

# **Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church**

## *Midweek Update – February 21, 2018*

### **MID-FEBRUARY REFLECTIONS**

It's the doldrum-days of winter, I'm feeling exhausted after being sick myself; so here are some short winter reflections for your cold and sunny Wednesday.

- I remind you again that the word Lent actually just means spring, so we live in hope that spring is coming.
- Big thanks from me and Pastor Julie for everyone who helped out with worship this past Sunday. That is the first time in ten years that Julie and I have gotten sick on the same Sunday. I think it is a sign of a healthy community when Elders and members can step up at the last minute and lead a meaningful worship experience. Special gratitude to Fred Clary for taking the on the sermon 14 hours beforehand!
- Our text this coming Sunday (Mark 8:31-37) includes a line from Jesus: "Say no to yourself." What is one area of your life where you would like the willingness to let go of something, or the willingness to stop some thought or habit or fear? You could mention this willingness to God, who helps all who call out with willingness.
- Unbelievable to me, I have only one more online training for the Enneagram Prison Project before I visit the Bay Area for in-person training in early March. Two things I see coming up when I get back are: 1) Working with my fellow EPP colleagues to secure a teaching spot in a local prison. Our best option so far is the Mn Correctional Facility in Lino Lakes, so if you happen to have any connections at that facility, please let me know. 2) I also hope to set up an Enneagram class here at EPC for my own practice and the learning of the community. This could be a class just for EPC folk or it could include anyone from the community. I'll be thinking and talking more about this later in March.
- Because of that trip to the Bay Area and then another conference here in town, Julie and I going to take off March 1-13 for continuing education. Worship on March 4 & 11 will be led by Elders & Deacons and members of the congregation.
- Our jobs this Lent: 1) Rest in the love and mercy of God. It is really impossible to stress how important this is. If you need a suggestion of how to do this, try this: just spend one-minute breathing in rest and peace. Repeat often. 2) If you want, get together with anybody from EPC for a meal. Then do it again. If that sounds burdensome and awful, don't do it. If it sounds invitational, then go for it.

### **PRAYERS AND PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- For John & Linda Omps as John struggles with a 100 degree fever—and for everyone struggling through winter illnesses.
- A Celebration of Life for Eleta's dad, Montell Pierce, will be held on this Saturday, February 24, at First Presbyterian Church in [South St. Paul \(535 20th Ave N\)](#). 10 am visitation, 11 am service. Pastor Phil is preaching the message. The celebration will continue at Eleta's parent's [house \(468 Ohio St, St. Paul\)](#) following the service with food and drinks, stories and laughs.

May God's peace surround you all today! Pastor Phil