

Edgumbe Presbyterian Church



Midweek Update Dec 16, 2020

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Christmas Eve Worship

What? Christmas Eve worship with music and candles and hope for the world

When? 4pm on Thursday, Dec 24 (come about 10 minutes early to catch the entire musical prelude)

Who? You and anyone you want to invite!

How?

- Come with the Zoom link posted on the church website
- Come with a candle to light during the singing of Silent Night
- Come with communion elements as we celebrate the Lord's Supper together
- Come with peace in your mind and expectation in your heart
- O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Racial Justice And Me

Our second RJAM bookclub zoom call will be tonight (Wednesday) at 7 PM. We will discuss Chapters 2 (What is Racism?) and 3 (What if I Talk about Race Wrong?) of the book: **So You Want to Talk About Race** by Ijeoma Oluo. All folks are welcome to join the conversation or just listen to the discussion.

Last time (two weeks ago) one topic we discussed was microaggressions experienced by black people. This led to a conversation about "sanctuary". I began to realize that a sanctuary is more about a welcoming spirit that makes people feel safe than about a physical space. Based on the feedback from new members this past Sunday, the EPC community certainly has that spirit. I wonder how I (or we) can leverage this spirit to provide a racism-free sanctuary in our community? I guess that I also need to learn how to become a mobile sanctuary by creating a welcoming space that moves with me!

Rich and the RJAM team: Leslie, Connie, Luna, Liz, and Eleta

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.

December Session Report

The session met on Thursday December 10th at 6:15pm. The meeting was opened by Elder Connie with prayers and devotions and a question: How are you giving birth to Christ during this Advent?

As part of the agenda, the Christmas Eve service was scheduled for Thursday, December 24th at 4PM. All are welcome and tell your friends. Next the session tackled the Annual Budget. We currently have several months of overhead expenses available in our Checking and in our Investment Account (emergency funds). This is a small miracle in these times. Appropriate raises to hourly staff were voted on and approved and modest raises to salaried staff. We also voted on a Health Employee Bonus policy. The Pastors will enjoy a portion of any unused budgeted Health/Dental Accounts unused by year's end. This is usual and customary in the small and large business world. The only other substantial increase was to increase our local mission giving to \$1500 for 2021. The budget will be available to everyone in the Annual Report.

The shed is complete and looks marvelous. This was completed with a separate capital campaign and generous contributions. Discussions were also begun on focusing on being a church that gives back to ministries throughout the twin cities. This is a beautiful vision.

Elder Fred Clary