

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

Oct 7, 2020

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Unlearning: Planting Awe

this past sunday, we heard psalm 19 proclaim that the sky declares the handiwork of god! as the psalm continues, we are reminded again how god reveals god's self through the majesty of nature, and as we witness it, we are filled in awe!!

we have been exploring unlearning this season, and my work in the backwoods has taught me a thing or two about taking things out. and what i know now is that **unlearning isn't the only step needed**. what we put in its place is as equally as important.

i have been working in the backwoods for 3 full summers now, and each year my wisdom is deepening. at first, i knew i wanted to take out the invaders--the buckthorn trees--which run rampant once they get established. i wanted to "unlearn" the backwoods of the habit of buckthorns...so, for two years, i pulled with abandon, and made a ton of progress.

however, just removing the backwoods eco-system of buckthorn didn't lead to the long-term joyous results i had hoped for. i now see that clearing items has merely opened the ground to the next invader--which in this case is garlic mustard. now in those areas removed of buckthorn, much of that earth is hosting an abundant crop of the garlic mustard weed. in seeing this, this summer i ordered eco-grass and am now sewing seeds as i pull up vegetation and buckthorn.

we know that as people who follow Jesus and his teachings, we have to unlearn what we have picked up throughout our lives, so that we can step into his vision of a kingdom of love, forgiveness, and grace. but as we begin this tender journey of unlearning, the need for community is even greater because we need the love, encouragement and inspiration from each other. and, as we unlearn patterns, habits, thoughts, and beliefs, it is important to sew those items we want to grow...the fruits of the spirit! things like love, generosity, patience, kindness, self-control, and awe.

take time today to **engage** with something that fills you with awe. what might that be? going for a walk around your neighborhood and seeing the glorious autumn colors? is it cooking a new recipe? is it allowing the holy spirit to lead to a new outcome from some difficult thing in your life? for me, i recently lingered around micah (my son), and we ended up in a fit of laughter over an unexpected turn of the conversation. i walked away in awe of the sweetness of the exchange. seek out and be open to awe this week....**allow awe to be planted** in the field of your unknowings!!

Outdoor Worship this Sunday

This coming Sunday, October 11, the forecast calls for a nice day with morning temps in the 60s, so we will plan for one more outdoor service, probably our last of this

year. Bring your own seating and a mask for fellowship times and good shoes for walking the meditation path! If you can't join us in person, we will plan to open the Zoom room as well.

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. **A final pickup of clothes and personal items will be at church on this Sunday after outdoor worship--bring any items to Ruth's car.** Ruth will deliver the collection to Minneapolis the week of October 11. Peace and love from our neighbors across the river.

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. If and when you see a passcode next to the Zoom link on our website, then you will know that we are using a passcode. 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/>

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 Edgcumbe 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)

Hello All! Elder Connie here with a Racial Justice and Me (RJAM) update. We have continued to have rich conversations in our Wednesday night 7:00 discussions.

Last week, we discussed the interview with Dr Ibram X Kendi (How To Be an Antiracist). This week Ron and Ingrid will present a book report by Ta-Nehisi Coates entitled *Between The World and Me* and there will be time for questions, discussion, and reflections.

Participants are using the Resource list found on the RJAM page at the EPC Website to share what they are learning about systemic institutional racism. It is making ME aware of the deeply embedded ideas that I need to UNLEARN. It is a humbling process and I am so grateful to be doing it with my beloved community.

A big part of RJAM mission is to prayerfully consider and implement anti racist action for us as individuals and as a church community. Please keep this in your prayers as we move forward in love.

Please join us Wed! All are welcome. To access the zoom meeting just go to the EPC website and click on 'Check-In Wed 7:00PM'.

Backwoods Updates

Here are a few things going on in backwoods.

>Tom Holt is mounting our granite signs on wood platforms that can then be attached to our new posts by every meditation station, something we have been working toward for the past year!

>Pastor Luna found ten high-quality outdoor chairs on a clearance sale to improve the outdoor seating on the property.

>Again this year, a mother-daughter deer family seems to have made our backwoods their permanent home.

>The shed is scheduled to be torn down later this month and replaced later this fall. Look for a call to help clean out the old shed soon.

Prayers

Prayers of thanksgiving for Dave and Connie Howe-Vielmetti as they celebrate their wedding anniversary today. May God continue to make their marriage a blessing to each other and to the world.

Prayer for today: *Holy Spirit, help me unlearn what you want me to unlearn, so that I might experience awe and miracles in every moment.*