



Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

June 8, 2022

In this issue: Adopted, Worship, Session Update, Backwoods Stewards, Graduation Annc, June Mission, Prayer List, Pastors' Sabbatical Plan

Adopted into the Fullness

On Sunday, we read from Romans 8 that, "All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters...You are adopted as God's children." This astounding reality means that:

- I can call God, Abba / Father / Mama / Mother, without fear or hesitancy.
- I don't have to look anywhere else for my protection or nurture or fulfillment.
- I can be unashamed of who I am.
- I can reach out to any other human, knowing that they are my brother, my sister.
- I am adopted into the fullness of God's loving family. Nothing can take that from me.

I can release my own parents (or their memory inside me) from any parenting needs that I have: God is my parent and that is all that I need. Even my troubles and worries can only lead to more love and more connection, because that is how God's family works.

Do you ever wonder what the Holy Spirit is up to these days? It's this: inviting everyone over and over and over again into the family of God. Come, join the reunion.

Worship Coming Up

See our Summer Worship schedule in the Session Update below. For this Sunday, we will plan to worship outdoors in the backwoods, weather permitting, followed by a brief congregational meeting. The forecast right now is for a lovely day. Bring a chair, dress for mosquitos, and watch your email if the weather changes!

Congregational Meeting:

On June 12, 2022, there will be a meeting of the congregation after church to elect new session members. The terms for Connie Howe-Vielmetti and Ingrid Eggert ended in May of this year. Both have agreed to continue for another term. At the present time there are 5 elders serving on session. If anyone in the congregation would like to serve on session, please contact one of the current members: Jay McGregor, Connie Howe-Vielmetti, Rich Schiferl, Ingrid Eggert or Meredith Holt. We also present the Pastors' sabbatical plan - included at the bottom of this Update.

Thank you, Meredith Holt

Session Update

Here is a brief summary of the three topics discussed at last week's Session Meeting held on June 2. The meeting started with Devotions led by Pastor Phil wherein we discussed what we were thankful for and also were encouraged to Trust God's Spirit to lead us.

1. Elder elections will be held at the congregational meeting after the June 12 Worship Service. Connie and Ingrid are up for re-election for terms that will start now and end in 2025. Additional nominees will be considered for the open elder position with term starting now (2022) and ending in 2024. If you are interested in running for election for this open elder position please contact an elder before the end of this week.

2. Worship plans for the summer are as follows:

- First Sunday of the month: In the sanctuary with zoom link and with communion.
- Second Sunday of the month: Outdoors in the backwoods with a zoom link, weather permitting.
- Third Sunday of the month: All zoom (no live service).
- Fourth Sunday of the month: Normally in the sanctuary with a zoom link. If Second Sunday outdoor service is canceled due to weather, then this Fourth Sunday will be outdoors with a zoom link (weather permitting).

3. Phil and Luna's sabbatical plan was reviewed. A focus on Movement is the theme of the Sabbatical activities for rest and relaxation. This includes Luna's pilgrimage to Scotland as well as voice lessons, bicycle riding and local family vacations. A copy of this plan is included in this midweek update. Session approved the plan as submitted. A grant application to PC (USA) for \$4000 of the sabbatical cost is being prepared. The plan will be summarized for the congregation during the June 12 congregational meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Rich Schiferl

Backwoods Joyful Stewards

As we hold the preciousness of the land in our hearts, we are aware that it needs attention. Please consider committing to a certain amount of time a week to:

- pull invasive species OR
- watering, mowing, and/or other maintenance OR
- plant groundcovers, new trees, etc

There will be a sign up sheet coming soon to help get that organized. Pastor Luna is happy to meet with people to work in the backwoods. Send her an email to schedule time!

Graduation Announcements

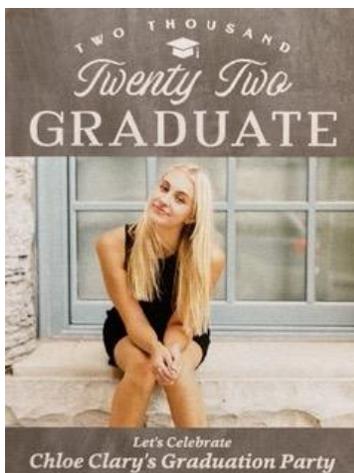


2022 High School Graduate – **Emir Powell**

From Eleta: Proud mom moment as I announce that my son, Emir Powell (Christopher) is graduating from Humboldt High School with High Honors in English and Social Studies.

We would like to extend an **invitation to all EPC folk** to his **graduation open house** Saturday, June 18, from 2-7 pm at our house (788 Ottawa Ave) on the West Side of St. Paul

P.S. “Emir” means ruler or chief



The EPC community is invited to celebrate the graduation of **Chloe Clary**!

Friday, June 24th

5pm-8pm

Historic Streetcar Station

1224 Lexington Pkwy N

St Paul, MN 55117

RSVP to Heather Clary at 612.940.3998 or heatherclary723@gmail.com

June Mission - Plaster House in Arusha, Tanzania



Thank you to the Eggerts for sharing the story of their many years of mission work at Plaster House in Tanzania last Sunday and thank you to everyone who brought a delicious food item for us to enjoy during the presentation.

