

Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

February 26, 2020



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LENT 101

Lent is the season from Ash Wednesday (today!) until Easter. “Lent” is an Old English word (from Old Dutch, if you care) meaning “the spring season.” So today, the beginning of Lent, we remember that it may cold and we might still get a hockey-tournament blizzard, but spring is coming. New life and blossoms and green sprouts and warmth and grain and fresh asparagus are right around the corner. I suspect that most of us appreciate this reminder and believe it—we’ve seen it happen every single year of our lives. The deeper question is this: Do we believe the same thing for our own hearts? Do we allow ourselves to believe that new life and growth is germinating right now inside our own selves?

On Sunday Pastor Julie suggested that change comes when we not only have a desire for change, but also the willingness. For Lent, we remember for the second week in a row, Julie’s mantra for herself: “**I can change how I think, how I believe, and how I act.**” Saying this to yourself everyday creates the fertile ground needed for sprouts of the Spirit to emerge this Lent. It is fundamentally an act of TRUST to believe that God has something in store for you today, this March, this Lent, this spring, this life.

BRUNCH, COMMUNION & NEW MEMBERS

From Deacon Ingrid Eggert: This coming Sunday, March 1, we will celebrate communion at EPC in the context of a meal, with companions eating bread (pan) together, serving each other. This is one of my most treasured moments in our church life as a community. The first time I remember doing this at EPC was at a Maundy Thursday meal in the narthex. As you can see, for me, it was memorable. It also came up during the 500th anniversary year of the start of the Reformation, as we celebrated communion with “table talk,” a tradition at Martin Luther’s dinner table. I hope you will join us on Sunday. –Ingrid

Also in worship this Sunday, we will receive into member Kathy Pedersen, Ann Schroeder, and Liz & Rich Shiferl.

COMING UP...

- Text for Sunday, March 1: Matthew 4:1-11 (Jesus's temptation in the wilderness)
- Bible Study, March 8, at 6:30pm in the sanctuary
- Contemplative Prayer each Tuesday in the sanctuary at 3pm.
- Maundy Thursday meal and worship: April 9 at 6pm
- Updated EPC phone directories should be available in the narthex in the coming weeks!

TWO MISSION & GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



MARCH FOODSHARE DRIVE: Neighborhood House operates two food markets in St. Paul: Wellstone Center Food Market serving the West Side and Francis Basket Food Market in the Sibley Manor Apartments here in Highland Park. In 2019, Neighborhood House Food Markets served 4,725 kids, 7,546 adults and 748 seniors – more than 1,000 households per month. During March, EPC is teaming up with many other organizations state-wide to support our MN food shelves by collecting both food and monetary donations. Donations of non-perishable food

and toiletry items 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.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR SOUTH AFRICA: A box is set up in the entry sunroom to collect used children's books for ages pre-school through 17 for shipment to South Africa this spring. Books that are especially needed are used text books and instruction books in science, math, English, geology, geography, biographies, plant and animal life for pre-teens and teens. Also, classic stories and novels, beginning music and art that are culturally appropriate for African students are appreciated.

LESLIE SNOW RIDES

With her busted kneecap needing 4-8 weeks to heal, Leslie continues to need driving help to both worship on Sundays but also for some daytime appointments. If you can help Leslie with rides over the next weeks, please give her a call at 612-388-2526. Thank you!

HEALTHY PASTORS/HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS

The EPC Session, Pastors, and one Deacon met with representatives from the Presbyterian Church Board of Pensions on Tuesday evening for a meal and a seminar about ideas and resources from the Board to support both our pastors and the wise stewardship of the resources of this congregation. We found out that we are in really good shape and doing most things correctly, with a couple of areas that the Session will research and explore in the coming weeks.

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
Jenya Trubnikava	March 26
Watson Fearing	March 27
Dave Mayer	March 27
Christopher Powell	March 28
McKenna Reedquist	March 29
Naomi Houle	March 30