

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

May 31, 2023

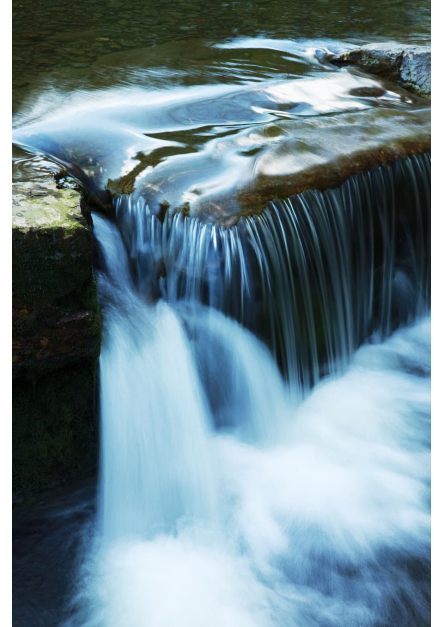
In this issue: To Know God, Summer worship schedule, Elder Election, Three Celebrations, Trees Planted, June Mission, June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Flowing from the Inside Out

Jesus is noteworthy not shy about proclaiming the amazing abundance of God's love and healing for everybody everywhere. In our text last Sunday in John 7, Jesus stood up and shouted: "All who are thirsty should come to me! All who trust should drink. As the scriptures say: *Rivers of living water will flow out from within him.*"

There are two things I love about that short passage. One is that the scripture that Jesus quotes is nowhere to be found in the Old Testament as it now exists. As we have explored at EPC, the Bible is full of places where the abundant grace of God is compared to water or springs or rivers, but never in that exact phrasing. This means either Jesus knows of scripture that we don't, or he is so caught up in the moment that he's happy to make up new scripture on the spot. One of my closest friends at the Enneagram Prison Project (EPP) is Alex Senegal. Years ago, Alex was on the FBI's most-violent list. He had so lost contact with his own holy self that he came to believe that gangs and drugs and violence offered his best chance at survival. After years of incarceration Alex rediscovered himself through his own willingness and the compassionate work of the Enneagram and EPP. Alex is now an Ambassador and board member at EPP, an ordained pastor at a church in San Francisco, and he has often said to me, "Phil, the river of life flows from the inside out." I want you to think about that for a moment. Jesus in his exuberance and Alex in his hard-earned wisdom are telling us that the river of life is not something we need to go hunting for, over some distant horizon. The river of life is flowing from inside of us into the world at every moment. No searching involved; only acceptance and trust. God's river does not run dry, ever.

The second thing I love is what I mentioned at first: Jesus' pure trust. For Jesus, God's grace and love are so present and so big and so good that there is plenty for everyone. All the thirsty everywhere, come on in. All the hurting people, come on over. Me, little old me? Yes, me too. Stand up and shout, because the water is refreshing and real and there is more than enough.



Summer Worship Schedule

The EPC session set our worship schedule for this summer. We will plan to meet outside on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. This also means that we will be taking the summer off from Zoom worship, re-evaluating our monthly schedule next fall. The mosquito numbers are dropping, so hopefully we can actually go outside by June 11.

Here are the specific dates:

- Outdoor Worship: 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.

Election of Elders

This past Sunday, the congregation elected Rich Schiferl to a second term as Elder and Michelle Trebtoske as a new Elder. Congratulations to you both! This election marks the end of Meredith Holt's term of service on Session, where she has been a diligent and faithful Elder and Clerk. Thank you, Meredith, for your humor and your willingness to try new things and for your consistent desire to support this congregation and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Three Upcoming Celebrations

GRADUATION PARTY FOR LYDIA GEBBENGREEN

Lydia GebbenGreen is graduating this year from Open World Learning High School, so Lydia and Luna and Phil are inviting the congregation to her Graduation Celebration on Saturday, June 10, 1:30-3:30pm at the GebbenGreen home (1462 Van Buren Ave 55104). The whole congregation is welcome to attend! Lydia plans to attend Augsburg University in Minneapolis in the fall.

GRADUATION PARTY FOR LILLY LECLAIR

Lilly LeClair is graduating this year from Central High School, so Lilly and Fred and Belinda are inviting the congregation to her Graduation Celebration on Saturday, June 17, 2-5pm at Edgumbe Church. The whole congregation is welcome to attend! Lilly's plans for the fall include pursuing history, fine arts, and language studies at Concordia University St Paul. Congratulations Lilly!!

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR CAROL SCHWEICKHARDT

Carol's family has set the date for a gathering and celebration of her life. It will be on Friday, July 7, from 2-6pm, at Holman's Table, which is next to the Saint Paul airport. RSVPs are required, so if you would like to attend, please Carol's daughter Melissa at melissa.nilsen@gmail.com to receive an invitation.

Five New Trees

Four of which were planted this morning by Rich & Jay & Pastor Phil and a water assist from Kathy. Hopefully the fifth will go into the ground by next week. Pray for good root development!

June Mission

The June mission is Plaster House where the Eggerts volunteered for 7 years, Ingrid as a teacher and Ron as a doctor. Plaster House provides outreach, preoperative care, surgery and postoperative care and rehabilitation for children with cleft lip/palate, hydrocephalus, spina bifida, skeletal fluorosis, club foot, burn scar contracture and osteomyelitis. Over 1000 children were cared for in 2022 for free. Ingrid and Ron will talk about Plaster House on Sunday June 11 during worship. [📄](#)

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

LaGretta Lunde	6/11
Lisa Holden	6/16
Zack Humphery	6/16
Fred Clary	6/24
Ingrid Eggert	6/24
Eleta Pierce	6/24

Happy Anniversary to:

Sherla & David Mayer	6/8
Belinda & Fred Clary	6/27