

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update – December 21, 2016

Light in the Darkness

Today is the Winter Solstice, the day with the shortest time between sunrise and sunset. Isaiah 9, a traditional Christmas text for hundreds of years, says:

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned. –Isaiah 9:2

On the shortest day of the year, we remember:

- v that we know the end of the story. Our story ends in light, in love, in peace.
- v that darkness is not scary. As a matter of fact, life's difficult moments are our greatest teachers. When you hit a moment of darkness or a bump in the road today, wake up and pay attention! God is trying to teach you something in that moment.
- v that no matter what is happening in the world, Love always finds a way to be born. In Creation, God's Love broke into the chaos and made Life. On Christmas, God's Love broke into the darkness of the world and made Presence. Today, God's Love is breaking into your life, saying, "Peace on earth and goodwill to you!"

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve worship: Saturday, Dec. 24 at 4:00 p.m. with candles and communion. Christmas Eve offering is for Rezek House for homeless youth.

No Worship on Sundays, December 25 or January 1. Practice keeping the Sabbath by resting, praying, and enjoying the gifts of love in your life.

Note from Marge

Marge Litman wrote us a nice note this Christmas. Here is an excerpt:

Season's Greetings to all,

We are busy here with Holiday parties. Lots of golf and just happy to be in nice WARM weather!! Jim and I are very happy here with our busy lives and among friends. I miss my Edgcumbe friends and you all will always have a very special place in my heart. I haven't found a new church to settle into but plan to do so soon. If anyone comes our way, give us a jingle at [760-343-4904](tel:760-343-4904).

Love to all, Marge (& Jim too) Litman

We miss you too, Marge—love and care to you both! Your friends at EPC

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.

EPC Budget and Year-End Giving

With many expenses at the end of the year, and our checking account is uncomfortably low. If you can help out by finishing your pledge or giving some extra to the ministry of EPC, please get any donations into the church office as soon as possible. To have gifts count for 2016 taxes, donations must be postmarked by December 31, 2016.

Prayers

We hold in prayer before God the following:

- Bob Ekstrand is recovering from cancer-removing surgery on his face.
- All those who suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder or just plain old feeling down.

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

Pastor Phil