

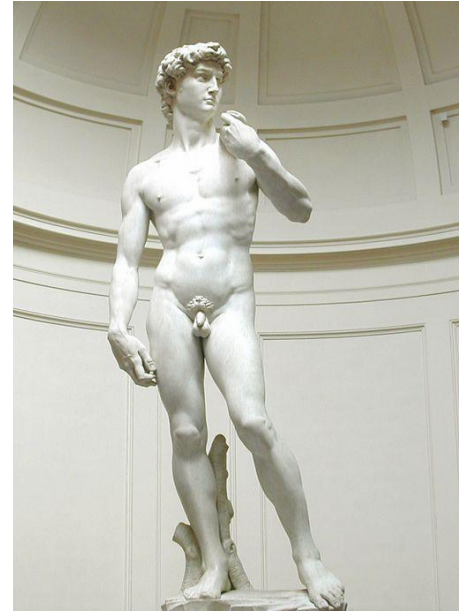
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Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

August 14, 2024

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Perfection through Subtraction

This past Sunday was a wondrous day with outdoor worship in the morning, followed by a lovely check-in time in the chair circle under the maple tree, and then the Heartfelt concert in the afternoon—all on a close-to-perfect summer day in the EPC Backwoods. The Heartfelt concert raised over \$1000 for Voices of Hope and Enneagram Prison Project!

In worship, we reflected on this quote from Marianne Williamson:

When Michelangelo was asked how he created a piece of sculpture, he answered that the statue already existed within the marble....Michelangelo's job, as he saw it, was to get rid of the excess marble that surrounded God's creation. So it is with you. The perfect you isn't something you need to create, because God already created it....Your job is to allow the Holy Spirit to remove the fearful thinking that surrounds your perfect self.

As I read that quote again, I think of several questions for my and your further reflection.

1. Do I think it is my job to perfect myself, or am I willing to let the Spirit reveal my true self to me?
2. How does my fearful thinking serve me? I keep doing it (thinking fearfully) so it must give me something and make me feel good in some way. Can I articulate to myself what I like my fearful thinking as much as I do?
3. Is there some part of me that is exhausted from old way of thinking and ready to allow the Holy Spirit to take charge of my mind and thinking and decisions?

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

Backwoods Focus For August: Pathway and Station Weeds

Luna and I (Phi) and our son Micah have been busy this summer in the Backwoods pulling invasive species, clearing fallen tree branches, and other general tasks. With all the rain this year, the one area where we are woefully behind is keeping the stations and mediation pathway clear of weeds. We need your help.

As the weather gets cooler, we will certainly set another Backwoods workday or two. Until then, if you have some spare time to do some weeding, that would be great. Especially bad are stations 7-12—all west of the stage area. The rock pathways to these stations are almost completely covered in overgrowth. Even a couple of minutes of weed-pulling could make a big difference. If you plan to stop by, please let me and/or Luna know. Thank you!

August Mission is Highland Park Sr High

August missions collections will go to Highland Park Senior High School. Highland Park Senior High is next door to the church and has about 1300 students in grades 9 -12. Both facial tissue boxes and money are requested for the August mission. You can choose to contribute to either or both.



HIGHLAND PARK
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Facial tissue boxes we collect will be distributed to the teachers at the school in early September. Please drop off the tissue boxes in the sanctuary or church office.



The money collected will be used to purchase gift cards that school counselors will give to parents/guardians when they become aware of specific needs. This was suggested by Principal Dr. Tucker who once told us that EPC is the "Little church that is MIGHTY!" You can contribute to this mission for August by indicating "August Missions" on the memo line of your contribution check to EPC or by noting this in the Notes Box of any online contribution.

Thank you for your continued support of our Missions!

Free Clothes this Weekend at First Presbyterian Church in South St. Paul

FPC-SSP has organized a community clothing exchange event, just like the one we had here in May. EPC members are invited to come "shop" for free clothing, bedding and accessories. Shopping days and times are this Friday the 16th, 9 am – 5 pm, and Saturday the 17th, 9 am – 2 pm. The address is 535 20th Ave North, South St. Paul. The event is taking place in their Fellowship Hall with access from the north parking lot on Congress St. (same space that Project Home was set up in). Tell your family and friends!

Highlights from session meeting August 9, 2024

- Michelle opened with prayer and meditation on hope
- Income and expenditures are in line with the budget
- Parking lot and driveway need to be sealcoated and repaired. Bids to be evaluated.
- A new member class is planned, checking about dates

- The St Paul Conservatory is committed to stay at least through September. Future plans are still under discussion and they offered to do a thank-you concert for us
- Thanks again to Ruth for her willingness to share her musical gifts with us while Jenya is on leave
- Clothing exchange at South St Paul Presbyterian Church Friday/Saturday Aug 16/17
- Pastor Phil will restart his Enneagram Prison Project at Shakopee Women's Prison in September
- Discussed another get-together with the Rehoboth congregation
- Pastor Luna will be in conversation with the Assistant Principal at HHS about our support of their teachers

~Ingrid Eggert