

Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

January 8, 2020

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HAPPY 2020 & GRATITUDE

Julie and I and our family had a very nice holiday break, including a safe and fun visit to my family in Michigan. 2020 seems like an impossible year to me—it's as if I just woke up in the future and everyone is pretending that not much has changed. Well, here we are together in 2020!! and God is still God, and we get to follow the Holy Spirit in every moment, even into the impossible.

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the Christmas Eve worship service (over 90 people attended and \$524 went to Project Home!) and all who helped lead the two services while we were away. Our hearts are filled with gratitude and love for this precious community, and we look forward to an amazing and grace-filled year together.

WHY CHURCH?

We live in a time when the Christian Church--or even religion in general--no longer holds a central and respected place in our culture or the lives of most people. What connects us today? The Internet, of course! Memes, Survivor, political leanings, the Vikings, the weather. If a new person or family moved into the neighborhood of EPC, we certainly don't assume anymore that they would come worship with us on a Sunday morning. Twenty years ago, we hoped they would. Now we pretty much know they won't.

All this begs the question: Why Church? Is the age of the church as a helpful part of our lives and culture simply over, at least for a small congregation like Edgumbe? Or do we offer something unique and powerful, something worth cherishing and sharing?

This January and February at EPC, we will be exploring this question, Why Church?, using the scriptures, worship, our theology, and the conversations of our hearts with

each other and the Holy Spirit to both deconstruct old and unhelpful models of church and to see what wondrous and miraculous places God is calling us here at the beginning of a new decade. One part of this series will be a weekly slot in worship for one person in our community to share their own story reflection about this question in their life. Could it be you this Sunday??

EPC EVENTS COMING UP

- Sunday, Jan. 12: **Bible Study** at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.
- Every Tuesday: **Contemplative Prayer** at 3pm in Sanctuary. Every meeting is open to Centering Prayer beginners, so consider giving it a try.
- Sunday, Jan. 19: **New Member Exploration Class** after worship—lunch included!
- Sunday, Feb. 9: **Annual Meeting** with potluck brunch.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Meredith Holt – January 14

Angelie Ryah – January 18

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Phil & Julie GebbenGreen – January 31