

Rev. Janet R. Doyle
Elmer Presbyterian Church
10th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 2, 2026
Scripture: Psalm 139; Luke 5: 12-16
Sermon: Handmade

When I receive something that was handmade or purchase something handmade I tend to treasure it more because I know that someone spent hours making it. When we lived overseas we bought items that were handmade by people that we knew. Something handmade is very special.

Each one of us is very special to God because we are handmade by God. Our scripture lesson from Psalm 139 tells us that God even knew us before we were born. But sometimes the world can be a hard and difficult place and we forget that we are special.

I am going to tell a story written by author and pastor Max Lucado. It reminds us that we are special. This is a story called “***The Wemmicks.***” (Read story: not able to print because of copyright)

In our story the character Punchinello had been given so many black dots in his life that he began to believe that he wasn't special and that he couldn't do anything right. He was discouraged and was afraid to try anything for fear he was going to make a mistake.

It wasn't until he met Lucia did he have any hope for his future. Lucia didn't let the discouragement of the world get her down. Lucia encouraged Punchinello to go see the woodcarver. The woodcarver reminded Punchinello that he was special because he had made him, and the woodcarver doesn't make mistakes. The woodcarver encouraged him to come see him every day.

Like Punchinello we need to see the woodcarver every day to be encouraged and supported. God is our woodcarver, and we need God to encourage us in this world that can discourage us and give us dots that stick.

Our New Testament passage from Luke reminds us that Jesus is the one that cleanses us from all our black dots and spots and bruises that we

wear from the world. Jesus, the woodcarver, touches the Leper—the one who was untouchable and makes him clean. The outcast one of the society was now made clean.

Jesus came to cleanse our black dots that the world puts on us, or we allow to be put on us. Jesus touches us because we are handmade, and we are special. Nothing God creates deserves a black dot.

When we spend time with God our black dots begin falling off and we no longer believe the lies of the world for we now know that we are special and touchable because we are handmade by God.

Let us encourage one another in our walk with the Lord and be mindful that we don't give out black dots to others.

Let us know that the one we need to look to is God and not the rewards of this world or the discouragement of this world. God is the one we need to look to for encouragement and wisdom. The world doesn't know how to encourage one another—it is a world of competition and being number one. Meeting the standards of the world so you don't get black dots. Peer pressure is at any age not just for children and teens.

When we look to God and follow His ways he is the one who makes us whole and cleanses us from the black dots the world puts on us or that we put on ourselves.

We don't have to be like everyone else—we are all unique and created with special gifts and talents to be used for the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

God loves each one of us and knows us. We are special because we are handmade by God the craftsman of the universe.

As you come to the Lord's Table this morning, know that you are special in the eyes of God.

Come spend time with him and he will tell you how much he loves you.