

# Edgcumbe

## Presbyterian Church

### Midweek Update

### Nov 18, 2020



In this issue: Gratitude, Staff Time Off, Office Hours, Finance, Session Report, Survey Results, RJAM Updates, Thanksgiving Giving

### **Gratitude**

After this week's service for Dorice Van Vorst, we got a lovely note from Jessi, grand-niece of Dorice who attended our worship service:

*Thank you Phil and Luna for the wonderful message on anti-racism, waking up, and shedding light into an area that is often difficult to understand or accept our role in. It is sobering and takes effort to stay in the work of learning and digesting what you uncover.*

*Thank you for your beautiful words you shared about Dorice. It was lovely to hear her name spoken on others mouths in remembrance. I remember her as a storyteller gardener baker and giver. I am relieved she is no longer in pain, but I am still mourning her physical presence and grieving the time I lost with her due to Covid so this space of lifting her up in prayer was a really beautiful thing for me. It was good to be reminded to hold her up and honor her by moving in kindness and generosity. What a lovely community. Thank you for inviting us to be a part of it this morning and holding space for our family and Dorice's friends. --Jessi*

### **Staff time off**

Both Pastors and Jenya will be taking off these last two weeks this November. For any pastoral concerns, please reach out to one of your Elders: Connie, Eleta, Meredith, Jay, or Fred. For any musical concerns, you are on your own!

Plan on all of our usual Zoom gatherings continuing during that time. Worship on November 22 will be a pre-recorded service from leaders in our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and Nov. 29 will be a Thanksgiving-themed service emceed by Elder Jay with involvement from the whole community. Here is the list of all up-coming gatherings (Zoom links on church website).

- Wed, Nov 18: RJAM at 7pm
- Sun, Nov 22: Recorded worship link sent out by Eleta, conversation afterward in Worship Zoom room.
- Sun, Nov 22: Bible Study at 6:30pm
- Tue, Nov 24: Centering Prayer at 3pm
- Wed, Nov 25: Thanksgiving Vespers service sent out by Eleta

- Sun, Nov 29: Sunday worship at 10am, hosted by Jay
- Sun, Nov 29: Bible Study at 6pm

## **Office Hours**

In the Covid era, we do not have regular office hours. If you need to communicate with Office Manager Krysta Niznick, the best method is to email her at [epchurch2149@gmail.com](mailto:epchurch2149@gmail.com).

## **Financial Update**

The Session will begin the 2021 budgeting process this month. It is essential that we have an accurate estimate of income for the year as we proceed. I have asked Krysta to send out pledge cards to all members and to non-members who contribute (which you should now have). Please return the pledge cards as soon as possible, or you can email Krysta directly at [epchurch2149@gmail.com](mailto:epchurch2149@gmail.com).

*Thank you, Ron Eggert, Treasurer*

## **November Session Update**

Elder Connie here reporting on our November 17 Session Meeting. Highlights are:

- Jay began with a devotion inviting us to self-compassion and Loving Our Neighbors as Ourselves
- Meredith and Ron were re-elected as clerk and treasurer through 2021
- We approved our Membership List.
- Ron presented info on our Finances. We have fallen behind in pledged money. We are getting back on track with income from the Pre-School. Our AA income is way down due to only having two meetings in the church. We are waiting on 2021 pledges. Ron, Krysta, and Phil will be going through the 2021 budget and preparing a first draft for the Session next month.
- As our Pastors will be on vacation for two weeks, we will be linking in to a National Level Worship Service on Nov 22nd and then go to the EPC Sunday link for an after conversation led by Elder Eleta. On Sunday, November 29th, Elder Jay will MC our service focusing on Thanksgiving, music, and maybe some wisdom from a EPC member!
- On Wednesday the 25th, we may link into South St Paul Prebyterian Thanksgiving Vespers Service.
- Mission Meeting: The group decided that they wanted to collect offerings through the month of December for Christmas Joy which focuses on financial assistance for Pastors and Church Staff and Educational Funds for churches in poor communities. The Mission group also discussed having a monthly or bi-monthly mission project.
- The RJAM Group Report: Wed there will be a discussion of what book they will focus on for a communal book group. There was also discussion about bringing Action Items to Session and the larger EPC Community. There will need to be an education component as we move forward.

- Pastor Phil reported communicating with other churches about linking into our zoom services if their pastors are on vacation. Phil also talked about the overwhelm and stress that this next wave of Covid is causing and the need to reach out in love to our community. We are all called to this! Phil also shared about a Biz Recycling Grant that we may be able to use to purchase a dishwasher for the kitchen.
- Pastor Luna reported that she is getting her certification in Lectio Divina and Welcoming Prayer. She is also Co-Leading a 4 week Intro to Centering Prayer.

