

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update – December 14, 2016

Advent Frigid Worship

According to www.accuweather.com, it is supposed to reach a low of -21 degrees on Saturday night, with a high of -7 on Sunday. That is so crazily cold, it reminds me to tell you two things

1. The only thing that is real is love. If it does not bring joy or love, then it is not real. What can separate us from the love of God? Can snow or cold? Can shame or anger? How about fear or difficulties or death? Nope, nope, nope. Nothing can separate us from love for one moment, except our own unwillingness to see it. *Suggestion:* open your eyes and hearts to the power and possibility of love in your life right at this moment. Revel for a bit.
2. We may worship in the Parlor this Sunday. I am not positive that our heating system can keep up with -21 or -7 degrees in our single-pane windowed sanctuary. So we may move into the Parlor for an intimate worship service, with lots of singing, sharing of body heat, and of course—cookies! Our text is Isaiah 7:10-16 (Immanuel who eats butter and honey—see below.)

Christmas Cooking Baking-Dec. 17

Isaiah 7 says that the coming Messiah will eat butter and honey. Yum. So what better way to celebrate Christmas than to gather for cookie baking? This will happen on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 2-5 pm in the church kitchen. Bring dough and needed implements or just come to roll and bake and enjoy each other's company.

Bible Study—Dec. 19

We will meet on Monday evening at 6:30pm in the Parlor to read the Christmas story from Luke 2:1-20 and the culmination of our Advent prophet series, Isaiah 9:2-7—which is also a traditional Christmas Eve reading. All are welcome.

Mission Opportunities This Advent at EPC

We have several ways to give this holiday season.

- A. **GIVING TREE FOR PROJECT HOME:** Bring new pajamas or slippers for all ages and new or gently used books to the tree in the narthex. This Sunday, Dec. 18, is the last opportunity to add to the tree!
- B. **CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING:** Our offering this year will go to support Rezek House, part of Lutheran Social Services' Metro Homeless Youth Program, where Faith Dietz has been helping out this year.

C. ANGELIE RYAH MISSION: If you want to support Angelie's mission to support ministry leaders at the California border with Mexico, please speak with Angelie.

New Member Class

Are you interested in exploring membership at EPC? With several young people making profession of faith and joining the church, we will have an opportunity for both those young people and any adults to have a class together in January to prepare. Talk to Pastor Julie or Phil or Elder Fred if you want to take part.

Year-End Giving

EPC has many expenses to meet at the end of the budget year. If you want to help out, remember that our last two worship services in 2016 are this Sunday, Dec. 18, and Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 4pm. Otherwise, gifts will need to be in the church office by Thursday, Dec. 29. Thank you!

Looking Ahead

Here are some dates to put on your calendars:

- December 17 – Christmas cookie baking on Saturday afternoon, 2-5 pm
- December 24 – Christmas Eve worship at 4:00 pm
- December 25 – Merry Christmas with no worship on Sunday morning!
- January 1 – Happy New Year! We are taking off this weekend as well. Look for a home Sabbath packet to take with you on Christmas Eve.

May the peace of God and the warmth of the Spirit surround you today!

Pastor Phil