

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update *March 16, 2022*

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Pastors Off Until March 28

While they are away, any pastoral concerns or prayer requests can go to any Elder (Meredith, Ingrid, Jay, Rich, Connie), any building needs should go to Jay or Rich, and notes for the midweek update or bulletin should go to office manager Krysta at epchurch2149@gmail.com.

Sunday Worship this Week

Pastors Phil and Luna are on vacation this Sunday (March 20) and next Sunday (March 27). For this Sunday you are encouraged to attend (in person or virtually) a worship service at another church. You may have already thought about checking out a service at a local church. If not here are a few suggestions:

1. If people choose to go to Heather Grantham's church (Hamline Church United Methodist) on Sunday March 20th, they can do it by either attending the service at the church (located at 1514 Englewood Avenue, St Paul MN 55104) at 10am OR attending it online. The church has a live stream that you can access via their [Facebook page](#) or [YouTube page](#).
2. Westminster Presbyterian Church (livestreams their Sunday worship service at 830 am and 1030 am. Links for these livestream services can be found on their website (<https://www.westminsternpls.org/worship/sermons/livestream/>). You can also attend their services live at 1200 Marquette Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55403.
3. Humble Walk Lutheran Church has Sunday Evening worship at 430 PM at Art House North, 793 Armstrong Ave, St. Paul. Learn more about this at: <http://www.humblewalkchurch.org/church-life> .
4. House of Hope Presbyterian Church (797 Summit Ave, St Paul) livestreams their Sunday worship service at 10 am. See <https://www.hohchurch.org/worship-music/worship-sermons/> for details.

Worship Sunday, March 27

On Sunday, March 27th, EPC will return to in-person (with hybrid zoom link) service with Todd Barnes leading worship.

March Mission:MN Food Share

For our March Mission of the Month, we will be participating in the annual MN Food Share drive to help stock our local food shelf, Neighborhood House Food Market, including their location just down the hill from EPC in the Sibley Manor Apartments.

Hunger and food insecurity still plagues many people in our St. Paul communities. According to Hunger Solutions Minnesota, the state's 350 food shelves (which includes Neighborhood House's two food markets in St. Paul) were to end 2021 with 3.7 million visits, just below the 3.8 million record set in 2020. What does this mean? Food shelves are still seeing record numbers of need for food resources and support. Higher food costs are making life difficult for more and more families in our community.

Should I give food donations or cash? The answer is BOTH! Non-perishable food donations can be brought to the church and placed on and around our food shelf in the Narthex. We also strongly encourage cash donations because their food shelf is able to stretch our dollars further than we can by buying in bulk from food cooperatives, especially with meat and dairy. Donations can be given through our online giving or checks can be made out to EPC with "March Food Drive" in the memo line.

What should I buy to donate? Attached to this email is a "Food Shelf Wish List" with lots of ideas on what to purchase to donate.

Thank you for helping with this drive to feed our neighbors. If you or someone you know could use help with food, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Food Market. Visit Neighborhood House's food program page for detailed instructions <https://neighb.org/program/foodsupportprogram/>

Session Update

Here is a brief summary of the Session Meeting held on March 10

- Connie led devotions with an alternative to what we are seeing in the world and on the news; that alternative is the Spiritual Practice of Joy. We all need to experience Joy and intentionally practice Joy and look for the fullness of Joy in our lives. God is in everything. What brings you Joy?
- Year to date financials through February are reasonable. There are no out-of-the-ordinary levels of expenses so far this year although utility costs are up considerably compared to last year.
- Revising the mask mandate for church activities was discussed. We know that properly worn N-95 masks and KN-95 masks offer the best protection from the virus spreading. Also, infection rates are low in our area so that mandating mask use for all is no longer appropriate. The main concern raised was singing, both by the choir and the congregation. Some people may not be comfortable attending worship unmasked. So the following policy was approved: Mask-wearing is optional for worship and all gatherings in the church building, effective immediately. If you want to be present in person and wear a mask, the best protection for yourself will come from a KN-95 or N-95 mask. To make sure that everyone can have this protection, if desired, the church will make these masks available on Sunday mornings for the coming weeks.
- Recent building and grounds improvements and activities were discussed including 1) Updating light fixtures and replacing all fluorescent tube lighting with light-emitting-diode (LED) lighting in order to provide substantial energy savings as well as reduce future maintenance costs. About 300 LED bulbs will be purchased and fixtures will be

updated (removing the no-longer-needed ballasts) throughout the church building over the next few months. Energy savings will pay for the bulb purchase costs in about one year. Labor for updating the fixtures will be donated. 2) Updating the lease with the Montessori preschool to the Presbytery long term lease format. The current lease expires in the coming month and a new 5-year term lease document has been drafted and will be reviewed with a lawyer in the Presbytery who has volunteered to help with the process. 3) We are moving forward with modifications to the hot-water-heating loop so that the sanctuary heating loop will become independent of the preschool heating loop. Currently, the return hot water line coming from the preschool travels through the sanctuary along the south (the window) side on its way back to the boiler. The modified system will make the preschool heating loop separate from the sanctuary heating loop which should result in a reduction in heating costs.

- Worship plans for the two Sundays (March 20 and 27) when Pastors Luna and Phil will be on vacation were finalized. For March 20, several online (live streaming) service options as well as options for live worship in local churches will be suggested in this Midweek Update. For March 27, Todd Barnes will lead worship, live in the sanctuary, with our usual zoom connection to those who prefer to participate online.
- A return of the Maundy Thursday (April 14) potluck gathering was discussed. With Covid infection rates down it may be possible to have this potluck indoors or, if the weather is cooperative, we could have a potluck outdoors. A final decision on this will be made in early April.
- A short discussion about the Pastors' upcoming sabbatical (August through October in 2022) was held. Options for funding the sabbatical were discussed and further discussion is planned in the next few weeks.
- Jay asked all elders to embrace the intention to bring more people into this church to become part of the EPC community. We ask the EPC community to pray about this intention. This is not yet a request to determine how to accomplish this. But let us first consider: How does it feel to put this intention before us as we move into 2022?

Respectfully submitted by Rich Schiferl

Response to War in Ukraine

If you want to see how Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is responding to the invasion and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, there is information at [THIS LINK](#).