January 29, 2018

Dear MPC Family,

I really enjoyed my first Sunday preaching at MPC yesterday! My message was the foundational word for all I will seek to do among you as your Interim Pastor. If you missed it, please go to our mpclife.org website, click on "watch," and then click on "sermons." If you have any thoughts, questions or concerns about anything I shared, please reach out to me so we can talk. As I've said many times now, I will seek to lead by listening—to all that's on your hearts as together we seek to hear all that's on God's heart for MPC.

This coming Sunday I'll begin a sermon series in the Book of Ephesians. If you haven't already, I encourage you to start reading this amazing Word from God to God's Church. There's a critical and timeless message in this book that I look forward to digging into with all of you!

This Sunday we'll focus on Ephesians 1:1-14. I encourage you to read slowly and prayerfully, listening for God's living Word for today—first for yourself and then for us at MPC. This prayerful reading has been called "lectio divina," or "sacred reading," throughout church history. God's saints throughout the ages have understood that we need to slow down, reading not for head knowledge but for God's unique and timely Word for today. I'll pray with you as we begin listening!

One last thing: If you're not in a small group, PLEASE sign up this Sunday or contact Vera Rhimes (verapearl@mac.com) our small group coordinator, or Brad Fredrickson (brad.fredrickson@ gmail.com) our elder working with adult discipleship. My hope is, by this Sunday, EVERYONE will be part of some kind of small group where we can discuss what we're hearing in Ephesians, and where we can pray for one another as we seek to live out God's loving invitations.

I look forward to sharing this new season of discovery with you!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Mike
mikeh@mpclife.org, or call the church office, 805-529-8422, x1