

# Edgcumbe

## Presbyterian Church

January 21, 2026

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### The Breath of Love

Another word exploration this week. =) In the Bible, the two primary names for God are "God" and "Lord" (or "the Lord"). In both Hebrew and Greek, the word for "God" is pretty straight-forward. However, "Lord" is not actually a translation of the original language at all. In the Old Testament, God names godself as YHWH. That name for God, usually transcribed "Yahweh," appears almost 7000 times in scripture! As a comparison, "God" appears about 2500 times. Yahweh is by far the most-common name for God in the Hebrew scripture. So why aren't we universally familiar with this super-common biblical word?

The first reason is that it is essentially impossible to pronounce. Ancient Hebrew didn't have vowels (!), so try pronouncing YHWH—four breathy consonants that almost aren't consonants. The second reason is that Jews during the Babylonian exile (around 500 BC) decided that God's name was too holy to say out loud, so they replaced it with the word "Adonai," which means Lord. Subsequent translators of the OT into Greek and most other languages have followed suit, leaving us with 7000 occurrences naming God as Lord.

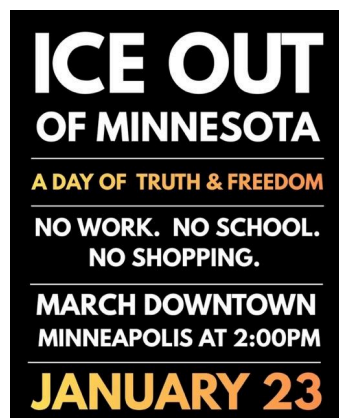
The important thing about remembering God's name as YHWH is twofold. First, those airy consonants remind us that God is as close as our breath and as powerful as the wind. Second, those same consonants are the ones that God shares with Moses at the burning bush when God reveals that the one speaking is called I-AM-WHO-I-AM. In other words, every time (7000 times!) that YHWH shows up, the best translation might actually be: The Breath of Being.

- *The Breath of Being is my refuge and strength.*
- *The Breath That Gives Me Life is my shepherd.*
- *Praise the Breath of Love.*
- *Jesus Christ is my Breath and Savior.*

That's not really even poetic license. That's just the meaning of the name of God. Check yourself right now: Are you breathing? If yes, then you are participating in the Existence of God's Love.

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

## A Day of Truth and Freedom–This Friday



You might have seen that a local faith based community organizer, ISAIAH MN (link [here](#)), along with other local Twin Cities groups have called for a day of Truth and Freedom for this Friday, January 23rd. Of the various invitations to engage this day, one is specific for clergy to be present and to wear our ecclesiastical wear ("ecclesiastical" refers to anything related to the Christian Church, its clergy, organization, or affairs, essentially the opposite of "secular;"). After being in prayer specifically these past weeks for this moment in human history, Pastor Luna is feeling guided to show up for this action, and participate in a public way. The organizers are intentionally not disclosing the what and where of this action, mostly which is to not give time for a counter action to organize. Since she did not get a

chance to talk to the EPC community about this discernment and action, she is not declaring that she is representing EPC; however she is locating herself as a religious leader who is engaged in the wider community.

Pastor Luna is asking for your prayers of Love and Light to accompany her on Friday. We have seen instances these past few weeks of how protestors have been responded to with violence, so she is also feeling some fear and anxiety. But even with these feelings, she is still guided to be present. As a side note, the 30 Day Meditation Challenge that Elder Chelsea is leading us on has given Luna some more tools on how to connect with Love and Light even when feeling afraid. The Holy Spirit really does give us everything we need!!

NOTE: *Pastor Phil plans to gather in the church sanctuary at 10am on this Friday (the same time as the Clergy action described above) for a time of prayer. All are welcome to join him.*

## January Mission - EPP

EPP is on a mission to understand why we do what we do, using the Enneagram to inspire transformation —on both sides of the bars— through self-awareness, self-regulation, and

self compassion. Last Sunday, we heard from Ashley Walls, a graduate of several EPP courses at Shakopee Prison, along with fellow EPP Guide Susanne Gawreluk. If you would like to support this life-changing work, please donate to this month's mission either online at [www.epchurch.org](http://www.epchurch.org) or with a check or cash designed for "January Mission" or "EPP."



## Looking Ahead: Annual Mtg & Brunch, Sunday Feb 8

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, Feb. 8, we will gather at 10am in the sanctuary as usual for a shorter worship service followed by a potluck brunch and our Annual Congregational Meeting. At this meeting, we look back at how God has been working through us in 2025,

vote on our pastors' terms of call, hear reports from the Teams of the congregation, and see our budget for 2026. Hope to see you there.

## **January Session Notes**

*From Elder Jay McGregor:*

One of the things I love about being on Session is that we start the meeting with somebody providing a devotion. This always brings us to a place that is warm, connected, and encouraged.

We discussed the budget with an emphasis on abundance, noticing a trend toward generosity, and acknowledging that we are in good financial health. We approved the annual budget for 2026.

Planning for the annual meeting led to conversations about ways in which we could help answer questions that newer folks might have.

Sabbatical dates are July 14th to August 14th, 2026. More will be shared regarding fundraising and goals for the Pastor's sabbatical. The possibility of forming a sabbatical team was discussed. Please speak up if you would like to volunteer!

Luna shared her thoughts on creating a book share resource for the community. The Aura et Labora group will be working to create this resource. If you have books that you have loved and that you would love to share, please bring them to church!

Luna brought us a joy that she has in that she will be meeting with a neighbor who is interested in an opportunity to do service in a nature setting...backwoods you think?...perfect!

We will, again, happily provide space for the High School to do IB testing. Pastor Luna will be meeting with school staff to plan this.

Pastor Luna had an opportunity to "check-in," sharing that she is realizing that she has a cracked tooth that will need to be removed and replaced with an implant. Luna is noticing that this is creating some tender grief as she approaches the unfolding of healing. We will hold Luna through this. Pastor Luna shared that she was very grateful to share the hymn that she had written and deeply moved by your responses. We look forward to this new flower further blossoming in the bouquet of Luna's gifts.

Pastor Phil shared that he is grateful for the richness of having regular get togethers with folks from the church. He is hoping that we all will keep our ears and eyes open for opportunities to encourage each other, and to come forward with creative ways to serve each other. His hope is that there will be opportunities for leadership to come forward within the community, as we grow in our capacity to love each other and our larger community.

## **New Belonging Team**

Hello EPC Family, There is a new team that is being formalized at Edgcumbe called The Belonging Team. We had our 1st 'official' meeting after church last Sunday and got some logistics worked out.

The focus of the team is to create ways for EPC'ers to connect both at church and outside of church. We long for ways to get to know one another more deeply and to have fun together. We want to know how to support one another and find a place that feels safe and like home.

The team members are Rachel, Jane, Connie, Ingrid, Phil, and Ty. If you are called to be a part of the team, we would LOVE to have you! Please reach out to any one of us to get info on meeting times, ect.