

# Edgcumbe

## Presbyterian Church

### Midweek Update

October 23, 2024



*In this issue:* “i don’t know what anything is for.....”,  
Coming Up, Oct Mission: Peace & Global Witness,  
pastor luna to facilitate a class, Oct Session Communication

### i don’t know what anything is for....

this past sunday, in mark 10, we find two super interesting interactions between jesus and his disciples. the scripture begins with james and john asking jesus, “teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask,” which was to sit on his right and left when he entered his glory. and jesus replied to them, “**you do not know what you’re asking!**...” and then jesus goes on and says to all of the disciples, “you know that the ones who are considered the rulers by the gentiles show off their authority over them and their high-ranking officials order them around. **but that’s not the way it will be with you. whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant. whoever wants to be first among you will be the slave of all, for the human one didn’t come to be served but rather to serve and to give his life to liberate many people.**” again, jesus points to this idea that **we are living in an upside-down world**, which is 180° opposite of the kingdom of god. we have been taught that importance looks like power, prestige, and specialness, and jesus points a completely opposite way of humbleness, being of service, and dying to self.

to practice those insights brings a certain level of healing to our lives, but really i think the first interaction from jesus is what will begin our complete liberation—**we don’t know what we are asking**. when we look around and make assessments and judgments about the happenings around us—we are only looking at things from our own perspective—our separated ego thought system. i hang out with folks who are far wiser than myself, and they have encouraged me to come back to this idea: “**i don’t know what anything is for.**” when i am not trying to fill in meaning, or assessment, or judgment, it allows me to dwell in the present moment, free of my impulse toward control, safety, or even

I am here only to be  
truly helpful.  
I am here to represent  
the One Who sent me.  
I do not have to worry about  
what to say or what to do,  
because the One Who sent me  
will direct me.  
I am content to be wherever They wish,  
knowing They go there with me.  
I will be healed as I let the One  
teach me to heal.

shame. when i don't know what anything is for, i naturally anchor in the sacred to guide me into what to say and what to do.

the same people who have encouraged me to untangle from judgment have given me a prayer which i shared both this past sunday, and am publishing again here. letting this prayer be an anchor and way-shower allows me to return to god throughout the day...which is really what our heart of hearts want. for this next week, would you be willing to say this prayer daily? for those of you who have already been with this prayer...are you noticing anything unfolding in your life??

between the prayer, and coming back to the idea--i do not know what this is for--this has been a particularly rich classroom for me this week. my head cold is still producing a fair amount of mucus which is really impacting my ability to breath during the overnight time, which means my sleeping is getting significantly impacted. i started to notice that i was feeling anxiety rising in the evening, and i started to worry about if i will be able to fall asleep. jesus' lesson feels particularly poignant to me, in that something eases within me when i stop judging the situation, and i come back to--i do not know what this is for. it allows me to be softer, less anxious, and find a different kind of rest that comes when i am not trying to arrange my life to suit myself. how about you?? what are you finding?

holy spirit, we lift all of these things up to your light and healing grace, and ask that you repurpose it all to the will of god!!

holding you all in love and with grace!! pastor luna ☺

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

### **Coming Up: Pastor Vacation, Covid Clinic**

- The pastors will have time off at the ending of the month, Oct 28-Nov 3. If you have a pastoral need during that time, please reach out to one of the Elders: Connie H-V, Ingrid E, Michelle T, or LaGretta L. Communion will be moved back one week, and will be celebrated on November 10th.
- A second Covid and Flu vaccine clinic at EPC on Saturday, Nov 2, from 3-7pm.
- Don't forget to smile at someone for no reason whatsoever!

### **October Mission: Peace & Global Witness Offering**

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together and provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do peacemaking well. The peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere. 25% of the offering is retained by Edgcumbe to engage in local peacemaking activities. Another 25% goes to our regional Presbytery, Twin Cities Presbytery; and 50% of this offering supports work being done by Presbyterians around the world through the General Assembly of the church.

World Mission inspires, equips and connects U.S. Presbyterians and Christians around the world for faithful participation in God's mission. Always attentive to the movement of the Holy

Spirit, with 50 % of the offering, the church equips and sends a network of mission co-workers and Young Adult Volunteers to labor joyfully and passionately with communities and church partners at home and in 50 countries throughout the world.

To give to this offering, please write "October Mission" on the memo line of your check or indicate it in the memo box online at Give Now. Blessings on our peacemaking efforts!



## Christmas Decorating: Saturday, November 23rd

Please join us as we reshape (fluff) the tree branches, garlands, and wreaths on Saturday, November 23rd. These decorations will be put up November 30, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, for the Sunday, December 1 service. This involves assembling and decorating the tree, putting up garlands and wreaths, switching the foliage in the planter boxes to evergreens, and hanging the white banners with the gold drapes. The times for both of these events is still being decided so please continue to watch the Midweek for this information. We appreciate all the help we can get and the process will go faster the more people we have participating. Please let me know if you can help out. Thank you, Meredith

## pastor luna to begin facilitating a year long class

over the past few years, you have heard me speak about a year-long class i was in (which i took twice!!), and all of the learnings and insights i received through that curriculum. i knew someday i would like to be in service to the material and help facilitate a class at some point. beginning in november, i will be leading an on-line classroom to work through the **total transformation course**, which works with material from a course in miracles. i would be grateful for your prayers during these weeks!! 💙 if you are curious to hear more about it, please reach out to me!!

## Highlights of October 16 Session Meeting

- We now have 8 new colorful recycled plastic chairs placed in the circle under our big maple tree, and in all of the 12 prayer stations. All of the original press board chairs are now also under the maple tree, and will be taken away as they come to the end of their integrity as seating.
- Our current partnership with the St.Paul Conservatory of Music has ended. (They have found a permanent home for their school). However, they have generously gifted us the use of the baby grand piano in the sanctuary for one more year. Next year's revenue will be reduced by \$17,000 due to the loss of this association.
- Our pastors will be on vacation during these remaining weeks of 2024: October 28-November 3, December 2-8 and December 25-January 1, and will be carrying over 2 weeks of continuing education time off into 2025..
- Planning for our 2025 operating budget will begin in November and December. November will be a time of discernment and prayer around pledging.

- Coming soon! Our Progressive Dinner on Saturday, December 7 from 5:00 - 8:00 PM. Please save the date. Details to follow.

–Elder LaGretta