



Edgcumbe

**Presbyterian
Church**

Midweek Update

Dec 23, 2020

In this issue: Christmas Eve worship, God's Intention, RJAM, Zoom, Christmas Joy Offering, Year-End Giving

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!

God's Christmas Intention

The primary text of the birth of Jesus in Luke 2 is such an endearing and enduring story not just because of the overall allure of Christmas--presents and Santa and lights and yummy cookies and so on. This simple story has such lovely and inviting details. A young couple having a baby and laying him in the animal's manger because there is no room for them indoors. The unsuspecting and terrified shepherds, the angel messenger joined by the army of heaven which turns into a choir, shepherds who become worshippers and then messengers, pondering Mary. Do not be afraid. Behold, I bring you wonderfully good news of great joy.

Here's what I've been wondering as I reread this text for the two-millionth time. What if this story reflects God's intentions for all human life? What if God intends that every baby born

gets wrapped up in love and adoration, no matter the family circumstances? Intends for us to move from terror to wonder and joy at the miracles around us? Intends that the forces of power be used for singing glory to God? Intends for us to notice how amazing life is and to treasure every moment in the depths of our hearts? I say YES, my Lord, may it be so!

Racial Justice And Me

Thanks to everyone who joined us last Wednesday to discuss chapters 2 & 3 of “So You Want to Talk About Race” by Ijeoma Oluo. We learned another definition of racism and that we will most likely make many mistakes along the way. Grace helps us to promptly apologize and repair relationships while we learn. On December 30 at 7pm we will gather again to focus on a single chapter, #4 “Why Am I Always Being Told to ‘Check My White Privilege’?” We’ll share our personal experiences with white privilege and try to see how it might be impacting our spiritual community at Edgcombe Presbyterian.

Leslie and the RJAM team: Rich, 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 **This week = PAJAMA WORSHIP!**
- Sunday evening Bible Study at 6:30pm
- Tuesday Centering Prayer at 3pm
- Wednesday evening Gathering at 7pm

This week’s website Zoom list includes a link to the Christmas Eve service on Thursday.

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.

Giving Reminders

Thank you for all of your generous giving to the work and ministry of Edgcombe Church over the past year. Remember that for donations to be counted for the 2020 tax year, they need to be received in the church office by or before December 31, 2020. Donations can also be made through the church website by clicking on the GIVE NOW button in the upper left.