



# Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

## *Midweek Update*

*November 9, 2022*

In this issue: Zoom worship this Sunday, a different kind of trinity, Invite to Pledge, Bible Study, November Mission

The GebbenGreen household is generously sharing a severe cold with each other, and Pastors Luna and Phil don't think they will be ready to lead worship and mingle on this Sunday. So the Session has decided to move this Sunday's worship service to Zoom only. The link for the 10am service is on our website ([epchurch.org](http://epchurch.org)). We are reaching out to new guests Staci and Galen to let them know about this switch. If you know of anyone else who should be notified, please tell them where to find us this Sunday!

now that sabbatical has ended, i had planned, in my mind, to "gear up" and get back into the rhythm of edgcumbe. and, in reality, i am writing you from bed as i am navigating the sickest i

have been in years. so, my plans have been ripped from me, and i am doing my best to put together coherent sentences. (i hope it is working—the coherent sentences part!) i can report, that i am actively “gearing down” here....getting slower, less “done”, working on being present.

one word that had been coming to me in my prayers before sabbatical was “**empty**”, with an invitation to empty myself of my expectations and thoughts, and come into the present moment—trusting that holy spirit was going to lead me through it. during sabbatical, a new word kept crossing my path—“**soft**”, and i could hear the invitation to come out of habit of navigating my life from my head, and move into my heart space. god’s love is *not an idea for me to think about*, a class i have been taking tells me, but is instead something *to be experienced*. and to experience god’s love, my heart has to be engaged, and even open to receive! so, a part of my intention has been to allow the warmth and softness of god’s love to be received, and then to extend love from that heartspace of softness.

and now, today, i realize i am given the third word of this trinity—“**slow**”. it is only our ego thought system that can curate anxiousness and pressure. god’s realm is the kindom of all love with no boundaries of time and space. so, i guess, i am seeing that my classroom today is not to “hurry up” and get geared back up, but to slow down, and in that slowing, the wisdom of the sabbatical time can begin to be woven into my practices.

many of you in worship this past sunday spoke about the need to become still so that you would hear god’s voice guiding you....i can see how this sickness is giving me the gift of stillness, because my habit was to jump in....

what are you noticing for yourself and the wisdom you learned during the sabbatical time? have any new practices or experiences risen up for you that you would like to incorporate into your life? do you need help to do that? apparently i need help, because by being sick, i can see i am being forced to slow down. my hope and prayer is that we can help and support each other, integrating our wisdom, and stepping together into a new chapter of edgcumbe presbyterian. holy spirit, you be in charge, and we will follow, trusting that your direction will lead to peace!!



blessed be!!

This coming Sunday, and the following one, pledge cards will be available in the back of the sanctuary. For those who do not attend regularly, they will be sent by mail. Your pledge is an important part of your Session's 2023 budgeting process which begins in December. A pledge is

an expression of your generosity and support for the Spirit's work here at Edgcumbe Church. It is not a contract and can change as circumstances change. When considering your pledge, please keep in mind: our contributions and other income in 2022 have almost exactly matched our expenses and I expect our expenses will increase significantly in 2023.

Thanks and blessings, Ron Eggert, Treasurer

We are restarting our weekly Sunday evening Bible Study on Zoom, from 6:30-8:00pm. While we have an established group of regulars, we are always open to new participants, with any level of biblical background or knowledge. Our starting point each week is that scripture is full of powerfully transformative good news for our lives. You can join any week through the link on our website ([epchurch.org](http://epchurch.org)). Also, Pastor Phil sends out a preparatory email each Sunday afternoon—if you want to be added to that email list, please contact Phil at [pastorphilgg@gmail.com](mailto:pastorphilgg@gmail.com).

Our EPC November mission supports Union Gospel Mission's Thanksgiving and Christmas feeding programs. Please consider a gift through the website or by check. Enter 'Union Gospel' on the memo line.

Founded in 1902, Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities is a Christian ministry dedicated to serving people facing homelessness, poverty, or addiction in our community. The Mission helps people rebuild their lives first by providing for physical needs through nutritious meals and safe shelter. Then our prayer is that guests stay and join one of our life-changing programs so their life can change for good. We encourage each person to find their worth in God and to see the gifts he or she has to offer the world. By coming alongside our students and guests, we help them find their purpose as fully contributing members of our community.

There are three campuses. The largest is at 435 University Ave, serving homeless men currently.