Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update February 22, 2023

In this issue: lenten spiritual practice as a community, Lois Glewwe video tribute, Bowling Fun, Creating Children's Bags, March Mission, March Birthdays, Prayer requests

community spiritual practice for the lenten season



this past week's lenten text from matthew 4, we found jesus going into the wilderness and facing various temptations. however, it is the 2nd verse which offers the most insight about how jesus responded:

....Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights....

before jesus had to face and navigate the temptations, he had anchored himself in the spiritual practices of prayer and fasting. he had an intention of joining with god, his abba, and being at one with god.

in one of my many conversations last week, i felt the immediate wisdom spoken when someone declared, "i have known this god stuff for years—but it's in the practice of it where it becomes transformational!!" phil and i have found that when a community engages in spiritual practice together, it not only supports and enhances the life of the individual, but it actually brings a shift for the entire culture of the community, as well.

for this year, we are bringing back the discipline of having a shared spiritual practice for people to practice daily, if you are willing. set a timer for 5 minutes, and within that time, **set the intention to join with god**. it does not have to be complicated—simply become aware of your breath—and watch how your body automatically inhales. in many languages, breath and spirit are the same word—which means, as you are breathing, you are in the presence of god and god's love!! and for this 5 minute time, simply come back to this breath, and **accept** that **you are at one with god**. you are being breathed. you are in god's immediate presence, which allows you to come into this present moment and **rest in god**.

lenten spiritual practice of coming into this present now moment:

- 1. come into presence with breath. notice your inbreath.
- 2. accept the at*one*ment with god (say: "i am at one with god")
 - 3. allow yourself to rest in this oneness for five minutes.

the intention of this practice is to support your own connection with god, and allow the community to have the experience of renewal and rest. i invite you to enter this practice with curiosity, gentleness, and to engage with whatever arises—without judgment. both phil and i are available to support you if you would find it helpful—just let us know!.

thank you for your willingness to try this out for this lenten season!! i am excited to hear about your experience and reflections of this time. holy spirit, you be in charge!! blessed be!!

Celebration of Life for Lois Glewwe

The City of South Saint Paul created a video tribute for EPC's former church administrator, Lois Glewwe. It is a lovely testimonial of Lois and her work in the community: https://vimeo.com/801426403

And here is the link to her memorial service at First Pres, S St Paul (thank you, Eleta!): https://youtube.com/live/AR7mR7mht6E

Bowling Fun - March 11

Hello Beloved Community,

It is time to have some FUN! EPC Outreach Committee (Carol, Todd, and Connie) have reserved 2 lanes at the Concord Lanes in South St Paul for some bowling fellowship on Saturday, March 11! We have spots for 12 (but if more are interested, we may be able to secure another lane). It is located at: 365 Concord Exchange N, South St Paul, MN 55075.

Please arrive at 2:00 for 2:15 bowling! Hope to beat you at bowling (Actually, I, Connie, suck at bowling. I AM competitive however!). Please RSVP with # of people attending to Carol Schwickardt at 651-468-9888. This will help us in determining if we need another lane. This is an OUTREACH event, so is a wonderful chance to invite friends and family and new folx to experience EPC outside of worship!

Creation of children's bags for worship

we have recently learned that our children's bags for worship (bags with activities that little ones can engage in during worship) which we offer to families are no longer available. so, we get to create new ones—a few for the toddlers, and a few for an older set (4-8)!! might you have activities or books that could go into them?? does this sound like a fun little project you would be interested in helping to create?? if so, please connect with pastor luna!! thank you!!

March Missions

This month we will join many other organizations, businesses, faith communities and individuals in collecting funds to support food shelves all over Minnesota by collecting funds for the Neighborhood House Food Support Program during their March campaign. Neighborhood House runs Francis Basket, our neighborhood food shelf. During the March fund-raising drive

each dollar donated to the Neighborhood House Food Support Program will have a portion matched by MN FoodShare. MN FoodShare is a grass roots group that helps keep 300 food shelves in our state stocked throughout the year. In March they coordinate a state-wide fundraising effort. In addition to stocking food shelves, MN Foodshare does advocacy and education. Some interesting facts from their website:

"A record-breaking 5.5 million visits were made to food shelves during 2022 in Minnesota, up nearly 50% from 3.7 million visits in 2021. 47% of food shelf visitors in 2022 were seeking food assistance for the first time."

See how far your donation can go! Donations can be provided as a check to Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church with "Food Shelf" in the memo line or online by indicating "Food Shelf" in the notes that can accompany your contribution.





Produce Events where we distribute on average 3,700 pounds of produce to 100 people per event/per month.

179 Robie Street East | St. Paul, MN 55107 | 651.789.2500

We also thought it would be a good time to look at our own food shelf located in the narthex. We have a diverse group of folks who come through the church on a weekly basis who could frequent the shelf – and we do see items turnover. We plan to do a refresh and clear out any outdated products, add some new signage, and we would welcome any donations you might have to share. Suggested items to contribute include: Peanut butter, Canned soup, Canned fruit, Canned vegetables, Canned stew, Canned fish, Canned beans, Pasta (most prefer whole grain), Rice (most prefer brown rice).

March Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

Chloe Clary	3/4	Connie Howe-Vielmetti 3/4
Dave Howe-Vielmetti	3/11	Lydia GebbenGreen
3/15		
Cora Fett	3/24	Todd Barnes 3/24
Jenya Trubnikava	3/26	Watson Fearing 3/27
Dave Mayer	3/27	McKenna Reedquist 3/29
Naomi Houle	3/30	

Prayer Requests

- Leslie Snow has requested prayers for grandson, Casimir, that he might find a safe and supportive home.
- Lynn Wolf has moved from St. John's hospital to Sunrise Senior Living of Roseville, 2555 Snelling Ave N, Roseville, MN 55113 (Room #325)