

# Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

## *Midweek Update*

*June 24, 2020*

*In this issue: What Zoom Worship Has Taught Me II, Artwork, Worship Reminders, New Contact Info, Zoom Mtgs, Birthdays and Anniversaries*



### What Zoom Worship Has Taught Me

*Second in a series of reflections by pastor luna*

there are valuable learnings in this chapter of our communal life as we gather for worship on zoom. as i mentioned last week, doing worship on zoom has allowed us the opportunities to untangle from habits and rhythms which we can subtly equate to church. having to create worship anew in this electronic form, has allowed us a very real, lived experience that “church” is actually the living body of christ, rather than the habits and patterns of our gatherings. church is the gathering of the people and the vitalness of the **faith lived**, not some space or building.

here is another thing which has been profound....our sight lines. zoom allows us to see into the faces of each other, which leads to more connection and intimacy. typically, in our sanctuary space, only the “worship leader” gets the privilege of seeing the faces of all those gathered. in the epc sanctuary, the current configuration of seating is that most worshipers see only the backs of other people’s heads, or cannot even see others who might be sitting behind them.

i have been sensing for some time that our current seating arrangements in the sanctuary are no longer in service to our community, to the building of connection and community for the people gathered. elder fred clary once mentioned that within the history of christianity, churches started with no pews--that the gathered congregation stood for the entire service. and then, as people moved into hard labor with farming and other occupations, pews were added to churches as a radical differentiation from their “regular” lives as a way to experience the transformative gospel. so, here we are, now in the 21st century, where most of us are living closer to sedentary lifestyles, where we have lost a vital connection between body and heart and mind. what kind of re-thinking and re-visioning do we need to do so that our sanctuary space can support the radical integration of healing in the living christ??

one thing that comes to mind is **community** and **movement**. in our world which tends towards isolation and separation, having seating in a circle would allow the

gathered community to be a vital part of the experience, by seeing the faces of the gathered, all in an equal position. also, there might be ways that movement can be added to our community, maybe some in worship, but perhaps in other smaller group settings. i can see the need for the sanctuary space to allow for flexibility....which means adapting our sanctuary to have more movable seating so that space can be created for additional healing experiences.

there have been conversations about removing the pews from the epc sanctuary for over 10 years, and now i am hearing the spirit nudging us to say....**it is time**. the world is shifting, and churches, too, need to shift and evolve. so let's talk more to each other about worship and space and seeing each other as God sees us. our centeredness and groundedness does not come from this world, but rather in the eternal christ....and we put our trust in the loving christ who teaches us how to live!💜

## Artwork

The art at the top of today's Update is a repeat from last week because it is so lovely. If you think you recognize, you do: it is hanging in the Library at EPC. The piece is an original done by former member Elaine Allen, who incorporated the handprints, finger doodles, and even footprints of the people and children of Edgumbe Church from several years ago. If you look closely, you can see the profile of Pastor Luna's hands in her now-iconic heart shape.

If you didn't look very closely at the piece, feel free to take some time to do so now. What do you notice? What do you feel? Looking at it, do you have any insights about church or yourself or community? Give yourself a few moments to let different parts of you speak through the art--your eyes, your mind, your heart, your body. Art, like music, like prayer, is an important way that the Spirit speaks to us.

## Worship Reminders

- Session decided to wait to re-evaluate in-person worship in the building until 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.

## 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](mailto:epchurch2149@gmail.com)

- Pastor Luna also has a new email: [pastorlunagg@gmail.com](mailto: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/>



### **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

#### *Happy Birthday to:*

Ron Eggert	7/09
Jay McGregor	7/10
Elizabeth Schiferl	7/11
Richard Schiferl	7/13
Carol Schweickhardt	7/16
Lily LeClair	7/19
Heather Clary	7/23
Isaac GebbenGreen	7/28

#### *Happy Anniversary to:*

Lisa Holden & Jay McGregor	7/17
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