



Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

April 27, 2022

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Worship This Week

Worship with communion this week at EPC at 10am in person and on Zoom, with music led by Ruth and Todd and Leslie as Jenya is using vacation time. Miki Frost from 8218 Truce Center, who was not able to join last week, will deliver our Moment for Mission.

Christ Everywhere

Our Easter refrain this year is, "Christ is risen: WE SEE HIM EVERYWHERE!"

Amazingly, we could even see Christ in South Saint Paul! How lovely it was to worship with another congregation last Sunday. Much was familiar (Luna and I leading, Eleta making announcements, most of our congregation in the pews or streaming, a purple hymnal), but much was new—different pews and seatmates and windows and artwork, a longer drive, a new set of fingers on the piano, a time with the children!

Is it easier for you to see Christ in the familiar or in the new? For the familiar sights and people in our lives, the temptation is to take the everyday miracles of beauty and connection for granted, to forget that the person we wake up next to or the tree we see every day or our own body are all filled with the radiance of Christ. Can I open the eyes of my heart to truly see?

With new experiences, on the other hand, we may be tempted to see the novelty and miss the miracle. We think: This is exciting! or This is scary! It's so easy to forget that every moment is exactly what it is supposed to be, filled with grace and glory and learning and peace. All I need to do is be willing to trust. Christ is risen. This isn't up for debate. Either I accept this in my heart of hearts, or I don't. As I reteach my own mind and heart to trust God's resurrection power, then I can't help but see Christ everywhere. It changes everything—the old and the new.

scotland photos & conversations –TONIGHT



i am sooooo looking forward to gathering tonight to share some reflections, photos and songs from my pilgrimage to iona with those who might be interested!! please come **tonight, wednesday, april 27th, at 7pm** (zoom link on the epc website). i am guessing that we will go



to 8:15-ish or a bit longer, so please stay as long as you can....~pastor luna

May Mission:

Mission/workdays planned - The mission group has identified our backwoods as the mission focus for May. We are planning two work days, May 14th and 28th (both are Saturdays). We will meet at 1:00 p.m. and do projects until around 4:00. Feel free to come anytime during that time period to help out. Not all projects have been identified yet, but for sure we'll be spreading wood chips on the meditation paths. We wanted to get this notice out so that you are aware of those Saturdays.

There are other needs in the backwoods that require funding. We hope to purchase and plant more trees and remove some stumps. If you're in a position to help financially, it would be appreciated greatly!

-Lisa and the mission team

Mission Update:

Sacred Settlements for the Homeless

A recent EPC Mission Team meeting included a short discussion about Sacred Settlements that the team felt would be useful to share with the EPC community. Rich and Liz Schiferl and Leslie Snow attended a meeting of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) on March 21. People from

thirteen different Twin Cities faith communities attended. The goal of this group is to advocate for Minnesota legislation to address issues that are key to the faith community. Local state representatives attended (Senator Murphy, Rep Her (64A) and Rep Pinto (64B)) and there were briefings on the key issues for the current legislative session, how the JRLC hopes the legislators will act, and time to hear from the representatives. See <https://jrlc.org/about-us> for more information about JRLC. The top issues for JRLC this year are affordable and emergency housing, child care assistance, and opposition to gambling expansion. The three state legislators who attended this meeting are very supportive of addressing these top issues.

One small piece of the housing issue that is looking for local support is regarding tiny-house villages that could be created on church grounds as a "Sacred Settlement". See <https://jrlc.org/sacred-settlements-micro-unit-dwellings> for more information. This looks like an interesting experiment, backed by recent research coming from the University of Minnesota. A key component of the model is volunteers called missionals - people choosing to move out of their home or apartment to intentionally live in community with those who have been chronically homeless. The St. Paul church that is proposing to host such a tiny-house community is Mosaic Community Church. You can read more about their proposal here: <https://settled.org/sacred-settlement/mosaic-christian-community/>. In order for this Sacred Settlement to go forward St Paul must pass an ordinance that will allow it, since current building codes do not permit this kind of arrangement. This ordinance will soon be introduced in the St. Paul City Council. If you live in St Paul, one way to support this effort is to call or email your city council member and tell them you support this ordinance. Below is more information about the Sacred Settlements concept.

- Very few housing solutions provide options for those who are experiencing chronic homelessness. This one does. The site will provide tiny houses for 5 people who are currently living in their vehicles, in sheds or outside. This model provides shelter, a community of belonging and opportunities for dignified work.
- Persons who are currently housed will also be a part of this community. Referred to as Missionals, these individuals are trained in trauma, de-escalation and providing support. They are not staff but fellow residents.
- This model is based on building community and has no government cost.
- Because of the history of trauma and mental health issues of many of the people in these sacred communities, they need at least a third of the residents to be people coming from stability.

You can find your city council member and contact information here:

<https://stpaul.maps.arcgis.com/apps/InformationLookup/index.html?appid=8d3e5bc01c624dcbb4542fc4db9d920c> .

Continue to receive the Midweek Email and Directory Updates:

WEDNESDAY UPDATE: Do you have a new email address? Would you like to be removed from this list? Or maybe add someone to this email list? Please contact Office Manager Krysta with any changes at epchurch2149@gmail.com.

CHURCH DIRECTORY: Any changes or updates to any of your contact information (name, address, phone, or email)? Again, please contact Krysta so that we can keep our directory up-to-date and print out new copies for everyone soon. Thank you!

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Vincent Hogen	5/5
Phil GebbenGreen	5/7
Belinda Clary	5/9

Happy Anniversary to:

Naomi & Mel Houle	5/21
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