

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update May 3, 2023

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the lord is my shepherd – i lack nothing

we read, sung and heard the words of psalm 23 this past sunday....recognizing that these ancient words have such profound meaning and truth for us still today. this passage fundamentally challenges our own sense of being private entities, believing that we are bodies and individual wills. as we think from an ego/individual (separated) mind set, we inherently see conflict, grievance, judgment and we identify as bodies. however, this passage invites us to see through these perspectives to what is true....that we are in the flock of god, being wholly (and holy!) tended to by the good shepherd. and with this comes access to the holy self mindset (the true, essential selves that we are) which is wholly at one with god. as this vital connection is restored, we then know that we truly lack nothing.

so, the invitation is this: when you observe yourself in judgment, fear, or perhaps exhibiting controlling or distracting behaviors, or believing in a sense of lack.....to first **breathe**. as we come into presence with our breath, we receive the spirit's breath of life. then we can choose again to turn toward the good shepherd, who is already looking at us with compassion and love. we are invited to turn inward, and ask the holy spirit to heal our mind and to repurpose and reinterpret our stories and beliefs. this is when we then find ourselves within the kingdom of god, where we have no needs. our connection to god **is** the source of our life, and there is then nothing to do but rest in god's loving presence and receive god's restorative life. this is our **true identity**.

the kingdom has come. truly, when we allow our true identity to be what we are, we lack nothing.

may we rest in god as we inhabit our lives, and may we be instruments of god's love and healing presence to all we encounter.



baaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

Pastor Luna At Spiritual Directors International Conference

Pastor Luna will be attending the Spiritual Directors International Conference in Madison, Wed-Sat this week. We hold her in our prayers as she gathers with others who have the vocation of tending the Sacred relationship.

Get Ready for Our May Mission

In May our mission will be our own Backwoods. We have two workdays scheduled:

- **Monday, May 8, 1:30-4:30pm**
- **Saturday, May 20, 1-4pm**

What will we be doing, you ask? Having fun doing Spring clean-up, beginning the removal of invasive species, and hopefully planting a few trees. After last year's badly needed tree removal and trimming Phil has identified three spots for trees and the kinds of trees we will plant. Which brings us to the second part of the mission. Financial donations will go toward tree purchases. We hope to get trees on the bigger side, which tend to be costly - \$300+ per tree. After that, we will need helpers to water the trees on a regular basis. So lots of opportunities to hang out in the Backwoods coming your way!

Donations for tree purchase or other Backwoods supplies can be provided as a check to Edgumbe Presbyterian Church with "Backwoods" in the memo line or online by indicating "Backwoods" in the notes that can accompany your contribution.

Presbytery Race Self Assessment

Over the past three years, the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area has been in an intentional conversation about race and racism in our churches and communities. The resulting report is now ready for publication and is called: the Institutional Race & Equity Self-Assessment. The self-assessment team will release their final report on Monday, May 8th to be included in the meeting packet for the May 18, 2023 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery. The goal of this work is to understand how we as a presbytery are doing around issues of race and equity, and to chart a way forward with hope and health. As you might recall, during this self-study every congregation and presbytery member was invited to participate in a number of ways, including through the PTCA/Congregational Questionnaire during Summer 2021 and through focus groups in Fall 2022.

Pastor Phil has been invited to a preview of this report on this Saturday, May 6, so we can look forward to more information and engagement in this important work in the weeks to come.

FPC-SSP Books & Vinyl Record Sale

Our friends at First Presbyterian Church in South St Paul are having a sale this weekend, and we are invited. The sale is in Fellowship Hall on Friday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and after church on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All books will be \$1. A limited supply of vinyl records is also available for \$5 each. Cash and checks only.

The address of FPC-SSP is:

535 20th Avenue North
South St. Paul MN 55075