

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

February 26, 2025

In this issue: love your enemies, New Member Exploration, Bible Study, Feb Mission, March Birthdays

“Darkness **cannot** drive out darkness;
only **light** can do that.
Hate **cannot** drive out hate;
only **love** can do that.”
~ Martin Luther King, Jr



love your enemies....

this one phrase alone should be an indicator that jesus is offering us a way to live that is a complete reversal as to the paths offered in the world. instead of fighting back, or tolerating, or correcting, or avoiding, or even being fearful of our enemies, the mandate is **to love**. there are two primary reasons for this, i think. the first involves who and what we are. god is only love, and as an extension of god, we, in truth, are only love. so, we are in our truth and in our purpose when we extend love. any other action and we have already abandoned ourselves. secondly is this—god has only one child, which is everyone, together. we collectively are the one child of god. this means, that each person who appears to be “other” is *actually* a part of us. and, the “others” in our lives serve as the screens for our projections of the parts of ourselves that we reject and judge. so, the people we love and hate? they are aspects of ourselves that we have disassociated from within us. so, jesus’ mandate to love our enemies comes from this place of healing and celebration because our enemies are showing us what we cannot even see on our own. and, upon seeing, we can now bring it to holy spirit for the repurposing for god’s healing love. meaning, **our enemies are in fact here for us to heal**. all that judgment, hatred and fear within us? we have lost connection to god. and, in the sweetness of this path following jesus, those very aspects become our savior by bringing us back home to god’s presence.

let me be clear...jesus taught that we are living in an upside down world. and the only way to get home to the peace and love we are, is by following him. this means, love your enemies. do good to those who hate you. bless those who curse you. pray for those who mistreat you. jesus came to re-mind us all!♥

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

New Member Exploration Class—March 9

On **Sunday, March 9**, immediately after worship in the parlor, we will have a second session to explore membership here at Edgcumbe Church. Everyone is welcome. If you want to attend, please talk to Pastor Phil or Pastor Luna.

Bible Study Invite

Every Sunday evening from 6:30-8:00pm, a group meets on Zoom with me, Pastor Phil, to read and reflect on the four lectionary texts for the coming Sunday. I have been studying the Bible my entire life, and this is by far the best group I've ever worked with. We read each text looking for the powerful good news it contains for us. We laugh, we allow ourselves to be challenged, and we listen for the Holy Spirit together. New people are completely welcome. If you want to check this out, find the Zoom link on our website (www.epchurch.org), and let me know if you want to be added to the Bible Study email I send out each Sunday afternoon.

Feb Missions: Enneagram Prison Project & Tissues for HPSHS

We have two mission foci for February. The first is the Enneagram Prison Project. EPP is on a mission to understand why we do what we do, using the Enneagram to inspire transformation



—on both sides of the bars— through self-awareness, self-regulation, and self compassion; We do the work together. If you would like to support this life-changing work, please donate to this month's mission either online at

www.epchurch.org or with a check or cash designated for "Feb Mission" or "EPP." .

Our 2nd focus is to collect **facial tissues** for the educators and administration of Highland Park Senior High School. We hope to collect 180 boxes, to give every class and office support during the Winter months during the cold season. 🙄
Please bring the facial tissue boxes to the EPC office, and they will be delivered to our amazing neighbors!!



March Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

Chloe Clary	3/4
Connie Howe-Vielmetti	3/4
Dave Howe-Vielmetti	3/11
Lydia GebbenGreen	3/15
Cora Fett	3/24
Jenya Trubnikava	3/26
Dave Mayer	3/27
McKenna Reedquist	3/29
Naomi Houle	3/30

