

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

July 5, 2023

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knowing the nature of god... reflections from pastor luna

two sunday's ago, pastor phil—in almost a toss-off comment—mentioned that in the bible, the person who talked to god the most was abraham. imagine the **immediacy of connection** and the **deep knowing** of each other which comes from frequent sharing and talking. this means that abraham deeply knew *the nature of god*, and knew that **god is only love**. so, bringing that perspective into the hearing of the Genesis 22 story, often referred to as the “binding of Isaac”, we can imagine abraham knowing he had nothing to fear when god requested that he make an offering of isaac. even though the request did not seem like love at the level of form, abraham could trust that just taking the next right step would be all that was required of him.

the other remarkable piece of this story, is how often abraham locates himself with “i’m here” (to god, to isaac, to the messenger). the text says god tested abraham, and this is a way to determine presence, quality and truth. where are you abraham? how present and near are you to me?? and abraham replies, without hesitation, “i’m here”. again, showing the quality, vitality and dynamic nature of their relationship.

humans do not trust something they fear.

let me say this again: humans do not trust something they fear. this is why my **deepest wish** for you is for the deepening connection between you and the god of your understanding. and as abraham demonstrates for us, our **ability to trust god** then allows us to also **live without fear**. remember—we cannot make ourselves trust. what we **can** do is become *willing to trust*, and then offer that willingness to the holy spirit to heal our minds.

i want to close by mentioning that i, luna, will be attending a silent retreat so that i too can spend time with god. i will be on retreat from july 15-23, meaning i will both be offline and not at worship. phil will be working and leading worship during that time. i would greatly appreciate if you would be willing to hold me in your prayers, and ask for the holy spirit to have her way with me!! 🙏 and, please know that i will hold you, too, in my own prayers as well.

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

Up-coming Worship Schedule

- Sunday, July 9 - Outdoor worship including service of remembrance for Carol Scheickhardt
- Sunday, July 16 - Indoor worship including the ordination of Michelle Trebtoske
- Sunday, July 23 - Outdoor worship in Backwoods in a joint service with First Presbyterian, South St Paul



Nearly finished with the blooming Burdock!

We are nearly finished pulling the second year burdock plants which is great, because they are just starting to grow their summer burrs!! Thank you to those who have been able to help!! By the end of this week we can then focus on our original friends, the buckthorn, as well as continuing to pull the first year burdocks. If you could joyfully join the process, please connect with Pastor Luna about finding a time to meet! 🙌

July Mission

The July mission is Guild, a Minnesota not-for-profit organization that empowers those living with mental illness and/or experiencing long-term homelessness by helping them find the tools they need to lead stable, fulfilling lives in communities of their choosing. This is the organization where new elder Michelle Trebtoske works. On any given day, Guild serves nearly 900 individuals in the Twin Cities metro area. From mental health crisis services to street outreach, our team is ready to help in some of the toughest situations. Check out their website at guildservices.org. Please designate any gifts: "July Mission" or "Guild"--thank you!

Food Shelf Request

Mission has restocked the Edgcumbe food shelf. Please visit the food shelf and leave extra non-perishable items and take items that are needed. If we know of family members or community members that are in need of food and fellowship there are bags available. Thanks for being a blessing to our neighbors 🙌 ❤️!

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Ron Eggert

7/9

Jay McGregor

7/10

Elizabeth Schiferl	7/11
Richard Shciferl	7/13
Lilly LeClair	7/19
Heather Clary	7/23
Isaac GebbenGreen	7/28

Happy Anniversary to:
Lisa Holden & Jay McGregor 7/17