

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

January 22, 2025



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Upcoming Worship at EPC

- This Sunday, January 26, will be a focus on **New Member Exploration**—see *article below*
- On Sunday, February 2nd, we will have the **Annual Congregational Meeting & brunch** after a shorter worship service. Look for the 2024 Annual Report this Sunday.

Michelle Trebtoske News & Workday

For years, EPC Elder Michelle has dreamed of moving to her family's lakeside property outside Cumberland, Wisconsin (see the two photos in this Update). One possibility is that she and lifelong friend Todd Barnes would eventually move there together. When Todd died last year (which is still hard to even imagine), Michelle needed to re-evaluate her dream: was this still



possible? So many things needed to happen. She would need to find a job in Wisconsin, to clean and prepare her current home for sale, to rent a place to live temporarily while she fixed up the aging family cabin, to come up with the money to pay for all this transition.

This whole possibility depended more than anything on Michelle finding a job. About two weeks ago, what felt like a distant dream turned into a current reality when Michelle was offered and then accepted a job near her

new home. That job starts on Feb 24, which means that Michelle will move to temporary housing in Wisconsin on Feb 19 and put her South St. Paul house on the market around Feb 12—which is coming right up! Congratulations, Michelle.

There are three ways that we can help Michelle during this major transition in her life. The first is to **pray for Michelle**. On top of these moves, Michelle has recently had the flu and then

developed shingles, painfully. So we pray to the Spirit for Michelle for health and strength and courage and the willingness to both do the work she needs to do and to accept the help that is offered to her. We also pray for Shiloh, who is supporting his mom and figuring out how all this will affect his life. The second thing we can do is give Michelle a financial cushion to help cover all the expenses that come up during such a move, like paying both rent and a mortgage until the house sells, needed home repair costs, large item hauling, etc. To meet this need, the EPC Session is sponsoring a **Love Offering** for Michelle. Please give any donations to EPC, designated for Wisconsin Bound! (or for Michelle) and we will pass these funds on for Michelle.

Finally, we can help Michelle pack and organize and clean. Below is a list that Michelle has created with her needs.

- pack books to donate and drop off
- hazardous waste drop
- electronics recycle drop
- deep cleaning such as fridge and stove (kitchen, basement, bath)
- organize basement (boxes, belongings, etc to look better for showing)
- drop clothes and other donations
- disassemble box spring, bed frames and a couch
- packing and labeling boxes
- clear out the shed
- cut back the old flowers/ plants in front gardens for showing (didn't do in fall)
- and then load the uhaul truck on 2/19 when I move to Frederic (just bringing half my stuff there)

To whittle down this list, we will have a church **workday at Michelle's home on this Saturday, January 25 from 1-3pm**. Michelle's address is 409 4th Ave S, South St Paul 55075. Michelle warns that her basement is chilly so please dress warmly if you be there. From the list above, you can imagine some of the supplies and tools that might be helpful to bring. If you can be there, **please RSVP to me** (Phil = pastorphilgg@gmail.com). Michelle is also taking off next week, Jan 28-31, so you can always offer to help out on your own time, or we may schedule another work day when we see what we accomplish on Saturday.

I suspect that you all can imagine the mixture of joy and panic and excitement and shame and grief that is coursing through Michelle as she works toward a lifelong dream (without Todd) AND invites her church community into her not-super-organized home with a cold basement. We respond with kindness because that's who we are as God's children; we hold Michelle's heart with gentleness because we've all been in these delicate and uncertain threshold places; we share love with generosity because we are all connected, all the time. Let's grab our gloves and get busy being the Body of Christ in the world and for each other. And then let's start planning an eventual party on a lake in Cumberland!

***Holy Spirit, in this holy moment, you be in charge,
and we will follow you, trusting that your way leads to peace.***

New Member Exploration Sunday

On this coming Sunday, January 26, we will shape our worship and a post-worship forum around questions and conversations about what it means to be a member of Edgcumbe Church. If you would like to explore becoming a member of this congregation, please plan to come on January 26 until about 12:30pm.

For both new member explorers and current members, here are some questions we will explore together:

- What does it mean to become a member of EPC?
- What are the beliefs and faith practices of this congregation and the Presbyterian Church USA (our parent denomination)?
- Where am I in my own faith journey, and does becoming a member of EPC support the work of the Holy Spirit in the world and my own faith?
- Am I willing to bring treats on January 26 to support this work?

At the end of this worship service and post-worship forum, we will ask if you want to become a member of EPC. But there is no pressure to make any decision at this time. This is a forum for *explorers* and not *deciders*. =)

If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to contact me, Pastor Phil, or Pastor Luna or anyone on Session (Ingrid, Connie, LaGretta or Michelle).

January Mission: Angelie Ryah's work at the Border

Our mission focus for January, 2025 is Angelie Ryah and her work at the border. Angelie Ryah has lived in the San Diego - Tijuana area for the last six years, and has been involved in several types of ministry. As a spiritual director she was able to offer pastoral care for faith leaders and activists on both sides of the border, while learning about the realities of immigration. During Covid, she was part of a new intentional community who desired to serve migrants especially in their local neighborhood. She founded a community garden, Jardin Manos Sanadoras / Healing Hands Garden, where families learned to grow their own food, form friendships, and celebrate life together. That significant experience led her to learn about small-scale regenerative farming and start Belong Farm, with the vision of creating a healing space where people can connect deeply with nature, the Sacred, and each other. This experiment has been both joyous and challenging! She is currently discerning next steps for ministry and life, with a desire to bring her passion, skills, and experience back into the community.



Poinsettia Pickup

The time has come for the poinsettias to find a new home. Those of you who helped us with a donation, please take yours home, if you want to. Otherwise, if any of you know of a person who might enjoy one, please take one. That person can, also, be you. Thanks, Meredith