



## **Edgumbe Presbyterian Church**

### ***Midweek Update - Nov 3, 2021***

In this issue: All Saints Sunday, Nov Mission, 2022 Pledges, Daylight Saving Time, Meet Heather

#### **All Saints Sunday**

We celebrate All Saints Sunday on the first Sunday of each November, where we remember and mourn and honor the people who have died from our community and from our lives. This past year in the EPC community, three people have transitioned from this life to eternal life with God. They are:

- Dorice Van Vorst - died November 8, 2020
- Helen Meyers - died June 11, 2021
- John Omps - died September 14, 2021

Hold these three saints, plus anyone else who comes to your mind and heart today, in a moment of quiet remembrance, entrusting them again to God's endless care.

At worship this Sunday, November 7, we will have a communal time of remembrance and Communion and a fire! All Saints Sunday and the darkening days of autumn are a good time for surrender and letting go--moving from grief and resentments to acceptance and forgiveness, moving from restriction and fear to freedom and grace. We will have paper and pens in the sanctuary this week for you to write any names or situations that you want to release to the Spirit's flames, or you are welcome to bring something for the fire from home.

#### **November Mission**

**Union Gospel Mission's Thanksgiving Bag Drive**

The drive kicks off to provide Thanksgiving meals to people around the Twin Cities through Union Gospel Mission! Instead of collecting bags of Thanksgiving groceries, we will be collecting money so that the Mission can purchase those items instead. Thousands of hungry families will come to the Mission for bags of free Thanksgiving food just prior to the holiday. Each bag contains enough food for a family of 5 and costs just \$25. This year we have pledged 20 bags worth from our church. Your gift will help UGM purchase turkey, potatoes, vegetables, and even dessert—so that hungry families can enjoy a traditional feast and leave the problems of the world behind for awhile. Please give generously. Donations can be either mailed to the church, or use our online giving platform, and note “Union Gospel Mission” in the memo. Thank you!

Here is a short video that tells more:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SulbKBwaPUWluaZZxF9t3l9Jy79labJ/view>

## 2022 Stewardship & Pledges

The Stewardship Team of Ingrid and Connie would love it if each member of the EPC Community could write three sentences that tell us how Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church is meaningful to your life and why you feel it is important to support the community financially. We will be reading the sentences anonymously on Sundays and hope it will give us a deeper understanding of how the Spirit is calling us to support each other in this Community of Love.

You may email the sentences to Connie at [spear011@umn.edu](mailto:spear011@umn.edu) or Ingrid at [ireggert@gmail.com](mailto:ireggert@gmail.com) OR simply write the sentences out and leave them in the collection plate at church.

This month we will be asking for financial pledges for 2022 as Session begins to plan the



budget for next year.

## Daylight Saving Time ends...

...next Sunday, November 7th, at 2am. A friendly reminder to set your clocks back one



hour. Yay for an extra hour of sleep!

## Introduction to Heather Grantham

as i have been reporting to session for the past months, i have been coming alongside with **heather grantham**, a woman who has been in process for ordination in the pc(usa). I have know heather for a few years, and she has connected with the edgcumbe community when she worshipped at epc with her family this past summer (on one of her sunday's off), and if you were at the workday this past weekend, you would have seen her as well.

heather has been approved for ministry in the eastern oklahoma presbytery for nearly 15 years, but her journey has had many twists during that time, as the spiritual journey is often known to do. she is now rooted here in st paul working as an associate minister for spiritual formation at hamline methodist church (<http://www.hamlinechurch.org>).



heather and i met with the chair of the committee for the preparation for ministry (cpm) of the presbytery of the twin cities area (ptca) two weeks ago, to learn how to best navigate the remaining process toward ordination. because another presbytery has already approved her, her next steps are to formally land within our presbytery. she was asked by cpm to become a member of a pc(usa) church, and then have that church sponsor her through the ordination process.

through the connections she has already made with the epc community, she has discerned that she would like to become a member in our church. she is planning to attend **our next session meeting, november 11th**, where session can have a conversation with her and hear more about how the spirit is leading her path. the church where she currently works would like to ordain her to her position, so we will be able to hear her sense of call to this ministry.

being a full time employee of a church means that her work is mostly during our gathering times, so she has gotten permission to spend **sunday, november 14th** with epc during worship so that our congregation can begin connecting with her as well. in addition to this, she and i are also listening/praying for other ways that she can come alongside the community, on non-sunday morning times. she is drawn to our backwoods (and has helped me pull invasives 🌸💙🌳), so perhaps something will emerge connecting with the woods!

a word about what it means to "sponsor" a candidate for ordination: it means we affirm her sense of pastoral call. we take her under our wing, and we support, love and pray for her as she continues to follow the holy spirit into ministry. i have asked kathy young, and it is her best guess that this might be the first time the epc community has ever had someone emerge from it for ordination into pastoral ministry. the presbyterians (pcusa) are a connectional church, meaning we have immediate and deep connections with a broader community of faith beyond the edgcumbe pres community. sponsoring someone for pastoral ordination can also be seen as a way to be of service to the larger body...investing ourselves into the web of grace which is being spun into a new chapter.

**i invite you to be in prayer for heather as we move forward.** do we hear and affirm her sense of call? are we willing to walk into this next unknown chapter, following the holy spirit? and if the answer is yes to these questions, how might we want to support and celebrate her in this journey toward ordination?

next week, i will share with you a letter of introduction, prepared by heather, as we look forward to having her join us on november 14th for worship!

## Prayers

Please keep **Leslie Snow** and her son, **Tim**, in prayer this week with his newly metastatic cancer diagnosis.