

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

June 19, 2024

In this issue: Pastor's away, Freedom and Connection, Father's Day poem, Backwoods Workday, une Mission: Guild, Summer Worship Schedule, Pancakes!



Pastors Away June 20-27

Pastors Luna and Phil will be taking off a week of vacation from June 20-27. If you have a pastoral matter during that time, please speak to one of the Elders.

From Freedom to Connection

Today is Juneteenth, celebrating the day when the final slaves in the US were freed in Texas, two years after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was signed. We take time today to remember all the forms of slavery that infect our hearts and minds and hold out the hope for true freedom for everybody everywhere.

This week was also Father's Day. On Sunday, we talked about the essential but complex needs for attachment and connection in every human being. On the one hand, every child and every person needs Nurture (usually associated with the mother) - we need to be loved and held and fed and cared for. On the other hand, each of us also needs Protection (generally associated with the father). This is a two part function. First, the need for protection is guarding the household so that proper nurture can happen securely within. Second, it is also the protector's job to see when a child needs to be brought out of the safe and nurturing household to experience the challenges and learning of the wider world. Along with nurture and protection, each of us needs a family, a community, a place where we know we belong. Psychologists call this third function of attachment the "Holding Environment."

I'm hoping that you can sense, without too much prodding, that these are all powerful biblical themes as well. God is the God who made us, who loves us, who cares for us in good times and bad (Nurture). God promises to be our rock and our redeemer, while at the same time sending out to be agents of love and transformation in the world (Protection). And the Bible is full of invitations and admonitions to love one another, to be the Body of Christ (Holding Environment).

Our question for each other today is this, looking first inward and then outward.

- *Looking Inward:* Now that I am an adult and in charge of “parenting” myself, do I have enough Nurture and Protection (including both safety and sending) in my life, and at least one Holding Environment (if not several!) where I know I belong?
- *Looking Outward:* Paying attention to my neighborhood, our city, to minorities and anyone disadvantaged for any reason, is there some way I could bring more nurture, more protection, more holding to the people around me who need it most?

That’s the way we can celebrate Juneteenth and Father’s Day in our lives and the beautiful holding environment of Edgcumbe Church. Big love to you all, Phil

*holy spirit, in this holy moment, you be in charge, and we will follow you,
trusting that your direction leads to peace.*

poem mentioned on sunday

i mentioned a poem on sunday—and i wanted to share it here:

How do we forgive our Fathers?
 Maybe in a dream
 Do we forgive our Fathers for leaving us too often or forever
 when we were little?
 Maybe for scaring us with unexpected rage
 or making us nervous
 because there never seemed to be any rage there at all.
 Do we forgive our Fathers for marrying or not marrying our Mothers?
 For Divorcing or not divorcing our Mothers?
 And shall we forgive them for their excesses of warmth or coldness?
 Shall we forgive them for pushing or leaning
 for shutting doors
 for speaking through walls
 or never speaking
 or never being silent?
 Do we forgive our Fathers in our age or in theirs
 or their deaths
 saying it to them or not saying it?
 If we forgive our Fathers what is left?

** This poem is read during the last scene in the movie Smoke Signals. It was originally published in a longer version titled “Forgiving Our Fathers” in a book of poems titled Ghost Radio published by Hanging Loose Press in 1998.*

Next Backwoods Workday, Sat July 13th, 9:30a-12n

A big THANK YOU to those who contributed to the Backwoods Workday this past Saturday!!

Whooo hooo! 🥳

We are already planning the July workday—please put **Saturday, July 13th, from 9:30a-12noon** on your calendars. Bring your family, friends, neighbors! Any and all snacks brought will be eaten with gratitude!! 😊 Advised to have long sleeves and pants, hat, water and gloves. (BYO bug spray if desired.) We look forward to being with you Saturday morning, July 13th, 9:30a-12n. 🌲 🍷 🌲 🌱

June Mission is Guild

Our mission giving in June will go to Guild Services, where Michelle Trebtoske works. This is from their website:

Guild empowers change through engaging individuals and communities, embracing their needs and elevating their voices. We do this work with a spectrum of services because mental illness is different for everyone, and everyone is worthy of shelter, connection, and stability. We recognize that systems built on racial inequity and social injustice significantly impact the lives of the people we serve and have resulted in high disparities in health care and the social determinants of health. We are fully committed to addressing these critical components to the fulfillment of our purpose.

Summer Worship Schedule

We are changing our summer worship plan just a bit for the coming months and adding a Pancake Breakfast. We are also hosting two other congregations—what fun! Here is the current schedule:

- June 23 - Pastors away, Jay preaching, LaGretta leading
- June 30 - Outdoor worship with Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church with a PANCAKE BREAKFAST at 9am before worship
- July 7 - Communion! Lisa Holden quartet Heartfelt! Visiting artists! LaGretta's ordination as an Elder!
- July 14 - Outdoor worship with First Presbyterian Church - South St Paul
- August 11 - Outdoor worship
- [Maybe] Sept 1 - Outdoor worship

Pancake Breakfast June 30

We will have a pancake breakfast before worship service on Sunday, June 30. The buttermilk pancakes are from a Schiferl Family recipe with a hint of whole wheat. They will be ready to serve by 9 AM. The Schiferls will be providing pancakes, pancake toppings, and breakfast sausages. We need a volunteer to take responsibility for making coffee and volunteers to help setup (8:30 AM) and clean up (some before and some after worship service). Folks can also bring fruit juices to share. Please email Irschiferl@gmail.com if you plan on helping with this wonderful event.