

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

Jan 27, 2021

In this issue: Worship Guests, Annual Meeting, RJAM, Zoom, 2020 Giving Statements, Session Report, February Birthdays

Guests at Worship this Sunday!

SISTER CONGREGATION Several times last year when Pastor Luna and I took time off, we shared the link to the worship service of First Presbyterian Church, South Saint Paul (FPC-SSP). This week we are returning the favor by inviting their congregation to join us on Zoom for the EPC worship service. What can we expect? A bunch of new faces, more than one Zoom screen (so you can't see everyone at once), folks who may be new to Zoom and Muting and Chat, a certain level of chaos, and lots of fellowship with our siblings in Christ. I think it will be a blast to welcome a whole new set of people into our lovely worship space.

NEW MISSION FOCUS Our mission focus for the month of February will be Voices for Racial Justice (VRJ). So on this Sunday, we will also welcome VRJ Co-Director Monica Bryand to share with us about this organization and their work. From their website: *Voices for Racial Justice is a movement organization of leaders, organizers and culture workers who envision a world without racism honoring the culture, knowledge, power, and healing of Black, Indigenous, and communities of color. We are committed to building power through collective cultural & healing strategies for racial justice across Minnesota using organizing, leadership training, community policy & research.*

Annual Congregational Meeting - Feb 7

The Session has set our Annual Meeting for Sunday, February 7. On that day, we will have a shorter worship service which will lead into our congregational meeting, with at least the following agenda items:

- Review reports from 2020, including the budget
- Approve new Bylaws that allow us to meet online!
- Elect new Elders and thank out-going officers
- Approve the Pastors' terms of call for 2021

Look for a digital 2020 Annual Report within the next week.

Racial Justice And Me

How are black people's experiences with the police different than white people's experiences? The Racial Justice and Me (RJAM) committee will be meeting this Wednesday (today) to discuss Chapter 6: "Is Police Brutality Really About Race?" of the *So You Want to Talk About Race* book by Ijeoma Oluo. All are invited to attend at 7 PM through the "Check-in Wednesday" link on the EPC website. You do not need to have read other chapters in this book to participate. Most chapters, like this one, stand on their own. In this chapter the author talks about how she feels she must interact with police officers during traffic stops. The

experiences she describes are certainly not the same as mine. She talks about the lack of trust of police by black people and how this has built up over the years. Some of this is based on the history of the development of police departments in the USA. I am looking forward to great discussion on this timely topic. A recent National Public Radio story on police shooting of unarmed black people can be found here: <https://www.npr.org/transcripts/956177021>

Rich and the RJAM team (Liz, Luna, Leslie, Connie and Eleta)

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

2020 Giving Statements

Please keep your eyes open for your 2020 Giving Statements that will be arriving in the mail. If you have any questions please contact Krysta at the church office by email epchurch2149@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the church.

January Session Report

Your Elders met on January 14 for their monthly stated Session meeting. Pastor Phil opened the meeting with scripture and a spiritual check-in of everyone in attendance. The meeting itself went smoothly and there were lots of official thumbs-up all around. The items that we officially approved were the Annual Statistical Report that is sent to our denomination, the Statement of Intentions that was presented by the Racial Justice and Me group, the 2021 budget that will be presented to the congregation, and the date for our 2020 Annual Meeting, which will be Sunday, February 7, following worship on Zoom (there will be no regular fellowship check-in that day).

The other big topic discussed was outgoing and incoming Elders and Deacons. We currently have two Elders who are at their term limits, Eleta Pierce and Fred Clary. We discussed what it means to be an Elder, and shared some names who the Spirit has been nudging us to call on. We also acknowledged that our Board of Deacons has not been a priority lately, and although we decided at this meeting not to get into a deep discussion and make decisions about our Deacons, we did agree to continue the conversation down the road. We also extend our invitation to you, the body of our church, to strongly and prayerfully consider serving as an Ordained Officer of our congregation, either as an Elder or a Deacon. The title and description are a lot more scary-sounding that serving as an Elder or Deacon really is. If you do feel that call, or even just have questions about either role, reach out to either Pastor, or any of the Elders.

--Elder Eleta Pierce

February Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

Sherla Mayer	2/7
Leslie Snow	2/12