

## Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update – February 1, 2017

### From Impossible Odds to Even More Impossible

In Judges 7, Gideon and his small army of 32,000 go off to fight the Midianite invaders who have 135,000 men. That is 4-to-1 in favor of the Midianites—impossible odds! God looks at those odds and tells Gideon, “You have too many men. If you win, Israel would be tempted to take credit away from me.” So God and Gideon whittle down the army, first down to 10,000 men and then down to 300. Those are absolutely ludicrous odds! Against an army of 135,000 men, 300 men is nothing but a fly to be swatted.

But that is how God works. God loves impossible odds. God loves them because overcoming those odds reminds us that nothing is impossible with God. Almost every Bible story is about this same thing. Creating the universe from nothing—impossible! Abe and Sara having a baby at 100—impossible! Escaping from slavery from powerful Egypt—impossible! Birth from a virgin—impossible! Rising from the dead—impossible! Faith in this God is always a beautiful but tricky thing because if you trust God, the Spirit will lead into right into a situation with impossible odds in your own life. Then you have choice. What will you do? Do you have the courage and trust that it takes to step toward the impossible odds when God has called you? Gideon did.

Do you want to know how the battle with the Midianites turned out? Read Judges 7. Or even better, join us for worship as we read it together this Sunday.

### Annual Meeting Review

Thank you everyone who prepared food or reports or joined together for the Annual Meeting last Sunday. Here is an invitation from Pastor Julie:

*hi everyone! as this year's moderator of the annual meeting, i am continuing to hold last sunday's gathering in my heart and prayers. and i am finding myself curious and inquisitive as i think about some of the dynamics of energy throughout the morning. and because i was the moderator, i would like to share my take-away learnings from the experience, and i would like to learn from your experiences, as well. i am wondering if you'd be willing to gather with me and briefly unpack the time. i am not asking people to share what was actually said, but i think there is learning to be done about things like length of time, seating, talking, listening to each other, and other dynamics. if you are able and interested, **please join me after worship this sunday, february 5th**. if you are not able to attend sunday morning, would you consider sharing what worked for you during the morning, and what did not work? if you cannot come, please email me with your reflections--not replying to this email, but to me directly at [pastorjulie@epchurch.org](mailto:pastorjulie@epchurch.org). hope to see you sunday!! peace!! pastor julie*

### Growth & Outreach Team

One of the discussion points at the Annual Meeting was a desire to give overt energy to growing our congregation. In this Spirit, all interested people are invited to a meeting on Wednesday, February 8, at 7:15pm at the home of Todd Barnes (2285 Stewart Avenue, #1220, St. Paul, 55116). If you plan to come and want to be a part of this exciting ministry, please contact Todd at [651-398-8827](tel:651-398-8827).

### **Confirmation and New Members**

On two Sundays in February we will take in seven youth and two adults as full members of the church. On Feb. 12, we will celebrate the professions of faith of Samantha LeClair, Lillian LeClair (also getting baptized!), Chloe Clary, Calista Clary, Christopher Powell, and Connie Spear. On Feb. 19, we will celebrate the professions of faith of McKenna Reedquist, Cora Fett, and Jennie Reedquist. The confirmation youth will be helping to lead worship on both of these Sundays.

### **Hygiene supplies for the homeless**

Given our present economic challenges, there are an increasing number of people living without basic supplies in shelters, transitional housing and in streets or places not intended for human habitation. These people have a great need for hygiene supplies and over-the-counter medications

Non-prescription medications, hygiene supplies and cotton socks are just a few items that homeless people have a great need for. A shopping list is attached to this email and lists will also be available on the table in the Narthex. Donations will be picked up and taken to the West Side Community Center on February 26.

***Thank you for giving from your heart!***

### **Prayers**

- For Lorenz's friend Skip who is getting baptized this coming weekend.
- For Josh LeClair and family as they prepare for his Eagle Scout celebration at EPC on the afternoon of Feb. 26.
- For our Office Administrator Lois Glewwe after the death of her nephew this week.

People of Impossible Odds, may God bless you with the courage and trust that you need today.

Pastor Phil

## **Shopping List**

(non-alcoholic, non-aerosol, new items)



### **Medication (not expired)**

- Ibuprofen, Advil or Aleve
- Adult cough syrup, cold/flu tablets
- Cough drops (sugar free too!)
- Chapstick, Vaseline
- Antacids (Maalox, Rolaids)
- Antifungal Cream
- Pedialyte, Enfamil or Similac (with iron)
- Multivitamins, prenatal vitamins, children's vitamins
- Vicks Vaporub (child and adult)
- Orajel (child and adult), Polygrip
- Eye Drops

### **Hygiene (travel size preferred)**

- Deodorant, disposable razors and shaving cream
- Hand and body lotions such as Eucerin, Vanicream, and Aquaphor
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste (kids too!)
- Shampoo, conditioner, soap
- Sanitary pads and tampons (regular/super)

### **Other**

- Baby Diapers (especially size 4 and 5) and Adult Pull-ups
- Baby wipes, bottles, pacifiers, and thermometers
- Women's and men's insulated winter gloves, and hats
- White cotton socks
- Pocket Tissues
- Hand sanitizer
- Single use/reusable hot and cold packs

*Thank you for giving from your heart!*



*Optimal health and well-being*