



# Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

## *Midweek Update – Nov 10, 2021*

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### **Pastor report**

Hi friends, my first note is the reminder that our guest preacher this weekend will be Heather Grantham, who is seeking ordination in the Presbyterian Church (USA). See the letter from Heather in this Update.

My second note is that the logging project is well underway here at church. The big maple next to the Prayer Garden (not the maple tree with the swing) came down this morning--see the photo of the stump at top. She was a beautiful tree, and we will miss her.

My final note is to pass on these What If questions from the Jericho story that we read together on Sunday.

- What if my first question in every situation in my life was: God, how would you like me to approach this situation?
- What if I actually allowed myself to act on what I heard God say to me?
- What if, in response to any problem or obstacle, my first instinct was to slowly walk around the problem, trusting that God has my life well in hand?
- What if my second response was to play some good music?
- What if I waited to shout (external or internal shouting...) until directed by God to shout?
- What if I remembered that bringing down the walls is not my responsibility?

## 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/1SulbKBwaPUWluaZZxF9t3I9Jy79labJ/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. Here are last Sunday's sentences on what Edgcumbe Church means to us and why we support it:

I Love Edgcumbe. We love each other here. We know each other at least a little. There is Love and flexibility here.

We have a beautiful music program.  
We are a caring community.  
We have thought provoking sermons.  
We have a beautiful sanctuary and outdoor setting.

Edgcumbe has become my spiritual home after years of searching for a church that wasn't bound to traditions so tightly that it could not ask tough questions about how to follow Christ's teaching within a Christian institutional structure. I am in recovery & have found great healing & support here.

EPC is a living and visible model of love. I learn from every person in this beautiful church and grow. I want to support the church so that it can continue to touch and heal the greater community.

I step into the River  
Of Christ's Universal Love  
And gratefully GIVE

EPC is the community I have been looking for - open, learning ....  
Together we are stronger

Edgcumbe has meant so much to me, especially after the last 2 years. Seeing us form teams for worship and mission and developing community in St Paul has lifted my spirit. I have new friends in music, Bible study, Racial Justice groups, and especially the woods project — Loving it.

That's it so far. We would love to hear from all of you! You may email your 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.

A financial pledge form for 2022 will be available at worship on Sunday (or could be emailed or mailed to you at your request). Turning in all pledges by November 28 will help our Session plan next year's budget! You are also always welcome to email your pledge into the church office at [epchurch2149@gmail.com](mailto:epchurch2149@gmail.com).

### **Treasurer's Note**

Once again it is pledge season. The purpose of making a pledge is to allow your Session to know approximately how much money is available for next year's budget. Planning is difficult if the Session does not have a reasonably accurate estimate of income. So I urge all of our members to pledge. In addition I urge us all to consider increasing our 2022 pledges at least a little from 2021. The cost of everything from snow plowing to base salaries has gone up or will go up.

Thank you, Ron Eggert

### **Guest Preacher, Heather Grantham this weekend**

This weekend we will have Heather Grantham participate in our worship gathering. As we have mentioned, Heather will be coming to our Session gathering tomorrow night, as we explore Heather's wondering about becoming a member at Edgcumbe as a part of her movement toward ordination in the PC(USA) church. We hold her in prayer as we take these



next steps together.

*Hi! I'm Heather Grantham, currently the Associate Minister for Spiritual Formation at Hamline Church United Methodist. I've met some EPC folks this summer when on a break from Hamline and while getting to know your backwoods with Pastor Luna. I am a graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union at UC Berkeley and moved to the Twin Cities 7 years ago with my husband, Indra, and our eldest child, Shiprah,*

*when Indra accepted a role as Assistant Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship at the Carlson School of the University of Minnesota. In these past seven years as Minnesotans, we've bought a house, added two more kiddos to our family, and deepened our connections to this place.*

*While in the Bay Area, Indra did doctoral studies at Stanford while I founded a new ministry with the Presbytery of San Francisco to connect youth from churches around the city and was the Director of Children and Family Ministry at Calvary Presbyterian Church (San Francisco). Previously, I served as a Chaplain Resident at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center and the Director of Family Ministry at Noe Valley Ministry (San Francisco). And before seminary, I worked at the National Presbyterian Offices in Louisville, Kentucky and served in the Philippines as a Young Adult Volunteer, working with women and children who*



*were survivors of trafficking and/or assault.*

*I am called to work with faith communities in the areas of spiritual development and faith formation through service, study, stories and embodied practices - helping the church to support faith touch points within a parishioner's lifespan. I've admired the deepening work EPC has been doing and my family looks forward to being more connected with your community.*

## **Art at EPC**

Hello all artists and lovers of art. Carol and I would like you to help us decorate the sanctuary with your favorite Advent art please! We are asking each person to bring one or two pieces of art that speaks to them, that they love, or that they would like to share with a wider audience. This can be art that you created, or art that someone else created. Photography, paintings, fiber art, quilts... anything goes. It can be Advent-inspired, but really it can be just about anything that you like.

Please start bringing in art this week! We'll hang it as it comes in. Thanks! It's going to be lovely. -Lisa and Carol



## Order Christmas Flowers Prayers

The poinsettia cost this year is \$11.00 per plant for the red and white ones and \$15.00 per plant for the 2 blue ones. If you wish, you may order one or more plants, or make a donation to the decorating fund. Those who purchase plants may take them home following the Christmas Eve worship service. **Orders will be taken until Sunday, November 21.** Please make checks payable to Edgumbe Presbyterian Church for plants or donations. **Send your check with the attached order form to the church office or place in the offering plate.**

## Prayers

- Tom and Meredith Holt are requesting prayers for their 11 year old granddaughter, Leila, who just tested positive for Covid. At this point she has no symptoms, but is in quarantine.