



Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update – Oct 13, 2021

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From Access to Acceptance

I'm noticing that recently my most-common response to the question, "How are you?" is, "Busy." While I do want my life to be effective and engaging, I'm not sure that I want the main adjective I use to describe myself to be BUSY. I'm not a bee. I'm an expression of the radiance of God. Doing one thing after another as efficiently as possible is the best I've got?

A related noticing is the explosion of "access." When I was a child and I went home, I had access to my family, my backyard, a couple of books, and four TV stations (ABC, NBC, CBS & PBS, for those keeping score). From my home right now (or the church office I'm sitting in), I have access to...ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING: any book ever written, movies, podcasts, all three of my email accounts, all my church documents, Zoom, millions of addictive games, Amazon, more music than I could listen to in five lifetimes, any news source from around the world, etc, etc. I and we are more connected than ever, right? Right?

The frenetic busy-ness of modern life can give us the illusion of being in demand, being valuable, and doing well. Some part of me tells myself that if I do more and acquire more that I will be more full, that the peace I long for will be given to me when I earn it. Jesus says, "My peace I give to you." Oh. What is the proper response when offered a gift? Acceptance. Not earning, not busy-ness, not endless distraction. Just acceptance. *God, today, I offer you my heart, promptly and sincerely. Amen.*

Recycling Right

You may have noticed the new bins that are around the building. With help from a grant, EPC is implementing a new system of waste disposal that will include trash and recycling and compost (which includes paper products like our disposable bathroom hand towels). All bins in the church are now clearly labeled in these three categories. Our custodian and preschool staff were trained in this new system. If you would like to view the slides from the training click the link below. If you have any questions regarding the new system please reach out to one of the staff members.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/109G8IJEWBmDfnWhzEk0bPY1qiyaiGo3/edit?usp=s_haring&oid=108162019647588648784&rtpof=true&sd=true

October Mission

The Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world. This annual offering is allocated using the apportionment of 25% for local use. This year EPC has designated **A Mothers Love** (<https://www.amothersloveinitiative.org/>) organization to receive the local portion. 25% of the offering goes to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies; and 50% to support work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

A Mothers Love (AML) is a grassroots organization of African American Mothers and Fathers in Minneapolis whose members have been directly impacted by gun violence. One of their focus efforts is "Bringing Back The Village". AML's Vision is to strengthen families by giving them a village for moral support. They recognize that "family" comprises a multitude of different family types. They respect all family dynamics and work to meet families where they are in their life cycles. AML'S Mentors Program works to strengthen families academically, socially, emotionally and financially. Their vision builds strong foundations now and for generations to come. A Mothers Love's motto is: "Save the Mother, you save the Child. Save the Father, you save the Family. Save the Family, you save the Community".

Certainly AML's activities and focus promotes peace in our own community. Please consider contributing to this month's mission.

Clothing Exchange (for Pastor Luna's Birthday!)

as i prepare for my birthday this year (turning 55 on nov 5th! 🎂), i am grateful that we can have an adapted gathering for a clothing exchange. i missed you all last year, and all of the zany fun which happens when we release what no longer is needed and found into hands that love it!!

Please come to an **clothing exchange open house**
saturday, october 23, 2021 -- 12:30p-4:30p
in the garage of 1462 van buren avenue, st paul, mn 55104

for those of you new to this idea, it's about releasing the clothing, accessories, shoes, jewelry, etc that you are no longer wearing or wanting-- that you no longer love, and take home fun items other folks are releasing. find a new look. discover clothing that you'd never consider for yourself, and try out new

things/colors/styles. Play!! fun! fun! fun! and free!!! whatever is left over at the end i will give to joseph's coat.

even if you do not have any items to share---come anyway!! there will be plenty of clothing to look through!

clothing exchanges in a pandemic time:

if you have attended in the past, here are the updates for this year. i am asking for those who can, **please drop off your items to share the week before the exchange (oct 16-22) to my front porch of my house** at 1462 Van Buren Ave, St Paul, MN 55104. i will have items sorted and organized in my garage by the time of our gathering, and then you are welcome to drop in anytime during the times of the open house. the cdc does recommend face masks for gatherings, so please follow your intuition. i plan to have my garage doors open, to keep the area well ventilated. if the weather is nice, please stay longer and share a cup of tea in my backyard. you are also welcome to bring items on the day of the exchange, as well.