

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

*Midweek Update
March 11, 2020*

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NEVER THIRSTY AGAIN

In John 4, Jesus says to the women at the well, “Whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again.” This seems like one of those mysterious but key things that Jesus says. Mysterious because...What In The World? I have drunk A LOT of water in my life, and I’ve done A LOT of spiritual work with Jesus, and I’M STILL THIRSTY ALL THE TIME. Apparently, Jesus is asking the Samaritan women and me and us to see and understand ourselves in a new way.



This saying seems key because the next thing Jesus says is: “The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life.” Where I see unending thirst, Jesus sees life eternal. Where I see scarcity, Jesus sees abundance. Where I see limits and frustration and effort and judgment and regret, Jesus sees only limitless love. Bubbling up inside of me, of all places. Imagine that. I’m imagining a spring of love and life that bubbles up inside of me with an endless supply of love and life for me and everyone. It seems both impossible and the most-true thing. But it helps me relax into myself, into my love for you all and the world, into trust. Feel free to jump in.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

An EPC phone directory is available for each household in the church narthex, beginning this Sunday. If you have contact info updates or want more than one copy, please contact Krysta in the church office (secretary@epchurch.org / 651.698.8220).

COMING UP...

- Text for Sunday, March 15: John 4:5-42 (Jesus and the woman at the well)
- Bible Study, March 22, at 6:30pm in the sanctuary
- Contemplative Prayer each Tuesday in the sanctuary at 3pm

- Maundy Thursday meal and worship: April 9 at 6pm

FLOORING PLAN

The weekend of March 20 is when the tile floors in our main hallway, the library, and the kitchen level will be removed and replaced. Some preparation work can start anytime—like clearing the lower level of the hallway storage closet, and storing any loose items in the kitchen. Other jobs will need to wait until Friday afternoon, March 20, such as helping the Preschool move some of their bigger items out of the way. If you can be at church at 4pm on that Friday, please speak to Pastor Phil. Sunday worship should not be affected on the 22nd, although the kitchen may not be available that day.

CHURCH BATHROOM FOR TEACHERS

The EPC Session approved a request from the teachers of Highland Park Senior High to use our narthex bathroom from 7am – 8:30am on weekdays in the event of a strike. Use of our building will be monitored by one of the teachers who already use our library for their IB testing. The Session wants it to be clear that this bathroom permission expresses neither approval nor opposition to the strike itself.

TWO MISSION & GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



MARCH FOODSHARE DRIVE: **Is it better to give food or cash donations?** Non-perishable food makes up over half of the offerings at the food market and helps provide staples like pasta, rice, cereal, beans, peanut butter, flour, cooking oil, canned vegetables, etc., most of which is donated. Non-food items like toilet paper, laundry soap, toiletries, feminine hygiene products, and cat & dog food are also appreciated by shoppers. Donations of money help the food market to purchase needed items in bulk, and perishable food items like milk, eggs and meat. Our food shelves are able to purchase more with our dollars than we can, because of partnerships and co-ops. \$36 feeds a family of 4 for an entire week, \$100 fills two large bins of fresh fruits and veggies serving 100 people, \$250 gives every family a ½ gallon of milk for a week, \$500 supplies all household with rice for a week. \$1,000 provides a month’s supply of eggs to 1,000 households. The answer to the question is both food and cash donations are essential. Donations of 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

- We found out recently that Lynn Wolf had been in a car accident and then received some major medical diagnoses. If you would like to follow Lynn’s story or send a message, here is her Caring Bridge site: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/lynnannwolf>
- Prayers for Eleta Pierce and her child Ollie, who is starting a program at Prairie Care for about six weeks. Prayers for patience and wisdom and support for Eleta and her family.

POEM RE-RUN

[We're running Todd's poem one more time, with the correct title this time.]

“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)