

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

August 02, 2023

In this issue: Worship & Staff Vacations, Reflection from Elder Jay, Next Workday: Aug 7, August Mission, Backwoods Concert recap, August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Worship & Vacation Schedules

WORSHIP

- Sunday, August 6, will be coordinated by Elders Todd, Connie, and Michelle

STAFF VACATIONS

All of the staff will be taking time off in August. Please contact an Elder with any needs or concerns while the Pastors are away.

- **Pastors Luna & Phil** will be traveling to Michigan for the wedding of Phil's niece. They will be gone July 31-August 6.
- **Music Director Jenya** is taking off the whole month of August to visit her parents in Belarus after more than three years apart. All of our blessings go with you, Jenya!
- **Office Manager Krysta** will be gone August 5-12. Please get any items for next week's midweek Update to Krysta (epchurch2149@gmail.com) by next Tuesday, August 1.
- **Custodian Sol** also hopes to take some time off this month with dates not yet determined.

Reflection from Elder Jay

"The philosopher Descartes believed he had found the most fundamental truth when he made his famous statement: "I think, therefore I am." He had, in fact, given expression to the most basic error: to equate thinking with Being and identity with thinking. The compulsive thinker, which means almost everyone, lives in a state of apparent separateness, in an insanely complex world of continuous problems and conflict, a world that reflects the ever-increasing fragmentation of the mind."

-Ekert Tolle



On Sunday, I heard Pastor Luna suggest that I may benefit from reconsidering how well I know who it is that I am. When I attempt to describe to others who it is that I am, I usually begin with who it is that I have in my life (Lisa, kids, grandkids, etc.), then I add a list of things that I do (my work, the groups I belong to, my hobbies, etc). Describing who's around me and what I do doesn't describe who I am. Yet if I'm honest with myself, it is this description that I rely upon in deciding my worth and whether I belong. Further clouding my vision is broken thinking that keeps me shackled to shame.

The scriptures (Romans 8:26-39) that Anna and Dean shared says, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family." This makes alive in me that I am one of God's children and I have a very large family. God has always known who I am AND who I am becoming. This folds time in on itself in a way that includes all my regrets and the parts of me I seek to hide and believe separate me. Safely in the fold of God's family, I can trust my future to unfold in ways that lead to full joy, empowered purpose, and unshakeable belonging. When I rest in God's reassuring "I know you and I've got this," I am set free from clinging to my shame and begin to see the truth...that God uses all of it, the good, the bad, and regrettable, to fulfill God's intention in creating a beloved child named Jay (insert your name here).

Next Workday: Monday, August 7th

Please mark your calendars for the next backwoods community service morning—**Monday, August 7th, 8:30-11:30a**. Focus of this time will be to finish the trail and station maintenance (pulling growth spilling into walkways) and pulling the small burring plants. All help will be joyously received!! 🥰

August Mission: Facial Tissue boxes and funds for Students and Families in Need at Highland Park High School

Our mission contributions for the month of August will go to Highland Park High School for students and families in need. We will use the money collected to purchase gift cards that school counselors will give to parents/guardians when they become aware of specific needs. Highland Park High School is right next door to the church and has about 1300 students in grades 9 -12. You can contribute to this mission for August by indicating "August Missions" on the memo line of your contribution check to EPC or by noting this in the Notes Box of any online contribution. We will also be collecting facial tissue boxes to be distributed to the teachers at the school in early September. Please

drop off the tissue boxes in the church office. Thank you for your continued support of our Missions.

Concert in the Backwoods -



Saturday nights “Music in the Back Woods” event was beautiful This annual musical tribute in memory of Jessa Roquet (Deb Carlson’s beloved friend) was attended by 100+ folk. (see picture above) The evening’s weather was perfect. The sun’s dappled light shined through the leaves behind the stage and the music lifted our collective heart. I was given the opportunity to invite the folks in the audience to join us on Sunday and to come back to enjoy the woods. Looking out at their faces, I was washed over with a flood of love. It was a blessed and sacred event. So much gratitude to the Jessa Roquet Foundation.

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Josh LeClair

8/23

Happy Anniversary to:

Ingrid & Ron Eggert

8/11