

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

September 13, 2023

In this issue: Worship & Staff Vacations, free of fear, Backwoods Appreciation, September Mission (*photo: animal skull found in the depths of station 10*)



Worship & Vacation Schedules

WORSHIP

- Sept 17 - Worship on this coming Sunday will be led by Jay McGregor, with a guest mission speaker from First Nations Kitchen - worship in sanctuary
- Sept 24 - Worship led by our Outreach Team of Connie, Todd, and Eleta

STAFF VACATIONS

- **Pastors Luna & Phil** plan to take off two weeks starting tomorrow, September 14-27. Phil is leading an Enneagram Prison Project course at a women's prison in Saint Albert, Saskatchewan, which gives Luna & Phil an excuse to visit central Canada!
- **Custodian Sol Guevara** is taking time off from Sept 13-18 (Thank you, Schiferls, for helping out – see article below)

the living christ lives within us! 🌈

after our work in romans 8/9/10/11, this past sunday we came back to the beginning, and re-anchored ourselves in the opening verses of romans 8. the apostle paul has some of his largest teachings in these verses, and they don't just change our thinking—we are given a **complete reversal of thought!!** of the 2 thought systems we have within us, the small "s" self perceives us as separate, apart, vulnerable and our identity comes from the symbol of our separateness—our individuated bodies! paul lifts up the holy spirit's thought system (which knows that our true identity does not involve our body) as our real inheritance and the truth of who we are!! as we think with the holy spirit, our identity becomes our big "s" Self, which is the christ, and we then can extend god's love and presence into the world!! this is the natural rhythm of receiving god's love which then allows us to extend god's love...we become, quite literally, an instrument of grace!!

my friend, dick young, shared a poem with me last week that was meaningful for his wife in the years before her recent death. this poem points exactly in the same direction as the apostle paul, which knows that we are something other than the world can recognize. i invite you read this poem this week to support your prayers and the settling of these ideas from romans. may the holy spirit ground us in god's love and our true Selves!! blessings to you in these days and into the next few weeks!! ~pastor luna💙

I Am Not I by Juan Ramón Jiménez

I am not I.

I am this one

Walking beside me whom I do not see,
Whom at times I manage to visit,
And who at other times I forget;
The one who remains silent when I talk,
The one who forgives, sweet, when I hate,
The one who takes a walk where I am not,
The one who will remain standing when I die.

~Translated by Robert Bly



Cleaning Help while Sol is on Vacation

Sol is on vacation the rest of this week and through the weekend. She normally cleans the Church, preschool and common areas on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Liz and I are planning to take on the cleaning task while Sol is away. If you are interested in helping out, please let Rich know by text message (440-840-5902) which time (or times) you can help out. We will be cleaning Wednesday (9/13) at 7 PM, Saturday (9/16) at 3 PM and Sunday (9/17) at 4 PM. Assume about 90 minutes of time for each cleaning session. Thanks in advance for those who may be able to stop by to help. –Rich Schiferl

Bible Study Reminder

Pastor Phil will be gone for the next two Sunday evenings, so Bible Study will be taking a break until September 30. The Bible Study Zoom room will still be available every Sunday at 6:30 PM, so please feel free to meet on your own!

Backwoods Angels

The change of seasons from Summer to Autumn is one of the most gorgeous times in the backwoods!!! Please consider having some regular time in the gloriousness for your own time of prayer and reflection! 🌱🦌🌳🦃🌲

September Mission - First Nations Kitchen

Mission for September is First Nations Kitchen. We have supported this group before, and will do so again this year. From their website: First Nations Kitchen is primarily a justice-focused, Gospel-based ministry. Its primary intent is to provide food to indigenous people who would not otherwise have access to high-quality, fresh organic food in an environment of radical hospitality and cultural empowerment. We understand that food is medicine and want to bring back the ancestral foods of the peoples indigenous to this land to eradicate heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and obesity from the native community.



In addition to monetary donations, this is a beautiful way to use our bodies to help with the mission. They rely on volunteers to sort and package donated produce, and package the meals that are given away to the community each Sunday. Each person who gets a meal also gets a bag of fresh produce. On Sunday, Sept. 24th, 5 or 6 of us (EPC folk) have already signed up to volunteer during the prep shift, 12:30 to 3:00. If you're interested in joining us, please visit their website and sign up! There is another shift a bit later, 3:30 to 5:00, which is the give-away shift. It's fun because you get to pass out bags of yummy food and veggies to those in need.