

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian

Church

Midweek Update

July 17, 2024



In this issue: Outdoor Worship, Backwoods Workday TOMORROW, weakness and imperfection, July Mission: Kafika House, Backwoods Concert July 27, Food Truck Event, Session Haiku

Worship OUTDOORS This Sunday

After moving our service indoors and powerless this past Sunday (power was restored by Monday mid-morning, by the way), we are planning to have this week's worship service in the backwoods. So repack your chair or reserve your spot on the grass for worship in God's original sanctuary. Our next outdoor service is scheduled for Sunday, August 11.

Backwoods Workday TOMORROW, 12:30-2pm

We had to cancel our workday last Saturday for a storm that blew another tree down, covering the labyrinth. Along with the dead pine tree that is now cut by the walkway to the high school, we have a bunch of brush and logs to move. Plus, our meditation path and stations are becoming overrun with weeds. Luna and Phil will be in the backwoods this Thursday afternoon. If you can help out for a few minutes or more, please stop by to join the fun.



Noticing the Blessing

Last Sunday I planned to preach on Ephesians 2:3-10. We/I didn't make it past verse 3. Actually, only the first half of verse 3. Here's my takeaway: It is worth spending time with the good news in every sentence of scripture, in every moment of life, in every person we meet. Are you taking some moments today to notice the miracles and blessings of your own heart, your own life?

That half-verse we visited on Sunday was this, "*Bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!*" At a quick glance, that sounds a bit like religious babble. "What's next?", we think. Let's get to the heart of Paul's point in Ephesians 2—hopefully something that will bring a new insight to my life, or solve some problem, or at least make me feel a little better for a moment.

The question for us today is, What if this simple sentence has everything we need for peace and purpose today?

Here's what I know. Whenever I stop what I'm usually doing and take a moment to bless God in my heart, then I immediately feel different, better, freer, clearer, happier, more present and trusting and innocent and alive. It's as if I'm doing what I was created to do. I don't have a conversation with myself about what it means to bless; I just do it. Try it. You can raise your hands or sing out loud if you want. Or just sit there quietly, and bless / praise / thank God inside yourself. Don't believe in God? Try it anyway, what's the downside? Don't like the word "God"? Substitute with abandon. We were built to bless—bless God, bless each other, bless the world. Isn't it about time we fulfill this foundational mission of our own existence? Now, take another moment, and imagine every human on earth as an agent of blessing. Mmm, that's good. That's exactly how God sees us, every one.

July Mission is Kafika House (formerly Plaster House)

Our July Mission collections will be given to Kafika House (formerly Plaster House). Their website (<https://kafikahouse.org/>) describes what they do as "a High_Love, Low-Cost rehabilitative surgery programme in northern Tanzania". Ron and Ingrid have had a long relationship with this great organization. They will talk more about this during this coming Sunday's worship service. A brief description is given below:



KAFIKA HOUSE
Transforming childhood

Kafika House provides pre- and post- operative care for children with congenital birth defects and some acquired skeletal abnormalities, such as clubfoot, cleft lip & palate, spina bifida and skeletal fluorosis. Children stay in Kafika House until the surgical wounds are healed because of poor sanitation in the villages. Because children may stay from a week to several months, there is a school in Kafika House where Ingrid Eggert taught for seven years.

Your contributions by check should be marked "July Mission" in the memo line. Online EPC contributions can be designated to this mission by putting "July Mission" in the note.

Backwoods Concert July 27

SAVE THE DATE: JULY 27 MUSIC IN THE BACKWOODS! Once again Edgcumbe will host a concert to benefit the Jessa Roquet Music Foundation, a non-profit created to foster the growth of local musicians. Bring a blanket (and a picnic if you want) and enjoy an enchanted evening of music in the BackWoods on Saturday, July 27 from 6-8pm. For more info and a pre-listen of the music go to Instagram-@jessaroquetmusicfoundation. Suggested donation at the door; \$15 adults, \$5 kids 12 and under.

Food Truck Event

First Presbyterian in South St. Paul is hosting their 2nd Food Truck Event on Saturday, July 27, from 11 am – 3 pm at the West St. Paul Sports Complex (intersection of Wentworth & Oakdale). There will be food trucks, classic cars, music, and family activities including games, face

painting and balloon animals. There will also be booths from our community partners including Neighbors, Inc., Neighborhood House, South St. Paul Arts Council, South St. Paul for All, and West St. Paul Pride organizers. Other than the food trucks, this is a free community event for all ages.

FOOD TRUCK EVENT

SATURDAY, JULY 27



11 AM – 3 PM

WEST ST PAUL SPORTS COMPLEX

AT THE INTERSECTION OF WENTWORTH AND OAKDALE

Come for Food Trucks, Classic Cars, Music,
Face Painting, Games, Balloon Animals
& meet Community Partners, including:
South St. Paul Arts Council, Neighbors, Inc.,
West St. Paul Pride, South St. Paul For All,
& More!



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July Session Report

Hi EPC Family, Elder Connie reporting (in haiku) what went down in our Session Meeting last Thursday:

What shall we pray for?
Beloved Luna asked us
We told and picked names.

What do elders do?
Lagretta is a new one!
Listen, Greet, and Love

Finances seem good
But you never can be sure!
lots of stuff comes up

like the parking lot-
it needs some resurfacing
and other stuff too

We all pledged money
lets not forget the support
our little church needs

The music of Ruth
is holding us in worship
We are so grateful.

Minnesota Department of Health
has funded Todd's News Channel
Lewie at the helm

Women in prison
will learn from Pastor Phil
how to break out of prison

(the small self prison
where most of us spend our time)
Enneagram helps

Buckthorn is growing
and needs many strong people
to rip it all out

Please contact Luna
to schedule time in backwoods
to worship in work

Silence for 10 days
Luna is back from that time
Now she seems to hum

I so love you all
You are my sisters,brothers
My chosen family.