

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

*Midweek Update –
October 31, 2018*

ALL HALLOWS EVE & BRUNCH SUNDAY

The word “Halloween” comes from “All Holy Eve,” because October 31 is the day (eve) before All Saints Day on November 1. I’m not big into Halloween, although I happily hand out candy bars to the children of our neighborhood. I am a big fan of All Saints Day, because I believe that telling the stories and memories of our loved ones who have shaped our lives and our faith is powerful and encouraging.

It is *powerful* to remember together those who have gone before us into eternity, because these stories give our life context. We did not invent our faith and faith does not end with us. We are a part of something bigger than ourselves. We swim in a river whose beginning and end rests in God’s heart. It is *encouraging* to remember the stories of the saints because from them we learn perseverance and hope and selflessness and joy.

This Sunday, November 4, we will celebrate All Saints Day and communion together with a **potluck brunch service**. We will gather around tables for our whole worship service, including a communion service and lighting of candles for those we are remembering.

PHIL FINALLY KEEPS HIS TRAP SHUT

I had a wonderful week of silence and worship with the Trappist monks at Gethsemani Abbey in central Kentucky. Here are a few things I came away with:

- I like silence, more than I would have guessed. Staying silent for four days reminded me that most (all?) of my thoughts and judgments and opinions and habits of thinking could really remain unspoken, and the world will be just fine. What if I took more time and deliberation before speaking?
- Even without speaking, it is good to be with friends. Just eating and worshipping and walking together is lovely and connective.
- Trappist Kentucky monks make good fudge. I brought some back to share on Sunday!

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is what we call this season, when we ask Edgcumbe Church folk to consider their giving for the coming year to express our intention for generosity and help the Session plan the 2019 budget. Labeled letters and pledge cards will be available in the narthex this Sunday, with the rest mailed next

week. You can also contact the church office with your pledge information at any time (secretary@epchurch.org or 651-698-8220)

THANKSGIVING MEAL

Thanksgiving dinner will, again, be served to the Montreal Highrise this year. This is an EPC tradition for over 20 years. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. We will need 10-12 people at 11:00 a.m. to take turkey meat off the bones, cut pies, clean and set tables, dish up the food and carry it out to the tables, and wash up after the meal. We start serving the meal at noon and are usually finished by 1:30. If you have any questions, contact Meredith Holt. Thanks.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to Julie GebbenGreen – November 5

Happy Anniversary to Dan and Lauren Froelich – November 27

PRAYERS

We pray in gratitude and hope for All the Saints who have gone before us. This year especially we remember our lovely Director of Music, Deb Carlson, and all those who were touched by her life.

Prayers right now for Eleta Pierce as Zarrick moves out of the house, as the family adapts to these changes, and as Eleta works to provide loving and supportive parenting for her three children.

Have a blessed and safe Halloween and we hope to see you on Sunday!

--Pastor Phil