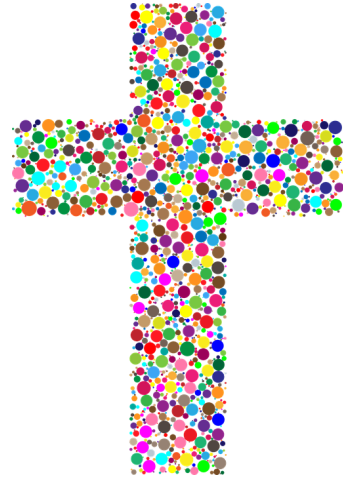


Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

April 10, 2024

In this issue: Who We Are, Todd Barnes memorial, Mission Partner: HPHS Mental Health Team & IB testing, ArtPlayce New Art



Who We Are

Who are we? We are a community that mourns together, sings together, tells stories together, and makes space for others to join with kindness and love and support. We cry and we laugh and we pray.

Who are we? We are clearly highly connected to Highland Park Senior High. Notice that there are THREE articles below about our current connections to the neighboring high school—and that does not count the upcoming clothing exchange and pie social in early May, two events designed for more connection with high school youth. God, please continue to give us opportunities to serve the young people of our community.

Who are we? We are the people who held Todd Barnes in addiction and in sobriety, in intensity and in snoring, in musical inspiration and in missed Sundays, in being quiet in the back and in being loud and proud up front. We are the people who remind each other: All of you is welcome here.

Who are we? We are God's children—loved, forgiven, and free. We are the ones who choose trust over control, belonging over separation, and love over fear. We are the Body of Christ. We are EPC.

holy spirit, in this holy moment, you be in charge
and we will follow you, trusting that your direction leads to peace.



Rest in Peace, Todd Barnes

Todd died a little after 2pm this past Sunday, after the organ donor honor ceremony at the hospital and the prayers of Edgcumbe Church and so many others. We commend Todd's body and soul to God—which means that we both say Goodbye to Todd and we

trust in the eternal love of God that connects us together beyond life or death.

We spent a good part of our worship service talking about Todd and we will continue to do so over the coming weeks and months. I wonder if many of the people who were at the hospital last Sunday will visit Edgcumbe's worship this coming week—so prepare for EPC Todd Memorial #2. Giving ourselves and the community places to celebrate and grieve and process and trust is a core part of what we do as the Body of Christ.


The official memorial service for Todd is still scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, May 11, in the EPC Backwoods. Stay tuned for more details.

Church Inside Workday - This Saturday!

To prepare for our Clothing Exchange & Pie Social in early May, we are planning an indoor workday on Saturday, April 13, from 1-4pm. Some of our goals include: cleaning and organizing the church office and Rooms 1 & 2 upstairs, and doing Spring cleaning in the sanctuary, narthex, and parlor. While we have some cleaning supplies at church, please feel free to bring your own—good vacuums are especially helpful.

April Mission: an update

The Mission Team was originally working with Todd Barnes as April's focus to support his work with youth through the Deconstruction Zone project. ****sigh**** We have decided that we want to still have a mission focus at some point on this work, but have discerned that we will wait and reach out to his colleague, Lewiee Blaze, after a period of time when this work resumes.

Meanwhile, while having conversation with Highland Park High School to learn about ways to support mental health wellbeing for youth, we received word about a May focus at the highschool. The Mental Health team of HPHS would like to provide activities during the month of May, which is National Mental Health Awareness Month. They want to focus on completing activities for both staff and students to bring more awareness, decrease stigma and increase knowledge of mental health and mental health supports. Some ideas that the team have thought of but are limited by funding include: therapy animals/Paws for Healing, affirmation steamers, aromatherapy or self-care packs, and in-building staff yoga or mini massage therapy sessions. The Mission monies raised in April will be given to the Mental Health Team of HPHS for their May activities. Please consider contributing to April's Mission focus to provide support and care to our neighbors at HPHS! 

Exam proctors needed for Highland Park Sr High School

Here's another great opportunity to support our High School Neighbors. Volunteer proctors are needed for the upcoming IB (International Baccalaureate) DP (Diploma Programme) Exams. Exam dates are from April 25 through May 15. We (as well as others from EPC) volunteered for this last year. All testing is done at the High School (next door to EPC). Each Exam session is

from 3 to 3.5 hours long (either the morning or the afternoon). The proctor's tasks are to 1) help set up the room for testing, 2) walk around the room during the test to make sure students are following the rules, and 3) accompany students to and from the rest room areas. You do not need to know anything about the subject matter of the exams to be a proctor. Please consider signing up for one or more time slots. Sign up instructions are below. If you have any questions about this, please contact us. Rich and Liz (lrschiferl@gmail.com).

- 1) Click this link to see the SignUp! options: <https://signup.com/go/mpxqSdS>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like. (One or more.)
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or password on SignUp.

ArtPlayce News:

The Highland Park HS students have shared their art and it's hanging in the sanctuary! It's a mix of photography, watercolor, oil, acrylic, mixed media, and sculpture. We are so fortunate to have this wonderful display which we can keep until the end of May or so. Spend some time browsing next time you're at EPC!