

Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update - January 31, 2018

STEP INTO THE RIVER

The river of God's love and grace flows by your feet in every single moment. Stepping into this river is not cold or dangerous. Stepping into the Spirit's river brings only peace and joy and freedom. It may be the most wonderful feeling in the world, but it is surprisingly scary to take that step. It's scary because it means giving up your life on the riverbank. It's scary because we believe that we do not deserve love and grace.

Today's exercise: Imagine stepping into God's river of grace. It is a new and holy day, because you are receiving what has been given to us. Our faith lies with the Giver, not our own acceptance. We acknowledge our mistakes, but God gives us the means to lay them down and rise up again with gratitude and love. God gives and we receive—that is the will of God's love for us. Pray this simple prayer:

Your grace is given to me. I claim it now.

ANNUAL MEETING & WORSHIP—FEBRUARY 4

This Sunday, Feb. 4, EPC is having our Annual Meeting. We have one of these each year in late January or early February to check in about past year and give God thanks for the ministry of this congregation. We plan to share most of the reports during worship, followed by a short meeting to give the budget report and vote to renew the pastors' contract. That leaves plenty of time for nachos and the big athletic event (which starts at 5:30pm).

It is also a communion Sunday. We are not having a full potluck, but some treats or snacks to give us an energy boost when we move from worship to the business meeting would be appreciated. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR JULIE RECOMMENDS

The **12 Step Spirituality group**, of which Pastor Julie is on the leadership team, is having their regular meeting on Saturday, February 10th, from 9a-12n, at Colonial Church in Edina. This is an open meeting, not only for people in a 12 step program. the half-day retreat will have two people share stories of learning (one will be Pastor Julie), as well as two 20-minute centering prayer periods. For more information about the group, please go to www.12stepspirituality.org, or talk to Pastor Julie.

MISSION TRIP TO LOUISIANA

Our Presbytery is sponsoring a mission trip to the the Baton Rouge area to assist in disaster clean-up in early April. The total cost of the trip is only

\$150. If this opportunity might interest you, see the information on the table in the narthex.

INVITATION FROM BRYAN KINGSRITER & ELAINE ALLEN

Elaine and Bryan are inviting the EPC congregation to their home on February 18. They live at [1236 N. Victoria Street](#) in Saint Paul, just north of Lake Como. Here is the invitation:

We would like to invite you to our home for food, and a celebration of our time with Edgcumbe, on Sunday, February 18, after church. Please let us know if you can make it. There may even be a little hymn singing, (if I have any say in it)! Thanks to all, Bryan

CHURCH DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

The new directories are finished and will be in the narthex on Sunday. Please take the copy with your label on it. If you need an extra copy, we are happy to print you another one, just contact the church office.

BIRTHDAY IN FEBRUARY

Sherla Mayer – February 7

PRAYERS AND PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Todd Barnes would like to thank all who attended the January 28 EPC worship service for holding he and his family in prayer regarding the passing of his father, Walter Thomas Barnes, Jr. Todd is overwhelmed with appreciation for the love and support he received from his EPC family and extends his heartfelt thanks for the unwavering support received from you all.
- Bonnie Belle Fett, Lorenz's mom and Cora's grandma, died this past weekend. Visitation is this Friday from 4 p.m - 7 p.m at Van Steenhuyse-Russell funeral home in Vinton, Iowa. The funeral is Saturday, 10 a.m. at the Urbana Christian Church in Urbana, Iowa. The EPC Deacons extend our love and condolences to the Fett family and hold him and his family in warmth and in prayer during this time. Here is a link to Bonnie's obituary: <http://www.vsrfh.com/obituaries/Bonnie-Belle-Fett?obId=2936504#/obituaryInfo>
- Today is the 20th wedding anniversary of Pastors Phil & Julie. We give God gratitude for their marriage and blessings for the years to come.

O People of God, the Spirit offers us all of God's grace in every moment. Claim it with boldness! Step into the river of love and joy! Pastor Phil