

# Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

*Midweek Update*

*Sept 9, 2020*



## **Good To Be Back**

Pastor Luna and I had a very nice time off, with family down time and a short trip together to Lake Superior. We return to a busy week of restarting school, catching up on events and projects here at church, and preparing for several worship services this weekend. Thank you to everyone who helped out while we were gone. God is good, and we are happy to be back, working in mutual ministry with you all.

Here are some events coming up soon that you can read about below:

- Racial Justice and Me conversation this evening at 7pm on Zoom
- Kathy Pedersen memorial service on Saturday at 10am either outdoors or on Zoom
- Sunday morning 10am outdoor worship and communion (or on Zoom)
- Two Bach Society outdoor mini-concerts next week

## **Unlearning: An Essential Skill for Life**

For this fall at EPC, we will be exploring the theme, Unlearning. Whenever we learn a new skill or habit or way of thinking, we are simultaneously “unlearning” an old skill or habit or way of thinking. To learn to walk, we need to unlearn the mindset of crawling. To learn to give, we first must unlearn our stories of distrust and scarcity. To learn to open our hearts, we must first unbuild the walls we have built up to protect ourselves and unlearn the habits of shame, of fear, of control.

Nowhere is the medicine of unlearning more potent than in the area of spiritual growth. The Apostle Paul writes about putting aside (unlearning) the ways of the flesh to take up the ways of spirit. Jesus points out, You can’t put new wine in old wineskins. This fall, as the trees shed their leaves to make room for new growth, we will explore the areas of our own lives that the Spirit is asking us to let go of old skills, habits, or ways of thinking to make room for new life.

Here is a prayer for this week to prepare our hearts and minds:

*Holy Spirit, I am willing to change my thinking, to change my habits,  
to open myself to new life today.*

## **Outdoor Worship with Communion - this Sunday!**

It looks like the weather might cooperate to give us another **outdoor service this Sunday, September 13, at 10am**. Worship will include communion, so please plan to bring your own elements, whether we are outside or on Zoom.

As usual, we will plan on being outside unless you get an email around 8am on Sunday morning, which would push us back to Zoom because of weather. Please wear masks during mingling, keep at least 6' of distance at all times, and bring your own seating arrangement.

## **Kathy Pedersen Memorial Service**

There will be a service of worship and remembrance for Kathy Pedersen on this Saturday at 10am at church. The congregation is invited. If the storm on Friday misses us, then the service will be around the stage in the backwoods of church, with usual social distancing measures. Otherwise the service will move inside with immediate family only. Outside or inside, the service will be on Zoom. I will email out the Zoom link later to keep it off this public Update.



Our ongoing prayers with daughter Ann Schroeder and all of Kathy's friends and family.

## **Racial Justice and Me (RJAM)**

Hello Fellow Travelers! Elder Connie here with a reminder that all are welcomed and encouraged to join us in reflection tonight (Wed) at 7:00 pm using the link in the EPC Home Page. **Even if you haven't signed the pledge, you are welcome to participate!**

We are asking people to take just a couple minutes and share what they have learned in their individual goals. What has resonated with you? What has surprised you? What has challenged you?

As we begin to share our journey together as a community, we ask that all follow these guidelines:

1. Stay engaged....even when it gets uncomfortable. Don't check out, but remain present to what is being said.
2. Speak your truth...use "I" whenever possible, e.g. "I feel/think/believe", "I don't understand", "I wonder..."
3. Experience discomfort...get used to feeling uncomfortable and try to avoid becoming angry, defiant, or defensive.

4. Expect and accept non-closure...no courageous conversation is ever "complete" at the end of a session, so you should still expect to learn more afterward, and be OK without a "final word/decision."

## **Zoom 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

**If these gatherings are meaningful to you, then why not invite a friend?**

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

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

## **Pollinator Garden and Shed**

Cora Fett recently installed a pollinator garden in the church backyard across from the prayer garden as a part of her International Baccalaureate program at Highland Park Senior High. Thank you, Cora! *[see photo at top of Update]*

In other EPC grounds news, the Building & Grounds team has plans underway to build a new shed and fix the crumbling brick by the preschool door. Funding for this project is being provided by several generous members of EPC.

## **Bach Society Mini-Concerts at EPC**

The Bach Society of Minnesota (BSM) is presenting a series of free, outdoor concerts throughout the Twin Cities this September. Each mini concert is performed by one professional classical musician from the Twin Cities community and lasts about 15 minutes. Here are the two times musicians are coming to the Edgumbe Church front entry overhang. All are welcome.

**Monday 9/14 - 7:40pm Gary Ruschman, tenor & guitar**

**Thursday 9/17 - 7:30pm Adrianna O'Brien, cello**

Music brings love, peace, and joy. We hope to bring the gift of music to your community in a safe, masked, socially distanced, and accessible way. Look for more info on our mini concert schedule and learn more about our new season at

<https://bachsocietymn.org/>.