

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

May 15, 2024

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(photo: art installation in Backwoods by student of HPHS Art Teacher Keri Schultz)



Call to Congregational Meeting for the Election of Elder

The Session of EPC has called for a special congregational meeting on June 2, 2024 for the purpose of Election of an Elder. LaGretta Lunde has been prayerfully considering stepping into the service of Elder, and she has discerned “yes!”. There will be a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, June 2 for the community to vote upon this matter.

ascension

within christianity, easter embodies the most power reality of our lives, which is *resurrection is our story as well*, and that love and life cannot be contained or severed by the death of the physical body. in the church year, the season of easter is 40 days long, which echoes the 40 days that jesus walked amongst his disciples post-resurrection. easter season ends with lesser festival of ascension, the day when we remember jesus ascending to the creator, no longer in physical presence on the earth. as i mentioned on sunday, ascension has taken on new understanding for me this year, perhaps after many significant people to me have had their physical bodies die. i don't even fully understand it, but the love and spirit of those ones whose bodies have died are still as present as when their bodies were breathing. and i see that i can still join with them and live in this present moment with them. it is all a bit beyond mental comprehension, but it still is real.

what i am newly seeing and knowing this year is that it was purposeful that jesus left the physical plane so that we can now join with jesus and embody his life and ministry in this time and space. if jesus still had a body, i know a part of me would step back and think, “ah, jesus—he can handle this,” and then passively let him bring his love and healing to the situation. but, as jesus tells us, “you will do greater things than even i have done” (john 14). so, ascension grounds us in the vocation of be-ing love, healing, and forgiveness. these are the

threads that weave us into who we are, and we in turn weave the kingdom with these very same threads. ascension is our wake up call from the holy spirit that we are the ones who have been given this call to ministry. we are the ones who embody the risen christ.

right now, i invite you to take a moment and ground yourself in the present moment and in your breath. feel the holy spirit reminding you of the power of jesus within you. now, imagine a scenario that you will have today...and see yourself grounded in grace and in the vocation of love and healing. what shifts occur??

please begin your day with this prayer and return to it throughout your days this week. the risen christ **is** with you and walking into **every** moment....may we be given the grace to re-member!! holding gratitude for you and the entirety of the edgcumbe community!! in joy!! ~pastor luna💙

Deep Gratitude for all of the contributions for Todd's Memorial





Thank you to the entire Edgcombe Presbyterian community for the various ways that you hosted Todd's Memorial service for his extended community.. The gathering embodied the extraordinariness of both the people of this community, as well as our Backwoods. We continue to hold Todd's extended tribe in our hearts and prayers as we all continue to celebrate and grieve Todd Michael Barnes.

Edgcumbe's Gardens and Plantings

We give thanks for the years that Kathy Young has tended to the gardens and plants around the Edgcumbe building and property. 🌻 Kathy's eye and green thumb have brought so much beauty to all who visit the Edgcumbe property!! Due to some unexpected health issues, Kathy is no longer able to do this work, and so our community has an opening for someone, or a team of folk, who will be able to care for these areas. Ponder this in your heart and prayers, and if you have interest, please let Pastors Phil or Luna know.

May Mission is the EPC Backwoods!

The beautiful trees now have turned green and are in bloom! Last week at the Todd's memorial we were honored to host over 150 people in the backwoods, so that the community can share in this precious gift. We have more gatherings planned for the months to come, including worship and music.



As we move into summer, the Edgcumbe backwoods will have opportunities for hands-on mission and gatherings. We are in need of supplies and especially some replacements for the colorful chairs at the prayer stations. Any mission donations this month will go to our lovely backwoods. (Photo included is of a winter scene, to remind us that the Backwoods is as equally

beautiful in winter as in summer!)

Phil in UK for Somatic Enneagram training (part 2), and Continuing Education time off for Pastors

The Enneagram Prison Project is sponsoring a trip for me, Phil, to complete the training that I started in Denmark this past January. The workshop focus is on the Somatic Enneagram. "Soma" is the Greek word for body, as in "The body of Christ." So this workshop will explore ways that we can learn and teach Enneagram insights using not just our minds, but our bodies. My time in Denmark with this work was powerful and transformative, and I'm looking forward to this course as well. I'll be gone from May 13-22 at a retreat center outside of Birmingham,

England. **Beginning May 16th, the pastors will be away from EPC on a Continuing Education week from May 16-22.** Please reach out to an elder for any pastoral needs or concerns during this time.

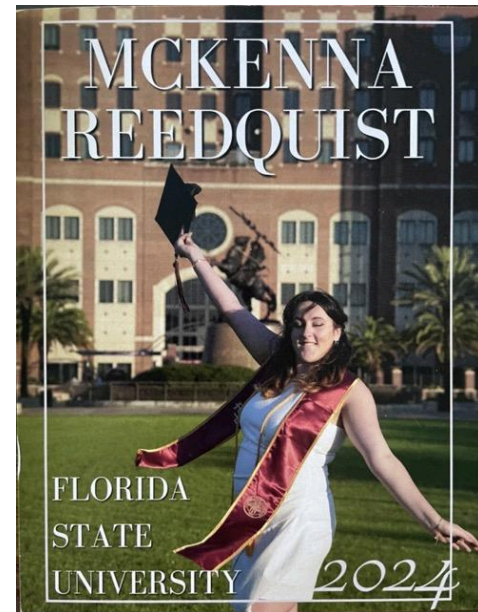
Congratulations, McKenna!!!

We celebrate with McKenna Reedquist (and Mom, Jennie!) upon McKenna's graduation from Florida State University with a B.S. in Studio Art from the College of Fine Arts. 🎉 She also received a double minor in Anthropology and Museum Studies!! We send our blessings and love to McKenna in this amazing accomplishment!!

Prayers in the Community

We hold in prayer:

- Michelle and Julie Trebotske and the extended community of Todd Barnes
- Jennie and McKenna Reedquist, upon the death of Jennie's Mom, May 4th
- Kathy Young, for unexpected health issues



Session Notes from Elder Jay from Session Meeting, May 9th

During Michelle's devotional, she shared an excerpt from "A Course in Miracles". Littleness vs. magnitude was explored. Michelle described how choosing littleness short changes us and delays our coming home. "Every decision we make stems from who we think we are". Michelle reminded us that this was a recurring theme with Todd's encouragements. We were thankful for Michelle's reminder that our Creator sets us free to live fully, seeing abundance not scarcity. Phil then led us in prayers, both personal, and collective.

We are thrilled that LaGretta said yes to the calling to serve as an Elder. We all took turns sharing which are our favorite aspects of serving as elders. Some common themes were the deepening of relationships, a sense of belonging and chosen family, and the joy of sharing common purposes.

We decided that Sunday, June 2nd there will be a congregational meeting during which the congregation will elect elders.

During the Pastors' reports Pastor Phil expressed the excitement he holds for the spirit of the church, including excitement for new members, how we pull together as a community, and how we care for our community. Pastor Phil added that he is "super excited" to be traveling to England (for the first time, despite being an English major), for the second half of his recent Enneagram Prison Project training on "Embodying Self Love." (Note: Pastor Luna was not in attendance due to illness.)