

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

November 23, 2022

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Gratitude and the Spirit and the Bible

Do they say that good things come in threes? They should say that because I've got three delicious nuggets for you today.

- The Apostle Paul starts almost every one of his letters with something like this: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for you." (Philippians 1) This Thanksgiving, let's remember each other in our prayers, letting joy and gratitude fill our hearts and minds.
- Every time I think of our worship service this past Sunday, I break into a big smile. For me, it felt like our whole community allowed the Spirit to use us and lead us and bless us. Here is a taste of my delightful memories from Sunday: Leslie crying for joy during announcements, all together holding space for joy and for grief, Staci & Galen reading scripture in their own tempo in their own matching shirts, Lisa's giggle, Ron's giggle, Tom McGregor connecting his art to our worship experience, Todd's prelude, Jenya's postlude, sharing the possibility of Good News from a conversation on the cross, first-time guest Jacob helping to carry the Advent decorations upstairs. Please add your own memories in your own heart right now. I thank my God every time I remember you!
- A member of our congregation recently asked me if I would be willing to share my approach to understanding the Bible. The short answer is yes, and I will be doing this more intentionally over the next weeks and months in worship. May the Spirit guide us every step on the way!

Three Events this Thanksgiving Weekend

Happy Thanksgiving to you all! Everyone is welcome to these two gatherings at the church.

- **Highland AA Gratitude Meeting.** This is an annual open meeting in our sanctuary on Thanksgiving Day at 10am. Everyone from the church is welcome to soak in the healing power of shared gratitude!
- **“Fluffing of the Greens”** is what we call the decoration of the church for Advent and Christmas. Our green garlands and trees and wreaths do indeed need to be fluffed before they are hung around the sanctuary. Stop by for a bit if you can help out – **Friday, Nov. 25 at 10am** at the church. All are welcome. Please bring gloves as fluffing is hard on your hands.
- Order a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary. Look for an order form at church. The prices this year will be: red and white, \$11.00 each; blue, \$15.50.



An Invitation to Pledge for 2023

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. If you don't have a pledge card, you can also email your planned 2023 giving directly to the church office at epchurch2149@gmail.com.

Thanks and blessings, Ron Eggert, Treasurer

November Mission: Union Gospel Mission

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.

Heather Grantham's Ordination Celebration!

Edgcumbe Presbyterian's member, Heather Grantham, was ordained this past Sunday in a commission of the



Presbytery of the Twin Cities (PTCA) at a worship gathering at Hamline Methodist Church. Worship was beautiful, and many chapters of Heather's life was present!! Presbyterian Clergy (also called Teaching Elders) do not belong to any one church community, and their membership is with the local Presbytery body—which is, for our area, the PTCA. This means we will shift Heather from being a member of Edgcumbe to a Friend of EPC. We give thanks that this is not an ending of connection, but rather a new chapter to broaden our connections with



the larger Christian church here in our local community as she connects us to our sisters and brothers of Hamline United Methodist!! May the Holy Spirit open the doors to shared ministry as She would Will!!!💖 Blessed Be!! (Thank you to Ruth A and Pastor Phil for sharing your photos!! And yes, Phil & Luna do occasionally wear clergy robes.)

Call to Outreach

If anyone is interested in being involved in an Outreach Committee, please contact Connie

Howe-Vielmetti or Todd Barnes. We are interested in forming a team of people who can help us in some strategic planning to get the word out about what is happening at EPC.

a sabbatical thank you from pastors to the community

pastor phil and i have a small thank you gift for each of you this sunday in appreciation for the opportunity for the sabbatical this year. please join us this weekend and allow us to express our love and gratitude to you!!💙

Prayers

- For the celebration of life for Pastor Luna's mom, Glorian Green, who returned home back to God on Saturday, Nov 19th.
- For long time member, Naomi Houle, who is suffering intense pain from three herniated discs. Despite eight months of various treatments, she has had very little relief. May the healing power of Jesus bring both comfort and courage and new life to Naomi.
- Meredith has an update on Flavio, whom she lifted up in prayer this weekend. He is still on life support, and now there is talk that his limbs might have to be amputated. Thank you for your continued prayers that surround all of us.