



Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update - May 26, 2021

In this issue: Snapshots, Feelings & Pie, Zoom, May Mission, RJAM, Grad Party, Birthdays & Anniversaries

Snapshots!

Here are a few brief notes of note:

- 8218 Truce Center founder and director Miki Lewis gave a powerful testimony in our worship this past week. To visit the Truce Center, go to the corner of Selby & Lexington (10am-8pm Mon-Sat). To give to our Pentecost Offering, go to www.epchurch.org.
- The congregation approved adding two weeks vacation to the Pastors' terms of call for 2021 at the meeting on Sunday--thank you!
- Keep your eyes on your email on Saturday in case we decide to try outdoor worship again (right now the weather report is coolish with possible thunderstorms...)

Feelings & Pie

This week is the one-year anniversary of the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, an event that had a large impact on our hearts, our cities, and our church community. Here are two reflections

1. Don't be afraid to let yourself feel sad. Paul said, Rejoice with those who rejoice, and mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12). Remembering the way that George Floyd died is sad. Recognizing the many ways that bias and privilege have led to real and

daily suffering for so many people is also sad. I'm not saying, "hopeless;" I'm saying, "sad." When we allow our hearts to feel our own grief or the grief of sad situations around us, it actually opens space inside of us for clarity, for courage, for taking the next step forward

2. Today's Pioneer Press includes an article about the healing power of pie, even for communities broken by racial disparities and violence , article here: (<https://www.twincities.com/2021/05/25/george-floyd-minneapolis-mn-healing-the-community-one-pie-at-a-time/>). To use Paul's quote another way: There is a time to mourn and a time for pie. At this one-year anniversary, as the Covid pandemic seems to be slowing, let us look forward to the time when we can gather in the church backyard for pie and connection and rebuilding and hope. Have you shared something yummy lately?

Zoom Gatherings Schedule

We have four Zoom meetings scheduled for our congregation for each week. The links can be found on our church website homepage. Here is our current schedule:

- Sunday morning Worship at 10am (watch Updates and email for schedule)
- Sunday evening Bible Study at 6:30pm
- Tuesday Centering Prayer at 3pm
- Wednesday Evening Gathering at 7pm

May Mission Focus: Pentecost Offering

During the month of May, our Mission offering for Edgumbe Church will focus on youth through the Presbyterian Pentecost offering. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church develop, and support its young people, and address needs of at-risk children. 60% is used to support children and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Our 40% local contribution will be used to support the 8218 Truce Center in Saint Paul (on the corner of Lexington and Selby). The center is open M-Sat 10am to 8pm and focuses on youth ages 8-18. Check out their photo gallery at: <https://8218trucecenter.org/>

Racial Justice & Me

We have just finished discussing the chapter entitled "What is the model minority myth" from Ijeoma Oluo's book 'So You Want To Talk About Race'. This chapter describes the assumptions people have about Asian Americans. The model minority myth (first coined in 1966) is the collection of stereotypes applied to a wide group of people with 'Asian' backgrounds - people from Guam, the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, India, China, Korea, and Japan are often given this designation. It is assumed that people in this group are motivated, educated and successful (i.e. an ideal 'model' to aspire to), and do not suffer from racist practices. Asian Americans are often not considered when studying the effects of racism, because as a 'model minority' they are not seen as being harmed by racism. There are several issues with this. The backgrounds of the people that are grouped into the AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) classification is actually VERY diverse, and this grouping renders many ethnicities 'invisible'. There is extreme economic and educational disparity among members of this group. Assuming they are all 'successful' gives white people the justification to ignore the oppression and discrimination caused by racism, and leave them out of the discussion. Also, this stereotype about educational success, especially in a technical field, can harm Asian Americans by limiting their professional opportunities. If we

want to fight racism, we have to fight the model minority myth as well and not divide Asian Americans from other racial and ethnic groups.

Please join us next week (June 2 on Zoom at 7pm) when we will be discussing the next chapter "But what if I hate Al Sharpton?" All are welcome; even if you haven't read the chapter feel free to just listen.

Graduation Party

Belinda and Fred Clary are celebrating the high school graduation of Sami LeClair and Belinda's college graduation (Midwifery) with a party at church on Sunday, June 27, 2-6pm. The entire congregation is invited to this celebration--the Clarys just need to know how many are planning to come for food prep, so please email Belinda at brealfit75@gmail.com to RSVP. Congrats to Sami and Belinda!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

LaGretta Lunde 6/11

Lisa Holden 6/16

Zack Humphery 6/16

Fred Clary 6/24

Ingrid Eggert 6/24

Eleta Pierce 6/24

Happy Anniversary to:

David & Sherpa Mayer 6/8

Fred & Belinda Clary 6/27