



Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Sept 30th, 2026

In this issue: Reflection from Rachel Swan, Upcoming Worship, TC Marathon Road Closures, Hidden Falls Walk, Special Guest, October mission, Sabbatical photos and submissions, Bible study, Prayers, October Birthdays and Anniversaries, September Mission Summary

Reflection by Rachel Swan

God doesn't want any of us to die [with our song left in us] brackets added by Rachel

When I was a kid, maybe 8 or 9, I remember my mom directing a high school play: Godspell. I **loved it** and went to every rehearsal I could. And yes, the foreshadowing of my love of God while growing up in a fairly irreligious family is not lost on me. This past Sunday when Anna was reading the Ezekiel passages I could almost hear one of the songs from this play humming in my ear. It starts with a saloon type piano and a sexy female voice singing with an almost sarcastic tone "Turn back, o man, forswear thy foolish ways...." A quick google search will give you the tune if you'd like to hear it. The singer continues but then Jesus comes in, changes the tempo and feel of the song, soft and loving, and sings, "Earth shall be fair, and all her people one. Not till that hour, shall God's whole will be done." I am not sure that outside of this reading and the sermon that came alongside it from Pastor Stephanie, I've heard the text the way I did on Sunday.

Like Pastor Stephanie, I am not much of a fire and brimstone kind of gal. I love my grace and joy in the Lord. But a glass half full will eventually empty. Hard times, harsh times, will come. All around us they are here for so many. So if we take seriously our call to love our neighbor as ourselves, knowing hard times have already come for someone, then these hard times have come for us, for me and you. "Not till that hour, shall God's whole will be done," Jesus sings. This is our Gospel imperative.

Turn back, o man, forswear thy foolish ways. Or as those words from Ezekiel calls to us "Cast away from you all the transgressions ... get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die ... Turn, then, and live." Ta da ta dah dah.

Worship this Sunday - Oct 4th

Please join us in worship and in thanking Stephanie for her faithful leadership and service during the pastors' sabbatical.

Sunday Morning Alert: TC Marathon Weekend

For those of you who live North of Summit Avenue, be alert that this Sunday Summit Ave. will be closed, and your typical route to get to worship could be disrupted. Consider traveling South via Ayd Mill Road, or I-35E.

Hidden Falls Walk - Oct 4th after worship

Hello Beloved Community,

This is Connie reminding anyone who wants to participate that we are taking a walk at Hidden Falls Park next Sunday (Oct 4th) after church. Please enter the park at the Magoffin entrance and park closer to the boat launch area. It might be helpful to pack water and snacks and perhaps a raincoat/hiking boots if it is rainy. I am looking forward to walking with you!

Sunday Oct 11th we will be hosting a very special guest -- Joe Davis!

Joe Davis is an award-winning spoken word artist and bestselling author who uses poetry to power possibility. He is the founder and director of Finding Your Freedom Practice, teaching holistic health and wellness practices through spoken word, writing, music, theater, and dance. Joe holds a Master of Arts degree in Theology of the Arts and also heads a multimedia production company, a soul funk band, and a racial justice education program. His work has been featured on BET, CNN, and VH1. Based in Minneapolis, he tours internationally to join schools, faith spaces, nonprofits, and businesses to practice envisioning and embodying a world of collective liberation and human flourishing.



On Oct 11th, Joe will share some of his poetry with us, and lead us in a reflection about cultivating joyful community. Learn more about Joe at <https://www.joedavispoetry.com/> Get a taste of his poetry here: <https://youtu.be/swJxWPbqT-k?si=gRaBTkAeqYZzeJ98> Don't miss this opportunity....and bring a friend!!!

October Mission- The Lift Garage



Our mission for October will be The Lift Garage. On Sunday 10/4 we'll introduce their mission of providing low-cost car repairs to low-income people. On Sunday 10/25 Founder and Executive Director Cathy Heying will join us in worship. In addition to supporting The Lift with our financial gifts, we will be supporting them in service:

On Thursday, November 5th from 3pm - 5pm, we have committed to provide a team of 10 to assemble a mailing for the Lift's end-of-year giving campaign. We'll meet onsite at 2401 E. Lake Street, and volunteers will meet Lift staff, tour the garage, and save the organization hundreds of dollars that otherwise would be paid to a mail company. There will be opportunities to work while seated. Do you want to be part of this? Email Jane Tafel at tafeljane@gmail.com to sign up.

Learn more about the Lift Garage: <https://www.thelif Garage.org/>

Submissions to the Midweek Update during Sabbatical

If you have an announcement or article for the midweek update during the pastors' sabbatical, please submit it to Office Manager Krysta Niznick by Tuesday morning at epchurch2149@gmail.com.

Collecting Photos of EPC Community during Sabbatical

Please take photos of yourself and the EPC community during this unique time of Sabbatical. James Witbrook will be collecting photos to compile a slideshow to share with our community and our pastors at the October retreat during a storytelling event. Photos can be of work in the backwoods, worship services, potlucks, or 1-on-1 hangouts with EPC friends outside of Sunday mornings. Please send your photos to jameswitbrook@gmail.com with "EPC slideshow" in the subject line.

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Bible Study Continues

We'll continue bible study during Phil and Luna's absence. I will send out the texts early on Sundays or they are available here: <https://epchurch.org/lectionary-.pdf> . Access to the bible study Zoom is here: <https://epchurch.org/> . Hope to see you there at 6:30 PM every Sunday night.
-Ron Eggert

Prayers For...

Prayers for Ron on his upcoming surgery.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries



Happy Birthday to:

Samantha LeClair	10/11
Shiloh Kenney	10/17

Happy Anniversary to:

Connie & Dave Howe-Vielmetti	10/07
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September 17 Session Meeting Summary

Session was grateful to have Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt, pastor at Cherokee Park United Church, as guest facilitator for our Session meeting.

Chelsea opened our meeting with a poem and devotion. She shared that she had attended the Presbytery meeting, where she was introduced as a commissioner! We are so excited to walk with Chelsea as her ministry unfolds. She also began classes this week and reports that she is enjoying them.

We were glad to hear that Chelsea B. has settled in Tucson and has sent photos of the beautiful cacti there. Session also discussed September's mission support for NAMI and the opportunity for members of the congregation to take part in a NAMI walk.

As we reflected on the sabbatical period, we asked, "How are we doing?" Our answer was: well! There was consensus among Elders that our community is skilled in stepping-up and saying yes when asked to serve! Chelsea added that there is still room at the upcoming EPC Retreat! Please contact Chelsea if you would like to attend; it sounds both meaningful and fun. Please don't let finances stand in your way. We have scholarship money and all are welcome.

Session discussed ways to cool the church during the warmer months. Ron reported that our budget is in good shape, and pledge requests will be coming soon. Ron also shared that he is awaiting follow-up surgery (we have since learned that the surgery will be Friday, October 2nd). He and Ingrid welcome your prayers.