

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

August 9, 2023



In this issue: Worship & Staff Vacations, Teach Us to Pray, Next Backwoods Workday: Aug 17, July Mission, Berlin Trip 2024, Lewiee Blaze Article

Worship & Vacation Schedules

WORSHIP

- Thank you to Elders Todd, Connie, and Michelle for leading worship last Sunday
- This Sunday, August 13, we will be in the sanctuary with communion
- August 20, we will plan to be outdoors, weather permitting, and August 27, we'll be back in the sanctuary

STAFF VACATIONS

- **Music Director Jenya** is taking off the whole month of August to visit her parents in Belarus after more than three years apart. All of our blessings go with you, Jenya!
- **Office Manager Krysta** will be gone August 5-12.
- **Custodian Sol** also hopes to take some time off this month with dates not yet determined.

Main Article

For the past week, I have been reflecting on Jay's article last week (Great job, Jay—thank you!), especially the line from Eckhart Tolle: *“The compulsive thinker, which means almost everyone, lives in a state of apparent separateness, in an insanely complex world of continuous problems and conflict, a world that reflects the ever-increasing fragmentation of the mind.”*

The more I think, the more separate I believe I am, which leads to problems and conflict and the ongoing fragmentation of my mind—the same mind I use to do my thinking that leads to all these issues in the first place. This is a horrifying loop of suffering. Jesus is trying to say the same thing when he says in Matthew 6: “Who by worrying can add one moment to their own life?”

The point here is not to stop thinking. The point is to allow ourselves, day by day, to rest in trust. Look at the two pictures in this Update from our Backwoods. The Douglas Firs and Black Locusts and Sugar Maples that you can see in those photos did not become mighty trees by worrying, by thinking. What did they do? They adapted; they allowed themselves to be nurtured by the sun, the air, water; they GREW.

What if today, I spent less time thinking and more time growing?

Next Workday: Thursday, August 17th,
8:30–11:30a

Thank you to folk doing continued tending within the backwoods!!! If you haven't spent time just **be**-ing in the backwoods, we encourage you to linger, dally, and rest amongst the flora and fauna!! 🌱🦌🌳🐔🌲

The next **work morning** to continue clearing the paths, stations, labyrinth and small burring plants will be on **Thursday, August 17th, 8:30a-11:30a**. If that is not a good time for you, connect in with Pastor Luna, and she is willing to find a time to meet you and to work together!! All help will be joyously received!! 🙌



August Mission

August Mission: Facial Tissue boxes and funds for Students and Families in Need at Highland Park High School



August missions collections will go to Highland Park High School. HPHS is next door to the church and has about 1300 students in grades 9 -12. Both facial tissue boxes and money are requested for the August mission. You can choose to contribute to either or both.



Facial tissue boxes we collect will be distributed to the teachers at the school in early September. Please drop off the tissue boxes in the church office.

The money collected will be used to purchase gift cards that school counselors will give to parents/guardians when they become aware of specific needs. This was suggested by Principal Dr. Tucker who once told us that EPC is the "Little church that is MIGHTY!" You can contribute to this mission for August by indicating "August Missions" on the memo line of your contribution check to EPC or by noting this in the Notes Box of any online contribution.

Thank you for your continued support of our Missions.

Bonhoeffer Trip to Germany in 2024

June 26-July 3, 2024 Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (a sister church in Minneapolis) will be exploring theology, culture and Christianity through the lens and story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Dr. Andrew Root will guide us through an integrative mix of lectures, tours, conversations, and experiential learning set in the Bonhoeffer family home and various museums and sites all around the historic and vibrant city of Berlin.

Go [HERE](#) for more details and to indicate interest. The Eggerts have already signed up! Space is limited to 22 participants (Spots tentatively held as of 7/26/23: 7)

Lewiee Blaze Article

Here is a link to a wonderful article in the Star Tribune about Lewis McCaleb (Lewiee Blaze), friend of Todd Barnes and co-author with Todd of their book, "Deconstruction Zone." It is a wonderful tribute to the heart and life of this transformative young man.

<https://www.startribune.com/st-paul-minneapolis-musician-rapper-lewis-mccaleb-n4-collective-lewie-blaze-activist-entrepreneur/600295580/>