



Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update February 16, 2022

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Go to the Deep Water

For two weeks in a row in worship, we read and learned from the text of Jesus inviting Peter to drop his nets in the deep water from Luke 5:1-11. Last Sunday we read this story as a guide to the discipleship journey.

- Like the crowds who have gathered around the lake, our first job is always to listen to Jesus, to open ourselves to the good news. Do you have a short version of the good news that feels 100% true to you? Something that you can use to remind yourself of what's real when you feel upset or triggered? Here are a few versions that I use with myself:
 - *I came from God's heart, I live in God's heart, when I die I will return to God's heart.*
 - *God is light; there is no darkness in God at all.*
 - *The only real thing is love.*
- The second move of discipleship is to give God what we have (like Peter gave his boat). What do you have that God wants to use today? "Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing—will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return," says Jesus in Luke 6.

- The final, world-changing, step of discipleship is to give God what we don't know, what we don't have, even our failure. The invitation to go to the deep water is met with skepticism and trust: "Jesus, this has never worked before; but because you ask, I will go." This is the leap of faith into the impossible. It's where Jesus does his very best work. Are you willing?

Worship Schedule for February

Here is the worship schedule for the remainder of February:

- February 20 - Zoom only
- February 27 - in person in the sanctuary, live-streamed on Zoom
- February 27 at 3:30pm - memorial service for Dave Roush



Tree Removed

The front yard basswood came down last week Thursday. The main trunk weighed over 10,000 pounds! Phil took photos of the event, and Ron posted them on the photo scroll on the homepage of our website, www.epchurch.org.

Thank you again to the donors who made this possible. The trunk was clearly rotted all around its south edge, so it was certainly time to take this beautiful tree down.



February Mission: NAMI

Our February mission focus and donation will support the Twin Cities chapter of NAMI. NAMI {National Alliance on Mental Illness}, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to support for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. To view an introductory video about NAMI's work, click [HERE](#).

NAMI's mission is to provide advocacy, education, resources, and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives. The local chapters also

provide legal assistance, housing assistance, triage for psychiatric providers, counseling and special services for youth. Offices are located around the state and locally at 1919 University Avenue in St. Paul. Please consider a donation this month to this worthwhile organization, as we celebrate a month of love and valentines.

Presbytery Amir Locke Statement

Last week after the murder of Amir Locke in Minneapolis across the street from Westminster Presbyterian Church and our own Todd Barnes' apartment, the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area put out this statement ([LINK here](#)). We encourage all to read and reflect on these words as we work and pray for healing and new ways of being in our communities.

Pastor Luna's Pilgrimage to Iona



in the upcoming weeks, i'd like to share a bit about my next pilgrimage in march which will be taking me to the isle of iona, on the west coast of scotland. like all pilgrimages, i have already traveled in prayer, mind, spirit for over 8 months, which was when the **yes!** came in my prayers for this journey. iona is the place where christianity was introduced into the northern uk by st columba in 563, and he established a monastic community there. iona is known as the birthplace of celtic christianity. similar to my time in muxia, spain, this is a place of crossroads, and is widely known as a "thin place"--which is a celtic christian term meaning a place where the veil between "heaven and earth" is thin...the distance collapses. in our glory to god hymnal, there are 21 songs which come from the [iona spiritual community](#), and we will be singing one of those this sunday--"god welcomes all." please watch the upcoming midweek for further



reflections.

Session notes

Session met on Thursday, 10 February with Pastor Luna moderating. Jay's devotions centered around the connectedness (hitched-ness) of all God's creation, the unity of all things created, in Christ. Jay's question to us, and to all of you: How do we know this is real?

Pastor Phil followed with a conversation with Michelle Trebtoske and her son Shilo regarding membership in EPC. Session unanimously voted to accept Michelle into membership, and she will be formally welcomed during worship on Sunday, Feb. 27.

Pastor Phil reflected on our Annual Meeting, split into 2 Sundays, ending with thanks for all the committees and their members involved, and the many ways the congregation stepped up this past year, a year of "abundance".

Pastor Phil and Pastor Luna carried over 2 weeks of vacation into this year, which they will take from March 14-27. We discussed plans for pastoral coverage. Pastor Luna will travel to Scotland during her vacation, spending one week volunteering at the Iona Center, and the second week on retreat. The church staff has been informed. Jenya will take her vacation and additional leave this summer.

Their sabbatical will be the subject at another session meeting and will be followed by an informational meeting for the congregation.

Building and Grounds: The Montessori 5-year lease is up for renewal in March, discussions are underway. Jay and Rich have undertaken several projects to reduce heating and electricity costs. (Utilities costs have risen substantially this year!)

Clerk Meredith and treasurer Ron were confirmed in their positions. We formally voted on our communion schedule: 1st Sunday of every month, Christmas Eve and Holy Week, and any other Sunday as per session decision as well as pastoral visits.

Pastor Luna reported on Heather Grantham's journey toward ordination. Presbytery is short-staffed at the moment, but we are progressing.

Dave Roush's memorial service will be held Sunday, Feb. 27, at 3:30pm in the sanctuary.

The large basswood tree at the SW corner of the church was finally removed (after several delays due to cold temperatures) Thursday morning; pictures by Pastor Phil are posted on the church website.

Thank you to all session members for their work! -Elder Ingrid Eggert