

Edgumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

Oct 28, 2020

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Unlearning: The Greatest Command

Sometimes the answer is simple. Jesus lets us know in very plain language what our primary focus should be. He says, in Matthew 22, that the greatest commandment is this: “To love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and being.” Jesus then adds, “The second commandment is like that one: Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” It’s simple--our focus as followers of Jesus is TO LOVE. Simple does not mean easy, but it is simple.

Here’s the question. If it’s so simple, why is it so hard? Another question, from our current theme: What keeps me from loving in every moment OR what do I need to unlearn in order to love in every moment? If you can, don’t just blow past that last question. Take a few moments to look inside yourself, maybe do some journaling or praying around it. What would I need to unlearn in order to love in every moment?

Here are a few things that pop up inside me, when I ask myself that question. I would need to unlearn fear, to unlearn my fear of vulnerability, to unlearn my hidden belief that God is cold and distant, to unlearn the story that open-hearted love signals weakness, to unlearn the idea that I am not worthy of loving God, to unlearn the belief that people are not loveable. Whew. All that came after about 10 seconds of silent reflection. When I look back at that list, I think, Those are some things worth unlearning, worth questioning. I encourage you to write out some of your answers, and then reread them to yourself with curiosity and kindness. No wonder it is hard to love when we tell ourselves all these crazy things!! Holy Spirit, bring on the unlearning, please!

NOTES ABOUT THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

- ❖ **November 1 is All Saints Day.** We will take a moment in worship to remember loved ones who have died, including EPC member Kathryn Pedersen.

- ❖ **It's a communion Sunday.** To participate, bring elements of your choice to celebrate with God's people.
- ❖ **Daylight Saving Time ends!!** Please remember to set your clocks back one hour Saturday evening!! 🕒

New Members Approved!

On Sunday, October 25, Session met after church with four individuals who were interested in exploring membership at Edgumbe Church. Each of the candidates talked about their own faith life, they described what drew them to Edgumbe, and they described how the EPC community could support them. **David Howe-Vielmetti, Heather Marschinke, and Leslie Snow** then declared their desire to join the congregation of EPC. Session voted with great joy to accept all three as members and will present them officially to the congregation for membership at an up-coming Sunday worship meeting on Zoom.

Financial Update

- 1) Our original 2020 budget showed expected income in balance with anticipated expenses. Approximately 40% of the expected income was from the Montessori school and AA. However the Covid epidemic has reduced our income from the Montessori school and, except for one donation, we have had no income from AA. As a result our cash in checking is declining steadily, so we will need to start drawing on reserves soon. I have asked Krysta to email or mail out to members who have pledged a statement showing the amount pledged and contributions to date. **It will be helpful if everyone can bring their pledges up to date.**
- 2) Our old lawn and garden shed has been taken down. Building a new shed along with repair of the brick wall by the Montessori entrance will start next week, weather permitting. This project is being funded by extra contributions from several individuals.

--Ron Eggert, Treasurer

Online Worship Survey

Today is the last day to fill out a worship survey to hear your thoughts about Zoom worship and the options for in-person worship over the coming months. The link to the short online survey is here: <https://forms.gle/nT6UccfkP81f9pN79>. If you haven't done so yet, please take a moment to fill it out right now. Thank you!

Zoom Schedule & Recordings

We have four Zoom meetings scheduled for our congregation for each week. All of these meetings are open to you and to everyone. Here is our current schedule:

- Sunday morning Worship at 10am
- Sunday evening Bible Study at 6:30pm

- Tuesday Centering Prayer at 3pm
- Wednesday evening Gathering at 7pm

Some recent sermons/services are posted on our church website:

<http://epchurch.org/>, on the Sermon Archive page. Click on the scripture text and most of the services will open in a new window on your device. However, Zoom recordings require a passcode. I have put the passcodes in the 'preacher' column. Copy the passcode and paste it when requested and the video will begin. -Ron

Racial Justice and Me (RJAM)

Hello EPC'ers, Connie here with an RJAM update. The RJAM Team met last Wednesday and our focus is now on continuing our own unlearnings and possible actions. There have been teams created to gather information around these action items:

- Land Acknowledgement (Connie, Luna)
- Assisting high school students in getting ID's and/or Drivers Licences. (Liz)
- Prison and Release Engagement (Phil, Leslie, Jay)
- Connecting with Local Agencies who are working on Racial Justice issues (LaGretta and Rich)
- Neighborhood Gatherings at Church BackWoods with BIPOC Food Trucks (We'd have to wait until things were safe)
- Other items discussed: Letter writing or calling initiatives to advocate for anti racist policies, communicating with children about racial justice, investigating and sharing information about banking and investing in BIPOC banks/organizations, and connecting with mixed race families in our own community.

We will now be meeting every-other week as we gather info to go forward. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, November 4th. Please join us!

On a personal note, the process of addressing my own biases and unexamined prejudices has been painful and a bit overwhelming. I am so grateful to have a community to unpack this with. I notice how I accept more readily people who conform to white European norms and am uncomfortable around people who don't. I am actively addressing this and questioning my assumptions and leaning into my discomfort. I shall always be learning. Connie

November Birthday & Anniversary



Happy Birthday Pastor Luna on November 5th
Happy Anniversary to LaGretta & John Lunde on November 24th