

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

May 7, 2025

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THIS WEEKEND: Backwoods workday on Saturday and Outdoor Worship (No Zoom) and Congr Mtg for the election of Elders on Sunday!

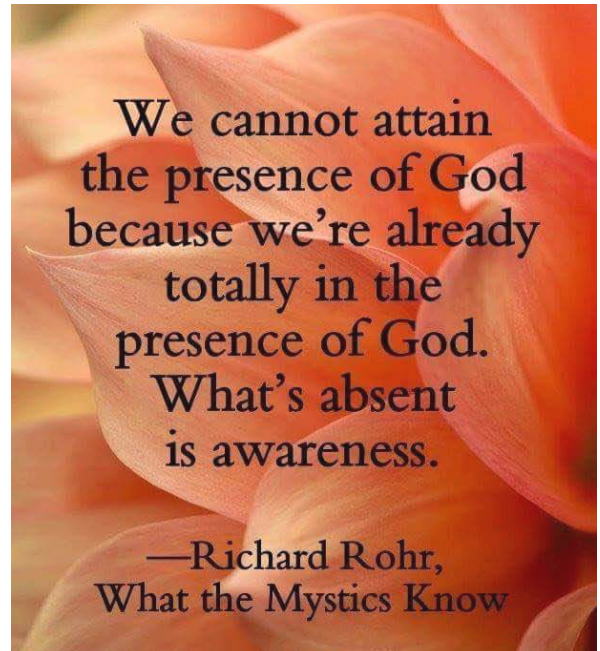


We are having an all-church **backwoods workday this Saturday, May 10, at 10am** to spread wood chips on the meditation pathway and other spring projects. Many hands make light work, as they say, so your hands would be greatly appreciated.

The weather is predicted to be gorgeous and warm this weekend, so we are planning to gather in the backwoods for **worship this Sunday, May 10th**. Plan to bring something to sit on (chair or blanket), and perhaps a hat, water and bug spray. After worship we will hold an official meeting of the congregation for the election of Elders. Please also note: due to lack of bandwidth, **there will be no live broadcast of worship over Zoom** this sunday.

test yourselves in the faith...

as i explained on sunday, my own call of *how* to be a pastor has shifted over the years. personally, i have long sought to work toward god's justice in the world, shaped by both micah 6:8 (*"what does the lord require of me, but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with god"*) and luke 4:18-19 (*"to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the lord's favor"*). i began to notice that as i was taking steps and actions into living out this vision, i began to see that the **how** and **why** i did these actions came from a place of trickiness **within** me. now, as i have spent years both healing from trauma and studying about trauma, i can see that actions which are motivated by trauma (even unconsciousness) ultimately lead to the



perpetuation of trauma. i wanted to live out god's healing action into the world, but **only love heals**. if my thoughts and actions are not emanating from god's love, my actions are bringing more fear, separation, and dis-ease into the world.

the 2 corinthians 13 passage we looked at the last two Sundays is at the heart of this matter. **examine yourselves to see if you are in the faith. test yourselves. don't you understand that jesus christ is in you?** notice, beloved, the passage says look at yourself and test your mind and motivations. are they coming from a place of fear, anxiety, and the need to be a "savior"? or, am i extending god's loving presence and healing actions through my actions and interactions? in other words, grounding ourselves in the felt experience of our connection to god and all people allows us to bring the presence of our essence—our true selves, and **presence heals!** we come into right minded-ness when we realize that god is the healer, and god is brought into every situation when we recognize that jesus christ is alive within us.

it is this dynamic that shapes how i am called to be in service within my ministry. when i can support your own innate connection to god, i know that holy spirit will guide you into service to extend god's kingdom, but in a world where we are quick to action and judgment, it seems what is needed are those places which call us back home, and to listen. and to first **practice forgiveness**...to whatever i perceive is "**the problem/issue**" and **my reactions and thoughts** about it. and that is when we incarnate the second half of our scripture passage: **say hello to each other with a holy kiss**. recognizing that this kiss is a symbol of reconciliation and forgiveness.

now from this place of being grounded in the presence of the *living christ within, be-ing re-minded by practicing forgiveness*, we then incarnate the scripture. we becoming the living blessing of god's healing action into the world: **the grace of the lord jesus christ, the love of god, and the fellowship of the holy spirit be with you all**. amen, and blessed be!!

holy spirit, in this holy moment, you be in charge, and we will follow you,
trusting that your direction leads to peace. ♥

May Mission: EPC Backwoods

We are incredibly blessed to have a 3-acre wooded area next to the church. It is a natural oasis in the middle of the city, and another way for us to connect to the divine. There are walking trails and meditation stations, and when the weather is nice we sometimes hold services under the trees.

We want to care for and maintain the beauty of one of EPC's most unique features. Not only is this area an extension of our sacred space, but by making it accessible to the public we have made it into an offering to the larger community. Donations towards this month's mission will go toward material improvements to the back woods such as replenishing the wood



May Mission:
Edgumbe Presbyterian Backwoods

chips covering the trails. It gives the trails a nice fresh look, is a pleasant soft surface to walk on, and keeps the weeds at bay.

As you can imagine, it will take quite a lot of wood chips to cover all our trails. Please consider a mission donation during May. You can indicate "Backwoods" or "May Mission" on the memo line with a check, or on the Give Now application on www.epchurch.org. Thanks for your support!

April Mission Collected for One Great Hour of Sharing

Thanks and raining down in gratitude to Edgumbe friends for contributing to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during April! We are sending a **total of \$400** to Presbyterian Church USA to support disaster assistance, self development of people, and hunger programs around the world. ~Edgumbe Mission Team

Bonus Photo

The newest member of our Building & Grounds Team: Chelsea Burden!

