

# Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

## *Midweek Update*

*May 22, 2019*

In this issue:

- Forgiveness Series in Poetry
- Congregational Mtg Report
- Pastor Julie gratitude
- Bible Study
- Isaac graduation reception
- Prayers

### **FORGIVENESS: A POEM**

If you were in worship on Sunday, then you got to hear and reflect on Pastor Julie's original poem, "See, I am making all things new!" The poem is included in full at the end of this Update.

It is truly amazing poetry and theological reflection, and I encourage each of you to read and reflect upon it this week.

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ELECTION CELEBRATION**

Congratulations to Connie Howe-Vielmetti, who was elected as an Elder, and Ingrid Eggert, who was re-elected as a Deacon at the Congregational Meeting this past Sunday!

### **THANK YOU, EPC!**

i wanted to express my deepest gratitude to the epc community for the additional financial support for my upcoming camino experience!!! thank you for your care and support of me during this time of pilgrimage!! i am looking forward to sharing it with you in the days ahead!! with joy!! *pastor Julie*

[We will plan to bless Julie's journey on Pentecost Sunday, June 9.]

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Our next Bible Study will be this coming Sunday evening, May 26, at 6:30pm at the church. All are welcome.

### **GRADUATION RECEPTION**

On Sunday, June 2, after worship, the GebbenGreens will host a reception at church for Isaac GebbenGreen, who is graduating from Open World Learning Community on June 4.

## **PRAYERS**

We pray for our accompanist Jenya Trubnikava who is spending the next two months with her family in Belarus and for our coming guest pianists—Elizabeth Chua will be joining us for six weeks starting this Sunday.  
Julie's poem from worship on May 19:

“See! I am making all things new!” Rev 21

forgiveness  
is not about pardon  
but rather  
an entirely new  
thought system

as we live,  
running commentaries  
of thoughts, judgments  
loop within our minds  
relentlessly doling out guilt  
and when we cannot  
recognize the ways  
we judge ourselves as guilty  
we push that verdict of guilt  
onto others

forgiveness  
is a willingness to  
allow the Holy Spirit  
to heal our  
*minds*

the guilt we think we see  
is only the  
surface level  
it is a side show our  
ego continues so that  
we never have to face  
our deepest fear

which is the story  
we have told ourselves—  
and now believe—  
that we are the

cause of the  
separation  
between us and our Source

which, if you follow  
the tendrils of  
fear and pain,  
meet exactly at this very point—  
the belief that we are  
separate from Love

but, what if  
that isn't true?

what if, as a way to survive  
the unrelenting guilt,  
we have hidden and fallen asleep?

forgiveness becomes then  
the way to wake up  
the way to surrender  
the ego's thought systems of separation and fear  
and adopt a way of seeing  
with the Holy Spirit  
our *essential innocence*

each act of forgiveness then  
becomes a prayer  
of desire to remember  
who I AM, truly,  
At-One with God,  
already at peace

God is Infinite Love  
and this endless grace  
already dwells within us

forgiveness is then  
a letting go of our  
stories of guilt and pain,  
letting the Holy Spirit  
write our lives  
anew