately stretches out his hand to Peter and catches Peter. God's very nature is revealed in this; that is who God is: God catches us. This is not negotiable.
- >"Take heart," says Jesus, "Be encouraged! Do not be afraid." Imagine the miracles that are possible if we are touch with our own hearts!

FROM PASTOR PHIL

- >By walking on the water in the midst of the storm, Jesus says to us, "Your imagination about what is possible in your life is too small. Get out of the boat!"
- >When Peter does step out of the boat, it is not because he has been practicing his water-walking skills. He is doing a whole new thing. The only thing, the absolute only thing you need to step toward healing and miracles in your life is trust.

This is the kind of story that you can put next to your bed, or bookmark in your Bible, or download on your phone and read it every day. It will not get boring or stale but will flow like a river of hope into your life each time you read it.

Racial Justice and Me (RJAM) Team Update

I hope you have had some time to look at the resource list the team has put together and to consider setting a goal on educating yourself on this topic. As the team has been researching and reading about racism it has been hard for me to not to want to start doing something. While I think that it is important to get a good understanding of this complex problem, I have also started looking for small actions that I could actually begin to take. I will be sharing my notes on actions via a link on the RJAM page and hope you

will take a look at them. It's a short list right now, but I will add more and I hope you will send me any ideas you have.

Liz Schiferl on behalf of the RJAM team (Luna, Connie, Leslie, Eleta and Rich)

RJAM Links

The Racial Justice and Me (RJAM) Team invites and encourages all EPC members to check out these opportunities. The EPC initiative is all about discovery, learning and sharing within our community and then moving forward with action. Please fill out the Pledge soon! The Presbytery initiative is an exciting way to learn with others across the Twin Cities and do the hard work of dismantling racism within the church. If you are interested in the Presbytery Pilgrimage, please sign up as soon as possible. The closing date for that sign up is August 28th. Here are the web links to these opportunities:

- 1) RJAM's six-week process of learning, discussion, and action within the EPC community. <http://www.epchurch.org/rjam.html>
- 2) The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area's Anti-Racism Spiritual Pilgrimage which will involve a year-long process of learning, discussion, and action with our larger church community. <https://anti-racism-ptca.weebly.com/2020-2021-spiritual-pilgrimage.html>

Pastors' Vacation

The pastors will be taking another two weeks off from August 24-September 7. Very similar to earlier this summer, the worship plan on Aug. 30 and Sept. 6 will be to watch services from First Presbyterian Church in South St. Paul, followed by an EPC discussion group on Zoom.

The proposed outdoor worship and communion service from Sept. 6 has been pushed back one week to Sept. 13.

Pastoral concerns during the vacation should be sent to our Elders and items for the midweek Update should be sent to Krysta at epchurch2149@gmail.com.

Kathy Pedersen Memorial

The memorial service for Kathy Pedersen, who died on Wednesday, August 5, is now planned for Saturday, Sept. 12, at 10am in the EPC backwoods. The congregation is invited. Usual outdoor worship service guidelines of masks and distancing will be followed. In case of rain, the service will move inside with immediate family only while being broadcast on Zoom (Zoom link forthcoming).

Prayers

- For Ann Schroeder and family as they prepare for Kathy's memorial service and burial and work to clean out Kathy's apartment.
- For McKenna R. as she transitions to college at Florida State. For Isaac G. after he found out that Gustavus has asked sophomores through seniors to stay home for distance learning. And for all our students preparing for fall learning in our changed educational landscape.

- For Pastor Luna and her extended family as they move Luna's mom to a senior facility after 41 years in her Edina home.
- For the people of Belarus (Jenya's birth country) with all the transition and uncertainty there right now.

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 at 6:30pm
- Tuesday Centering Prayer at 3pm
- Wednesday evening Gathering at 7pm

If these gatherings are meaningful to you, then why not invite a friend?

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

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