



# Edgcumbe

## Presbyterian Church

### *Midweek Update*

*October 19, 2022*

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### Worship

**Worship this Sunday, October 23rd**, our guest speaker will be Rev. Jodi Houge from Humble Walk Lutheran Church. Please join us in the sanctuary.

### Restorative Justice

Several weeks ago the Mission Team had a discussion with two Twin Cities experts in local Restorative Justice activities. We started investigating this topic after some recent vandalism of our EPC building. This is a very interesting and relevant topic and the information that was gathered (see below) we felt would be great to share with the congregation. The Mission team: Ruth, Rich, Eleta, Lisa, Liz , Dave and Luna.

Michele Braley and Karen Nestingen joined us for a discussion on restorative justice. Michele is Executive Director of the Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Center, and Karen is a volunteer. The program was created by neighborhood people in Minneapolis as a way to replace juvenile citations in Minneapolis and/or Hennepin County. These juvenile citations and subsequent punishment have a profound negative effect on young people. Restorative justice can be compared to retributive justice (the current method used by most communities) that involves labeling and punishment. Restorative justice starts with identifying the harm from violence, vandalism, robberies, and assorted actions defined as crimes. The harm to

individuals, as well as families and the community is identified. Then the parties involved communicate and ideally meet with each other to move toward a place or situation of restoration. This entire process is facilitated by trained community members, associated with the Restorative Justice Center, who initially spend time meeting individually with those who did the harm and with those that are affected by the harm. Ideally these initial meetings and preparations lead to facilitated meetings between the harmed and those affected. Here those harmed share how the actions have affected them and a reasonable restoration process is defined and agreed to.

The Longfellow Center receives referrals from law enforcement and the Hennepin County justice system, usually for misdemeanors. The Restorative Justice Center is limited by police and law enforcement rules from getting involved in certain types of crimes, like homicides and gun crimes. We did not talk about drug related crimes. However, Michele has handled several cases that involved more violent actions, including a homicide, where those harmed wanted restoration rather than prison or prosecution for the offender. Volunteers are trained in how to facilitate communication and the restorative justice process.

Karen mentioned that since the pandemic occurred, she has not had any volunteer opportunities. This may be a function of the ongoing attempt to rebuild relationships between police and the Minneapolis community. Part of restorative justice looks at how the community involved controls and watches others in policing. These programs use a Coordinator to reach out, find out what happened, and first identify the harm caused.

They mentioned that there is also a restorative justice program in St. Paul which is focused on the downtown area. It's called "Restorative Justice Community Action" and is associated with John Choi, on the city council. This group's Executive Director is Cynthia Prosek. A bill in the State Legislature has been written which will promote Restorative Justice across the whole state. It's called the "Youth Restorative Justice Act" and will go into committee meetings, possibly next year---and will probably take several years to come to a full vote and passage.

Regarding our situation of occasional random vandalism of the church property, we were encouraged when contacting the police to request a restorative justice response.

Based on online searches it appears that Saint Paul and Ramsey County restorative justice activities are limited at this time. The Mission Team will continue to monitor restorative justice trends in the Twin Cities.

## **Halloween Concert and Trunk & Treat**

The St Paul Conservatory of Music is inviting the EPC Community to a Halloween Concert (costumes encouraged) on October 29th at 2:00pm. There will also be a Trunk and Treat in the EPC parking lot if you have little people who might like to attend for the treats!

## **Community Conversation and Hymn Sing - October 30th**

If you have questions or topics that you would like us to discuss please contact Carol at (651) 468-9888 or email: [cschweickhardt@gmail.com](mailto:cschweickhardt@gmail.com).

## **PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING: October Mission**

Here's another example of how the Offering is used:

Since 2014, the island nation of Fiji has had roughly four relocations, including many homes. According to Frances Namoumou [nah-moo-moo], the Ecological Stewardship and Climate Justice program coordinator for the [Pacific Conference of Churches](#) (PCC), the churches of the Pacific have envisioned worst-case scenarios, in which an alarming number of communities, just like Vunidogoloa, will have to relocate if the effects of climate change are not mitigated. The catastrophic impact of the Pacific islands' cyclone season is a further contributing factor to the mounting number of necessary climate



relocations.

Since 2014, the island nation of Fiji has seen four of its communities relocated because of climate change. (Contributed photo)

While community members will do whatever is necessary for their survival, including relocation, faith-based organizations like the PCC are stepping in to assist displaced families, influence government policies, foster collaboration among agencies and raise awareness of the devastating impact of the world's ecological crises.

