



## **Edgumbe Presbyterian Church**

### *Midweek Update*

*Dec 29, 2020*

In this issue: Christmas Eve worship, Session Gratitude, RJAM, Zoom, January Mission, Year-End Giving, January b-day & anniv.

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

The picture at the top of this Update is from Eleta's worship space this Christmas Eve. When she sent this picture, Eleta added, "It was such a beautiful, meaningful service to me. It felt perfect. [Heart emoji]" If you had told me last February that we would be doing Christmas Eve on Zoom this year and that it was one of the most wonderful Christmas Eve worships ever, I would have thought you were crazy. Crazy like the night-shift shepherds. Crazy like the armies of heaven singing and dancing in praise. Crazy like the Unmute button. Crazy like a baby who is the hope of the world. Yep, miracles are alive and well. May God bless us like crazy every day in this year and every year to come.

### **Session Gratitude**

Looking back on 2020 at EPC, Luna and I are filled with gratitude for so many things, but one group I would like to mention today is our Session of Elders. Here is our Book of Order definition of what it means to be an Elder in the church:

*As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life.*

I suspect that this definition makes some of our Elders squirm just a bit, but having worked closely with this group all year, I can say that we have at EPC a Session that is ripe with the gifts of discernment and leadership and faith and compassion. As a star among stars, I would like to give special recognition to Eleta Pierce, whose six-year term was up this past May but who agreed to stay on Session to support our congregation during an extraordinary year. Over the past almost-seven years, Eleta has been a cornerstone of both leadership and compassion, advocating with wisdom and trust for generosity and mission and honest community. We so appreciate you, Eleta!

Over the coming month, we will be looking for one or two new people to join this dynamic work of leading God's people in discernment and compassion. Is the Holy Spirit knocking on the door of your heart?

In other Session news, we wanted the congregation to know that the Session approved this week for all of the EPC staff to receive year-end bonuses. The Session's ability to be generous in mission and with our staff is directly tied to the congregation's generosity. Thanks be to God for the generous and open hearts of the people of Edgcumbe Church!

## **Racial Justice And Me**

The Racial Justice and Me (RJAM) book club will meet tonight (Wednesday) at 7 pm. All are invited to attend through the Wednesday Zoom link on the church web page. The RJAM team has been working on a Statement of Intentions. A draft of this statement will be read at the start of tonight's meeting.

This week, the book club will discuss Chapter 4: *Why am I always being told to "check my privilege"?* The plan is to break into small Zoom groups to discuss these two questions:

- 1) Based on what you read in this Chapter, what is a topic you would like to explore?
- 2) Where do you see yourself in this topic?

After reading this chapter, I found it useful to list my personal privileges, as the author suggests. Some privileges I was born into and others I stumbled into based upon advantages I had (and have) because of these born-into privileges. I am looking forward to a great discussion.

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

## **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

**MIGIZI**

## **January Mission of the Month: Migizi**

Our January mission focus is on Migizi, a Minneapolis based organization that acts as a circle of support for Native American development, especially youth. Migizi was founded in 1977 as Migizi Communications, Inc.--- a distinct voice of Native American people in the media. A primary goal was to counter misrepresentations about Native Americans in media and American social structures. "Migizi" means "bald eagle" in Ojibwe and symbolizes guardianship and high standards.

Since 1977 the mission has expanded to include multiple broadcast stations in Minnesota and surrounding states. Focus shifted to education of both youth and adults in Native American life, traditions, culture and modern challenges. In 1999 the Community Technology Consortium was formed and educational emphasis expanded to Native girls' leadership, increasing high school to postsecondary education rates, and moving Native youth to increased financial independence and knowledge. You can see all their programming on their website: <https://www.migizi.org/>

On May 28, 2020 Migizi's home building, including priceless archives, equipment, education materials, and employment internships for 50 native youth was destroyed in fire during the summer protests. The EPC mission team encourages gifts to support the rebuilding effort to quickly bring back Migizi during 2021. Please consider a special gift this month for Migizi.

## **Giving Reminders**

Thank you for all of your generous giving to the work and ministry of Edgcumbe 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 (tomorrow). Donations can also be made through the church website ([epchurch.org](http://epchurch.org)) by clicking on the GIVE NOW button in the upper left.

## **January Birthdays & Anniversaries**

Happy Birthday to:

Meredith Holt 1/14

Angelie Ryah 1/18

Happy Anniversary to:

Phil & Luna GebbenGreen 1/31