

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

November 12, 2025

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Pastors to Australia!

Beginning today through November 26th, Luna and I (Phil) are traveling to Sydney, Australia, for some vacation time and to participate in the wedding of two friends from the Enneagram Prison Project (EPP), Beth and Tom. When I traveled to California to teach an EPP course, Beth was my co-guide. I trained both Tom and Beth, and I'm thrilled to officiate at their wedding. Luna and I have imagined going to Australia someday, and here we go! While we are gone, the Session has two lovely worship services planned on Nov 16 & 23. If pastoral needs emerge, please contact any of our Elders: LaGretta Lunde, Ingrid Eggert, Jay McGregor, or Chelsea Witbrook.

Looking Ahead in the Life of the EPC Community

Potluck and Sanctuary decorations: On Sunday, November 23, we will have a **potluck** and service, led by Chelsea and James Whitbrook. If you would like, please bring a dish to share. After the service, we will begin preparing the plastic greens to decorate the church. This involves taking them out of their storage bags, reshaping the branches (fluffing), and placing them in the order necessary to create the tree, and hanging the wreaths and garlands.

Sanctuary Decorating: On Saturday, November 29, we will gather at 10:00 a.m. to finish reshaping, assemble the tree, and hang the garlands and wreaths. Be aware that AA also meets that morning, so we may need to park in the school lot. *Thank you, Meredith*

Highland AA Gratitude Service: On Thanksgiving Day, November 27, Highland AA invites the congregation to join them for a Gratitude Service in the EPC Sanctuary. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this life-affirming gathering.



reflections on the beloved community which is epc

i have been asking holy spirit what to share in this week's email... and in my prayers this morning, i kept coming back to the astounding gifts which surround me. so let me tell you a bit about the gift that is specifically the beloved community at edgcumbe presbyterian. as some of you might know, phil and i began serving epc august 1, 2007–18 years ago! and i could say plenty about the different chapters of the life of the community over that time, but mostly i want to reflect on the body *in these days*. edgcumbe has always been amazing, but in these days the community feels **extraordinary** to me...like, magical, grace-filled, open hearted, grounded. and yes, that is the holy spirit's presence among us, but it is lived out through each of our lives. each of you contributes to the spirit (and vibe) of the community, and it super demonstrates that we are not only just *learning* about trust, we are *all living into trust*—for god, each other, and even ourselves!! one of the visitors from this past sunday joined us for her 2nd time, and she mentioned that she is *still* talking to people about her first experience of the community. she said she has never felt such a palpable **experience of love** as she has with the edgcumbe community. to me that was one of the highest praises any church could receive—it means that god's only-loveness is being translated and extended by our lives. this, my friends, means that the healing of our minds from fear and separation (and guilt, resentment, falseness, etc) is occurring. together, we are a new creation!! 🌈

even though i did not personally grow up presbyterian, what i have come to love about the bones of this larger body is the belief and practices which recognize that the pastors are never solely in charge. our church structure ordains elders from within the community to be serving alongside the pastors in the stewardship of the church. our community is blessed to have 4 amazing folks serving as ruling elders currently: ingrid e, la gretta l, chelsea w, and jay mcg. in addition to that, also amazing are the gifts and presence which each of you weave into the body. i really encourage each of you to be brave and awkward (maybe it's just me who is awkward?!?! 🤪) and connecting with each person who comes into our circle. maybe while phil and i are away, it could be the excuse to talk to a couple of people that you don't know very well. and even connecting beyond a sunday! i also encourage you to keep your eyes open to visitors...pretty much any person who shows up has been nudged by spirit...there is a gift to be received with each story.

mostly, i want you all to know that you have shaped me and brought so much healing into my own life. as spirit keeps nudging me into new and unexpected directions, you all have extended so much grace and excitement for me...and this has been such an extraordinary gift. and as i deepen into the freedom of at*one*ment with god/myself/others, here is what i am being invited into during this australian adventure:

- presence (to breath, feel my feel on the ground)
- to be open-hearted (knowing that everything is for my healing)
- curious (softening defenses and trusting)
- delighted (connecting to gratitude)

thank you for working alongside your elders tending to the community in these next weeks. i absolutely entrust you all into holy spirit's care! and like the apostle paul, i give thanks each time i think of you!! i carry you in my heart!! joy to you!! pastor luna🌀

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

NOTE from Phil: *Thank you to everyone who made the memorial service for Liz Dunn such a lovely experience for everyone who was there. From planning to treats to Zoom management to parking detail, you all demonstrated the gift of hospitality for Liz's community in a time of need. I add my own gratitude to Luna's for this beloved community!*

November Mission: Lift Garage



Those of you in church on November 9 th heard the inspiring story of The Lift Garage, including the faith journey of Founder/Executive Director Cathy Heying. As a social worker, she noticed the out-sized influence of bad cars on the lives of low income people. Over time, she heard God's call to do something about it, and – after much discernment – she followed the call.

Since 2012, The Lift has been creating more secure lives for low-income Minnesotans through low-cost repairs, free pre-purchase inspections of used cars, and connections to other community partners to help meet customers' holistic needs. You can learn more about The Lift here: www.thelif Garage.org/about

You may give online at the church website <https://epchurch.org/contact.html> (put 'November mission' in the info box), or bring a check to church. Together we can help fill a critical need for people striving towards economic stability.

From Lisa H: Upcoming Concerts



This Saturday November 15th, my a cappella group Heartfelt, (with guitar for some songs) will be performing at All Saints Indian Mission Episcopal church. 3044 Longfellow Ave., Mpls, MN. 55407. 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Suggested donation is \$15.00.

Saturday the 23rd of Nov. the Twin Cities Women's Choir will perform "Ignite" at South Highschool in Mpls. 3131 19th Ave S. Mpls. The show starts at 4:00. Fire and Wind are the themes. It should be a fun concert! You can get tickets online or at the door.

Go to HerVoiceproductions.org for tickets. I think they're \$25.00

Heartfelt has some other holiday gigs coming up too, at the Mall of America on Dec 20th and at the Arboretum (light festival!) on Dec 14th.