

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian

Church

Midweek Update

December 13, 2023



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Advent: the Season of the Heart, Part 3

Thank you, congregation, for transitioning so quickly and easily to Zoom worship last Sunday. While we miss being together in person, it is also a treat to be able to see everyone in such an intimate setting while we worship together. Plus no germs.

We brought new insight to the famous opening line of Isaiah 40, “Comfort, comfort, O my people,” remembering that the Hebrew word used for “comfort” here is not a noun (“My comfort I offer to my people...”) but is a command verb (“Go and comfort my people!”). This grammatical change puts a simple question before us: Right at this moment, am I a person in need of comfort, or am I being called to bring comfort to the people and world around me?

If you need comfort, then you are in the right place. Jesus says, “Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” If you are exhausted or feeling hopeless, then this is a moment to rest, to trust, to lay your very life into the hands and heart of your loving creator. You could also write or call me or Pastor Luna or anyone else at church, and we will surround you with love and care. You are not alone; pick up the phone.

Or, are you hearing this call of Isaiah 40 to look beyond your own comfort, to reach out to a sibling or child or neighbor or stranger with a word or an action that brings comfort and joy into someone’s life. Isaiah 40 continues by saying that if we take one step toward bringing comfort, then God will make the way clear. We don’t need to worry about the details. All we need to do is to listen to our hearts and God gives us everything that we need!

*Holy Spirit, in this holy moment, **you** be in charge, and we will follow **you**, trusting that your direction will lead us to peace!!*

Christmas Eve Worship

On Sunday, December 24, we will not have worship at our usual 10am time but will instead gather at 4pm that afternoon for our candlelight Christmas Eve communion worship service. Everyone is welcome as we celebrate with joy the birth of Jesus and peace for all people.

Note: Special choir rehearsals are this Saturday, December 16, 1:15-2:45 pm, and next Thursday, December 21, at 7 pm.



New Art for ArtPlayce

We have new art in the sanctuary! Kiri Albrecht Riehle McKibbins, who is Liz's sister, agreed to share her beautiful acrylic paintings with us, and we hung them on the walls yesterday. Kiri specializes in animals (She does pet portraits if you're interested!) and landscape and flowers. Her husband Jay has a few of his paintings in the show also. There's even a self portrait of the two of them included for you to see. Enjoy the new artwork! It'll be up for a month or two.



INTERFAITH
ACTION OF GREATER
SAINT PAUL

December Mission: Project Home

December's mission is Project Home, a program of Interfaith Action of St. Paul.

Project Home provides emergency shelter and rapid exit case management services for area families facing homelessness.

In March 2021, Interfaith Action formed a partnership with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Ramsey County to move Project Home to the Provincial House on Randolph Avenue in Saint Paul (1.4 miles from EPC!). In this supportive environment, families have a safe place to live and assistance with finding employment and permanent, affordable housing.

Sara Leigl, of Project Home, visited EPC during last Sunday's service, December 3rd, to talk to us about her program. If you would like to get more involved in this important service work in our neighborhood, visit their website at <https://interfaithaction.org/what-we-do/projecthome/>.

Their website also links to the opportunities that Ruth mentioned in worship last Sunday: the Holiday Dignity Shop and ways to provide winter gear.

Submitted by Lisa Holden, mission team member