

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

January 24, 2024

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Grace and Love and Peace

According to Enneagram Prison Project Ambassador Dustin Baldwin: **"Each of us was born into the world as an instrument of grace and love and peace."** This quote from a man who has spent most of his four decades of life in gangs and doing meth and in and out of prison. Dustin joined us by Zoom for worship this past Sunday. If you weren't there and want to see if it, or you were there and want to experience it again, here is the YouTube link to the whole service: <https://youtu.be/jj5wBfZDm-w?si=2zM7iWNliQklmbvN>. *[This video is not searchable on YouTube at this point. The only way to view it is to use this link. Feel free to share this link with anyone you wish.]*



Many of you have shared with me how inspired and moved you were by Sunday's service. Here are some summaries of what I've been hearing.

- I was inspired by Phil and Dustin's story of plunging into the cold water. I don't need to let my fear stop me from taking the next step forward. Maybe my fears or the cold waters of life won't kill me.
- Watching Dustin hold both joy and sadness was amazing. I tend to think of these two feelings as battling inside of me, but he was able to hold both at the same time with self-acceptance and grace.
- Did Dustin say that his hardest life experiences help him to walk beside other people who are struggling? I think he did say that. That gives me hope for my own life, that I too can use my own hurts and struggles to walk with others.
- I live in fight/flight/freeze every second of my life. Every second. Today's service gave me a glimpse of a different way of living. Dustin was shot--three times!! And he not only lived but he helped and protected others before himself. I am so caught in my own egotistical focus. This gives me a lot of hope and a lot to think about.
- This is what justice really is! Being able to come out of prison and living in freedom. Wow.

Imagine if, like Dustin, your birthright is not fear, is not fight/flight/freeze, but is only grace and love and peace. May it be so. –Pastor Phil

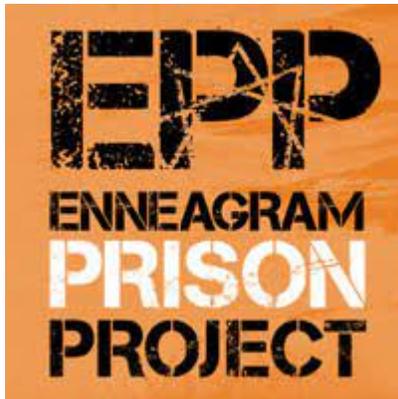
*Holy Spirit, in this holy moment, **you** be in charge, and we will follow **you**, trusting that your direction will lead us to peace!!*

Congregational Annual Meeting and Potluck—January 28

The 2024 Annual meeting of Edgumbe Presbyterian Church will be held after worship on THIS SUNDAY, January 28. Copies of the 2023 annual reports will be available and a vote on the Terms of Call for Pastors Phil and Luna GebbenGreen will be held. If you can, **bring something to share for a potluck during our meeting**. Attached to this email should be a digital PDF of the Annual Report for your perusal. If you find any glaring mistakes, please email Phil (*pastorphilgg@gmail.com) and we'll try to fix them before Sunday.

What is your favorite spiritual community?

The Minnesota Women's Press is asking any reader to identify their recommendations for small businesses and experiences within the Twin Cities. One of their questions they ask is: **What is your favorite spiritual community??** This could be a beginning way to share your story of Edgumbe Presbyterian Church. If you feel guided to respond to the questionnaire (you do not need to fill out all of the queries), find the link [here](#).



January Mission: Enneagram Prison Project

January Mission will be the Enneagram Prison Project. As we know, this is a project near and dear to Pastor Phil's heart. It is a project that enables prisoners to do the powerful and transformative work of the Enneagram with trained leaders (like Phil (who goes to Shakopee Women's Prison) and learn self awareness, self regulation, and self compassion. It is POWERFUL, vulnerable, and healing work. I encourage all of us to give to this mission and also to learn more about the Enneagram for our own personal healing.