

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

September 25, 2024

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Outdoor Worship this Sunday

The weather forecast for this Sunday is for a beautiful day with worship-time temperatures around 70 degrees. So we are going to try for another outdoor service this Sunday, September 29—which also means no Zoom access this week. Hope to see you in the Backwoods!

Welcome: From Remembering to Initiative

Last Sunday our theme was WELCOME, taking inspiration from Jesus' invitation to the disciples to switch from an ego mentality of "Who is the greatest?" to a stance of welcome, especially for the children in our midst. Several of you told stories about when you were welcomed in ways that changed your life. After worship, many more of you spoke about how the theme of welcoming could be a theme for your entire life story.

I want to follow-up on this beautiful theme in two ways. The first is to invite you again to think about all the ways and times you have been welcomed in your life, especially when it was unexpected. How did it feel to be welcomed? What did it make possible for you? How did it change you? You could add to these memories times that you have had the opportunity to welcome someone and how those choices touched or changed you.

The second thing is consider for a moment what it means for Edgcumbe Church to be a welcoming community. EPC is very good, even exceptional, at being a welcoming place for people who are brave (or desperate) enough to walk through our door on a Sunday morning. As a matter of fact, many of you tell stories about how the welcome you received on your first visits changed your life and is a primary reason you are a part of this community. We could call this kind of welcome a "responsive welcome" in the sense that we are responding to someone who chose to be at worship that day. What is more difficult for most of us is "initiative welcome"—reaching out and inviting people to try an experience that they wouldn't have without our invitation. This is scarier, I know. If we want others to experience the sacred quality and healing that happens at EPC, then it is worth asking ourselves if we are willing to step through our fear. Most people are not going to guess that Edgcumbe Church is amazing. We will need

to tell them and invite them and risk the vulnerability of sharing something that is important to us. And when they surprise us and show up, then we can welcome them again!

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

September Mission: First Nations Kitchen (FNK)



FIRST NATIONS KITCHEN

First Nations Kitchen is community-building, justice-focused, Gospel-based ministry. Our primary intent is to provide food to indigenous people, and to others, 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 center the ancestral foods of the peoples indigenous to this land to help decrease heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and obesity within our community.

First Nations Kitchen welcomes our neighbors to our weekly Giveaway every Sunday from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm. We are a barrier free program that shares primarily organic bagged produce and fresh, organic, indigenous meals. All are welcome. If you would like to donate or volunteer, email us at director@firstnationskitchen.org.

Edgumbe can help by donating funds to further the mission of First Nations Kitchen, or by volunteering your time to help package meals, sort and package donated produce, and hand out both the meals and the produce to those who come on Sunday afternoons.

October Birthday and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Samantha LeClair 10/11

Happy Anniversary to:

Connie & Dave Howe-Vielmetti 01/07