

Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

Dec 9, 2020

In this issue: New Members, RJAM, Zoom, Christmas Joy Offering, Prayers

Spiritual Elasticity: New Members!

globally, the covid-19 pandemic has been a force which has changed practically every person on this planet. some of us have had people we love impacted by the virus, and we feel the collective grief from the deaths and chronic impairment. the social and economic impact is also staggering for those who were already facing instability, insecurity and stress.

in addition to these impacts, the pandemic has also asked us **to change, to transform** not only our **habits** and **practices**, but in some ways, our **identity**, as well. the pandemic has asked us to **loosen up**, to **release former habits**, and to **adapt**. it has illuminated our desires to find permanence in that which is impermanent....which, honestly, will never be successful. god, who is absolute love, is the **ONLY** constant, permanent, and unchanging force in our lives.

adapting and changing are not necessarily easy for individuals to navigate, and can be even harder for social systems and communities. church communities need to be nimble and adaptable to evolve to respond to **what is**, instead of **what used to be**.

in the edgumbe community, we are enormously blessed by the gift that two individuals, leslie snow and heather marschinke, have come to a place where they want to join our community as a member. on the surface, this is nothing but grace--they consent to be part of the body of the Living Christ with us, and we will be deepened and transformed by this passage.

beneath the surface, there is an invitation to the community *to change, to adapt*, in the mere act of receiving new members. we open the circle wider and the living body of christ transforms. however, there is also an invitation to change on the individual level, so that each of us widens our experience of god, because we will be changed by how god reveals godself through both heather and leslie. how do i know this to be true?? because in many ways, this is already underway. both leslie and heather have gifted us with their questions and wonderings, their work in the backwoods, and in their deep faith.

are you ready to change and grow some more?? come to worship on sunday for worship and welcoming of new members, and our circle will widen.

Racial Justice And Me

RJAM will meet next week Wednesday at 7pm for the second book discussion on "So You Want to Talk About Race" by Ijeoma Oluo. We will be covering chapters 2 & 3. Newcomers are welcome! Tonight's Wed Gathering will be an open sharing meeting.

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. 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

Mission of the Month: CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Throughout the month of December, we will receive the *Christmas Joy Offering*, one of four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Fifty percent of the receipts of the offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The remainder of the offering supports racial ethnic education through the General Assembly Council. To learn more about this special offering, go here: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/> You may give to this offering through our church by either using our online giving on our website or mailing a check. Please note "Christmas Joy" in the memo.

Prayers

For Meredith and Tom's 1 ½ year old granddaughter, Kaiya, who is having some neurological tests on Thursday after some recent seizures.