

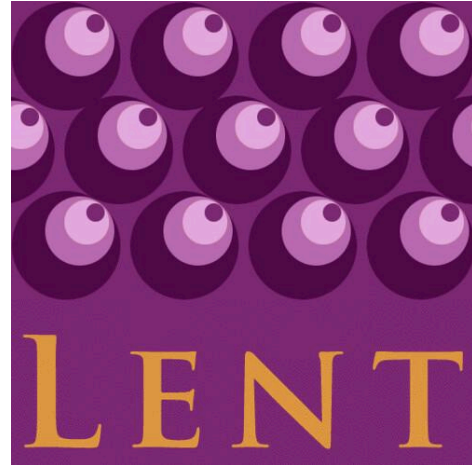
Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

February 21, 2024

In this issue: lent, Pie & Clothing Exchange in May,
New Members & Conversation with a Pastor, Feb
Mission



lent: back to the basics/loosening/letting go

the 40 days of lent signify the experience of jesus going into the wilderness, and this year, we hear the invitation to follow him. for jesus, this time in the wilderness allowed him to concentrate solely on his connection with father-mother god. and so, we follow jesus holding this intention to get back to the basics, and to tend to our first and primary relationship with our creator god.

sometimes we are wary of the wilderness because we know these particular days brought certain temptations before jesus. we can also avoid wilderness experiences because we know it will show us things we are being invited to loosen from, and perhaps even let go completely. jesus traveled through the wilderness and by being anchored in god, this allowed him to stay connected to peace and wisdom regardless of what came his way.

imagine—living in a way that allowed us to be anchored in peace and wisdom regardless of what unfolded! this is exactly the abundant life that jesus came to give us. (“i came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” john 10:10.) the qualities that jesus embodies in these wilderness days are **trusting**, **allowing** and **consenting** to the will of god. sometimes we need to get lost in the wilderness to be able to find the truth of who we are.

as your pastor, i encourage you to be intentional about connecting with the god of your understanding in these days of lent. perhaps, even, get lost in a new practice of prayer so that you may find yourself anew. as in any relationship, there are movements of talking and listening. i would encourage you to be fearlessly honest with god (speaking, writing, singing, etc.), as well as create intentional time where you **listen** to god. mostly, i want to encourage you to intentionally connect to god. share a cup of coffee/tea, and start a conversation with god. go for a walk, and talk with jesus. sit by water or a piece of art, and listen to what the holy spirit shares with you. or work on your car. or wash your dishes. start a conversation with the god of your understanding in any part of your day.

these days of lent are actually an enormous gift to us. these days allow us to deepen our connection with the one who is love and grace. and, as we hang out with this love and grace, we will be transformed and healed. peace and love!! pastor luna🌀

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

Looking Ahead: Pie & Clothing Exchange

The Outreach Team is announcing an event for early May: A Backwoods Pie Social and A Community Clothing Exchange, both to be held on the first Friday and Saturday in May—May 3 & 4. We have many details to figure out between now and May, but here are a few things you can keep in mind to prepare.

- How many pies would I be willing to donate to the Pie Social?
- How many different pies would I like to sample at the Pie Social?
- Would I be willing to help out at either or both events?
- Am I willing to invite friends and family and neighbors to these events?
- Do I have clothes or clothing display items (such as racks/hangers) that I can donate or lend for the clothing exchange?
- Would I be willing to pass out flyers around Highland Park leading up to this event?

Relatedly, the Outreach Team will be working with the congregation to create new flyers for both Edgumbe Church and the Backwoods over the coming weeks.

Pastoral Tending: New Members and Conversation with a Pastor

Edgumbe is receiving the gift of newer folk who are connecting to the community, and so Pastors Phil and Luna will be having a gathering of people who are interested in exploring membership at Edgumbe. Please hold this in your prayers, and if you are interested in joining this conversation, please contact the Pastors or Elders (Connie, Todd, Michelle, Jay, or Ingrid).

Also, from time to time, Pastors Phil and Luna feel guided to connect with all persons who attend worship outside of the Sunday morning time frame. The purpose of these conversations are meant to share honesty and to explore what might be supportive for your connection with the God of your understanding and with the community. The desire would be to have these one-to-ones over the upcoming months. If you have an interest in having this conversation with specifically Phil or Luna, reach out to them to set up a time... otherwise they will randomly divide the list of people and reach out to you to set up a time over the next months.

February Mission: Snack Money & Tissues

The February mission collection has two parts; 1) we are collecting money to fund the purchase of snacks for the Saint Paul 8218 Truce Center(s) for the coming year, 2) we are collecting facial tissue boxes to give to the teachers at Highland Park High School (our next door neighbor).

The 8218 Truce Center (<https://8218trucecenter.org>) strives to create lasting solutions to youth gang and gun violence through impactful programs and mentorship. Their



vision is to eradicate youth gun violence any place 8218 Truce Center has a presence. They provide clothing donations and food to kids in need of resources due to gang violence or other situations. They also provide a resource Center for youth to have a place of peace. Our Mission collections are used to provide snacks for the after-school and summer programs held at the Truce Centers at Lexington and Selby or on Payne Avenue in St. Paul. Most of the snacks we purchase are delivered to the Payne Avenue center. The photo shows what we typically purchase (for about \$100) and deliver every other week. For mission contributions please write "February Mission" in the memo line of your check or indicate "February Mission" in the note provided with your online contribution.



The facial tissue boxes that we collect are delivered to the high school for use in classrooms. Normally we collect between 50 and 100 boxes for this mission and when we deliver them to the high school teacher break room they are absorbed by the teachers in a few hours. There are about 130 teachers and administrators in the Highland Park High School so it would be great if we could **collect at least 130 boxes to take to the school.** Please bring the facial tissue boxes to the church and place them in the office.

Thank you for your continued generous contributions to the EPC mission program!