

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

May 29, 2024



In this issue: Tomorrow Night–Bonfire in the Backwoods!, Congregational Meeting next Sunday, Last Sunday/Next Sunday, May Mission: Backwoods, Pastor Luna’s Outdoor Companionship Classes Finishing, Course invitation, Summer Music, Happy Birthday & Anniversary

Tomorrow (Thurs) Night/6:30p–8p – Bonfire in the Backwoods!

All are welcome to enjoy the backwoods as we share a bonfire and time together **this Thursday evening, May 30th from 6:30-8p!** Invite your family! Invite your friends! Bring a chair to sit on! Pastor Luna will bring marshmallows to roast, and you’re welcome to bring other snacks or lawn games. We have invested our time and resources in the backwoods–let us savor a night to play and receive it’s beauty!!

Call to Congregational Meeting for the Election of Elder

The Session of EPC has called for a special congregational meeting for **this Sunday, June 2, 2024** for the purpose of Election of an Elder. LaGretta Lunde has been prayerfully considering stepping into the service of Elder, and she has discerned “yes!” This short congregational meeting will be after worship on Sunday for the community to vote upon this matter.

Last Sunday’s Recording and Next Sunday’s Text

Usually when I write a reflection for this Update, I do a follow-up to themes from the past Sunday. This week, thanks to Jay, we are actually sending out a recording of the whole service. The music and message and prayers all came together in a lovely harmony, so I encourage you to listen whether you were present or not.

https://soundcloud.com/jay-s-mcgregor/edgcumbe-church-may-26-2024?si=96bd8b3e529b4b9cb49b05452e40e952&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

Instead of only looking back, I also want to give you a taste of what’s to come for next Sunday. Our text will be from 2 Corinthians 4. Verses 7-9 read like this:

We have this treasure in clay pots so that the awesome power belongs to God and doesn't come from us.

We are experiencing all kinds of trouble, but we aren't crushed.

We are confused, but we aren't depressed.

*We are harassed, but we aren't abandoned.
We are knocked down, but we aren't knocked out.*

We talk a lot about freedom—in both my work with EPC and with the Enneagram Prison Project. This text sounds to me like true freedom. It doesn't mean that life won't be challenging or painful or hard. It does mean that my inner treasure is held and protected and given life by the awesome power of God. Freedom means that I have nothing to fear, because even in the face of death or confusion or harassment, we are not crushed / we are not depressed / we are not abandoned / we are not knocked out. We are alive; we are loved; we are free.

May Mission is the EPC Backwoods!

Summer has begun in the backwoods and the Holy Spirit is leading many friends and neighbors



to share in the peace and beauty of our backwoods. Now that folks are using the woods much more for meetings and walking the paths, **we are in need of supplies and especially some replacements for the colorful chairs at the prayer stations. Mission donations for May are designated for the backwoods.**

As we move into summer, the Edgcumbe backwoods will have opportunities for hands-on mission and gatherings. EPC will be

hosting several events in July and August and will be scheduling outdoor worship and workdays. Please check out our announcements and weekly newsletters for updates. **Many thanks for the support you have given this spring!**

Pastor Luna's Outdoor Companionship Coursework Nearing Completion

After 2 ½ months, Pastor Luna's classes will come to a completion with this upcoming Sunday's gathering. Even though the formal classes will end, she has plenty of material to continue to read to deepen in the practice of connection with nature for the nurturing our spiritual well-being. Continue to watch for ways she weaves her learnings into the life of the Edgcumbe community!

Course Invite from Mark Tafel

This is just an invitation to you all to take part in an e-course offered through Spirituality & Practice entitled Practical Nonduality, hosted by Cynthia Bourgeault, from June 3 to July 1. Since March, 2020, the first month of the global pandemic, Cynthia has been a huge influence on me, initially through the e-course, Introductory Wisdom School, during which I became a

steady practitioner of Centering Prayer. I admire Cynthia's gift for being able to break down confusing and/or loaded terms of all sorts into clear and convincing prose. This may sound all theological....but it's not.....her practice has a large practical component, hence, Practical Nonduality. Personally, what I am paying attention to these days is how I pay attention throughout the day, and I think this course will inform me and give me ways to add to my practice.

You can read more about the course here:

<https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/ecourses/course/view/10327/practical-nonduality>

Gratefully yours now and forever, Mark

Summer Music

Jenya is going to visit her parents in Belarus from June 21 - August 21. While she is away, we will be having a combination of members and guest musicians lead music for our worship. If you have a piece of special music that you would like to share with the congregation during this time, please talk to Pastor Phil. Thank you!

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

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|----------------|------|
| LaGretta Lunde | 6/11 |
| Lisa Holden | 6/16 |
| Zack Humphrey | 6/16 |
| Fred Clary | 6/24 |
| Ingrid Eggert | 6/24 |
| Eleta Pierce | 6/24 |

Happy Anniversary to:

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| David & Sherla Mayer | 6/18 |
| Fred & Belinda Clary | 6/27 |