Plaster House provides pre-operative and post-operative care for children in need of orthopedic, plastic and neurosurgery in conjunction with Selian Lutheran Hospital in Arusha, Tanzania. Over 1200 children were cared for in 2021 with over 95% of the cost funded by donors and volunteers. Plaster House has 80 beds, 45 staff and can care for over 100 patients at a time.

The philosophy of this mission is that no child in Tanzania should live with a treatable disability. So Plaster House provides a "High Love, Low Cost" surgical rehabilitation program at the facility in Arusha, northern Tanzania. The children come from families all over Tanzania who are very poor, and often from rural areas. No child is turned away.

Any gifts that EPC receives this month for June Mission or Plaster House will be sent on to this life-changing organization.

Prayer List

Please hold these requests in our prayers this week:

- **Meredith H** recovering from procedure
- **Ruth A** recovering from a cataract procedure
- **Emir P** and **Chloe C** graduating from high school this week

(Do you have circumstances you would like the community to hold in prayer with you? Contact Pastor Luna or Krysta in the Office— epchurch2149@gmail.com)

Pastors' Sabbatical Plan

Here is Luna and Phil's sabbatical plan that was approved by the Session on June 2. Please notice that the plan is paid for, except for \$3380 (depending on the results of the grant request to the PCUSA). If you would like to help fully fund this plan, please give any donations to EPC, marked "Pastors' Sabbatical." Elders Connie and Jay are forming a team of people to plan worship and congregational activities while the Pastors are on sabbatical from August 1 - October 31 of this year.

2022 Sabbatical Plans: Co-Pastors Luna & Phil GebbenGreen



Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

If you've noticed, so much of our language at Edgumbe Church has to do with **movement**. We talk about stepping into the river of God's love and grace, going with the flow rather than fighting the current, taking a pilgrimage of self-discovery, walking the meditation path, focusing on the journey and not the destination.

We have also seen incredible movement and change over the past two years of our communal life together.

- Moving from in-person to Zoom to hybrid worship services
- Moving toward deeper conversations around racism and justice and inclusion
- Moving into expanded generosity and giving both to church projects like the shed and the Ash tree removal and LED lighting to our monthly Mission focus
- Moving from fear to trust, from control to discernment, from anxiety to hope

Like the Israelites in the wilderness, like the Apostles sent out by Jesus, we are a people on the move. From the first lines of Genesis when God's Spirit blows over the

waters to the final chapters of Revelation when the nations walk by light of God into the New Jerusalem, we are led to follow the Spirit's lead.

Even taking a sabbath rest is a form of movement, moving from the fast pace of daily life to a new rhythm, a new pattern. Making space to listen deeply to God's calling and allowing body, heart and mind to rest and rejuvenate for the next leg of our pilgrimage together. In this spirit, Luna and Phil are proposing a Sabbatical time that is filled with both spacious rest and dynamic movement, with rejuvenation of both body and soul.



SABBATH REST

Time off from the work of pastoring Edgcombe Church from August 1 to October 31, 2022. Extended time off allows us to decompress and disentangle from this work that we love as we prepare for the opportunities and challenges of our rapidly changing world.

COST: Paid pastors' salary and benefits and covering guest worship leaders (all figured into the 2022 budget, so no extra costs)



MOVEMENT

Bicycles! Before having children and when the kids were little enough to fit into bike trailers (i.e. a long time ago...), Phil & Luna loved to bike together. Last year we began to do so again, enjoying the outdoors and time together when Phil's bike was

stolen. Getting Phil a new bike and Luna an electric bike (so that they can stay together) would be both fun and healthful. Biking is also a lovely way to explore larger areas of the state together.

COST: Phil bike & accessories = \$1500; Luna bike and accessories = \$4500; bike rack and hitch = \$1000. Bike total = \$7000



Voice Lessons. In one sense this is a movement toward full embodiment of her own voice for Luna. In another sense, the breath work of voice lessons mirrors the movement of the Spirit in all things.

COST: \$1080



Pilgrimage to Isle of Iona, Scotland. Luna's powerful journey of spirit and voice and connection to the elements happened this past March but was originally part of the sabbatical plan (we bumped the timing of the sabbatical back a few months to accommodate our house remodel project—after the Iona trip had been scheduled).

COST: \$1500 *[Note: the total cost of this trip was actually close to \$5000, but the first \$3500 was taken out of the pastor's Continuing Education and Mileage accounts.]*

REST & MOVEMENT



Family Vacation. For a variety of reasons, from finances to school and work schedules to anxious children, we have not been able to take a substantial family vacation for several years. This year, with our kitchen torn up for remodeling and the sabbatical, we have the motivation and time to take some extended time away for fun and travel. We do not have a specific plan or itinerary yet but would probably plan several shorter trips, including at least one to Phil's family in Michigan.

COST: \$5000

COMBINED TOTAL = @\$14,580

Financial Assistance currently available

\$7200 currently in the EPC budget for pastor sabbatical
Up to \$4000 grant from PC(USA), not guaranteed but likely

CURRENT WORKING AVAILABLE TOTAL = \$11,200

AMOUNT OUTSTANDING = \$3380