



Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

June 15, 2022

In this issue: Todd Giggling with Pastor Luna on His Deck with a Great View, Need: a Threshold, Zoom Worship, Congr Mtg, Pastors Off, Graduation Annc, June Mission, Prayer List, Thank you

need: a threshold

as we looked into romans 5 this past weekend, paul's words are so counter to our ego's thought system, we have an immediate impulse to push them aside...

"we even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope..."

the pride paul is talking about is not the ego's desire for boastfulness and flaunting. rather, it is a *way of knowing* that sees the deep worth of troubles as a way that leads us back to relying on god, rather than being self-reliant. if we have no need in our life, then we have no reason to look outside of ourselves. however, what i am learning (actually, re-learning) is that **our neediness is actually the threshold for a connection and an immediacy with god and each other**. everything we culturally value is for self independence and autonomy, so we reject/deny/dismiss our problems because they take us on a path that is out of our control. however, as we heard from dean on sunday, when we let go of the illusion of control, something powerful happens. we become open to god in a way we hadn't been before.

i also mentioned on sunday that i found brené brown's 2010 ted talk on vulnerability and that her work is articulating some very nuanced dynamics around connection and vulnerability. as i hold her thoughts in my prayers and imaginations, i can see more and more how her work truly intersects with the heart of what paul is saying. that our ability to be honest and present, both individually and as a community, is what will lead us into vital connection with each other and with god.

for me, this is playing out with our scheduled house remodel. we met with the project manager yesterday to discuss the months ahead. i knew that we had talked about refinishing our hardwood floors as a part of our kitchen/dining room remodel, but what i hadn't thought through is that this means **everything** on the first floor of our house needs to be either moved or released...whew!!! i spent the rest of the morning careening off of a mental cliff overwhelmed and anxious by the enormity of the work ahead. blessedly, i also had my weekly meeting with my mentor later in the day who helped me reconnect with myself and god. she helped me with

a change of mind (which is what a miracle is) to know that yes, there is a bunch of work ahead, but i have been praying to move into “loosening”...and, so, here we go. i will learn to loosen as i practice it in this remodeling process.

so, dear ones, i invite you to continue to hold these words from romans in your hearts, minds, prayers...perhaps the very thing you are rejecting is the very avenue that can lead to a deeper connection with the god of your understanding...we are walking together on this path!



Worship Coming Up

Worship this Sunday for all on **Zoom!** The link to the Zoom room is on our website, epchurch.org. We will have at least three videos to share with the congregation, making for a unique and memorable worship experience. Hope you can join us! Invite friends!

Here is our planned worship schedule for next few months (sabbatical in August - October may change this up):

- 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).

Congregational Meeting:

At the congregational meeting this past Sunday, the congregation elected as Elders: Connie Howe-Viemetti and Ingrid Eggert to three-year terms and Todd Barnes to a two-year term. Congratulations and blessings to you all.

We also reviewed the Session-approved Pastor sabbatical plan, with an invitation to the congregation to contribute to help cover the \$3380 remaining shortfall. Relatedly, the worship leadership team for the sabbatical time has their first meeting this Friday.

Graduation Announcements

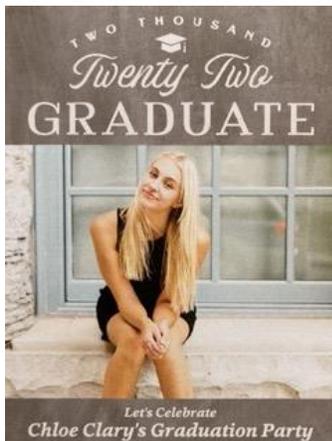


2022 High School Graduate – **Emir Powell**

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** THIS 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

Pastors Off for Two Weeks

As Luna mentioned in her lead article, the pastors' kitchen and dining room will be torn up beginning on July 5. To get ready for this life-altering event, Phil and Luna are taking two weeks off from June 20-July 5. Plans for worship on Sundays June 29 and July 3 will be made soon.

June Mission - Plaster House in Arusha, Tanzania

June Mission Focus is Plaster House in Arusha, Tanzania



The Plaster House is a home in Arusha, Tanzania that treats children from all over the country with corrective, orthopedic, plastic and neuro surgery for disabilities such as cleft pallet and club foot, as well as providing the necessary rehabilitative post-op care. Sadly many children with disfigurements are hidden from society by their families. Plaster House runs outreach programs in communities near the facilities to raise awareness on health problems suffered by many children in secret, and work with the families to understand their disabilities, and ultimately get them to The Plaster House for treatment. Children from as far away as Katumbi near Mahale National Park leave their villages for the first time, to fly 500km to Arusha for life changing operations, where they stay for six weeks until they are well enough to return home.

Check out the video links to see more about this vital mission.

<https://vimeo.com/185079712>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZoNb89XCns&t=17s>

Since 2008 more than 5000 children with correctable disabilities have come through welcoming doors to be guided through their transformational, healing journey of assessment, followed by surgery or other treatment and then recovery. They leave with hope and a brighter future. Give online at www.epchurch.org or mark your check with "June Mission" or "Plaster House."



Prayer List

Please hold these requests in our prayers this week:

- **Meredith, Ruth, and Julie Ann**, all recovering from medical procedures
- **Emir P** and **Chloe C** on their high school graduations
- **Julie Ann** and **William**, on-line worshiper, recovering from surgery

(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)

Thank you!

Thank you all for your prayers and cards.
I so appreciate your thoughtfulness and support.
Love, Meredith