

Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update - April 28, 2021

In this issue: Simple Faith, Sabbatical update, Zoom, April Backwoods Mission, Prayers, Enneagram Prison Project, May Birthdays & Anniversary

Simple Faith

While I like the whole Bible, including its breadth and complexity, I also have a handful of short texts that I use to ground my faith and life. Here are three that I mentioned on Sunday.

- The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. (*Psalm 23*)
- God is light; there is not one speck of darkness in God. (*1 John 1*)
- God is love. Those who abide in love, abide in God, and God abides in them. (*1 John 4*)

I don't lead my life--God leads my life. When I let God lead, then every single need that I have is met with love and abundance.

Not one speck of darkness. So any darkness I think I see comes from forgetting. When I remember whose I am, I see only light and love and healing.

My job at every moment is to abide in love and extend love. It's simple, really.

-Pastor Phil

Pastor Sabbatical Next Steps

This week, Pastors Luna & Phil will be meeting with the Personnel team of Meredith and Carol to explore next steps on planning a pastor sabbatical time. Questions and options will include:

- Do we still try to organize a less ambitious sabbatical time for this year or early in 2022, or shall we try for the large sabbatical grant again next year (pushing the sabbatical itself to 2023)? What would the funding look like?
- If we do wait until 2023, then could some extra time off be granted to the pastors for this summer/fall?
- As we explore time off for pastors now and in the future, how do we want to cover both Sunday worship services and other pastoral duties when they are gone?

If you have input or energy around any of these conversations, please contact Meredith or Carol. Thank you!

Zoom Gatherings 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

April Mission Focus: EPC Backwoods

A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our Backwoods Workday last Saturday: Jay (and his rope!), Lisa & Connie (and their plants!), Meredith, Tom (and his trailer!), Kathy, Leslie, Dave (and his lopper!), Rich, Phil (and his chainsaw!) & Luna & Isaac & Micah--with essential snack support from Carol and Ruth! We got so much done. Plan on another workday for an up-coming Saturday morning when we can continue cleaning up and add some more planting as well.

Thank you for all your support of our beautiful Backwoods, with your labor and your financial gifts. Our hope is that the Spirit will use this land and trees as a blessing to our church and neighborhood and world.

Prayers

- Mel Houle's father Melvin died the week before last and his service was this week. Prayers of comfort for Mel and Naomi and for Mel's mom, Celeste, who collapsed at the visitation. Here is a note from Naomi about the service:
Mel's dad's funeral service could not have been nicer. The priest that led the service knew both Melvin and Celeste quite well, so it was very personalized. Mel's dad attended Mass almost everyday ever since his retirement 30 years ago, until the pandemic no longer allowed it. He was a very religious man with a kind heart. He was ready to meet his maker and was at peace. This makes it much easier for the family to accept his death. Obviously, we will all miss him, but we know that the most important journey of his life has begun. We ask for prayers for Mel's mom, Celeste. She collapsed at the visitation and had to be rushed to the hospital. She is still at the hospital, but is doing much better.

Enneagram Prison Project Update

Several of you have asked me recently what is happening with my work with Enneagram Prison Project (EPP), so here is a quick update. Along with almost everything else last March, the state prison system closed its doors to all outside programming. I have not been inside Shakopee Prison or done any online work with any Minnesota prison since that time. In just the past week or two there has been a new Covid outbreak at Shakopee, so nothing is going to reopen there soon. It is forbidden for me to have any contact with our former students on the inside. I cannot know what the past year has been like inside our prisons, but I can imagine that the sense of isolation and claustrophobia and anxiety that most of us have felt

are most likely magnified in prison with no programming and very few visitors.

The graphic features the title "9 Prisons ONE Key" in large, bold letters, with "9 Prisons" in black and "ONE Key" in orange. Below it, "VIRTUAL ENNEAGRAM COURSE" is written in smaller black text. An orange banner contains the text "Learn from EPP about our foundational application of the Enneagram". Below this, it says "Facilitated by EPP Guides" and "Video Training by EPP Faculty". At the bottom, there are logos for Slack, TalentLMS, Zoom, and a WhatsApp icon. On the right side, there is a grid of six small portrait photos of the course facilitators. The background includes a faint Enneagram diagram and the text "WHAT'S RIGHT ABOUT YOU", "SELF-AWARENESS", and "ESSENTIAL QUALITIES".

While prisons have been closed to us, EPP has not been dormant. Beginning in April 2021 and continuing today, I have been very involved with EPP in offering our prison curriculum to the general public online in a program called 9 Prisons ONE Key (9P1K). If you might be interested yourself, please check out the website:

<https://enneagramprisonproject.org/9prisonsonekey-training/> Near the bottom of that site is a JOIN INTEREST LIST button if you want to be contacted for the offering in fall 2021. I highly recommend it. This work continues to be a large part of my life, so I invite inquiries at any time. If programming is going to restart here in Minnesota, I'll be sure to let you know. -Phil

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to

Vincent Hogen	5/5
Phil GebbenGreen	5/7
Belinda Clary	5/9

Happy Anniversary to

Naomi & Mel Houle	5/21
-------------------	------