

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

September 24, 2025

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Backwoods Campfire This Friday

We are hopeful that the third time scheduling is the charm!! Join us for a **campfire at the Backwoods fire pit this Friday, Sept 26th, at 6pm**. Bring chairs and s'more elements, if you desire. The Backwoods has its own magic in the evening time! We hope you can join us!!

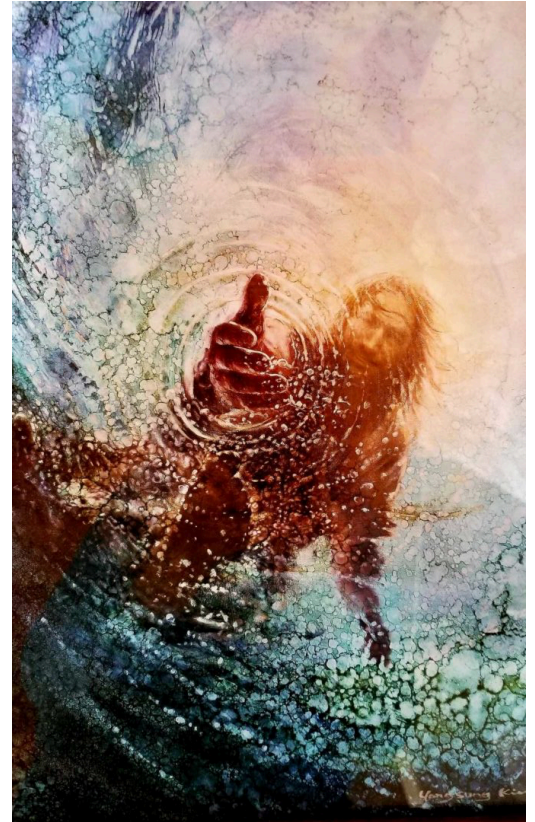
being people who belong to the light...

in our text from sunday (luke 16), jesus continues to teach about our identity. he uses the story of the dishonest manager and the valuing of wealth as pointers of people who belong to the world. however, jesus continues to teach us, **this is not who you are**...you are people who belong to the light. what jesus continues to show us is that we live in a world that is upside down from the kingdom of god, and that if we adopt the world's values and orientation, we will be lost to ourselves. drawing back to our gospel text a few weeks ago (luke 14), jesus had shocking words again about our identities:

"Whoever comes to me and doesn't hate father and mother, spouse and children, and brothers and sisters—yes, even one's own life—cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever doesn't carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

these roles and things in our lives which we name as "my" (my spouse/partner, my car, my chicken....) indicate that we have lost our orientation and our identities. we are **first** children of the light, an extension of god's love in this moment. and, **then** we happen to be partnered (or have a car, or care for a chicken, etc) and we bring this light and love into these places. our identity as incorruptible love and innocence is set and non-negotiable. and we follow jesus so that we can be **re-minded** and learn how to live and interact with the world and in these relationships *anew*, which heals us and brings healing into the world.

our part in this re-minding is **willingness** and **consent**. it is not our job to heal ourselves—that is what holy spirit does. however, we become *willing to see* how we are lost to the landscape and values of the world, and we are caught up in fear, and guilt, and shame, and "being right", and



resentments, and the desire to control, and every other impulse that brings the contraction of our hearts and bodies.

we surrender who we think we are, and ask for the grace to let go completely. and in that emptiness, we give our lives and wills to holy spirit so that they may be re-purposed for god's will. and with this, this place of losing our lives, we are found!

holding each one of you in joy and in gratitude to be on this path together!! pastor luna ☯

*holy spirit, you be in charge, and we will follow you,
trusting that your way leads to peace.*

Sept Mission: NAMI MN

On Sunday September 14, Edgcumbe community heard an awesome presentation by Kay King, Nami Coordinator and Community Educator. National Association for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) provides numerous resources for individuals and families struggling with mental illness. NAMI acts as a resource clearing house for extensive help programs including:

- Crisis Hotlines: Suicide lifeline; mobile crisis response teams; military and veterans crisis line; national crisis text line; national domestic violence hotline and sexual assault hotline
- NAMI support includes educational programs and seminars on mental illness that affect 1 in 5 adults including: anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, eating and personality disorders.
- Education classes, booklets and fact sheets (check out EPC's table behind the sanctuary)
- Suicide prevention
- Support Groups
- Advocacy for community and government support



A major part of NAMI's budget comes from an annual walk (including Kay's salary). This year the walk is Saturday September 27 at Minnehaha Regional Park at 11 AM. Contact Leslie Snow if you want to be part of Edgcumbe's team, and register at namiwalks.org/minnesota. Please consider a donation to NAMI for our September mission. You can donate on our [website](#) and include Sept Mission in the memo box, or with a check including a mission memo. More information on NAMI is available at [their website HERE](#).

Mission and Artplayce Update from Chair Lisa H.

Thanks to your generosity in August, \$620 worth of gift cards were delivered to Highland Park Senior HS this week. We are a small but mighty group of givers. Thank you.

We received this note from HPSHS:

Thank you so much to you and your generous congregation. We are so fortunate and blessed to have the congregation as neighbors....

Much appreciated! Dr. Winston H. Tucker, Principal

More good news to share: At least one of the paintings in our current exhibition by Mike Conroy have been sold to EPC or AA members.

Thank you, Lisa

New Member Exploration

In the coming weeks we will be offering one or two Membership Exploration gatherings after worship. If you are interested in becoming a member of this dynamic community, please talk to Pastor Luna or Pastor Phil, including the Sundays that you could be available in October.

Card received from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities this week...

Edgcumbe Presbyterian is a connectional church, meaning not only is EPC its own worshipping community, but we belong to the larger Presbyterian Church (USA), known as the [PC\(USA\)](#). The larger church is divided into more regional areas of ministry, first Synods (to which we belong to the [Synod of Lakes and Prairies](#)) and then even more local areas called Presbyteries. EPC is under care and in relationship with the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area ([PTCA](#)).

Currently your pastors serve on 3 PTCA committees. Pastor Phil is serving on the Andrews-Riverside Commission (supporting student ministry at the U of MN) and on the newly forming Executive Presbyter Search Team, discerning the leadership for the PTCA. Pastor Luna is serving on the Nominating Team which seeks to discern the gifts and joys of the Teaching Elders (the clergy) and Ruling Elders (the lay leaders) for the ministry teams of the PTCA.

The EPC community received a card from the PTCA yesterday, sharing:

Dear Pastors Luna and Phil and the Session of Edgcumbe Presbyterian:

The staff of the PTCA prayed for your congregation at our staff meeting this week.

We're sending many blessings for your ministry and congregational life at this time.

In Christ, The staff of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities

Included in the card were personal wishes from the individual staff members.

The Body of Christ which is Edgcumbe Presbyterian is grounded in the Holy Spirit, but we live out our ministry of healing and presence into our lives and cities and world alongside Presbyterians throughout the world. And this card this week reminds us that we are not alone in this calling. We give thanks for the opportunity to join together in Christ, and to live out our function and purpose!! Yay, Holy Spirit!! 🎉