

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church *Midweek Update* October 11, 2023



In this issue: change your mind!, 2024 Pledges, Bible study, Zoom Book Study, October Mission

change your mind!

in the parable of the father asking his sons to work in his vineyard (matthew 21), jesus focuses on the value of our willingness to change our minds, hearts and lives. within us, in every moment, we have 2 thought systems to access in every thought and situation. the thought system of the holy spirit, which is our True and Essential Self, which leads to love, innocence, freedom and at-one-ment. the other thought system comes from the ego and false self, and it leads to fear, guilt, suffering and separation. **we have been trained to think from the egoic thought system, and so we have to intentionally ask holy spirit to guide us how to think and perceive. our first and fastest responses always come from the egoic thought system.** transformation (and the will of the father) happens when we choose again, when we become willing to be **re-minded**. we did this exercise in worship, but i am going to ask you to do a mid-week spot check in with yourself, and if you are willing, please write out your answers:

- what is causing fear/upset/unrest in your life right now?
- are you willing to change your mind? (if not, might you be willing to be willing??)
- bring this fear/upset to holy spirit—ask to have it repurposed
- this fear/upset/trigger is your own call for love....are you willing to allow/receive the Ever Present Love??
- are you willing to share this fear with another/with the community??
- what else do you want to say to god/holy spirit/jesus/the god of your understanding??

this exercise is our way which allows miracles unfold. miracles happen with a change of perception.....and so, we ask holy spirit to be in charge, and we will follow her, trusting that her way will lead to peace!! joy and love to you!! ~pastor luna ✨

2024 Pledges - Please turn in as soon as possible

Thank you to everyone that has already turned in their pledge card. If you have not had a chance to turn in your pledge, please see the note below from Treasurer Ron Eggert and turn in the collection plate this Sunday. Thank you!

Session is asking our members to pledge early this year. EPC is facing a significant budget shortfall in the next calendar year. The shortfall comes about because the St. Paul Conservatory is moving into a permanent home elsewhere and because of reduced pledges due member deaths during this past year. If expenses and income in 2024 are equal to 2023, the shortfall will be around \$30,000 or about 1/6th of our total budget. The reason for the early pledge request is so Session will know how much income we will have and will have an extra month to consider alternatives. (We do have a small reserve fund but I think it would be imprudent to use it to fill a budget gap: it is meant for emergencies). If we do need to cut back next year, it will likely be in personnel as building costs are fixed. Pledge cards are in the back of the Sanctuary: Please fill one out and leave it in the collection plate by Sunday, October 1st. Call me 651-998-9450 or ask me at church if you have questions. Ron Eggert, Treasurer

Bible Study

The Bible Study Zoom continues this Sunday at 6:30 PM. If you want to be added (or removed) from the Bible Study email list to receive the texts on Sunday afternoon, then please write to Phil at pastorphilgg@gmail.com.

Zoom Book Study– When Church Stops Working: The Church in a Time of Crisis

MULTIPLE EVENTS:

Virtual Book Study with TE Libby Shannon, October 11 & 18, 2023 7:00pm-8:30pm
Workshop, Dinner & Conversation at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church,
Oct. 25, 2023

What if the solution for the decline of today's church isn't more money, people, programs, innovation, or busyness? What if the answer is to stop and wait on God? Using clear steps and practices, this book invites church leaders to stop the endless cycle of doing more and instead simply "be" in God's presence. The book offers affirmation, encouragement, and empowerment for leaders and churchgoers who may be feeling burned out or hopeless that church doesn't seem to "work" like it used to. Instead it invites a stance of receptivity to what God may do in and through us when the church stops working.

This book is available on Amazon [HERE](#)
or anywhere you buy books.

Presbytery-Wide Book Read hosted by

Executive Presbyter Libby Shannon

Join us for a virtual book discussion on Zoom (please register for one or both.)

[Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 7:00pm - Register Here](#) Chapters 1-4 discussion

[Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 7:00pm - Register Here](#) Chapters 5-8 discussion

Once you register you will be sent a link to the book read. If you register for both, you will receive two different links.

Presbytery Event:

Workshop with Andy Root - "Church in a Time Crisis"

Wednesday, October 25, 5:30-8:30 pm. Dinner, Presentation by Andy Root and Conversation.

This will be a hybrid event, including Zoom availability. Reading the book ahead is NOT required for participation in the workshop.

[FIND OUT MORE AND RSVP FOR THIS EVENT.](#)

Please note that LNPC will also be hosting a book read for their members on the same dates as EP Libby Shannon; if you aren't an LNPC member do please sign up for the book read with Libby.

October Mission – Peace and Global Witness

October Mission: Peace and Global Witness Offering

At Edgumbe, the Mission Team for 2023 designated 100% of October's mission gifts to the international effort for peacemaking and reconciliation at PCUSA {Presbyterian Church USA}. We're sharing stories of the many efforts here in the newsletter and with moments for mission in worship.

Another focus this year is on Madagascar. In that country, Presbyterian World Mission is working with the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar as mission partner. International Peacemakers such as Rev. Helivao Poget are working to prevent human trafficking and to stop children from being exploited.

Children such as 15 year old Rose (below) are being saved from Madagascar's nightclub and disco scene where much of the trafficking originates. Although Rose was married, her inlaws forced her from her home when her newborn son died after 10 days. The belief system in bad omens allows these practices, which in turn lead to widespread trafficking in women and girls.



Please consider a mission donation to support Peacemaking and Global Witness during October. You can indicate "Peacemaking" or "October Mission" on the memo line with a check, or on the Give Now application from [epchurch](http://epchurch.com) website. Thanks for your support!