

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

June 18, 2025

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Pastoral Reflections from Time Away

A big thank you to the Elders and Staff of EPC for working together with such skillfulness and care while we were away!! We have already heard wonderful updates about both the brunch at Shelley and Mark's home and the worship service last Sunday. We would love to share some reflections of our time away...

Phil reflections

In our morning devotions today, Luna and I read this line: *Grace is the acceptance of the Love of God within a world of seeming hate and fear.* Accepting and giving grace creates a state of being that is the opposite of what the world offers to us. Instead of fear and hate, we begin to see gratitude and love. I mention this possibility during a dark week in Minnesota news and also to lead into my own travel update. Grace and healing and love are exactly what I experienced in Maguire Correctional Facility 6-East over the past two weeks, guiding 13 men through the process of discovering what is right and amazing about themselves. These tough, tattooed, wise-cracking, scared (and scarred) men opened their hearts to each other and to themselves over our 24 hours together. In that dark jail unit, we created hope and sunlight together.

I will tell some stories from jail at worship this coming Sunday, but I am returning to you all with a renewed sense of vigor and groundedness for the work of love and grace that is the most real thing we do.

luna reflections



even though i have been home from scotland for only 2 days, i realize already that my time in iona has profoundly shaped me. ❤️ in terms of the hymn writing program, i see now that i am only at the beginning of learning the skills and tools of this art form—and that there is far more to it than i imagined. regarding the week on st. columba, we explored how the celtic influences of christianity (compared to the roman



influences) are more communal, tribal, and have a more mystical way of being connected to god and others. having 2 weeks amongst the iona community staff and volunteers allowed me to have meaningful connections and to experience belonging with the people and the isle itself. the iona community is shaped by the benedictine values of integrated worship, work and community, meaning that guests were asked to contribute to the well being of the community—so my “daily task” was to tend to their garden!! it was such a lovely connector to have my hands in the earth, and see how my work in the backwoods allowed me to be skilled for this offertory of service. i even dug out a few burdocks!! 🌈 and one of the most meaningful times was being asked to co-lead their evening prayer service for prayers of healing. i look forward to sharing more with you in the coming days and weeks ahead!!



June Mission: Kafika House

On Sunday, June 1st, Ron and Ingrid Eggert introduced our mission of the month, Kafika House in northern Tanzania. Ron spoke from his experience of 9 years serving as the physician at a Lutheran teaching hospital. Children in the region suffered in disproportionate numbers from cleft palate, club foot, hydrocephalus, and devastating burns from cooking fires. Volunteer surgeons came regularly to operate on up to 70 children in a 2-week period.

At Kafika House, children receive loving care until they are able to return home – for a week or up to several months. Prior to their surgeries, many of these children have been hidden away due to their disabilities. Arriving at Kafika House marks the first time that they have unlimited nutritious food, playmates and peers, education, and the opportunity to truly embrace childhood.

Through our giving this June, we can provide more loving, transformational care to children in Tanzania. You can give online at Edgumbe Presbyterian Church's website, or via check on Sunday. Visit Kafika House website to learn more here: www.kafikahouse.org

Bowling – July 9

The votes are in and the winner is Wednesday, July 9th at 6pm, Concord Lanes. We hope to see as many of you as possible that evening, whether you want to throw some balls or just sit by and cheer. We'll send a reminder closer to the date. Sorry that we couldn't accommodate everyone's schedules, but we can do this again.

Mark your calendars! Jane and Connie



Thursday mornings in the Backwoods:



Prayer and Stewardship

You are invited to a gather with us Thursday mornings in the Backwoods for meditation and stewardship. We gather at 6:30am in the circle of chairs for a 20 minute meditation sit. Then, we move into the backwoods to tend to the restoration of the native ecosystem by removing the invasive species and tending to the path and stations. Come at 6:30am for prayer, or join us at 7am for some loving attention and care given to the beautiful woods!! Questions: contact Mark Tafel at tafelmark@gmail.com.

If this does not fit into your schedule, know there are many ways to contribute to the stewardship of the backwoods...do you feel the nudge to contribute in some way?? Speak to Pastors Luna or Phil.