

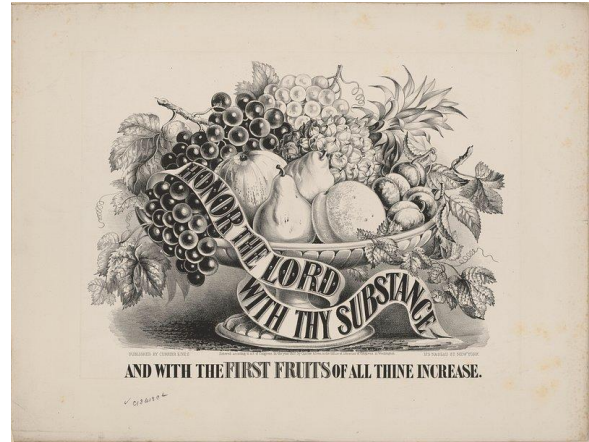
# Edgcumbe

## Presbyterian Church

### Midweek Update

July 19, 2023

In this issue: Joint Outdoor Worship, Bearing Fruit, Backwoods Work Morning, July Mission, Food Giveaway, July Session Notes



### Joint Backwoods Worship This Sunday

Worship this Sunday, July 23, will be in the Backwoods, and we will be joined by friends from the congregation of First Presbyterian Church-S St Paul. The weather looks to be picture perfect—although if that changes, we will move into the sanctuary. The service will be based on the familiar and powerful words of the Lord’s Prayer. A couple things to know:

- As usual, bring a chair or blanket to sit on, if you wish.
- Several people are bringing treats or snacks or drinks to share at the end of worship; feel free to add to the bounty!
- Consider parking in the Highland Park Senior High lot to leave room in our lot for our guests.

### Bearing Fruit

The fruits of the Spirit are:



One of the surest ways to check whether we are living out of the Spirit or whether we are caught in our own ego stories is to ask ourselves: Am I experiencing any of the fruits of the Spirit right now?

*Am I caught up in the joy of the present moment?*

*Are my actions motivated by kindness and gentleness?*

*Am I at peace, trusting that nothing can separate me from love, ever?*

These simple fruits are God’s gift to us. Every day, every moment.

## **Backwoods work morning–July 25th**

Mark your calendars for the next backwoods community service morning–**Tuesday, July 25th, 11:30a.** Focus of this time will be trail and station maintenance (pulling growth spilling into walkways) pulling the small burring plants, like the stickseed (1st and this other recurring one that we cannot find the for! All help with be joyously received!!

## **July Mission**

The July mission is Guild, a Minnesota not-for-profit organization that empowers those living with mental illness and/or experiencing long-term homelessness by helping them find the tools they need to lead stable, fulfilling lives in communities of their choosing. This is the organization where new elder Michelle Trebtoske works. On any given day, Guild serves nearly 900 individuals in the Twin Cities metro area. From mental health crisis services to street outreach, our team is ready to help in some of the toughest situations. Check out their website at [guildservices.org](http://guildservices.org).

Michelle adds: The money collected from Mission for Guild would go specifically to the Client Assistance Fund which helps clients with urgent monetary needs specific to life circumstances or emergencies that come up for them and their family. These funds go directly to a client who has a request.

Please designate any gifts: “July Mission” or “Guild”--thank you!

## **Concert in the Backwoods – July 29**

Plan to come and invite friends and neighbors to a concert of live music in our own backwoods arena! Suggested donation is \$10 to pay the musicians, who are all local singer-songwriters.

## **Fresh Vegetables**

From Ruth: There will be free fresh veggies for pickup outside the St. Paul Capp Center at 1375 St. Paul Ave on Tuesday, July 25 from 11:30am to 1pm. Vegetables at the last distribution included potatoes, peppers, greens, and carrots---all fresh from urban farms in the Twin Cities area. Please share this announcement with anyone and enjoy some fresh and healthy veggies!



8:30-

and

## Session Notes - July 2023

The river of GOD is filled with life giving water, July 13 Session Meeting

Devotion: The monthly Session meeting began with devotions led by Ingrid. She focused on methods to deal with tragedies in our world (past, present and those we worry about coming in the future). Referencing Psalm 65:1-13 there is praise of God "who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations." The Psalm also acknowledges His life-giving water to provide for the people. What do you hear and see and how do your senses respond to the words in this Psalm?

Finances: Financial pledges from the congregation have decreased and are expected to be significantly lower in 2024. With the end of our contract with one of our renters (the St. Paul Conservatory of Music) we will also lose another source of income in 2024. We were all asked to look to God and pray for guidance as we address these challenges (and opportunities) and plan for the next stage of Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church.

Ordination of Michelle: This Sunday (now this past Sunday) Michelle Trebtoske will be ordained as an Elder. Congratulations to Michelle. Rich will be installed for a second three-year term. Todd volunteered to assist Pastor Phil with Sunday Worship service for this special day.

Pastors' Vacation: Phil and Luna will be on vacation July 31-Aug 6. Jay McGregor will write the Midweek Update message and Todd is working on a worship service leadership option for August 6th. Michelle and Connie will work with Todd to pull together the service.

Anti-Racism: The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (PTCA) is sponsoring a "Grill-out for Equity Action" on July 22nd. The purpose is to connect and discuss congregational engagement with the recent race and equity self-assessment report that the PTCA issued. Pastor Phil is planning to attend and asked other session members to consider attending.

### Group reports:

Buildings and Grounds - Hose connections were installed in the backwoods to make watering a little easier. More invasive species removal continues to be a need. See recent Midweek updates for more information about this. We are seeing more visitors in the Backwoods taking advantage of this wonderful space for strolls or meditation.

Mission: We continue to get thanks from the 8218 Truce Center for providing snacks for their activities. They are very grateful for what we are providing on a regular basis based on your contributions to our January mission collections.

Personnel: We are looking for one more person to volunteer to join Meredith on the personnel committee.

Worship and Arts: Dave Howe-Vielmetti's photographs are now on display in the sanctuary. Please spend some time exploring his work before and after Sunday worship. Jenya continues to explore a trip back home to Belarus this summer.

Pastors' report: Phil had a lovely visit with Lynn Wolf which included a stroll outside to get some fresh air. Next Sunday we will have a joint service with South St. Paul Presbyterian Church with a deep dive into the Lord's Prayer.

Luna is on silent retreat based on "self emptying and the abodeness of God."

I encourage all of us to continue to look for the life-giving water from the river of God and to pray for knowledge, discernment, holy-spiritedness, and creativeness as we contemplate the future of our world, our lives and Edgcumbe church.

Respectfully submitted by Rich