

# Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

## Midweek Update - June 16, 2021

In this issue: Trust: Change, Worship Sched, Micah reception, June Mission, Backwoods, RJAM, Clothing Exchange, Session Update, Prayers

### Trust Part III: Change

Like most people, I suspect, I have many mixed feelings about change. In much of my life, I do not want a lot of change. I want my friends to stay my friends; I want the spices in my kitchen to stay in the same place on the rack; I want the grocery store to keep my favorite foods where I can find them. At the exact same time, there are many things I want, maybe even desperately, to change. I want to change what I eat so I lose weight and feel better; I want the backwoods clear of invasive species; I want racism and homophobia and sexism and poverty to end. I want change that leads to maturity and growth and healing and love.

Change tends to cause anxiety. As our anxiety grows, it begins to feel like a wall that stops us in our tracks. "I can't keep going that direction," we tell ourselves, "it feels scary." So often, this is good self-advice: Maybe I shouldn't touch that hot pan yet...I better hold my tongue...I see brake lights; I'm going to slow down. But sometimes this healthy fear keeps us from moving toward our own healing or from freedom or from a relationship that would bring us life and laughter and joy. Carl Jung said, "There is no consciousness without pain." What if we could handle more anxiety and pain than we give ourselves credit for? What if we allowed ourselves to step forward--toward a person of another race or sexual orientation or ethnic background, toward a new seating arrangement in the EPC sanctuary, toward the healing we are so desperate for--with trust? What if the wall of fear in front of us is simply mist, and in stepping toward it, the mist parts to reveal the fullness of what God's love hold for us?

*P.S. I have no idea if we will have a new seating arrangement in the sanctuary--not one thing has changed from March 2020 right now. Imagine being the kind of people, the kind of congregation that could navigate change with grace and forgiveness and openness and hope. Who cares about our sanctuary; let's change the world.*

### Summer Worship Schedule

Here is the worship schedule for the next months:

- Jun 20 - Outdoors (Zoom if bad weather)
- Jun 27 - Zoom
- Jul 4 - Outdoors (communion)
- Jul 11 - In Sanctuary!
- Jul 18 - Outdoors
- Jul 25 - In Sanctuary
- Aug 1 - Outdoors (communion)

Pastors Luna & Phil will be taking 5-6 weeks off in August and early Sept. Our newly re-formed Worship Team is working right now on plans for those Sundays!

## Micah Gebben Green Grad Reception

Pastors Phil and Luna are inviting the entire EPC community to celebrate this milestone of high school graduation after worship this Sunday. In the event of rain causing worship to go onto Zoom, we will reschedule the reception to another date.

## June Mission Focus: Plaster House

Plaster House (see photo above) provides preoperative and postoperative care for children in need of orthopedic, plastic and neurosurgery in conjunction with Selian Lutheran Hospital in Arusha, Tanzania. Over 1000 children will be cared for in 2021 with 95% of the cost funded by donors. Ingrid and Ron Eggert volunteered at PH and SLH for 8 & 1/2 years. They will make a short presentation about their work during the Sunday service on June 6. The first 2 links below are to 4 minute and 11 minute videos about PH.



# The Plaster House

An introduction to Plaster House by Director Sarah Rejman:

<https://www.theplasterhouse.org.au/media-and-current-events>

A Plaster House Journey through the eyes of one of the children. This is on the Plaster House website, scroll down to the **A Healing Journey** video:

<https://www.theplasterhouse.org/>

Donations should be labeled "Plaster House" or "June EPC Mission."


## Backwoods Update--Can you spare some time??

Reading more about garlic mustard, each mature plant can produce upward to 8000 seeds which then can be dormant in the soil for up to 5 years!! Wow!! Garlic mustard eradication is a 10 year process....and we would be so grateful for **any and all help** while these plants have not dropped their seeds. Our focus is now on the interior spaces of our backwoods, with dumping the plants on the tarps located just into the wooded area by the southern fire pit by the stage. We are also calling a **Backwoods Work morning this Saturday, June 19th, 8:30a-10:30a**, and hope you can join us!! If you cannot join us this Saturday, come anytime that is convenient for you!! Thank you!!!

## Racial Justice & Me

Please join us on Zoom this evening at 7pm to discuss the chapter "I just got called racist, what do I do now?" from Ijeoma Oluo's book 'So You Want To Talk About Race'. As usual, we will break into smaller groups for discussion. All are welcome; even if you haven't read the chapter feel free to come and just listen.

## Clothing Exchange


Gather your items now for Eleta's Clothing Exchange Birthday Party!   
Drop off June 19-24 (or bring to church on June 20)  
Shop for FREE June 25 & 26!  
(will be set up in my garage: 788 Ottawa Ave, St. Paul 55107)  
If you are interested in participating, contact Eleta for more details ([eleta.pierce@gmail.com](mailto:eleta.pierce@gmail.com))

## Session Update

Hello EPC Community. Here is a brief Update on our last Session Meeting (6/10/21) - Connie

- Pastor Phil began the meeting with a reflection. He asked us, 'What happens in your body when you put ALL OF YOUR TRUST in God?' (responses: 'It is hard to believe that all we have to do is Trust', 'It feels new', 'It feels scary and vulnerable', 'Excitement', 'Peace', 'Energetically, it feels like the body is held in defense', 'Softening, 'Comfort and Joy')
- We had a discussion about sharing our EPC Building with Rehoboth Ethiopian Christian Church. We identified some issues to work through, but on the whole we are interested in learning more and next steps. Time has been set to meet with Dr Fekadu on Saturday, June 19.
- The Backyard Usage Team has been busy! Rich and Liz have developed an online calendar to keep track of scheduling space so we don't have conflicting events. Some events that are coming up: a wedding, a graduation, and the Birth Play Theater Group staging their play Aquellarres (I, Connie, am excited to attend!). More info to come.
- The Personnel Committee checked in about Pastor Phil and Luna's Sabbatical. According to the Pastor's Terms of Call, the Sabbatical should be every 6 years. Covid interrupted that schedule. Thought was given to the Heart of Sabbatical- the deep connection to God that needs to be nurtured and then brought back to the community. Session recommended an update of language around Sabbatical and we will bring that to the congregation.
- Session was informed that the Presbytery will be sending out a confidential survey about the demographics of each congregation. It will help with understanding "Who is coming to church" as well as how we might have different conversations around intersectionality.
- Luna informed us of a Pop Up Centering Prayer event scheduled for Monday, June 21st at 6:30 under the Maple tree in our EPC backyard. All are welcome! Bring a chair or mat and whatever beverage you want to drink. All are welcome.

## Prayers

- From Luna: thank you, everyone, for your prayers and concern!!  last saturday, i woke up with constricted breathing, which continued to accelerate throughout the day. all tests looked clear (blood, lungs, heart), so it was a bit of a mystery to the medical community. gratefully, each day my breathing and lungs are getting stronger, but my endurance is still noticeably diminished from how i think about my "usual" levels... clearly my body is still asking me to rest!!
- Prayers for Liz Schiferl and Ruth Andersen who are both have ongoing treatments and procedures this week--may you be filled with trust and hope and love and healing!

