



Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

April 6, 2022

In this issue: Let Go or Get Dragged, Sunday, Holy Week Worship, April 10 Congr Mtg, April Mission, Sacred Sites tour, Luna Scotland photos

Let Go or Get Dragged

“Don’t remember the prior things; don’t ponder ancient history. Look! I’m doing a new thing,” says Isaiah 50. Too often we use the past to justify our own fears and limit what we believe is possible for ourselves, our loved ones, and the people around us. We tell ourselves that our future safety depends on remembering our hurts and our regrets and our mistakes. What is usually happening in reality is that we are hanging onto our past stories so tightly that we are being dragged through our present, being unnecessarily bruised and hurt all over again.

This past Sunday, we asked ourselves the simple question: **What am I being called to let go of right now?** Feel free to let that question resound in your heart again in this moment. Notice, when I ask myself this question, that I don’t have to let go of anything. If there is something from my past that feels important to hold onto, that is a fine option. Life is, after all, a balance between holding on and letting go. Today, we ask the Spirit for the wisdom and the willingness to let go of whatever the Spirit has no purpose for anymore. “I’m done teaching you with that memory,” says the Spirit, “it is time to let go.” Letting go usually includes some grief, some resistance, some fear. It also usually includes increased peace, and joy, and freedom. Look, I am doing a new thing!

Worship Holy Week - April 10-17

We move toward Holy Week with the expectation of hope and healing, remembering that what emerges from death is new life! Each of these worship services will be available both in-person and on Zoom.

- **Palm Sunday**, April 10 at 10am
- **Maundy Thursday**, April 14 - potluck (or bring-your-own) meal together at 6pm, including communion; worship using Holden Evening Prayers at 7pm. All are welcome at either or both events!
- **Easter Sunday**, April 17 at 10am

Palm Sunday Congregational Meeting - April 10

There will be a congregational meeting this Sunday, April, 10, after church to discuss and vote on increasing the pastor’s salary. They were given a 3% raise this year, but, with inflation,

session would like to add another 7% to make this year's increase 10%. This would give the pastors an approximate salary increase of \$4000.00.

April Mission: 8218 Truce Center

If the name 8218 Truce Center and Miki Frost ring a bell to you, it's because we've gotten to know him and the Truce Center's mission with kids from 8 years old to 18 years old (and beyond) over the past year. We first learned about Truce Center last May as part of our Pentecost offering local mission and then again this past fall as we gathered snacks and drinks for the youth who frequent the two Centers here in St. Paul – one on the corner of Lexington & Selby, the other on Payne & Case. Since we were first introduced, Maplewood Mall also approached Miki asking for his presence in their mall, and they opened the African-American Truce Museum last summer.

"The mission of the 8218 Youth Mentorship is to empower all youth in our community to make positive life choices that will foster persona; development into productive and contributing members of society. The Truce Center's mission is to enable one's ability to peacefully resolve conflict by promoting the use of effective communication skills. The mission of the 8218 Youth Mentorship is to empower all youth in our community to make positive life choices that will foster persona; development into productive and contributing members of society. The Truce Center's mission is to enable one's ability to peacefully resolve conflict by promoting the use of effective communication skills." (from their website)

Miki Frost will join us in person in worship on April 24 and share more about their mission. You can also visit their website at www.8218trucecenter.org

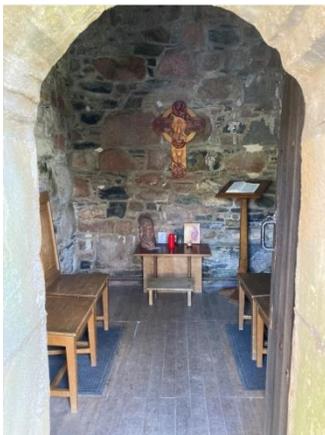
Your donations will be given to Truce Center to help in their continued mission to reach our youth, show them a path of non-violence, and a path that will give them responsibility and worth. Donations can be made out to Edgcumbe Presbyterian with "Truce Center" in the memo line. Thank you for giving!

Local Sacred Sites Tour – April 30

On Saturday, April 30, 10am-2pm, our Presbytery is hosting a local Sacred Sites Tour with Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs. This is a powerful experience of listening to the history of this landscape at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers—the very land that our own church property sits above. This is an outdoor event that includes a \$40 gratitude donation per person. If you are interested in attending, [CLICK HERE to find out more and register](#).