The PCC's call to peacemaking — including addressing the growing mental health concerns that result from the impact of [climate change](#) — is made possible by gifts to the [Peace & Global Witness Offering](#), traditionally received on World Communion Sunday, and during October.

The [Peace & Global Witness Offering](#) is unique in that half of it is directed to peacemaking and global witness efforts at the national church level to address critical issues around the world. Twenty-five percent is retained by congregations for local peace and reconciliation work, and 25% goes to mid councils for similar ministries on the regional level.

## **Session Recap**

The EPC Session met on Thurs Oct 13th. Here is a summary of the meeting:

Jamie Schultz of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis moderated.

**Devotions:** Elder Jay gave devotions which ended with an invitation to be in relationship with God in Peaceful Surrender. He encouraged us to wade in and wait for the abiding Presence.

**Finances-**Ron Eggert gave us a run down of our finances and let us know that members will be getting mail with where we each are with our pledges. We have received the 1st two rents from St Paul Conservatory of Music.

**Worship and Art:** the Art Playce group met to discuss future art events

**Building and Grounds:**

- The St Paul Conservatory of Music have moved in pianos and lessons have begun! There is great excitement about that new relationship. They will be hosting a Oct 29th 2:00pm concert with Trunk or Treat in the parking lot Please Come!
- The broken glass has been replaced in the vandalized windows
- the backdrops for the stage have been reinforced
- re glazing of windows needs to be done
- The Highland HS International Baccalaureate Coordinator met with Building and Grounds to discuss using our space for testing (as they have done in the past). These students need volunteer hours and have suggested that they would be able to work in the Back Woods. Discussions are in process
- Our door handles and fire alarms have been replaced as per the Fire Marshals instructions.

**Mission:** Highland high School was very appreciative of the \$ and the Kleenex

**Outreach:** Discussion on creating an Outreach Team to spread the word about EPC!

**Backwoods:**

- We still need ongoing help with maintaining paths and meditation areas.
- We are interesting in using Highland HS students who need volunteer hours to do some backwoods work

**Personnel:** this team will meet with Phil and Luna to discuss how the Sabbatical went. Jamie contacted Phil and Luna and it was also decided to give them a break from preaching on their 1st Sunday back. They will be serving communion and we will be letting them know what WE did during their Sabbatical.

**Presbytery:** Heather Grantham was questioned for ordination at an online Presbytery Meeting and approved! Her Ordination/Installation will be at Hamline Methodist Church on Sunday, November 20th at 4:00pm

**Backwoods and EPC property help still needed**

There is still time to continue to clean up the backwoods before the snow flies, including picking up branches from the meditation paths. Invasive buckthorn, burdock and garlic mustard needs to be removed. Please be mindful of keeping green matter separate from sticks and branches when done with your work. They go in separate places at the compost site.

There is a pile of buckthorn and branches as well as the contents of the bins near the dumpster area that needs to be transported to the yard waste site. It would be good to haul all of this before the Pastors return and before it snows. Please consider doing this as part of the ongoing work of the backwoods and property maintenance.

## **FROM THE TREASURER**

Krysta will be mailing out 2022 Pledge/year-to date contribution statements to all members who pledged. We thank everyone for ongoing support of our Edgumbe community. Pledge cards for 2023 will be mailed the first week of November.

Ron

## **Schedule & Contact Info for Sab**

**Oct 23rd** - Pastor Jody Houg of Humble Walk Lutheran Church will preach

**Oct 30th** - We will be worshipping and sharing our stories together as a Community.

If you have questions while Pastor Luna and Pastor Phil are on Sabbatical, please use the information below to help determine who to direct your questions to.

**Who should you contact for questions or spiritual support?** When you need support or something comes up that feels too much for the community, please reach out.

- The first call or email can always be to one of our Elders: Meredith, Jay, Connie, Ingrid, Rich, or Todd (for contact info, see the new directory)
- For questions about giving or finance, contact Office Manager Krysta or Treasurer Ron
- All midweek Update articles and info should go to Krysta ([epchurch2149@gmail.com](mailto:epchurch2149@gmail.com))
- Anything about the building or property or renters can go to Rich & Jay
- Worship ideas or questions should go to our sabbatical worship team listed in an article below
- Music input can go to Jenya
- We do have two pastors who are on call for us over these three months. The first is **Jamie Schultz** of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. She will also be moderating our Session meetings. Her email address is [pastor@brynmawrchurch.org](mailto:pastor@brynmawrchurch.org) and her cell number is 952-221-4270. The second person is our own Heather Grantham, whose info can be found in the new directory!