

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

January 31, 2024

In this issue: Grace & Love & Peace, Annual Meeting report, EPP Gratitude, Giving Statements, February Birthdays & Anniversaries



The Prisons of Our Making

The Enneagram Prison Project is indeed focused on bringing the life-changing work of the Enneagram to people incarcerated in the criminal justice system. But we also know in our own hearts that we are all in a prison of our own making, whether or not we have ever been to jail. Over the next two Sundays, we will use parts of the EPP curriculum to explore how and why we each create these prisons. We do this in the spirit of Galatians 5:1—"It is for freedom that Christ has set you free."

When EPP begins a course in prison, we don't start with the Enneagram itself. We start by looking at the basic need of every infant and child for attachment, for love and nurture and protection. When we do not get those basic needs met (and not even the best parents can meet those needs perfectly all the time), then our little selves come up with the best adaptive strategies that we can to protect and nurture ourselves. These strategies are the building blocks for what we call our personality.

My invitation to you this week is to create some space to look back at your earliest childhood memories. What do you remember? What scared you? How did you respond to those fears? Did you pull into yourself and hide or did you assert yourself to be seen or did you try to become who your parents needed you to be? Notice what happens inside of yourself as you read these questions. Is there avoidance or anxiety or resistance? All of that is natural, but it is also our ego trying to keep its control on our lives unconscious. God's love for us is so thorough that the whole of our lives is both known and loved by God. I suggest that it is time for us to join God in loving our whole selves. Peace to you all, Pastor Phil

*Holy Spirit, in this holy moment, **you** be in charge, and we will follow **you**, trusting that your direction will lead us to peace!!*

Congregational Annual Meeting Report

We held our 2024 Annual Meeting after a wonderful worship service this past Sunday. Highlights included:

- Thanking Ron Eggert for covering the duties of both Treasurer and Clerk of Session
- Approving the Terms of Call for Pastors Luna & Phil for 2024
- Celebrating the goodness of God and the generosity of this congregation with a 2023 budget that ended in the black and a 2024 budget that includes a surplus. All this with record amounts of money being given away for mission.
- Really yummy Brunch food!



January Mission: Enneagram Prison Project

Thank you all for your support of the Enneagram Prison Project, both financially and in welcoming Susanne Gawreluk and Dustin Baldwin to our worship over the past month. This is indeed work that is near and dear to my, Pastor Phil's, heart. Hopefully we can regain clearance into Shakopee Women's Prison soon to share the gifts of self-awareness, self-regulation, and self-compassion. See the lead article in today's Update to hear more about how this work will keep intersecting with our life together at EPC.

Session Update

Session met on Zoom on January 26. Several topics were discussed including gauging potential congregational interest in hands-on healing opportunities (Michelle), electric and cable service to the stage area of the backwoods, New Year resolutions for Session members with a theme of more connection, dance church (Pastor Luna), and ordination of Jodie Hogue at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (8:30 AM, Sunday, 2/04/2024). Except for approving the minutes of the December Session meeting, no official business was undertaken. Ron Eggert

2023 Giving Statements

Year end Giving Statements have been mailed and emailed out. If you have any questions regarding your statement please contact Krysta Niznick at epchurch2149@gmail.com. Thank you for your generous support of Edgumbe Presbyterian Church.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Meredith Holt	1/14
Angelie Ryah	1/18

Happy Anniversary to:

Luna & Phil GebbenGreen	1/31
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