

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

December 20, 2017

MERRY CHRISTMAS—LOOK IN THE MIRROR!

Last Sunday, Pastor Julie invited us to see the face of Christ in our own face. She said, Look in a mirror this week and see the face of God. If you are like most people, this will both intrigue you and frighten you. Most of us have such deep self-worth doubts that this exercise is almost unimaginable. When we look in the mirror, we see blemishes and faults, regrets and pain. It is amazing to me how easily we can criticize ourselves, and how hard it is to truly experience myself as God sees me—as a child of God, as lovable and loving, as a part of God's Spirit in the world.

Even if it sounds scary, try going to a mirror today and looking at yourself as if you love yourself. If that is too hard, look at yourself as a creation of God; try to see yourself as God sees you, as a loving parent sees you, as if you are just perfect the way you are. Let Christ's shine through your eyes. Hold this look of love with yourself as long as you can.

Jesus being born at Christmas is really just God holding up a mirror to humanity and saying, "Do you see? I love humanity! I love you!" Merry Christmas. Hope to see you at worship at 10am on Sunday, December 24. Julie and I will be off next week.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

This year we are supporting the Christmas Joy Offering through the Presbyterian Church (USA). This offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers in times of hardship and develops future leaders at Presbyterian racial-ethnic schools and colleges. You can give at any time this month or there will be an opportunity to give on Christmas Eve morning.

SPECIAL JANUARY SUNDAY

The EPC Deacons and the youth of the church will be hosting a "Comfort & Joy" Sunday, January 14, 2018, during the worship service. The modified worship service will be held in the parlor area, with a potluck brunch during the service featuring comfort food that bring you joy. The service will be in-part facilitated by young people in our congregation and will focus on the many gifts in our life which bring us comfort and joy. So bring your blankets, an open heart, and a delicious dish to pass for our first "Comfort & Joy" Sunday! For more information, please contact Belinda Clary, Ingrid Eggert, or Todd Barnes.

NEIGHBOR NOTE

We received this nice note (and a check!) in the office this week:

Dear friends, My name is Claire—I attend a Saturday morning meeting at your church. I always come early to run and work out. You have, through the kind people tending your gardens and otherwise present, always welcomed me and my activity. I greatly appreciate your kindness and warmth. Merry Christmas, Claire—runner and grateful neighbor.

SCHOOL TOOLS UPDATE

Maybe you remember that we took a large load of tissues and classroom supplies over to Highland Park HS in September, but that we also had some money left over for more supplies. This week we contacted HPHS art teacher Keri Schultz, who has sponsored student shows at EPC in the past, to see if she needed any supplies. Yes, she did! So we just sent \$175 worth of tempera and watercolor paints from Blick to Keri and the art department. Keri was super happy and grateful. Thank you all for your generosity!

ENNEAGRAM OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE

As I (Pastor Phil) get ready start my training in January for teaching the Enneagram in local prisons, there is an opportunity for anyone and everyone in the congregation to take an intro Enneagram class on January 20. I cannot recommend this workshop enough. I think that it will personally helpful for any person that comes, and it will also deepen our worship and conversations here at EPC. Here is the information:

Introduction to the Enneagram with Kate Ostrem

Saturday, January 20

Location: Carondelet Center, [1890 Randolph Ave, St Paul, MN](#)

Doors open at 8:30 a.m., workshop begins at 9 a.m. and ends at noon.

Registration fee until January 11: Members and guests of members - \$20

If you have questions or want to attend, please email me at pastorphil@epchurch.org, and I will register you as my guest. After January 11, the price goes up, so contact me soon! No prior knowledge about the Enneagram is needed to attend.

O People of God, rejoice and be glad! Peace on earth to all people! Here at the darkest time of year we remember that the Light has come and the darkness shall not overcome it. Pastor Phil