

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update – April 5, 2017

Remove the Stone!

In the story of the resurrection of Lazarus in John 11, Jesus first up-ends the very basis of how we think life and death work. Jesus says to the sister of Lazarus (who is dead at this point in the story), “I am the resurrection and the life, whoever trusts in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” This is a mind-boggling but amazing promise of life and comfort for all who trust in God! Death is not the end of our story, but a beginning.

To prove his point, as Pastor Julie pointed out in worship, Jesus goes to the tomb of Lazarus and gives three important commands:

1. **“Remove the stone.”** Something is holding us in the power and fear of death. What do you need to remove from your life to step into life and faith?
2. **“Come out!”** It can be easier to lay in our self-created tombs than answer God’s call in our life. If you imagine Jesus saying to you right now, “Come out!,” what images or fears come to your mind? Talk to God and ask what God wants you to do right now.
3. **“Unbind him!”** We can’t unbind ourselves. We need the help of the whole community to see us in our ragged state and love us into the freedom of faith. Is there someone in your life that you could ask for help today? Or do you know someone who could use an extra dose of support right now? Give them a call or reach out somehow.

Belief is a powerful force for change and happiness in your life. Feel free to apply it with abandon today. Our text for this coming Sunday will be from Philippians 2:5-11, as we look to Jesus to model how to live with God.

Holy Week is Almost Here!

Here is our Holy Week schedule:

- This Sunday, April 9 – Palm Sunday, our last worship service based on Holden Evening Prayer for awhile.
- Friday, April 14 – Good Friday worship with Humble Walk Community at 6pm at Art House (793 Armstrong Ave, St Paul), with a potluck dinner at EPC at 5pm.
- Sunday, April 16 – EASTER
- The next Sunday, April 23, both Pastors will be attending a conference with EPC worship led by guest pastor Jodi Houge.

Food Drive Report

We raised \$225 and filled a trunk with food for our March Food Drive last month. Thank you to all who donated and to Eleta and Christopher for bringing the donations to the local food shelf!

Outreach & Growth Team

All are welcome to join the merry crew and lively conversation around how to go out into our community to connect with and serve our neighbors and grow our church. We will meet at 7 pm at the Caribou Coffee at 2340 W 7th, next to the McDonalds. Note: this is a location change. Contact Angelie with any questions or curiosities: angelieryah@gmail.com

Church Directories

New directories will be printed and ready by Easter Sunday. Please contact Office Manager Lois Glewwe (secretary@epchurch.org or [651-698-8220](tel:651-698-8220)) if you have any information to update in the directory.

Prayers

- For Connie Spear, whose memorial service for her mother will be at First Presbyterian Church of White Bear Lake on Thursday April 6th in the evening. Visitation will be from 6-7 and the service will be at 7:00 with refreshments afterwards (all at the church). The EPC congregation is welcome to attend.
- For Meredith and Tom Holt, visiting Tom's brother who is sick and beginning to make end-of-life decisions.

People of God, Come out and let the community help you untie all the remnants of the tomb from your limbs, so that we can all live in peace and honesty and freedom. Pastor Phil