

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

December 11, 2019

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KINDNESS

After Julie and I recently had a conversation about Unconditional Positive Regard for all people (an idea first articulated by...well, Jesus...and then by psychologist Carl Rogers), Julie has been walking around stores and our neighborhood and Gustavus College shining kindness and light and love to everyone she sees.

Do you feel like the world could use a little love? Then let's do our best to add our own love to the ingredients of this December, whether you are driving or shopping or walking or working or eating. Feeling resentful or frustrated? Then add just a dash a forgiveness before measuring out kindness. Because healing and love and kindness are wonderfully contagious!

CHRISTMAS EVE!

Tuesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship at 4pm. Please join us and invite friends and family to this candlelit service of wonder and music and worship. We will have four guest musicians and the choir will sing and we will circle in the dark with candles in our hands and prayers in our hearts.

BIBLE STUDY – DEC. 22

Great to see everyone at last Sunday's study after worship. Our next Bible Study will be at 6:30pm on Sunday, December 22, where we will look at the Christmas texts together. Hope to see you!

NEW MEMBER EXPLORATION CLASS-JAN. 19

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 been moved back one week to Sunday, January 19, after worship.

ADVENT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Giving Tree – NEW Pajamas & Socks

Remember what it was like as a kid to get a new pair of pajamas and socks, especially at Christmas time? We would love to give that warm, fuzzy feeling to ALL of those staying with Project Home – children and adults alike. Now through December 15 we are collecting NEW pajamas and socks in hopes of providing a fresh, new set to each person staying in the program through the holiday. There are approximately 40 people, children from infant through teenagers, mothers, fathers and grandmothers. Scout the sales now, purchase what you can, and bring the unwrapped gifts to the Sanctuary to stick under the tree. (Please note – they DO NOT need gloves, mittens, hats or scarves as they already have an abundance that was recently donated, so stick to pajamas and socks.)

Gently-used (or new) Twin Size Fitted Sheets and Warm Blankets Needed

Project Home, the mission of Interfaith Action who houses homeless families in the buildings of two faith communities each month, is in desperate need of bedding for the children and parents staying with them, specifically twin-sized fitted sheets and warm blankets (twin or full size). Bedding can be new or gently-used with no rips or stains. We will collect these items for the next few weeks. Put the items into a paper bag to place under the tree in the sanctuary.

NIGHT OF PEACE AT HPHS

An article from Liz and Rich Schiferl

Peace bread, 16 key aspects of the Muslim faith, wrestling in the Temple.

The inaugural Night for Peace and Goodwill was held on Dec. 4 at the Highland Park High School. The event was organized by the Highland District Council with the goal of bringing people of different religious and cultural backgrounds together to talk, learn and share a meal. Those in attendance got to know each other while eating a potluck dinner. The meal was followed by speakers who represented the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths. For each faith, both a faith leader (where the 16 key aspects and wrestling were discussed) and a family leader spoke about the religion and how it is manifested in family life. Pastor Julie was the family leader for the Christian faith, and from our congregation, Teri Rose, Rich and Liz attended. There was some time for questions and answers, and then attendees participated in a Polish custom where they complimented and blessed each other while sharing bread. The organizers hope this will become an annual event.

I think the most interesting thing I learned was how threatened and fearful members of both the Jewish and Muslim faith feel. Muslim women feel especially afraid as their clothing makes their religion obvious to all. While I do know this is an issue, hearing about the fear first-hand from fellow Minnesotans made it much more real. And sad. I am hoping there are more opportunities to learn about and support members of other faiths.

DORICE UPDATE

Pastor Julie and I visited Dorice Van Vorst last week at Lyngblomsten, and she asked us to pass on her greetings to you all. Dorice has been a member at Edgumbe Church for many decades, and she shared stories about the caretaker's house that used to be on the back property and other events from EPC's early years. I also recently found a plaque in the Parlor that dedicates the refurbished room in 1897 in memory of Dorice's husband, Stanley Van Vorst. Pastor Julie got Dorice's reluctant permission to take her picture, so here she is. Dorice is in much pain and feels ready to be done with her long and full life. So we pray for God's comfort for her body and for God's ever-lasting welcome for Dorice's soul.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Songs of the Season, sponsored by the Schubert Club—FREE!

December 19 at 7pm at 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!)