



Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

Jan 6, 2021

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Here's an Epiphany: God loves you!

When I was a 20-year-old budding theologian, reading the Bible to figure out the big questions, it didn't take me long to realize that God loves everyone. That took maybe a year or two of dedicated study. God loves everyone, completely and forever. Got it. What has taken me 30 years to truly digest and accept is that God loves ME. My defenses to believing in God's love in the general were significant. My defenses to trusting that God completely and forever loves me? Well, let's just say that I had built my whole life around not trusting that all-encompassing love.

Today is Epiphany, the day on the church calendar when we celebrate the Light, celebrate the Star of Bethlehem, celebrate learning a new thing. What do you think about allowing yourself to accept God's love for you right now? If you have even a spark of willingness, then I invite you to say this prayer:

**God, I love you.
I put my entire life in your hands.
I allow myself to accept your complete and forever love of me.
God, grant me your peace.**

That is a prayer worth keeping with you and repeating. As I write this, protesters are storming the U.S. Capitol, and I hear helicopters circling above. So I invite all of us to add another prayer. Repeat the first prayer. Allow yourself to truly mean every line. Then add:

***God, as your love fills me, so it fills the whole world.
As your peace is with me, give it also to all my brothers and sisters everywhere.
There is no end to the love and peace and joy that you give today.
Amen.***

Communion: Bring your own

We weren't quite ready for communion on the first Sunday of January, so we are going to celebrate the Lord's Supper together on this coming Sunday, January 10, which is also Baptism of the Lord Sunday. So please bring your own communion elements to your Zoom space for worship this Sunday at 10am.

Racial Justice And Me

The RJAM group is reading "So You Want to Talk About Race" by Ijeoma Oluo. We would love to have you join us in discussion! We will be unpacking chapter 5 'What is Intersectionality and Why Do I Need It?' There may be some extra copies of the book if you need one. Please contact Liz Schiferl to inquire. The next meeting date is Wed, Jan 13th at 7:00pm. Click the regular Wed night check in link on the EPC Homepage to attend the Zoom.

We encourage everyone at EPC to check out the RJAM page on the EPC website. We have a new Proposed Statement of Intention posted and would love feedback. You can connect with anyone on the team to offer feedback, ask questions, or chat. We are Connie Howe Vielmetti, Rich and Liz Schiferl, Luna GebbenGreen, and Leslie Snow.

For me (Connie), the book has offered a way to see myself through a different lens. In many ways, it has been quite eye opening and a bit uncomfortable to see the amount of privilege that I simply have taken for granted and never questioned. By seeing my unearned privilege, I then can see where non white members of my community have to struggle to get the same basic rights of daily living (like not being questioned by police, not having assumptions made about me based on race, access to generational wealth). It is humbling and helpful to 'check my privilege' so that others have space. I often don't need to talk, but listen to other's experiences and learn

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

Zoom Schedule

We have four Zoom meetings scheduled for our congregation for each week. All of these meetings have been updated and are open to you and to everyone. The links can be found on our church website homepage. 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” means “bald eagle” in Ojibwe and symbolizes guardianship and high standards.

The mission of Migizi includes multiple broadcast stations in Minnesota and surrounding states, 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 spring 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.