



dgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

February 10, 2021

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Four Changes

as we deepen into Jesus' invitation to be here now in this present moment, it gives our annual meeting a particular focus. we get to review the journey of the past 12 months, so that we can take a moment to re-adjust our own sense of identity. "people change and they forget to tell one another," says one of my favorite tea bags. we, as a community, have changed, and here are some of those ways.

1. **we see each other.** literally, when we gather for worship, we are all now looking into each other's faces. we have taken opportunities to hear more of each other's stories within our prayers of honesty and our zoom gatherings. we care for each other. we pray for and with each other. we have come to intimately realize that **we need each other** so that the body of Christ is *whole*. as we move ahead, we have to consider how we can adjust our former worship space (the sanctuary has become our former worship space--incredible!!) to reflect our ability to see and behold one another.

2. **we have unlearned together.** one of the main themes we have undertaken this year is **unlearning** former beliefs, habits, patterns and orientations. we acknowledge we have to release these former things so that we can be taught by, and anchor into, the Holy Spirit. as the community elects elders, we understand that our elders are the trusted servants among us, who are asked to listen for and discern where the Holy Spirit is guiding our community. we acknowledge that our will is to be used **to consent to God's loving presence and God's healing action**, in this moment.

3. **we've become adaptable.** the pandemic has made us more flexible. we have had to become even more honest, let go even more fully, and grieve. those ideas of "how to do church" have loosened and changed, and in that process, we found an even more

meaningful and vital experience of the **living body of christ**. we have stopped trying to “do church” from our own strength and will, and we now turn and anchor in god to lead us into whatever it is that god dreams of us to be.

4. **jesus is alive and moving among us because we are the living body of christ**. jesus has taught us all that we need...that this moment, **now**, is where we come into full presence with our hearts and minds and bodies. we experience that the kingdom of god is **here**, right now, and not some after-death experience. we **change** our hearts and our minds, to no longer use our ego/separated systems of thought and sight, and to turn our will and our lives over to the holy spirit to guide us. and, then, we **trust**....trust that this is the good news, and by living this out, we live into the fullness of being at-one with god.

so, this is who we have become this year....the pandemic has given us an opportunity to untangle from our old wineskins, and we know that we will be given new wineskins for the new wine that we are. i invite you to be in prayer, not only for each other, but for our community, that the spirit will blow within, and among, and through us, and for us to continue to take the

shape of who god dreams of us to be.



with joy!! pastor luna

Annual Meeting Report

We had a lovely and positive Annual Meeting last Sunday after worship. Highlights and decisions included:

- Updating the church bylaws to allow for electronic (virtual) meetings
- Approving the Terms of Call for Pastors Luna & Phil
- Celebrating the addition of six new members in 2020 and remembering the deaths of Kathy Pedersen and Dorice Van Vorst.
- Hearing about people’s weirdest communion elements in 2020
- Electing five Elders, two returning and three (!) brand new Elders
- With much gratitude, acknowledging the end of term for Elders Eleta & Fred
- In all things, giving thanks to God

February Mission Focus: VRJ

Our mission for the month of February is the group **Voices for Racial Justice**. If you want to learn a bit more about their efforts, a good place to start is their online magazine called The Quilt. Online link is here:

<https://voicesforracialjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019-The-Quilt.pdf>



**VOICES FOR
RACIAL JUSTICE**

They are also involved in advocating for racial justice at the legislature. One way they do this is by promoting the use of a Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) when looking at proposed policy. You can learn more here:

<https://voicesforracialjustice.org/voices/what-we-all-should-know-about-the-2021-legislative-session-and-the-state-budget-if-we-care-about-ending-racial-disparities-and-structural-racism-in-minnesota/>

If you would like to contribute to Voices for Racial Justice, please put their name in the memo line of your check or, if donating online, specify their name in the Notes box.

RJAM

The Racial Justice and Me (RJAM) group will be meeting this Wednesday (tonight) by Zoom at 7 PM. We will discuss Chapter 7 of the book *So You Want to Talk about Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. The chapter title is **How can I talk about affirmative action?** We plan to break out into small groups for the discussion as we had done a few weeks ago. All are welcome to join, even if you have not read previous chapters. I am looking forward to a great discussion. Hope to see you there. Rich and the RJAM team (Eleta, Leslie, Connie, Luna, Liz)

Zoom Schedule

We have four Zoom meetings scheduled for our congregation for each week. All of these meetings have been updated and are open to you and to everyone. The links can be found on our church website homepage. 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 at 7pm

2020 Giving Statements

Please keep your eyes open for your 2020 Giving Statements that will be arriving in the mail. If you have any questions please contact Krysta at the church office by email epchurch2149@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the church.