

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

January 3, 2018

ARISE & SHINE!!

This week is Epiphany, the celebration of the star that led the Magi to Jesus. In Matthew 2, we are given a clear choice of how to live in the world. We can shake in fear like Herod, afraid of losing our power or safety, marshalling our defenses, and lashing out in anger and violence. OR, we can see Jesus and be filled with joy.

This seems like such a simple choice—why not choose joy over fear and violence, right? But if this is so simple, why do I feel more fearful than joyful at most moments in my own life? Take stock of your own feelings at this moment. Do you feel more afraid or more joyful? What if you were to allow yourself to rest in complete joy and contentment right now? What if we were to make that choice in every moment?

Isaiah 60 says, “Arise, Shine!” Here in these dark days of mid-winter in Saint Paul, let’s choose the joy and hope of God’s light together. Hope to see you at worship at 10am on Epiphany Sunday, January 7.

COMFORT & JOY SUNDAY—JAN. 14

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!

Anyone who wants to help plan this service is invited to stay after church this Sunday and meet in the Parlor.

ENNEAGRAM OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE

NOTE 1: I (Pastor Phil) was officially accepted into the Enneagram Prison Project (EPP) training program on New Year’s Day. Yea God and thank you all for your support in this new endeavor. I will spend three hours on an online training module each Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evening for the next two months, and then a long weekend in early March in the Bay Area meeting my fellow trainees from around the world and visiting prisons there.

At the same time, there is an opportunity for anyone 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](https://www.google.com/maps/place/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.

MIDWEEK UPDATE CORRECTIONS

Please note that the Carlsons and GebbenGreens really weren't married on the same day, same year. Deb and Bob's anniversary is January 15, 1994 and Julie and Phil's anniversary is 1/31/1998. Angelie's birthday was also off in last week's Midweek Mailing. Her birthday is January 18, not January 19.

PRAYERS

- Prayers for Angelie as she arrives in San Diego and starts settling in. Her cats could probably use some prayers too.
- Prayers for office manager Lois as she begins radiation this week.
- Prayers for each of us and the whole world that we might choose joy over fear.

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