

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

May 17, 2023



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being ambassadors for christ

deep gratitude to staci h for leading our reflection time this past sunday with a writing exercise!! as a teacher in the montessori practice, staci told us there are 2 types of teaching modes, direct (showing how to use the montessori materials) and indirect (that the very presence of the teacher embodies all of the montessori philosophy and spirit). as staci led us through 1 peter 3, she asked a very evocative question: **who are we indirectly sharing the gospel with in our daily lives?** the nature of this very question means that our presence is instilled with the holy spirit and is the gospel of god's limitless love. so—are we cognizant that we are the living word in the world??? “for the word of god in scripture...for the word of god among us...for the word of god within us...”, we say every sunday, but we might not recognize that we **are** the word of god, embodied in this time and place!! and, even more stunning: that our vocation is **essential** and **vital** to the kindom of god in this present moment.

imagine your next 24 hours—what interactions do you know you will have? now, imagine that you are the embodiment of god's grace, love and forgiveness. (please pause a moment, and really visualize this....) do you see how regardless of the interaction, you are an ambassador for living christ! ultimately, we begin to understand that these lives of ours are actually holy!! we have a purpose larger than our individual will: we embody the living christ and ask to see with christ's eyes so that we may apprehend christ in our sister and brother!! wow!! that is not an ordinary thursday!!

*holy spirit, grant us the awareness of our connection with you
so that in each present moment of our days,
we will be grounded in your grace and loving presence.
we give our lives to you, that we may be instruments of your love.
amen and blessed be!! ❤️*

Summer Worship Schedule

The EPC session set our worship schedule for this summer. The short version is that we will plan to meet outside on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, starting on May 28. This also means that we will be taking the summer off from Zoom worship, re-evaluating our monthly schedule next fall.

Here are the specific dates:

- Zoom Worship: Sun May 21
- Outdoor Worship: May 28 (Pentecost), June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23, August 13 & 27

Not every outdoor worship experience will be around the stage. Some weeks we may gather in the chairs under the big maple tree, other weeks we may circle in the front yard; other days may be an outdoor brunch picnic or pancake breakfast. One outdoor week, we will be joined by youth from First Presbyterian Church - S St Paul! We are looking forward to what the Holy Spirit has in store for us this summer.

May 28 Congregational Meeting called for Election of Elders

Session has called for a congregational meeting after worship on May 28th for the election of Elders.

Backwoods - May Mission

In May our mission will be our own Backwoods. Our next scheduled workday will be:

- **WORKDAY THIS SATURDAY, May 20, 1-4pm**

What will we be doing, you ask? Having fun doing Spring clean-up, beginning the removal of invasive species, and hopefully planting a few trees. After last year's badly needed tree removal and trimming Phil has identified three spots for trees and the kinds of trees we will plant. Which brings us to the second part of the mission. Financial donations will go toward tree purchases. We hope to get trees on the bigger side, which tend to be costly - \$300+ per tree. After that, we will need helpers to water the trees on a regular basis. So lots of opportunities to hang out in the Backwoods coming your way!



Donations for tree purchase or other Backwoods supplies can be provided as a check to Edgcombe Presbyterian Church with "Backwoods" in the memo line or online by indicating "Backwoods" in the notes that can accompany your contribution.

Session Notes from May 11, 2023

The EPC session met on Thursday, 11 May 2023 for its stated May meeting at the Eggerts home. Opening devotion and prayer, led by Elder Jay, reflected on Carol's recent passing, considering the meaning of death and resurrection.

Elder Meredith's term on Session is coming to an end, which will also finish her time as Clerk of Session; she was not present to hear our expression of gratitude, which will be done another time! Ron Eggert has agreed to serve as secretary.

Finance update: Ron, treasurer, noted a decrease in pledge income, partially offset by an additional three months of income from the St Paul Conservatory.

Summer worship: We will have outdoor service twice a month, the schedule will be published in the midweek update. May 28 (Pentecost Sunday) will be our first outdoor service.

Pastors Phil and Luna indicated their intent to start home visits to EPC members, starting this summer.

Other: Equity News Network is scheduling a vaccine clinic at EPC on May 22. A congregational meeting is scheduled for May 28 to elect new elder(s).

With gratitude, Elder Ingrid