



Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

*Midweek Update
November 6, 2019*

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THE SECRET OF CONTENTMENT

In Philippians 4, Paul writes, "I have learned the secret to being content in any circumstance." Can you imagine this? Being content, not just in certain blissful and relaxed moments, but in all circumstances? It sounds a bit like Jesus in Luke 6: "Happy are you when people hate you, reject you, and insult you. Rejoice when that happens; leap for joy!" Jesus and Paul seem to have a hope and faith that jump right over our usual expectations of what is possible. How do they stay grounded in peace and joy in every moment? What do they know that I have forgotten?

In worship last Sunday, I suggested the best starting point to understand the above quotes is to remember that **THE ONLY REAL THING IS LOVE**. I, along with Jesus and Paul, mean this quite literally. When I see absolutely every action and circumstance in my life as either an Expression of Love or a Call for Love, then I remain open-hearted, joy-filled, grateful, empathetic and content. If instead I listen to my ego, then the same circumstances start to look like betrayal or attack or shameful or hurtful or dangerous or cruel or stupid. From those stories my contentment goes out the window and is replaced with anger, hurt, blame, shame, fight, flight, freeze, and justification.

The only real thing is love. Absolutely every moment is either an expression of love or a call for love. My only goal is God. I am fully aware of both the appeal of these sentences and their ludicrousness. And I am so grateful that the Spirit gives me the gift of freedom to choose faith and trust, and ludicrousness!

PASTORS OFF NOVEMBER 17

On November 16 & 17, Phil & Julie will be at an Enneagram conference at the Carandolet Center here in St. Paul. Worship on Nov. 17 will be led by Elder Eleta Pierce.

STEWARDSHIP

Each November, the Session asks every person in the EPC community to consider how God is calling them to contribute to the work and ministry of this church. This gives each one of us an opportunity to look at our own giving and generosity, and it gives the Elders clearer ideas about how to budget for the coming year. Look for a letter and 2020 pledge card by next week.

NEW MEMBER EXPLORATION CLASS

If you are interested in attending a class to explore membership at Edgcumbe Church, please talk to either Pastor or any Elder (Eleta, Jay, Fred, Meredith, or Connie). The date for the class has not yet been set, but will probably be after worship on a Sunday morning.

CAMINO INVITATION—NOV. 17

An invitation is being extended to the folk of EPC to come to the fall gathering potluck for the *American Pilgrims on the Camino*, which will include six pilgrims sharing short snapshots of Caminos traveled this year (Pastor Julie is one of the presenters). This gathering will be held in the sanctuary at EPC, Sunday, November 17th from 4-7pm. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Julie by November 10.

TWO CONCERTS

Some folks from EPC have concerts coming up. Here are details:

Songs of the Season, sponsored by the Schubert Club

December 19, 2019, at 7pm

Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101

Featuring PETER MAYER (and Leslie Snow will be in the choir of back-up singers for Peter!)

Save the date and plan to attend. More info on ticket prices coming...

Rebel Girls-highlighting amazing women throughout the ages, with the Twin Cities Women's Choir

The date is Nov. 23rd, Saturday. Start time is 7:00 p.m.

Roseville Lutheran Church, 1215 Roselawn Ave.

Tickets are on line at HervoiceProductions.org

Both Lisa and Shelley Holden sing with the TC Women's Choir

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & HANGING THE GREENS(& BRUNCH?)

Amazingly, it is time to think about flowers you want to order for yourself or the church for this Christmas season. Contact the church office or see the order form in the narthex for more information. Then set aside some time after church on Sunday, December 1, to help decorate the sanctuary, with carol singing and treats—or maybe even a potluck brunch. Stay tuned!