

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

March 27, 2024



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Idols and Trust

This past Sunday we revisited the idea of idols. An idol is anything I value (or trust) more than God. We focused on three aspects of life that our egos tell us are essential for our survival apart from God's grace: Control, Image, and Planning.

We try to *control* ourselves and the world around us so that we can feel the power and autonomy that we feel we deserve. We create and maintain a complex *image* of ourselves so that we can avoid shame and be seen in the ways that we want to be seen. We *plan ahead* to give ourselves a sense of safety and security. Please notice that I am not suggesting that control or image-creation or planning are inherently bad ideas. We are asking ourselves a simple question: Do control or image or planning function as an idol for me? In any part of my life, do I value one of these strategies more than I trust God?

Our model here is Jesus. Jesus so trusted God in every moment that he didn't need to control and instead *allowed*. What did he allow? Healing, wisdom, forgiveness. He didn't need to create a certain image of himself and instead simply *shared and accepted* love. He didn't need to plan ahead and instead *remembered* that God would provide, always and with abundance.

Jesus did all this trusting, not just at any old time, but during Holy Week, the week of his impending betrayal, trial, and crucifixion. Could Jesus have controlled and imaged and planned his way out of being crucified? I think he could have. Peter, looking ahead at the danger, tried to get Jesus to stay out of Jerusalem altogether. Good plan, Peter! We are attached to our strategies because they work—they work to help us feel autonomous and connected and safe. Look, I haven't been crucified! They also work to keep our trust firmly planted in our own egos and not in God. Jesus offers us a different way. Am I willing to follow?

holy spirit, in this holy moment, you be in charge,
and we will follow you, trusting that your direction leads to peace!!

In joy!! ❤️ Pastor Phil

Holy Week Schedule

- Thank you to everyone for your flexibility in moving Palm Sunday worship to Zoom!
- **Maundy Thursday**, March 28, at 5pm - **Potluck** and Holden Evening Prayers. If you can come a little early to help set-up, that would be great. Remember that Preschool parents will be picking up their littles around this same time, so be careful in the parking lot and park in the high school lot if you can. Finally: please come whether or not you can bring any food to share. We always have plenty!
- **Easter Sunday**, March 31, 10am - Life wins again and Pastor Luna returns. =)

Two Opportunities at Highland Park Sr High

Women's Health Items Collection

This Holy Week (only) the students at Highland High are collecting women's health items for a nearby women's shelter. Please bring these directly to the front desk at the school, OR you can bring them to the Thursday potluck and mission team will bring them to Highland High Friday, the last day of the collection. Thanks for your support!

- sanitary napkins
- sanitary wipes
- tampons
- period underwear
- panty liners

IB and DP Exam proctors needed for the Highland Park Senior High School

Here's another great opportunity to support our High School Neighbors. Volunteer proctors are needed for the upcoming IB (International Baccalaureate) DP (Diploma Programme) Exams. Exam dates are from April 25 through May 15. We (as well as others from EPC) volunteered for this last year. All testing is done at the High School (next door to EPC). Each Exam session is from 3 to 3.5 hours long (either the morning or the afternoon). The proctor's tasks are to 1) help set up the room for testing, 2) walk around the room during the test to make sure students are following the rules, and 3) accompany students to and from the rest room areas. You do not need to know anything about the subject matter of the exams to be a proctor. Please consider signing up for one or more time slots. Sign up instructions are below. If you have any questions about this, please contact us. Rich and Liz (lrschiferl@gmail.com).

- 1) Click this link to see the SignUp! options: <https://signup.com/go/mpxqSdS>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like. (One or more.)
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or password on SignUp.

March Mission: Minnesota FoodShare

This month Edgcumbe is collecting funds for the Foodshare Campaign that supports approximately 300 Minnesota food pantries. We are also continuing our support of nearby pantry Francis Basket. Our own food shelf at Edgcumbe gives extra items to this pantry located in the apartment complex across the street from Sibley Plaza on 7th Street.

Here are some more highlights about food insecurity in Minnesota, and **another busy pantry in the Minneapolis Uptown neighborhood: Joyce Uptown Food Shelf**. Joyce Foodshelf has been a fixture in Uptown since 1969.

- **Between 2019 and 2022 the number of individuals served at Joyce went from 12,934 to 32,503. Pounds of food received went from 219,679 lbs to 660,907.**
- Joyce pantry receives Foodshare funds, but to serve this many families they also rely on a large network of volunteers (120) and church and corporate sponsors. Purchased food comes from wholesale food bank partners, and grocery store “recovery” partners.

Please donate to the March mission by including “Foodshare” in the memo line of your check donation, or online at Give Now by typing “Foodshare” or “March Mission” in the memo box. Blessings and many thanks for your support for our neighbors during this Lenten season!



Remembering Carol

Just a note to remember that EPC member Carol Schweickhardt had her stroke on the evening of Maundy Thursday last year and died shortly after Easter. As we remember Jesus' final days, death, and resurrection again this Spring, we also remember that Jesus' resurrection changes how we think about death. As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15: 20-23,

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead. He's the first crop of the harvest of those who have died. 21 Since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came through one too. 22 In the same way that everyone dies in Adam, so also everyone will be given life in Christ.

Everyone's body dies. So also everyone will be given life in Christ. Everyone. You are alive in Christ. I am alive in Christ. Dead Carol is alive in Christ. This is amazing and miraculous and wondrous. Christ is risen indeed.