

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

December 3, 2025

In this issue: Australia & Advent, Cookie Share, Foodshelf Gratitude, Dec Mission, High Sch Art for Sale, Advent Haiku, Sampling of Australia

Australia & Advent

Some random and deep thoughts from Phil.

- The two pensive/waiting/bored angels from Sunday's bulletin are from Raphael's *Sistine Madonna* painting, Jenya let me know. That beautiful artwork is included above. The legend is that the model for the Madonna brought her children, and Raphael added them to the painting with their long-suffering expressions.
- Big thanks to Elders LaGretta and Chelsea for coordinating and leading worship while we were gone and everyone else who participated. Several of you have said to me and Luna something like, "We missed you, but we also had so much fun while you were away—maybe you should leave more often!"
- God had already done everything that needs to be done. My only job is to accept God's love and atonement and thereby heal myself and the world. It's a lot harder than it sounds, but it is the only path to peace.
- Are you hungry for this peace in your life and in the world? Here are some suggested Advent disciplines from worship on Sunday:
 - Take a break from the internet.
 - "God, you are the love in which I forgive _____."
 - "Speak, Lord, for your instrument is listening."
 - What if I let things be easy?
- There are two fun things at the end of this Update. The first is some Advent haiku from Connie. The other is some photos from our trip to Australia. Love and peace to you all today.



Cookie Share & Christmas Eve

- **Sunday, Dec 21, after worship** - Come one, come all to the first annual cookie share! Do you make Christmas cookies? Bring a dozen or three! Not that into baking? That's cool too—just come. Grab some cookies to share with neighbors, family, your postal person, even with people you don't like! This event is sponsored by EPC's new Belonging Team.

- **Wednesday, Dec 24, 4pm** - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, with readings and music and candles and communion.

EPC Foodshelf Bounty and Gratitude

Wow! Our Edgcumbe food shelf is overflowing just in time for the Thanksgiving Gratitude meeting last week and upcoming Advent time. Thank you so much Edgcumbe family, friends and neighbors for your generosity!

There are additional paper and fabric bags for taking food items as needed for yourself, and especially for folks that are struggling with food needs at this time. Flyers for the larger Neighborhood House food pantry and services are also updated and available.

Gratitude and thanks from the Edgcumbe Mission Team!!



December Mission: STAR House

STAR House is a nonprofit crisis nursery in Saint Paul, Minnesota which offers free, safe, holistic and trauma-informed care to children in an overnight care facility. Families can face immense stress from issues like unemployment, homelessness, mental health needs, medical problems, domestic violence or simply the need for a break. In such crises, many parents turn to their network of family and friends for help. Unfortunately some families lack a trusted support system to care for their children during these challenging times.

This is where STAR House comes in as a reliable ally, offering free, safe overnight care for children and supportive services for caregivers. Turning to STAR House during tough times is a testament to both the caregivers' trust in us and their dedication to their family's well-being. It reflects their exceptional parenting skills and we are honored to welcome them with open arms and without judgment. At STAR House, our ongoing mission is to support caregivers in a respectful and nonintrusive way.

Highland Park Student Art for Sale

HS student photography prints in the church sanctuary offered for purchase: If there is any interest from EPC members, people can purchase any prints of the same size (as on display) for 20\$. 15\$ for the cost and \$5 for the student artist. Just send a photo of the print you want to keri.schultz@spps.org to organize payment, printing, and delivery/pick up options. If you haven't looked at the artwork closely, you should notice that several of the photos were taken on EPC property.

Advent Haiku from Connie

feel our feet...grounded
pay attention to our breath
the kindom is here

we follow the star
into the darkness of night
and we find our Light

(for Luna)
glittering purple
the shawl is wrapped around her
she is the magi

this architecture
love, beauty, and connection
it is a mirror



Australia Photos

Here are a few photos from the Pastors' time in Australia...

(the Three Sisters in the Blue Mountains, Beth & Tom's Wedding Luncheon, Sydney Opera House from ferry, Circle Quay Wharf in Sydney, sunrise over the Tasman Sea)





