

# Edgcumbe

## Presbyterian Church

### Holy Week Update

April 16, 2025

*In this issue:* Maundy Thurs, Easter, Forgiveness, Looking Ahead, April Mission, Session Report

### Maundy Thursday Potluck & Worship

6pm

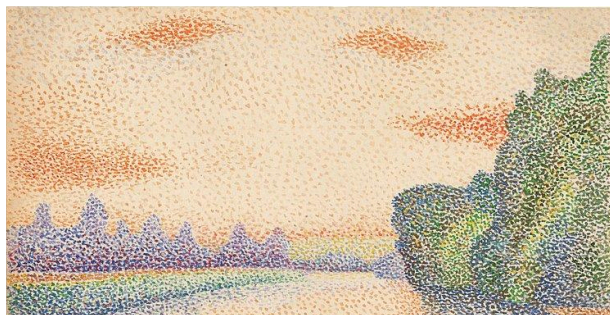
We are fully aware that Maundy is a weird word. It comes from the Latin for “mandate” - commandment, because on the Thursday passover meal before his arrest, Jesus gives the disciples his great commandment to love one another as he has loved them. Each Spring at Edgcumbe Church, we regather to remember and to eat and sing and pray together.



So tomorrow, April 17, we will have a potluck meal and worship in the church sanctuary, starting at 6:00pm. If this is your first Maundy Thursday at EPC, here’s what you need to know.

- Everybody is welcome: children, guests, even you.
- We will gather at tables set up in the sanctuary to eat at 6pm, with worship following around 6:30pm. Come any time you can make it. We should be done around 7:15pm. If we run out of tables, we will sit in the pews. Let’s fill the place up.
- What food should you bring to share? Anything—it’s a potluck. We don’t have any Lenten food rules here, so sweets or main dishes or veggies or salad or fruit or bagels or drinks, homemade or store-bought, are all welcome. If you don’t have any food to share—PLEASE COME ANYWAY. We really mean it.
- The church has plates and bowls and cups and napkins. If you are bringing a dish that needs a spatula or spoon or hot pad for serving, it can be helpful if you bring that too, but we do have some serving implements. We even have an oven if you need to heat something up.
- Feel free to come early to hang out and help set up or stay late to hang out and clean up. Don’t forget to invite a friend.

### Easter Sunday



“Easter” is also an interesting word. It means what it says: “east” or “dawn.” It is the reminder that God’s love and mercy are as faithful as the

sun dawning each day in the east, without fail; that life comes after death just as predictably as light follows darkness every single day. Are you ready for the dawning of a new day, a new you, a new world? Then join us this coming Sunday, April 20 at 10am. We gather again in the hope of resurrection, in the joy of singing together, in the perfume of colorful mums, and in the embrace of God's love to set aside our ancient fears and remember together Who We Are!

## Forgiveness

As we have been practicing forgiveness together these past six weeks, I have begun to hear certain words from the congregation. Words and feelings like, "release" or "hope" or "freedom" or "unexpected joy" or "I don't understand what's happening, but I know I feel better" or, somewhat confusingly, "chocolate."

The point of forgiveness is not to get you to do something you don't want to do. The point of forgiveness is to open the space inside of you to experience real joy and freedom and maybe even chocolate (as a metaphor for decadent yumminess, perhaps?). So feel free to proclaim boldly:

***God is the love in which I forgive.***

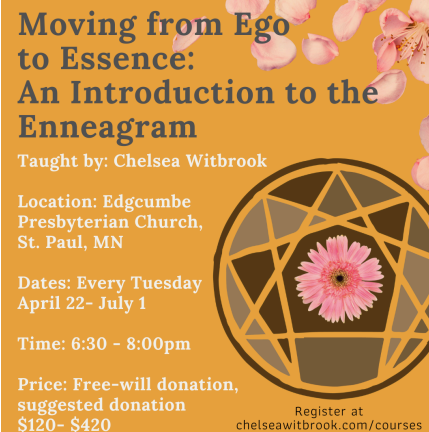
Trusting that God's Spirit is so ready and willing to give exactly what you want and need, in more abundance than you can even imagine, opening the gates of heaven itself for your heart and mind and soul to find peace and healing. And then, any time a brother or sister or story or situation that creates a grievance inside of you today, say in your heart:

***God is the love in which I forgive you, \_\_\_\_\_.***

Are you ready for peace, friends? God is offering it to you right now.

## Looking Ahead

- Our Introduction to the **Enneagram** course led by Chelsa Witbrook begins on next Tuesday April 22—so the time to register is Right Now. All you need to register is to go to: [chelseawitbrook.com/courses](http://chelseawitbrook.com/courses). Spread the word!
- We are having an all-church **backwoods workday** on Saturday, May 10, at 10am. Many hands make light work, as they say, so your hands would be greatly appreciated.



**Moving from Ego to Essence:  
An Introduction to the Enneagram**

Taught by: Chelsa Witbrook

Location: Edgumbe Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN

Dates: Every Tuesday April 22- July 1

Time: 6:30 - 8:00pm

Price: Free-will donation, suggested donation \$120- \$420

Register at [chelseawitbrook.com/courses](http://chelseawitbrook.com/courses)

## April Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing

**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** is a Special Offering received through our denomination, the PC(USA) during Lent. The theme of this special offering is **Love Repairs the Breach**. In Isaiah 58, we are called to be repairers of the breach. Showing and sharing our love, is how we

are repairing the breach in so many of our interactions in this world, opening the path to a new season of justice, freedom and peace.

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to:

1. Relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program
2. Promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and
3. Assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



One Great Hour supports programs in over 100 countries. Check out this video that highlights support programs in just three of these areas: Chicago with the Alliance for

Community Services; New Mexico with Tewa Women United to strengthen leadership and advocate for civil rights; and disaster assistance in Nepal. [TWO-MINUTE VIDEO CLIP HERE](#)

Please consider a mission donation during April. You can indicate "One Great Hour" or "April Mission" on the memo line with a check, or on the Give Now application on [www.epchurch.org](http://www.epchurch.org). Thanks for your support!

## April Session Report

The EPC Session of Elders met after worship on Sunday, April 13, for the reception of new members. Eight folks were warmly welcomed and voted into membership, with an April 27 date set for a new member service of welcome in worship. Beyond the eight people joining right now, we have more people interested in joining this dynamic community. So we will plan another round of new member exploration meetings in the coming months!

The Session also began planning for the pastors' time away in early June, when Pastor Luna will be in Iona, Scotland, for a hymn-writing conference, and Pastor Phil will be in California leading a class for the Enneagram Prison Project.

Finally, the Elders set a date for a congregational meeting to elect new church officers (Elders or Deacons) on Sunday, May 11. This will be a short meeting at the end of the worship service that day. If you have an interest in serving as a leader in this growing congregation, please speak with Pastor Phil or Pastor Luna.