We wish our beloved Pastors a restful and refreshing time off!

### **EPC Worship Survey Results**

Last month Session asked you to take a pulse survey to find out how you all are feeling about in-person worship and gatherings, both in our building and on Zoom, and to see what your needs and concerns are at this time. 14 people took this survey, and here is a summary of the numbers:

- **77%** would prefer to wait to worship in our building until at least Spring 2021, a vaccine is developed, or the CDC says it's safe to gather.
- **23%** would like to worship in the building as soon as possible and/or with limits.
- **7%** prefer to primarily worship through Zoom.
- **92%** would like Zoom to be included in our worship services even after we return to in-building worship.
- **92%** participate regularly in our Zoom worship services and have positive experiences with it.
- **Most** hope that we continue to offer Zoom gatherings for our worship services, Bible study, Centering Prayer and Wednesday evenings.
- **Most** have shared gratitude for pastors and staff, our worship services during the pandemic, and some shared ideas for continued connection.
- **Every person** who took the survey admitted that they were struggling with feelings of depression, and the ups and downs of these days.

### **RJAM Updates from Two Team Members**

"Thanks to all the RJAM participants, who are continuing to attend every other week! This Wednesday we will have open discussion of any learning/unlearning we have experienced. Part of the meeting will be dedicated to talking about the suggestion that a book club form separate from Wednesday meetings to focus on a book regarding white privilege that digs a little deeper than the last book. Several titles have been identified as possibilities, but feel free to bring any titles that you would recommend. See you all on Wednesday evening at 7pm!" - *Leslie*

We will have an RJAM zoom session this Wednesday at 7 PM. Feedback from our last discussion was that folks are still working through what they have been reading. This includes dealing with how it has affected the way they are thinking about racial

justice and white privilege and how it has impacted their lives. I am one of those "folks". We are proposing to do a book club where those who are interested read the same book and have regular scheduled discussions of what they have read with specific focus on how it has impacted them personally. We will discuss the book club idea this Wednesday. Three books have been chosen to consider. They are: So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo, Me and White Supremacy by Layla Saad, or Dear White America by Tim Wise. About half of this Wednesday's discussion will be about the book club idea. The other half will be a check-in with everyone to talk about any topic that is on your mind concerning racial justice. All are invited to participate. – *Rich Schiferl*

## **Thanksgiving Meal & Giving Opportunities**

For over 30 years, Edgumbe Church served a meal to people at the Montreal Highrise on Thanksgiving Day. That tradition ended last year but now we have two new ways to participate in gratitude and giving.

### **Free Thanksgiving Meal Already Cooked - Register Now!**

Neighborhood Food Market, in conjunction with St. Joseph's Church in West St. Paul are offering a free, fully-cooked takeout Thanksgiving meal. The meal includes: 1 serving of turkey, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing, cranberries, rolls with butter, and pumpkin pie. Families can order as many individual meals as they need. Pickup will be on Thanksgiving, November 26, at St. Joseph's Church, 1154 Seminole Ave, West St. Paul, MN 55118, and it will be drive-up service where you stay in your vehicle. **To receive this meal you must pre-register by November 18 by calling (651) 789-2534.** If you would like to have a meal but aren't able to pick it up, please reach out to Eleta Pierce and pickup and delivery will be arranged. (612-719-0758 or [eleta.pierce@gmail.com](mailto:eleta.pierce@gmail.com)) *EPC folk--to be clear--you are welcome to sign up for this meal for yourself or your family, and / or you could pass on this information to someone you know who could use such a meal.*

### **Union Gospel Mission's Thanksgiving Food Bag Drive**

One of our Elders was spotted this week in a "Minute for Mission" of sorts on KSTP Ch. 5 News for Union Gospel Mission's Thanksgiving Food Bag Drive. Every year Union Gospel Mission, with the help of local businesses, individuals and faith communities, provides thousands of bags of Thanksgiving food to individuals and families in the Twin Cities area. In years past, people would purchase the items on specific shopping list and then UGM would add a turkey and pie to these bags for the community. This year because of the pandemic things look different and Union Gospel Mission has decided to do the shopping. Also because of the pandemic, they are expecting to provide meals to a record number of people this year so the need for cash donations is great. To find out more about this mission and to see if you can "spot the Elder," here is the link to the story: <https://www.kstp.com/minnesota-news/union-gospel-mission-twin-cities-hold-food-drive-thru-for-thanksgiving-5915737/?cat=12196> If you would like to give to Union Gospel Mission's Thanksgiving Bag Drive, **or if you could use one of these bags for Thanksgiving and would like to register**

**to receive one**, go here: <https://www.ugmtc.org/2020/11/thanksgiving-food-distribution-set-for-nov-23-24/>