

**Edgcumbe**  
**Presbyterian**  
**Church**  
*Midweek Update*  
*September 20, 2023*



In this issue: Update from Elder Connie, Worship & Staff Vacations, 2024 Pledges, Bible study reminder, Backwoods Appreciation, September Mission

**Hello Fellow EPC Family**

This is Elder Connie welcoming you to the MidWeek Update:

**WORSHIP**

We will be having service on Sunday, Sept 24th inside at EPC (led by Todd, myself and maybe Eleta). I ask all of you to take some time this week to prayerfully reflect on the following question:

***'What is important to me about EPC?'*** (ask yourself this question numerous times and see what comes up from the depths! Take some time with it).

There will be time to share what you came up with on Sunday. I ask this because we are being challenged with a wonderful opportunity! We get to support our beloved little and mighty community financially and with our time and talents. It is a privilege to be in community with all of you and I am looking forward to hearing what you come up with!

**PLEDGE CARDS**

Last week, our Treasurer Ron shared about our financial situation and 2024 deficit. It is important that we all fill out our pledge cards and get them into the offering plate or dropped off at the office by the 1st week of October. This will help GREATLY in doing the budget for 2024. Thank you in advance!

**ZOOM BOOK STUDY**

Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church is having a Zoom book study in October that sounds fascinating. The book is called: When Church Stops Working. Please check out their website to get more info and sign up at <https://www.lakenokomispc.org>

**CENTERING PRAYER**

Centering Prayer Pop up at EPC: EPC will be hosting a Pop Up Centering Prayer Gathering in the backyard on Tuesday Oct 6th at 3:00. Please come (even if you have never done Centering Prayer)- ALL ARE WELCOME!

### **SPRAINED ANKLE MUSINGS**

I (Connie) fell on Sunday and sprained my ankle. Am I being gracious and patient with myself and my partner? I am trying, and failing a lot! It is humbling. I PRIDE myself on what I DO. I am not able to DO as much right now. I think I am being led to a new understanding of BEING and letting go of the 'to do' list. God comes to me when I am quiet. I have some opportunities that I didn't have before I hurt my ankle.

Phil and Luna will be back on Sunday Oct 1st - Hooray!

### **Notes on the EPC Session Meeting:**

- Our Brother Jay led devotions for our Session Meeting on Sept 12th. He challenged us to think about death and resurrection. We have resurrections every day when we die to our judgements, fears, and self will. We encounter resurrection when we come to the end of ourselves. It was a powerful reflection- Thank You Jay!
- We learned about some great opportunities that the Presbytery has for possible grants, scholarships and other \$ for church projects.
- the session was asked the same question that I am asking you! What is Important to me about EPC? This church is worth supporting and it is important to know why! We need to be open to discernment and listening to the Holy Spirit! Good questions to ask are:

#### ***What is really important? What are our priorities?***

- Pastors Luna shared that Carol's friend Sarah has made a quilt out of all of the fabric that Carol had stored in her house and will be gifting it to EPC- What an amazing gift for our community.
- Pastor Phil shared about his trip to CA with the Enneagram Prison Project Leadership Team. His sharing was profound- The way it works is Trust! He asked 'Do I want to be resistant or do I want to Trust?' Really good questions for me to ponder as I find myself Resistant to What Is all the time!!!!

That is it for now! Love you all, Elder Connie

## **Worship & Vacation Schedules**

### **WORSHIP**

- Sept 24 - Worship led by our Outreach Team of Connie, Todd, and Eleta

### **STAFF VACATIONS**

- **Pastors Luna & Phil** plan to take off two weeks starting tomorrow, September 14-27. Phil is leading an Enneagram Prison Project course at a women's prison in Saint Albert, Saskatchewan, which gives Luna & Phil an excuse to visit central Canada!

## 2024 Pledges

Session is asking our members to pledge early this year. EPC is facing a significant budget shortfall in the next calendar year. The shortfall comes about because the St. Paul Conservatory is moving into a permanent home elsewhere and because of reduced pledges due member deaths during this past year. If expenses and income in 2024 are equal to 2023, the shortfall will be around \$30,000 or about 1/6th of our total budget. The reason for the early pledge request is so Session will know how much income we will have and will have an extra month to consider alternatives. (We do have a small reserve fund but I think it would be imprudent to use it to fill a budget gap: it is meant for emergencies). If we do need to cut back next year, it will likely be in personnel as building costs are fixed. Pledge cards are in the back of the Sanctuary: Please fill one out and leave it in the collection plate by Sunday, October 1st. Call me 651-998-9450 or ask me at church if you have questions.

Ron Eggert, Treasurer

## Bible Study Reminder

Pastor Phil will be gone for the next two Sunday evenings, so Bible Study will be taking a break until September 30. The Bible Study Zoom room will still be available every Sunday at 6:30 PM, so please feel free to meet on your own!

## Backwoods Angels

The change of seasons from Summer to Autumn is one of the most gorgeous times in the backwoods!!! Please consider having some regular time in the gloriousness for your own time of prayer and reflection! 🌱🦌🍂🦃🌲

## September Mission – First Nations Kitchen

Mission for September is First Nations Kitchen. We have supported this group before, and will do so again this year. From their website: First Nations Kitchen is primarily a justice-focused, Gospel-based ministry. Its primary intent is to provide food to indigenous people who would not otherwise have access to high-quality, fresh organic food in an environment of radical hospitality and cultural empowerment. We understand that food is medicine and want to bring back the ancestral foods of the peoples indigenous to this land to eradicate heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and obesity from the native community.

In addition to monetary donations, this is a beautiful way to use our bodies to help with the mission. They rely on volunteers to sort and package donated produce, and package the meals

that are given away to the community each Sunday. Each person who gets a meal also gets a bag of fresh produce. On Sunday, Sept. 24th, 5 or 6 of us (EPC folk) have already signed up to volunteer during the prep shift, 12:30 to 3:00. If you're interested in joining us, please visit their website and sign up! There is another shift a bit later, 3:30 to 5:00, which is the give-away shift. It's fun because you get to pass out bags of yummy food and veggies to those in need.