

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

April 13, 2022

In this issue: Three Days, Holy Week Worship, April Mission, Sacred Sites tour, Prayers, Session Report

Three Days

Here are some fun things to consider about Holy Week (at least, Pastor Phil considers these things fun!)

- Knowing that people in power in Jerusalem want to kill him, Jesus goes anyway. All week, he keeps walking toward trouble, rather than away from it. ***What could my life look like if there was nothing to fear?***
- On the night before his betrayal and arrest and eventual crucifixion, Jesus gathers with his friends for a foot washing and meal and singing and prayer. ***Do I spend time and energy gathering important people in my life for food and fellowship and support?***
- Jesus is in the grave for three days. It's the same amount of time that Jonah was in the belly of the whale. After three days of death or downtime or letting go, something dramatically new happens. ***What would I be willing to give up from three days this week?***

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.

- **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
- **Field Trip Sunday**, April 24 at 10am at First Presbyterian Church - S St Paul. Pastors Luna and Phil will be leading worship at FPC-SSP on this Sunday, with the whole EPC congregation invited. No worship on this day at EPC. The address of FPC-SSP is 535 20th Ave N, South St Paul, MN 55075. A link to their livestream will be sent out on the Friday or Saturday before the service.

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 Edgcombe 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](#).

Prayers

- From Pastor Luna: thank you to the community for including my mom and my family after my mom was admitted into hospice. in the past weeks, my mom's health has stabilized, and it has been deemed that she no longer qualifies for hospice care--so my mom has graduated from hospice! during her health decline, her dementia accelerated, and so she did transition into memory care--which has been a trickier

transition for her. your continued prayers for my mom, glorian, are deeply



appreciated!

- For the safety of Jenya's extended family in Belarus, Russia, and eastern Ukraine.

April Session Report: April 6, 2022

A. Congregations' Experiences While the Pastors Were on Vacation:

It was felt having a free Sunday gave the congregation greater flexibility since they had the choice of attending another church in person, on Zoom or just having a day of rest. Appreciation was expressed for the excellent leadership of congregation member **Todd Barnes** in his service on the second Sunday.

Looking toward **Sabbatical**, it was suggested that a **worship team be formed** to plan services and activities for the 3 months the Pastors will be gone.

B. Special Session and Congregational Meeting:

A **special meeting of session** was called on **March 23, 2022**, to discuss raising the Pastor's salary due to the rise in inflation and the approaching sabbatical. It was proposed adding 7% to the 3% already approved by the congregation giving them a 10% increase. This would bring them approximately \$4000.00 more for 2022.

A **congregational meeting** was held after worship on **April 10, 2022**, where, by a unanimous vote, **the proposal voted on by session was passed giving the Pastors a 10% raise.**

C. In Church vs Zoom Service:

1. In discussing in-person vs Zoom worship services, it was noted that outdoor services would need to have an upgrade of the electronics to allow a better experience for those on Zoom. It was decided to have the next **Zoom church on May 15**, which will be the third Sunday in May, as we continue options.
2. Having someone at church greet and welcome those on Zoom would be a nice addition.
3. Elder Jay McGregor will message ArtPlayce coordinator, Carol Schweickhardt, to see if Audrey Carlson would be willing to come to church on Easter Sunday, April 17, to discuss her art that is now hanging in the sanctuary.

D. Building Leases:

1. Building and Grounds is preparing for a conversation with the Montessori School about their lease. The lease is being upgraded to meet Presbytery requirements. This means going from a 5 page to a 28 page document. This is being done with the assistance of a volunteer attorney.
2. AA is in the process of restructuring their steering committee and will be meeting on Tuesday, April 12.
3. A simple lease is being prepared for Rehoboth Church.

E. Clerk's Report, Elder's Terms:

The **terms of elders** Ingrid Eggert and Connie How-Vielmetti will be ending in May of 2022. We have an open slot for 2024, also. A congregational meeting will be called in May to vote on any candidates agreeing to serve.

F. Pastor's Reports:

1. Pastor Phil:

Holy week is next week, **April 10-17**. There will be a **Maundy Thursday** service on **Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 pm**. It will begin with a **potluck at 6:00 pm** in the narthex. If you don't feel comfortable sharing food, feel free to bring your own. Again, if you don't feel comfortable joining the **6:00 pm potluck dinner**, you can come to the **7:00 pm service only**, which will be on **Zoom**, also.

2. Pastor Luna:

Heather Grantham has been assigned a liaison to guide her in the process of becoming a Presbyterian pastor. Dave Comstock is a Presbyterian minister with experience serving as an interim pastor in the Methodist church. Hamline Methodist must issue a call to her, which would be approved through the Presbytery Committee on Ministry. Right now Heather is working with the Committee for the Preparation of Ministry.

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**

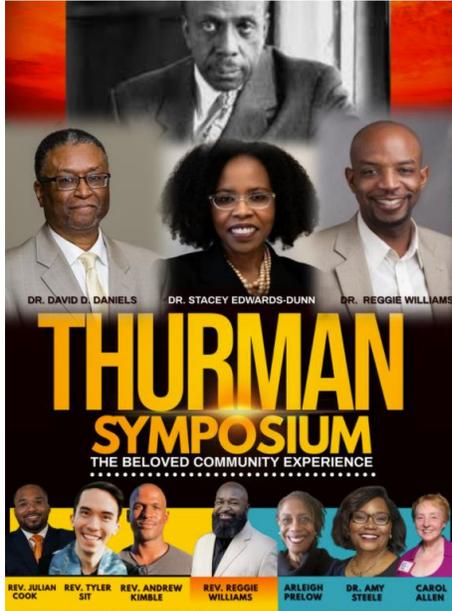
Date: **Thursday April 14th**, 6pm

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](#)





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 anti-racist 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.

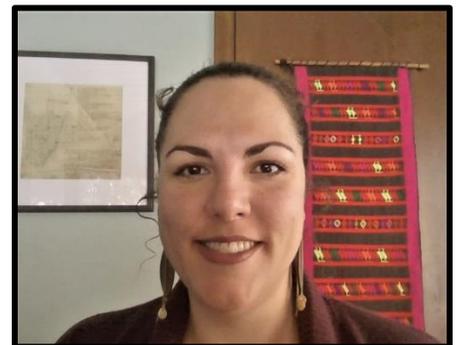
>> [Click here to see the full cohort list](#)



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

([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.