

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

June 17, 2020

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What Zoom Worship Has Taught Me

First in a series of reflections by pastor luna

i will be the first to say that as covid-19 began to impact our state and the guidelines prohibited gathering in groups...i was quite anxious and unclear about making the transition to an online format. you all are an amazing community of people, and to lose the in-person interactions was quite a loss. and in the first 4-6 weeks of shifting worship onto the zoom platform, my learning curve was exponential as i adapted and eventually evolved into leading worship in this new format.

however, as we have been journeying together via zoom, i am realizing that this experience is teaching me a few things about church and about worship. I shared these reflections with session on thursday, and i was asked to write about these noticings to share with the larger community as well. And so, over the next couple of weeks, you will see my learnings.

the first thing i have learned as we moved to worshipping via zoom is this: the church is **not** a group of people who gather at 10am on sunday mornings in the sanctuary of edgcumbe presbyterian. The church is **also not** the structure found at 2149 edgcumbe road in st. paul. **the church is the living body of christ**, and we get to experience it everytime there is a gathering of folk who come together.

as a community, we spent last fall exploring "why church?" and "what is church" during the sermon series. those weeks had important ideas that we reflected on. however, i can see now that the ideas we talked about were merely shifts of thoughts. in these days of covid-19, we are actually **getting to live out** the ideas we began this fall, and experience anew an evolving sense of what church truly is. it is not in some preconceived place and expectations, but a living body of the holy spirit which cannot be limited. we are people anchored in god through the holy spirit, and that through the spirit, we can be more than we could have ever imagined or dreamed to be. we are the body of christ for whom all things are possible in god.

we continue to surrender our community, each other, and the world into god's care, and ask for god's will to be done, and that we might be given the courage, honestly, open mindedness and willingness to follow the holy spirit!! blessed be! 

Romans 5:1-5

The good news in five simple verses. It really is this simple.

VERSE 1: In Jesus Christ, God has created a trust fund for each one us that is so full of grace and love that we can be at complete peace now and forever.

VERSE 2: By trusting God, we have access to all God's grace so that we want to shout our joy and freedom to the treetops.

VERSE 3-4: But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

VERSE 5: That hope does not put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Worship & Building Updates

- Session voted last week to re-evaluate in-person worship in the building in September 2020.
- Session also approved an **outdoor worship on Sunday, July 5**, with social distancing, masks, no group singing, and BYOC: Bring Your Own Communion. If this goes well, then look for outdoor communion worship again on the first Sundays of August and September.
- The Responsible Bldg Use task force is in conversation with Highland AA to restart 12-step groups in the building by this July. These meetings will also require social distancing and cleaning guidelines.
- Big thanks to Dean G. for helping to fix the riding mower this week!

New Contact Information

We have several updates about contact information for church staff. All of these changes are effective immediately, so please take a moment to update your digital and analog address books!

- Office Manager Krysta Niznick is switching to a new church email address: epchurch2149@gmail.com
- Pastor Luna also has a new email: pastorlunagg@gmail.com
- Because we are rarely at the church building anymore, Pastor Luna and I are now going to publish our cell phone numbers. Email is still the best way to communicate with us

about most church business, but in an emergency or for a quicker response, feel free to call or text these numbers. Pastor Phil = 651-983-5989. Pastor Luna = 651-983-5984.

Zoom Update and Schedule!

We 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

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

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