

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update
March 4, 2020

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WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

*This is a poem submitted by Todd Barnes. Todd, by the way, puts out a lovely daily email reflection called "Together." If you would like to be added to Todd's email list, contact him at barnesewing03@gmail.com. ~**Pastor Julie***

After the "no" comes there is a sense of calming that can gently walk in the front door if I keep out of the way. If I keep silent in my knowingness that my knowing is rooted ever so deeply in the unknown.

Faith is the belief in things unseen. It is a belief in a Higher Power greater than myself, a Higher Power I can only see when I close my eyes. My knowingness is rooted in the unknown and my best sight comes when I close my eyes.

What new things can I taste today by listening better?

What tasty things can I smell better today by being more silent?

What better sound can I make with my music if I digest my food better?

Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches."

We are all connected.

We are all one.

e Pluribus Unum.

To get the meaning of the whole story, I must let the Holy Spirit keep the story going. Through the unknown. I can't quit before the miracle. Well, I can quit. However, it just means it's not going to be as good a story, then. Taste and listen.

Today, I will remember that Jesus Christ invites me to be in this world, with peace, not of this world, with things.

Today, I will remember I can access my Higher Power anytime I want by simply opening my ears, shutting my mouth, and closing my eyes.

--Todd Michael Barnes (November 2019)

GRATITUDE & NEW MEMBERS

Thank you to everyone who helped out with food and clean-up and worship this past Sunday. And a special welcome to new members Kathy Pedersen, Ann Schroeder, and Liz & Rich Shiferl. The church office is working on a new directory now that will include the contact info of these folks.

COMING UP...

- Scripture Text for Sunday, March 1: John 3:1-17 (Jesus and Nicodemus)
- **Daylight Savings** is THIS WEEKEND, so make sure to move your clocks FORWARD one hour on Saturday night.
- 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

TWO MISSION & GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

MARCH FOODSHARE DRIVE: **Food security** is “access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life.” **Food insecurity** means that consistent access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources at times during the year. 1 in 10 Minnesotans, or more than 500,000 state residents, are food insecure on a regular basis. By donating food, toiletry items and cash to our March Food Drive, we can help alleviate some of those worries for people here in our neighborhood. 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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

I (Phil) almost never put prayer concerns in the Midweek Update unless specifically requested to do so. This is your reminder that you are welcome to make such requests, and we are happy to publish them! Feel free to pray for everyone in the meantime.

ORDER EASTER FLOWERS

Help us beautify the sanctuary Easter Sunday morning by ordering Easter Flowers. Order forms can be found in the narthex and are due March 29 or you can email your order to the church office at secretary@epchurch.org. Thank you for your generosity.

FEBRUARY SESSION REPORT

[Pastor Phil here apologizing for losing track of Elder Fred's very nice write-up of the February 2020 Session meeting. Here it is, several weeks over-due.]

Session met at 6:15PM Thursday Feb 13th. After a beautiful opening prayer and mediation on how as Christians everything that happens in our lives is for our healing, Session dived into its work for the EPC Community. The Church and School flooring will be replaced starting March 20th. Minimal time loss to our renters AA and the Preschool will occur. The goal is to have it completed by Monday or Tuesday, March 23-24. Worship Sunday March, 22nd should not be affected. Session then approved the request of Liz and Rich Schiferl, Ann Schroeder and Kathy Pedersen to become full members at EPC. What a blessing they bring to our church their presence and gifts.

Elder Jay is going to look into how we can reduce waste and recycle and repurpose more at the church. The Missions Committee (thanks Eleta) is having a March food drive to help fight hunger in St. Paul! Cash donations go far (mark 'Food Drive ' in the Memo line of your check). Specific food Item requests will be posted in the narthex.

The Presbytery of the Twins Cities, our larger denominational family, is starting a concerted effort to develop policies to reduce racism and bias. The Session had a symmetrical and balanced conversation on this subject and will focus on conversations related to fairness and inclusion. We should be hearing more from our Presbytery about this topic over the coming year.

We are looking to nurture a Culture of Connection at EPC and all Session members and congregants are encouraged to reach out beyond Sunday worship to members of EPC that are unfamiliar to you. Coffee and conversation is always a great option.

There will be a "Health Pastors/Healthy Congregations" meeting Tuesday Feb 25th at 6PM at the church to discover ways to help our pastors help us.