

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

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Unlearning: Learning to Trust

This past Sunday in worship, we explored the question: What justifies my existence? We asked ourselves what we might need to UNLEARN around what we tell ourselves about our own justification. At the end of the service Todd held up a sign from his home, which was a quote from Romans 5:1--

Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I want to reflect on that passage with you for a moment. The Greek word translated above as “faith” really means “trust.” Faith is a fine word, but we have used it in a religious context for so long that it has lost most of its basic meaning. The English word “trust” however carries more of the original intent. Imagine waking up every morning filled with complete and total trust. Not: “I have faith that everything will turn out for the best,” but: **“I have complete trust - in my body, mind, and heart - that I rest in God’s love at every moment and nothing can threaten me or that love.”** Don’t just read those bold words but truly imagine feeling them, experiencing them. Say them to yourself several times in a row, like a prayer or statement of “faith.” Notice what happens inside of you as you say them. Let their truth and invitation go to a deeper and deeper place within you, until you can begin to trust that God’s love is more real and powerful than anything else in the universe.

From this trust, says Paul in Romans 5:1, comes the peace of God. The peace offered by Jesus. The peace that changes the world. Life and our egos try very very hard to teach us distrust. The Spirit offers us trust in love, which unravels our stories of mistrust, which leads to peace. ❤️ Pastor Phil

Clothing Collection

Edgcumbe Friends: We have an opportunity to help our neighbors in the south Minneapolis neighborhood that experienced unrest and economic hardship last spring.

Fall and **winter clothing** for adults and children is being collected by the 'From Me to You Ministry' operated by a fellow church in Minneapolis. Personal items including



paper towels, disposable diapers, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies and body wash/soaps/toothbrushes/tooth paste/shampoo are also needed for the Passage Community transitional housing program.

Collection days are October 1-11. You can drop these items off at the front porch at Ruth Andersen's house: 1801 Stanford Ave., St. Paul. A basket for clothes will be there and boxes for personal items. Ruth will deliver the collection to Minneapolis the week of October 11. Peace and love from our neighbors across the river.

Worship News

- This week Sunday, we will be on Zoom and it is World Communion Sunday, so come prepared for home communion and feel free to wear something international in flavor!
- Next week Sunday, October 11, the forecast calls for a nice day with temps in the 60s, so MAYBE we will try one more outdoor service. Watch this space for updates.

New Members & New Officers

This fall we will hold both a New Member Exploration Class for anyone who wants to consider being a member of Edgumbe Church. At the same time, we are looking for new Elders and Deacons to lead our community of faith. If you are interested in either of these opportunities or just want to talk more, please contact either Pastor Luna or Pastor Phil.

Racial Justice and Me (RJAM)

The RJAM Racial Justice brainstorming session was held last Wednesday evening with great participation by about a dozen people. We discussed what we had learned and exchanged some personal experiences. This Wednesday evening we will Zoom meet again at 7 pm using the Wednesday Check-in link on the Church webpage. This session will be focused on Reflection. Each person attending will be offered the opportunity to share something about what they have learned or discuss any questions they may have. All are welcome to participate in these Wednesday evening zoom meetings.

Those of you who are interested in some actions that you can take in the short term, please check a list on the RJAM web page (see http://www.epchurch.org/documents/RJAM_actions.pdf).

Note the upcoming lecture by Dr. Kendi on Sept. 30 at 6pm at the University of Minnesota we mentioned in last Wednesday's update is now full. No more registrations are being taken. Those who have already registered are welcome to join our discussion after the Dr. Kendi lecture even if this is after 7 pm. We would love to include your feedback about this lecture in our Reflection session.

I hope to see you all this Wednesday. Rich, on behalf of the RJAM team (Eleta, Leslie, Liz, Luna and Connie)

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. Zoom meetings now require the use of either a passcode or a waiting room. For the time being, our rooms have the

waiting room enabled, so when you log on to Zoom, you will be in a temporary waiting room until the host let's you in. Here is our current schedule:

- Sunday morning Worship at 10am
- Sunday evening Bible Study at 6:30pm
- Tuesday Centering Prayer at 3pm
- Wednesday evening Gathering (RJAM) 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/>

Prayers

For Carol Schweickhardt who had a diagnostic procedure for an aneurysm on Monday and is awaiting next steps on news from her doctor.

Prayers for Eleta's sister Tammy, who had surgery on Tuesday on her hand and wrist, which were badly broken in a fall last week.

Prayer for today: *Holy Spirit, help me unlearn what you want me to unlearn, so that I might trust only your love in every moment.*

October Birthdays and Anniversaries



Happy Birthday to: Samantha LeClair	10/11
Happy Anniversary to: Connie and David Howe-Vielmetti	10/07