

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

February 27, 2019

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LENTEN HOPE & CHANGE

Lent officially begins in one week from today on Ash Wednesday. We do not have a service on Ash Wednesday itself anymore, but we will have a ceremony of ashes on the first Sunday of Lent, March 10. We use ashes to remember that out of death, God brings life. Perhaps in Minnesota we should have a ceremony of snow: Out of the depths of snow, we believe that Spring is coming!

This season of Lent (which is an old English word for “Spring,” by the way), as we prepare for the transformation of Easter, we worship together using the beautiful music of Holden Evening Prayers and hearing congregational friends reflect on the question: “How am I being changed right now?” If you would like to share a reflection on this question, please talk to Pastor Phil or Julie.

MN FOODSHARE CAMPAIGN

The drive is on! Minnesota FoodShare is an annual campaign in March to help replenish supplies for Minnesota’s food shelves. During the month of March, our local food shelf, Francis Basket (run by Neighborhood House), records and reports its receipts by weighing the pounds of food donated and counting the dollars contributed. These totals are reported to the Minnesota FoodShare office to determine proportional allocations. All dollars and food donated to Francis Basket stays at Francis Basket. A donation of cash or food to our food drive goes directly to families in our neighborhood. Please give generously this month. Donations of non-perishable food can be placed on and around the food shelf in the Narthex, and cash donations can be made out to EPC with “food shelf” in the memo line and placed in the offering.

PASTOR JULIE WALKING

With session approval, I will be traveling to Spain this summer to walk the ancient Christian pilgrimage of the Camino de Santiago. Watch for an upcoming announcement for a date for a forum after worship to learn more about this!! Until then, I would be thrilled to have anyone join me as I "train" and go for walks with me. Let me know if you are interested! *Julie*

BIBLE STUDY

Our first gathering will be next Tuesday, March 5, at 6:30pm, at church. Everyone is welcome!

BURR BEHLER DIED ON FEBRUARY 20

Burr and Judy Behler were longtime members of EPC until they moved to Boutwells Landing outside of Stillwater in 2002 and couldn't make the drive any longer. Their son Ben Behler is one who did the drawings of the church that are in the narthex and library. Burr's service was last Monday at 1st Presbyterian Church in Stillwater. May he rest in peace and in the hope of the resurrection.

PRAYERS

We pray today for John and Linda Omps as both of whom are struggling with their physical health this winter and ongoing heartache in their family. We pray that God will not only give them the wisdom and peace that they desire, but also that real miracles of healing and reconnection and forgiveness and joy will break out in abundance in their lives.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to

Chloe Clary	March 4
Connie Howe-Vielmetti	March 4
Dave Howe-Vielmetti	March 11
Lydia GebbenGreen	March 15
Cora Fett	March 24
Todd Barnes	March 24
Watson Fearing	March 27
Dave Mayer	March 27
Christopher Powell	March 28
McKenna Reedquist	March 29
Naomi Houle	March 30

SESSION UPDATE FROM ELDER

JAY!

To open our Session meeting, we were asked, "How are we being changed?" Pastor Phil suggested that this would be a question that would become part of our Lenten season. It

was proposed that we ask the congregation to sign-up to share their personal response to this question.

It was recognized how valuable the responses were from our discussion questions during our annual meeting that was held on Sunday, February 3rd. The ways in which we feel hope, energy and vitality, and the ways in which we see ourselves encountering obstacles, are sources of gratitude, reflection, inspiration, and direction. Meredith has transcribed the complete list from the whiteboard, which is available upon request (thank-you Meredith!). An important outcome of our annual meeting was the realization that the EPC community is already in the midst of an adventure in adaptive change. In so many ways, our “Lewis and Clark” adventure has been underway for some time now. Another exciting element is that Pastor Phil is on the nominating committee for the Presbytery of the Greater Twin Cities and the Presbytery is asking many of the same questions that we are at EPC.

Session re-elected Meredith Holt as our Clerk, and Ron Eggert as our Treasurer. Thank you, Meredith and Ron, for your continued willingness to serve!

Eleta Peirce, our Missions and Outreach chair, announced that we will be participating again in a food drive to benefit St. Francis Community Center’s food pantry. This is an important food drive because the amount of support each food pantry will receive through the coming year will be determined by comparing the volume received during this initial drive.

Pastor Phil announced that EPC bible study will start on Tuesday, March 5th at 6:30 pm! During that first meeting, participants will discuss how frequently they wish to meet.

Pastor Julie checked in with Session regarding her plans to walk the Camino. Session agreed that this was an exciting opportunity for growth for Pastor Julie. It is another way in which EPC is expressing Christ’s presence and love. Pastor Julie will be providing a forum for further information and she asks for our prayers as she prepares for walking the Camino.

Session voted to invite Women in Recovery to use EPC’s library starting in late summer. Women in Recovery is a support community that is supported by The Retreat, whose mission is to create a caring community that provides education, spiritual insight, and growth opportunities for women in all twelve step recovery programs. Women in Recovery participants will be invited to provide a free-will offering for use of the space.--Elder Jay McGregor