

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

February 11, 2026

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What is Justice?

For the past couple of weeks, we have been shaped by the scripture of Micah 6:6-8:

6 With what should I approach the Lord
and bow down before God on high?
Should I come before God with entirely
burned offerings,
with year-old calves?
7 Will the Lord be pleased
with thousands of rams,
with many torrents of oil?
Should I give my oldest child for my crime;
the fruit of my body for the sin of my spirit?
8 He has told you, human one,
what is good and what the Lord requires from you:
to seek justice, and love kindness,
and walk humbly with your God.



There are two fundamental teachings in this text which call us to be re-minded. The first is to see how many of our beliefs and habits have been shaped by the mis-belief that God demands (expects/wants/only works) when there has been sacrifice. This mis-understanding has profoundly shaped religious beliefs, interpersonal relationships, identity, etc. And the prophet Micah says clearly, "No!" These **ways of sacrifice are not in service to God** or our access to God. Do you want to be connected to God?, the prophet asks, then do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. And, in these past months of living in the Twin Cities, when clearly justice has not been lived into, we find ourselves re-asking the question, "what is justice exactly??"

The second piece for us to understand in Micah is that the root of the word **justice** is *the administration of the law*. So, then, the next question could be, what or which law?? Jesus

taught that there is only one law that we are to follow—God's Laws. And what are those laws?? From Matthew 22:

34 When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. 35 One of them, a legal expert, tested him. 36 “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

37 He replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. 40 All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

God's Law is Love. So then, justice is the administration—the living-into-ness of God's love. And God's love has “not one iota of darkness in it” (1 John 1), and is for the entire world—zero exceptions (John 3). And **we extend God's Love** into the world **by first receiving God's love**, and **then giving it away** in each moment.

We are here, in this moment, purposefully. We are being called in this time and place to live into and embody Micah 6 with our thoughts, heart and actions, following wherever the Holy Spirit guides us. Read further in the midweek of how we can respond to our neighbor's need, and administer God's love—justice.

(And, here is a [LINK](#) to the song I referred to on Sunday, “Love is the Law”.... a classic from the Twin Cities band, The Suburbs, from the 80's. 🎵 🎵)

In Joy and in Light! Pastor Luna 🌀 ✨ 💙 ☀️

Annual Meeting and Brunch Gratitude

This past Sunday we gathered for worship, brunch and the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. A deep word of gratitude to all who contributed to the morning sharing food, service, and reports!!

At 1:15pm on Sunday, I (Phil) took this quick candid photo in the kitchen. There are several things I like about this picture. First of course is Ron adorably licking his finger. Second is seeing everyone wearing their name tags as a sign of both belonging and welcome. The Belonging Team is inviting all of us to make and wear name tags each Sunday. Third is all the positive energy in the room after being at church for four hours! May God continue to bless us with joy and energy and connection.



February Mission

February's mission is the broad area of support for our immigrant neighbors. We are asking folks to use your resources, skills, time, knowledge and money, to support our neighbors in any way that best suits you. We understand that many of you are already doing this. Below are some websites with lists of ways you can help. There are a few ways you can do this:

1) Please select the charity/ies or agencies that align with your values/concerns or those that you are called to, and provide whatever assistance you feel comfortable providing, by giving directly to the chosen agency. (You will get a tax statement from that agency)

2) You can choose to give funds to a particular agency through EPC. Just make note of the name of the agency on your giving card or on-line platform, and Krysta will send the funds to that agency. (It would be helpful if you add an address). With this option, you would get a tax statement from EPC.

3) If you'd rather, you can simply give to "February mission" via EPC donation plate or on-line, and EPC will donate the funds to Highland Park High School in the form of gift cards for Aldi or Cub foods.

4) Another way to help: I have recently been contacted by Ann Hill, the executive director of Twin Cities Food Justice. EPC supported that group a few months ago. She is asking church groups to do a food drive. Her volunteers will then pick up the food from EPC, organize it into boxes for families, then it will be delivered directly to their homes, or to local food shelves. They are working with some schools and teachers to get the food delivered to students. All we need to do is bring food - non perishables are best. She wasn't sure if they were already working with HPHS but since we are already giving them gift cards, the food could go to a different school. ***So, if you can, please bring food to church by this Sunday the 15th.*** I will coordinate to have it picked up by TC Food Justice.

5) **Roseville volunteering opportunity:** talk to Chelsey B. to learn about helping with food distribution for families in Roseville. Volunteers needed every Monday at a Roseville school to sort and pack groceries. Donations of food and supplies needed. Additionally, this Friday the 13th, any hour between 8:20am and 4:20 pm, volunteers are needed to organize a space at the school to become a storage and staging area. Email chelseykburden@gmail.com

>>OTHER RESOURCES<<

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

<https://nhn-tc.org/><https://nhn-tc.org/>

Click "Become a Carer" and fill out the application with what you'd like to help with (shopping, food delivery, giving rides, or other options).

Stand with Minnesota:

<https://www.standwithminnesota.com/>

Tons of different places to donate or volunteer. Because it's so overwhelming,



**STAND WITH
MINNESOTA**

here are some suggestions:

- Mutual Aid & Materials Purchasing:

 - >Under "Food Support," there are links to volunteer or donate.

- Crowdfunding Campaigns:

 - >Under "Funds for Faith Communities Doing Direct Aid," you'll see churches who have operations you can volunteer with or donate to.

Additionally, at the very top of the website, "Actions to Take" lists places to contact to request they stop supporting ICE.

Thank you for all you are doing!! Lisa Holden, for the Mission Team