

JUNE & JULY
2018

Currents

A PUBLICATION OF EAGLE RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CURRENTS — SPECIAL SUMMER EDITION



Father's Day BBQ

June 17 @ 12:00pm.

Let us get together to celebrate all the amazing Fathers in our lives. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. There is a list of the requested items that you can volunteer to bring. But also, please feel free to sign-up to bring your BBQ dish. We will need a few volunteers to help with the grilling and set/up.

Summer is Here!



Allison Denton will be on Maternity Leave from mid-June until Early August. We have hired Kathryn Bistodeau to work in the office during this time. She will start June 5th for training. Please be sure to give her a warm welcome.

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Summer Events

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FROM THE PASTOR:

Summertime Notes!

Dear Friends,

May was cold and rainy and it felt as if summer and the season of green growing things would never come. As I write this, though, it's almost June and it's finally warmer and the sun is out, at least some of the time! We've planted our garden beds here at ERPC and some of us are growing flowers and vegetables at home. Our lawns are green and the salmon are coming back to the rivers. Every year I am again in awe and wonder at the beauty of God's creation seen so magnificently in the beauty of Alaska's abundance. We are blessed to share in that creative work. This quote from the Newsletter website is apt when we think of God's amazing creation:

Summer often reminds pastor Walter Wangerin Jr. of his father-in-law, a farmer. Farmers, he writes, remember "that we belong to the earth, and the earth belongs to God." Recalling his father-in-law working the fields, he states, "Surely I don't suppose that we shall live by the horse again, but I plead that we live on this earth with reverence."

Because God gave people "dominion" over creation (see Genesis 1:28), we are "God's emblem within the universe, God's signature upon the work he had accomplished," Wangerin writes. "We were placed here to serve God by serving the earth and so to be served by it."

Who demonstrates that better than a farmer nurturing soil and seeds to yield abundant harvest? "By his reverential stance," Wangerin concludes, "the farmer calls again for honor to God and kindness to creation, that we dress and till and keep it rightly."

During worship this summer we will be talking about work – God at work in us as the Holy Spirit disciples us into the people God is calling us to be and God at work in our community as we learn to be the body of Christ in the world, tending and caring for each other and our community, just like Wangerin's

farmer. In June we will be looking primarily at the stories of Samuel and King David from 1 Samuel and in July we will focus on Paul's letter to the Ephesian church. Each has much to teach us about how God works in us individually and together.

We will also welcome new musicians in worship after we say good-bye to Mike on June 3rd. Connor Spencer will play the piano for us just as he did last year and Larry Baumgartner (Suellyn Novak's husband) will play the organ a few Sundays as well. And in that light – please tell everyone you know that we are searching for both an organist and a choir director. I know that God has his hand on us and will provide as he has in the past; I also know that the more people who are aware of our staffing needs the easier it will be to fill the positions. We have job descriptions available if you'd like them.

There will be a change in office staffing for most of the summer too. Allison Denton, our administrative assistant, will be on maternity leave beginning June 18th. Kathryn Bistodeau, a local college student, will be in the office during June and July. Stop by and say hi! We expect Allison's return in early August.

Finally, I want to leave you with a prayer for Independence Day, offered to the U.S. Senate by the great Presbyterian preacher Peter Marshall: *Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right. Amen and amen.*

Happy summer, everyone!

In Christ,

Piper

SUMMER

SERMON SERIES

God at Work

June –

- 3rd – God Calls
- 10th – God Responds
- 17th – God Sees
- 24th – God Leads

July –

- 1st – God Saves
- 8th – God Unites
- 15th – The Family
- 22nd – No Longer Strangers
- 29th – God's Powerful Love

Summer



WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday Worship – 10:00am

The Nursery will be available during Worship.



Recently we said good bye to our Choir Director, Patti Wilson, and today we say farewell to our organist, Mike Wright. They both brought new life to the music of our church and will be missed. We wish nothing but the best as they continue to their new adventures.

With that, we are now in need of filling both positions by this September. If you know of anyone who may be interested in either of these positions, please have them contact the office or they can email their resume directly to Debbie Ossiander at ossiander@hotmail.com



Our annual Christian Education Garage Sale is coming!

Clean out your closets, garages, sheds, and drawers – we'll take anything! Please bring donated items in during church office hours (9 am – 1 pm Monday through Friday) or on Sundays. The first room on the right down the Sunday School hallway will be open for your donations. We'll also need help the week of the sale on the day itself – Friday July 13th. Watch for more information in the coming weeks...

You may contact Whitney Lewis or Stephanie Spencer with any questions.



We house the Chugiak/Eagle River Food Pantry here in the church. They need volunteers both on a regular and as-needed basis. If you or someone you know would be interested in helping, please call the Food Pantry directly at 694-5228.

While you are doing that cleaning for the garage sale, look in the kitchen for food items that you can donate to the Food Pantry.

Yard and Garden Volunteers Needed!!!

Interested in a way to help the church out this summer. We need volunteers all summer long to help with grounds keeping and tending to the garden.

Making sure the grounds are well kept is very important to the church, as it is one of the first things a visitor notices. A green and well-maintained lawn is welcoming. However, we need man power to help with the mowing, and occasional watering when/if it gets too dry.

The Garden beds provide an amazing ministry for our church. All the produce that comes from these garden beds (lettuce, green beans, potatoes, carrots, strawberries, etc.) are all donated to the Chugiak/Eagle River Food Pantry that we house here in the building. Help is needed to water as needed, pulling weeds, and occasionally fertilizing.

Look for a Volunteer Board to be posted in the Narthex. Please take a little time this summer to pitch in. **THANK YOU!!**



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