

# Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

*Midweek Update*  
*April 8, 2020*



*In this issue:* Holy Week, Practicing our Faith, Zoom mtgs, MN FoodShare, Church Giving, Scripture, Songs

## **Holy Week**

Let me acknowledge sadness at our inability to gather together this week for worship. I can say with a good deal of certainty that I have spent every Easter of my entire life in church. Holy Week and Easter are filled with memories:

- The excitement of candy and eggs and chocolate on Easter morning as a child. Special Easter bread made with saffron by my father.
- The smell of lilies.
- Dark and meaningful services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- Julie remembers bringing newborn Lydia to church for the first time on Good Friday--Lydia dressed all in "Pepto bismol" pink.
- Nodding absent-mindedly while Meredith (or Frank before her) describes the elaborate decision-making process of where to put all the Easter flowers in the sanctuary. I say this not to mock Meredith and Frank, but out of gratitude that we have people who care so lovingly for our church and decorations.

What are your Holy Week and Easter memories?

While we cannot be together in body this Easter, we can remember that God's Spirit--and God's power over life and death--are not limited by time or space or our own imaginations. Christ lived, Christ died, Christ lived again. That's not how it is supposed to work; it's not even supposed to be possible; but that is exactly what happens. What if we reconsidered our own lives in this Easter light: not what is supposed to happen, not what is possible, but what is true. Jesus' Holy Week story reminds us that God's love makes us invulnerable, even to death. Death does not have the final say in our story. What has the final say is life and love and peace. Crazy. True.

Along with our usual Zoom gathering schedule (see below), Julie and I will host a **Maundy Thursday gathering at 6:30pm tomorrow, April 9**. This service will include a reading from the last supper, a shared moment of communion (BYOCAB: Bring Your Own Cup and Bread), and a prayer. Short, simple, peaceful. We will put the Zoom link on the website by tomorrow.

## **practicing our faith....reflections by pastor julie**

in these days of closures and social distancing, many of the habits and rhythms of our lives are being disrupted. after tending to the grief which comes from these losses, we can find ourselves with an unprecedented situation: we have the **opportunity to cultivate practices** which can nurture and nourish our connection with god. we seem to have 3 instincts toward this end: mystical union/fusion with god, silence, and also community/being of service. i super encourage you to try those practices your heart leads you towards.

i know from my own experience, that even though i want to try something, i often end up not being able to carry it out. to me, this is why community is so important--it often takes a village to grow me into the woman i dream of being. find the groups of people who can support and and help you practice these new patterns and behaviors.

if you are new to realm of meditation/silence, i want to share a resource a friend gave me this week. this particular practice combines both breath meditation and gorgeous nature video clips.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/04/03/style/self-care/coronavirus-guided-meditation-nature.html>

be well, sisters and brothers!!

## **Zoom Meetings for Everyone!**

We now have four Zoom meetings scheduled for our congregation for each week. All of these meetings are open to you and to everyone. They are:

- Sunday morning Worship at 10am
- Sunday evening Bible Study at 6:30pm
- Tuesday Centering Prayer at 3pm
- Wednesday evening Gathering at 7pm

The links for each of these meetings are on the church website at

<http://www.epchurch.org/>

Please use the website links rather than any links we have sent out in the past.

## **MN FoodShare Continues through April**

During this COVID-19 isolation time, keeping everyone fed is more important than ever. The statewide drive to support food shelves will continue through April. Any donations to EPC designated to "food shelf" will go to this outreach.

## **Church Giving**

The best way to give to church continues to be mailing a check or putting the check in the mail slot at church. However, if you would like to explore giving from an investment account or through direct transfer from your bank, those are both options as well. If interested, please contact church treasurer Ron Eggert. Ron and the church office are also hoping to add a PayPal option for online giving to our church website in the near future.

## **Text for Easter Sunday: John 20:1-18**

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him." 3 Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. 4 They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. 5 Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. 6 Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. 7 He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. 8 Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

11 Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. 12 She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. 13 The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." 14 As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus.

15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means *Teacher*).

17 Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, "I've seen the Lord." Then she told them what he said to her.

## **Holy Week Music**

Two Holy Week Hymns by Jenya:

<https://soundcloud.com/jay-s-mcgregor/215-wondrous-love-jenya-piano>

<https://soundcloud.com/jay-s-mcgregor/221-o-sacred-head-now-wounded-jenya-piano>