

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update – Dec. 1, 2021

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Advent Season: Following

advent has traditionally been characterized as a liturgical season of waiting, of longing, of immanuel (god with us) is *coming*. however, over the past years we, of the edgcumbe community, are awakening to the truth that we have never been separate from god, and that **immanuel is in each moment**. there are many stories in the scriptures of the advent season of people *on the move*: mary visiting elizabeth, mary and joseph traveling to bethlehem, shepherds going into the city, magi traveling...so perhaps this season can help us to recognize that ***we are people who are always traveling***.

as we travel, we have really two options of navigating. one way, is to make a plan or decision, and then move. however, i am starting to recognize that **our instinctual habits and orientations are actually impacted and influenced by our human fear and anxiety**, and so, as we make plans of ***where*** and ***how*** to travel through our days, we are actually simply repeating patterns with unconscious fears and beliefs of separation.

advent, then, seems to be ***an invitation to us to re-orient***. to orient, literally, to the already-presence-of-the-Christ. so, instead of simply moving, we first plug in the coordinates of the holy spirit into our interior gps (which, i have never even used a gps, but i am just now



noticing that could stand for “god positioning system”!! perfect!!!)

i invite us back to the prayer the psalmist taught us this sunday, from psalm 25:1-2a:

I offer my life to you, Lord.

My God, I trust you.

together, both as individuals, and as a community, i invite us to continue to unlearn our habits and patterns of moving, and to re-orient to become ***people who are followers of the holy spirit***.

as pilgrims over the centuries have greeted one another....***buen camino*** (good walk/road of traveling to you)!!



in joy!! pastor luna

Reflection from the community

The Edgcumbe Community are people seeped with the wisdom of the spirit. This week, Dean Grussendorf shares:

[Regarding your] sermon on fear and the ridding of a punishing God. I must admit that this weekend after Anna's transmission went bad I looked up and said "ok what did I do now?" One of my favorite sayings comes from FDR's inaugural speech in 1933 "**the only thing we have to fear is fear itself**" He started his speech with that saying and asked for God's guidance at the end.

So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.

...In this dedication of a Nation we humbly ask the blessing of God. May He protect each and every one of us. May He guide me in the days to come.

Jan of 33 was a tough time of Depression for this country and I thought these words from FDR were spot on.

(**If you have reflections you'd be willing to share in future midweek emails, please contact Pastor Luna.**)

A Fluffing Thank You

Thank you to everyone who came on Friday, November 26, to fluff the greens and put them up. The sanctuary looks beautiful and it was accomplished in 2 1/2 hours! This must be a record for us because, in the past, it has taken one day to fluff and another half day to decorate. All your work was so appreciated, Meredith

Zooming during In Person Worship

We are setting up new equipment to aid the Zoom broadcast of EPC worship. Last Sunday, the sound settings were not quite right, so we have made several adjustments this week that we hope leads to a better experience for all who join us virtually.

In the coming weeks (or months!), we hope to add a monitor in the sanctuary, so those from home can both see and be seen, hear and be heard!

Also, it will be **communion** this Sunday, December 5, so anyone worshipping from home could prepare your own communion elements.

Christmas Eve Worship

We will gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus into our world and into our hearts on Friday, December 24 at 4pm in the sanctuary or on Zoom for a service of good news and music and candles. We will not have worship services on the next Sunday, December 26, but will regather on January 2, 2022!

December Birthdays And Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:
Mel Houle

12/5

Heather Marschinke	12/6
Micah GebbenGreen	12/12
Warner Gunsell	12/16
Ollie (Tierra) Hunt	12/27

Happy Anniversary to:

Jenya & Vladimir Turbunikava	12/3
Lorenz Fett & Ngoc Nguyen	12/30