



# Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

*Midweek Update*

*March 29, 2023*

In this issue: Happy Bday, McKenna!, seeing our blindness, Watson service thanks, Holy

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First things first–this past Sunday, Jennie R asked us to remember and pray for McKenna on her twenty-first birthday, which happens to be.....today!!!!

**HAPPY 21ST BIRTHDAY, MCKENNA!** We send our love to you!! 🎉🎂

## seeing our blindness...

this past weekend, we looked again at the john 9 text to unpack even more goodies within the story of the man born blind. first we saw jesus' unwillingness to label neither man nor his parents as ones who sinned, who "caused" the blindness. "this happened," jesus responds to his disciples, "so that god's mighty works might be displayed in him." i am learning and beginning to see how constant and unconscious my own impulse to assess/evaluate/judge.... everything!! and jesus reframes the situation– what if there is no one at fault? we begin to see that our need to assign blame is so instantaneous and insidious!! the most important lesson i am being invited to practice is to ask the holy spirit to re-interpret and re-purpose everything that i see, as well as everything that i believe has ever happened to me. when i step back from the one who ascribes meaning, it allows the holy spirit to let me see something from christ's eyes.

another piece of the story is the way sight and blindness interplay with each other. Recently, i have found myself in a similar situation as the pharisees in the story–"surely, we aren't blind, are we?" i was having a reaction to a situation, and as soon as i assured myself that i was seeing it all correctly, i felt the immediate niggling, telling me, "do you?????" the tricky thing about seeing things from an ego (separate-self) perspective, is that we always believe we are seeing rightly. however, jesus' words here are pointing to another reality–"that we say, 'we see', our sin remains." meaning, the moment we are convinced in our seeing, we have become blind. our work is recognizing and seeing when we are blind, so that, again, we turn to the holy spirit and ask to see with christ's vision.

where are you today? what is a situation where you are telling yourself that you are seeing rightly? where do you recognize that you are, in fact, blind? i invite you to observe yourself with curiosity and compassion. and, bring your learnings to your daily lenten practice, and simply rest in your at-one-ness with 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.

## Watson Fearing's Celebration of Life

It was a lovely service of remembering and giving thanks for the life of our brother, Watson Fearing, this past Friday! Thank you to all who contributed to the beauty of the gathering, be it bringing cookies, or creating space for a reception, hanging art, or working the sound system.... The Fearing family was very grateful to receive such hospitality and welcome!!♥ The poem at right was read at Watson's service.

I live my life in widening circles  
that reach out across the world.  
I may not complete this last one  
but I give myself to it.

I circle around God, around the primordial tower.  
I've been circling for thousands of years  
and I still don't know: am I a falcon,  
a storm, or a great song?

--- Rainer Maria Rilke  
Book of Hours: Love Poems to God

## Holy Week Schedule



Next week is Holy Week. Here is the worship plan:

- PALM SUNDAY - April 2, 10 am worship (no communion).
- MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 6 **potluck & worship with foot (and hand?) washing 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.

## 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.*



## 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)).*

## 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!!

## April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Cali Clary	4/17
Ruth Anderson	4/19

Happy Anniversary to:

Meredith & Tom Holt	4/22
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