



Edgumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update
September 27, 2023

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Reflection from Elder Jay

During last Sunday's service, Todd and Connie asked us to look inward for what we hold as valuable within our church. A common thread throughout our lists was how we value each other. My experience of my church family is that the gospels are told through the life and heart of each of us. We are participants not spectators. When we choose to care for each other, listen to each other, learn from each other, we live into the truth of who we are-cherished children of our adopted family. This is how the gospel lives through us and within us. This is how the Word lives. This choice that we make to see that we belong to each other reveals the embodiment of at-one-ment. Jesus left us a breath trail that shows us this way of living in which our eyes and our hearts open to see and hold each other and the world around us as one. Within this deep belonging we begin to see that we are free. Free to forgive ourselves and others. Free to give generously of the abundance we are given. Free to strengthen and encourage each other. Free to sing with a wide-open mouth and full lungs that we are family!

World Communion Sunday, October 1-Outdoors!

The weather forecast is warm and sunny for this Sunday, so let's meet in the backwoods one more time for worship and communion. Remember that it is the Twin Cities Marathon, so northern attendees will need to find creative ways to church.

2024 Pledges – Please turn in by this Sunday, October 1

Thank you to everyone that has already turned in their pledge card. If you have not had a chance to turn in your pledge, please see the note below from Treasurer Ron Eggert and turn in the collection plate this Sunday. Thank you!

Session is asking our members to pledge early this year. EPC is facing a significant budget shortfall in the next calendar year. The shortfall comes about because the St. Paul Conservatory is moving into a permanent home elsewhere and because of reduced pledges due member deaths during this past year. If expenses and income in 2024 are equal to 2023, the shortfall will be around \$30,000 or about 1/6th of our total budget. The reason for the early pledge request is so Session will know how much income we will have and will have an extra month to consider alternatives. (We do have a small reserve fund but I think it would be imprudent to use it to fill a budget gap: it is meant for emergencies). If we do need to cut back next year, it will likely be in personnel as building costs are fixed. Pledge cards are in the back of the Sanctuary: Please fill one out and leave it in the collection plate by Sunday, October 1st. Call me 651-998-9450 or ask me at church if you have questions.

Ron Eggert, Treasurer

Bible Study

The Bible Study Zoom will return this Sunday at 6:30 PM.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer Pop up at EPC: EPC will be hosting a Pop Up Centering Prayer Gathering in the backyard on Tuesday Oct 6th at 3:00. Please come (even if you have never done Centering Prayer)- ALL ARE WELCOME!

Zoom Book Study

Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church is having a Zoom book study in October that sounds fascinating. The book is called: When Church Stops Working. Please check out their website to get more info and sign up at <https://www.lakenokomispcc.org>

October Mission – Peace and Global Witness

October 1 is World Communion Sunday when Christians all around the world celebrate community and our interconnects with each other. The first celebration of it anywhere on the globe dates back to Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA in 1936.

At Edgcumbe, the Mission Team for 2023 designated 100% of October's mission gifts to the international effort for peacemaking and reconciliation at PCUSA {Presbyterian Church USA}. We'll share stories of the many efforts here in the newsletter and with moments for mission in worship.

A primary focus this year is on the upheaval of climate change in the South Pacific Islands and the resulting forced migration from family farms in the low-lying islands. On some islands, as many as 45% of residents have been displaced. So international peacemakers supported by this offering coordinate food security and safety in the region. One example is the provision of early warning systems for cyclones, hurricanes and tsunamis that are being implemented this year.

Please consider a mission donation to support Peacemaking and Global Witness during October. You can indicate "Peacemaking" or "October Mission" on the memo line with a check, or on the Give Now application from www.epchurch.org website. Thanks for your support!

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Samantha LeClair 10/11

Happy Anniversary to:

Connie & Dave Howe-Vielmetti 10/07