Images from the Scotland pilgrimage...

the shrine of st columba being which was a part of my cleaning at the iona community



moonrise over the isle of iona...



a sampling of the voluminous rocks at st. columba's bay where i found the rocks for my necklace...



the bishop's house, where my retreat with spiritual directors international took place, with the isle of mull across the waters...



Everyday Anti-Racism:

March 2022 Opportunities, Updates, and Invitations

This occasional series, “Everyday Antiracism,” reminds us that seeking justice and living the gospel’s call to

peacemaking is the work of a lifetime, not a moment. In 2022 we’ll continue to highlight the ongoing work

of antiracism (and ongoing spiritual deepening opportunities!) in our congregations, presbytery and communities.

Sign up for direct emailed versions of these occasional antiracism “news” opportunities and updates from Anna by [clicking HERE](#).

In-Person Event: PTCA Sacred Sites Tour

We’re so pleased to invite you to a Sacred Sites Tour led by the Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs of the Minnesota Council of Churches. It’s a powerful and transformative experience of listening to the history of this landscape of the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers as you may never have heard it before. This is an outdoor event.

When: **Saturday April 30th**, 10 am -2 pm

Donation: \$40 gratitude donation for the emotional labor and Jim Bear’s time

[>> Click here to learn more & register](#)

Don’t Miss It: Heather McGhee at

Orchestra Hall

Date: **Thursday April 14th**, 6pm

Where: Minnesota Orchestra Hall

These days it can seem like unity and understanding are highly unlikely, if not downright impossible. For Heather McGhee, however, bridging divides is not only a possibility, but a necessity that she works to make reality every day.

With profound truth and grace, she demonstrates how harnessing the potential of embracing diversity in concrete ways—be it in our personal lives or the work world—can strengthen democracy, equity and equality in society. Join us in a deep discussion with Heather on what racism is costing the Twin Cities and how we can prosper together.

[>> Click here to learn more & register](#)

Anti-Racism Updates and Opportunities from Anna Kendig Flores, PTCA Anti-Racism Coordinator

FREE upcoming Thurman Lectures from

McCormick Theological Seminary

Who: Dr. Stacey Edwards Dunn, Dr. Reggie Williams, Dr. David Daniels and many more

When: April 2, live, then On Demand in the coming week

Howard Thurman was one of the voices that strongly influenced the

life and work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and this symposium will discuss where and how “beloved community” is (or is not) arising today in the Church and world.

[>> Click here to watch in the next week](#)

Ongoing Support & Deepening: NEXT Church coaching cohorts

Many/most of the cohorts are offerings around antiracist leadership and growth. These cohorts are valuable as they both create a group of co-learners as well as offer opportunities for individual coaching. They offer supportive learning contexts, and often address some of the other issues of leadership in churches today: burnout, stress, change, and vision.

[>> Click here to see the full cohort list](#)

Looking for more ideas?

We’re building networks and cohorts of people doing antiracism work in creative ways in their own contexts and following the Holy Spirit. In the next 6 months you’ll see new resources for beginners, intermediate and more developed anti-racism efforts within congregations.

Connect with me at ptca.anti.racism@gmail.com to chat about what *your* church is doing related to anti-racism, what resources have helped you, and if there are ways that I, the ARTF (Anti-Racism Task Force) and the wider PTCA might support your efforts. Looking forward to collaborating... - Anna

Our values for the PTCA Race & Equity Self-Assessment

Anti-Racism Updates and Opportunities from Anna Kendig Flores, PTCA Anti-Racism Coordinator
([as developed by the Presbytery Leadership Team \(PLT\)](#) , 2019)

- To **understand and claim the gospel imperative** to undertake anti-racism as work that examines structures, systems, and norms ... rather than solely focusing on attitudes or opinions.
- To **build a common understanding as a presbytery about how racism functions within systems** like our committees, interactions, and norms.
- To be **honest about our complex history as a presbytery** regarding race & equity, but to also develop a path of concrete steps toward transformation.
- To develop, from intentional outreach and analysis, **tools for self-analysis, change, and further growth** that we use together as a presbytery.