

October 1, 2025

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Backwoods Workday THIS Saturday

We will meet in the Backwoods this Saturday, Oct 4, for a workday to pull weeds and invasives, clear branches and brush, protect wanted trees and shrubs for winter, and enjoy the outdoors together. We will begin at 10am and work for 2-3 hours.



Sunday Morning Alert: TC Marathon Weekend

For those of you who live North of Summit Avenue, be alert that this Sunday Summit Ave. will be closed, and your typical route to get to worship could be disrupted. Consider traveling South via Avd Mill Road, or I-35E.

Trust, Again

Here are some suggestions for how to understand scripture, and maybe our own lives.

First, always start (and end) with the big picture.

- God is love.
- The only real thing is love.
- Everything is either an expression of love or a call for love.

If you can remember these simple truths in every situation, you will be amazed at the peace and understanding that will fill your mind and heart.

Second, ask yourself, "Who am I in this situation?" For a biblical text, this will help you focus on what you need to listen to or learn. In life, taking a step back to ask who you are will give you clarity on what you are called to do and what you are not called to do.

Third, remember that spiritual growth most often happens by letting go of my attachments. The quote we read on Sunday is from Meister Eckhart: "God is not found in the soul by adding anything, but by a process of subtraction." Most scripture is trying to help us let go of anything that keeps us from God, from grace. This can feel a bit shocking if we go to scripture looking

only for comfort or clarity. The biblical message is usually something like this: Say No to your false sense of self and remember who you really are. Say No to your fear and trust in Christ alone. Say No to all of your attachment and rest in the Spirit's peace. If I am attached to my sense of self, to my fears, or to my attachments, then the message of scripture will feel like a threat. But when I begin to loosen my grip on my own life, then begin to experience the true freedom of God's care and healing and love.

People of God, I invite you to practice this kind of trust today. Allow God / Christ / the Spirit to hold your heart for the space of three breaths right now. And then see how that feels. Repeat as necessary. -Pastor Phil

holy spirit, you be in charge, and we will follow you, trusting that your way leads to peace.

October Mission: Food Justice

The mission focus for October is the Twin Cities Food Justice. We will have a visitor from TCFJ come to our service on October 12th.



TC Food Justice is a nonprofit organization

based in Minneapolis. Since March 2016 we have been working with co-ops, grocery stores, and farmers markets to re-distribute their unsalable foods to local hunger relief organizations. We focus on vegetables, fruits, and nutrient rich breads because hunger relief organizations often find it challenging to consistently provide fresh food options for their clients. We seek to improve food insecure individuals' access to fresh, nutritious food.

<u> New Member Exploration - Oct 12 & 19</u>

On Sundays, October 12 & 19, we will be offering a New Member Exploration gathering after worship. If you are interested in becoming a member of this dynamic community, you can come to either meeting or both as we get to know each other and talk about what it means to join God's beloved community in this place. Bring yourself and your questions! If you are interested and plan to come, please talk to either Pastor Luna or Phil to let us know.

<u>October Birthdays and Anniversaries</u>

Happy Birthday to:

Samantha LeClair 10/11 Shiloh Kenney 10/17 Liz Dunn 10/31

Happy Anniversary to:

Connie & Dave Howe-Vielmetti 10/17