



# Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

*Midweek Update*

*March 22, 2023*

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## Who Am I?

"Who am I in this story?" is one of the most important questions you can ask yourself with almost anything you read or hear. This is especially true for scripture. When we read the story of the Exodus from slavery in Egypt, most of us tend to identify with Moses ("Let my people go!") or the Hebrews (laboring under oppression and longing for freedom). But what if I'm actually more like Pharaoh - a person of power and privilege whose everyday decisions affect many others? If I'm a person of privilege, then the lessons and hopes and insights of this ancient story are different, extremely different in fact, than for someone connected to Moses or the Hebrews.

Last Sunday, we did this same kind of analysis with the story of the Blind Man in John 9? In this story, am I more like Jesus, called to reach out in love and healing to a person who cannot see?; or more like the blind man, needing a whole new way of seeing and experiencing my life? Or maybe I'm more like the Pharisees or disciples who are trapped in the narrow-mindedness of judgments and blame. Within the story itself, Jesus invites the blind man into sight and invites the Pharisees into blindness—these are, again, extremely different "insights" for two different sets of people from the same story.

This approach to reading the Bible gives me both humility and courage. Humility to recognize that I may not be who I think I am ("God, show me where I am blind and give me your vision.") Courage to step forward with trust toward the light of Christ in my life and in the world ("God, I was blind, but now I see.")

### **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.

## Watson Fearing's Celebration of Life

The Celebration of Life for Watson Fearing will be this Friday, March 24th, at 3pm, with a visitation beginning at 2:30p. The Edgcumbe Presbyterian community is welcome to attend, but asked to carpool or park on the street since Highland Park High School releases at 3pm, and it will be a high traffic time in the area.

## Holy Week Schedule

Spring is here (sort of...), so it is almost time for Holy Week worship. Here is the plan:

- PALM SUNDAY - April 2, 10 am worship.
- MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 6 potluck & worship with communion. Soup will be provided; please feel free to come as you are or bring a side dish or dessert to share.
- EASTER - Sunday, April 9, 10 am worship.



## Easter Flowers

We are trying something new in the sanctuary this Easter. We have ordered 6 daffodils and 2 hyacinths for decoration, instead of the usual azaleas and mums. The daffodils will be \$6 and the hyacinths \$9, if you would like to take one home with you after Easter Sunday.

## 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 fund-raising 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.

## Your gifts make a difference!

- \$15** will allow us to purchase the groceries needed for one Emergency To-Go Bag. Each bag includes food staples like fresh produce, milk, eggs, meat, and more!
- \$60** will cover cost of food for a family of four visiting one of our free food markets. During a monthly visit to our food market this family can find nutritious foods and pick and choose items that they like and want.
- \$80** allows us to purchase 30 dozen eggs! Eggs are one of our most desired items at our food markets. On average Neighborhood House spends around \$3,230/month for eggs.
- \$225** allows us to purchase 130 pounds of protein, which will serve approximately 25 four-person families. This includes meat staples like chicken, beef, Halal chicken and ground beef and fish.
- \$525** covers the purchase of fresh produce items for our Winter Fresh Produce Events where we distribute on average 3,700 pounds of produce to 100 people per event/per month.

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).

### Opportunity to Help at HPHS

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program at Highland Park Senior High School is inviting parents, guardians, and community members (THAT's US at EPC) to volunteer to help monitor the IB Exams in May. The exams run each school day from May 2 to May 18. This job is not glamorous, but it is an important aspect of the Diploma Program (DP), and your help is most valuable and appreciated! Please go to the SignUp link below and consider registering for one or more spots. Encourage friends to sign up, too! Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to see our SignUp: <https://signup.com/go/MAZfKxT>
2. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like. Scroll down the page to see the available slots.
3. Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a high-level college preparatory program designed for outstanding high school students. The IB program encourages students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right. Each sign-up spot is for about a 4 hour time commitment during the school day to monitor the students during their testing. All testing is done at the

Highland Park Senior High School which is next door to EPC. If you have questions about this mission opportunity please contact Rich or Liz ([lrschiferl@gmail.com](mailto:lrschiferl@gmail.com)).

## **Eleta Pierce and Her “Harley Grandma”**

After seeing a post in a Facebook group dedicated to “Old St. Paul” from me, Eleta, with pictures of my grandmother from the 1940s on her Harley-Davidson St. Paul, the editor from Ramsey County Historical Society’s quarterly magazine, Meredith Cummings, reached out to me and asked if I’d be interested in sharing my grandmother’s story with their readers. It also turned out that Meredith has been to Edgumbe PC, as part of the Camino group when she, too, took the pilgrimage. With honor, I accepted the task and for the past year I have worked on this article by interviewing my mother and aunts, going through old photos, connecting with St. Paul Harley-Davidson, and digging up historical records (the latter with the help of the editor). The magazine with my grandmother’s story was published last month and is now available online for anyone to read. Here is the link to the foreword and the PDF of the full article:



<https://rchs.com/publishing/catalog/ramsey-county-history-winter-2023-my-harley-grandma/>

*(Side note: I was so proud to tell Lois Glewwe when I was first approached to do this article. I have admired her love of history and writing, and I look up to her as the strong feminist she is. The magazine was delivered to me on Monday, February 13. It was perfect timing because I always stop by Lois’ on my way home to drop off paperwork from the offering, and I wanted Lois to be the first person that I gave the article to – yes, even before my own mother, who was the next stop. Lois was overjoyed that it was finally published and humbled that I wanted to give her the first copy. She congratulated me and it meant SO MUCH to me. I don’t know if she got to read it because that was the last time I talked to her, she died on February 15, but I would guess that she likely read it right away.)*

## **Lisa’s concert**

Lisa’s choir, ENCORE! Will be performing with another women’s choir, “See Change” on April 1st. Our goal for that concert is to recognize and honor the women who have been and are currently incarcerated. We understand that those women are not only the things they did. They are much more. We will sing songs written by women, including some who were/are incarcerated.

The performance will be held at Sundin Hall, Hamline University on April 1st, 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at [HerVoiceProductions.org](http://HerVoiceProductions.org). This concert is call “Rising Tide”. I hope some of you can make it!!

## Voices of Hope - April Mission

Our April Mission will be Voices of Hope. During April, EPC will collect funds for Voices of Hope so they can continue to bring music and the choral experience to the women at Shakopee and Stillwater. (We're still doing FoodShare for March! This is just a heads-up so you can plan ahead).

**Voices of Hope staff will be visiting EPC on April 2nd during our church service. They will briefly talk about Voices of Hope. They will be available after the service to talk more and answer questions. We will meet in the parlor and there will be snacks! Please join us.**



### **Voices of Hope Mission:**

*To provide accessible music-making opportunities within justice-involved populations that foster individual growth and bridge unlikely communities through song.*