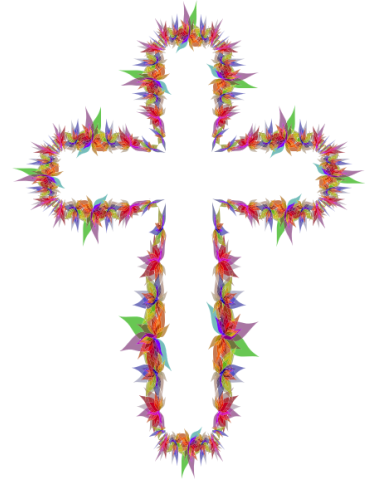


Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

April 23, 2025

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New Member Welcome This Sunday

In worship this coming Sunday, April 27, we have two special events. We will have a visit from Enneagram Prison Project Ambassador Sue Lambert, who will be attending the graduation class at Shakopee Women's Prison with Pastor Phil on Monday evening. Then, we will welcome nine(!) new members into our community of faith: Chelsey Burden, Janet Fitzgerald, Dean Grussendorf. Shiloh Kenney, John Owens, Jane Tafel, Mark Tafel, Chelsea Witbrook, James Witbrook. We celebrate the mutual Yes between these individuals and the Holy Spirit and this congregation!

"why do you look for the living among the dead?"

celebrating easter reminds us that our lives are shaped by jesus' resurrection two millennia ago, as well as remembering that jesus is alive **now**. present tense. he is not limited to a physical body, and he remains a dynamic and real presence in our lives **each** and **every** day. he is our teacher and our brother. we join with him each time we come fully into the present moment.

our scripture text (luke 24) from sunday told us of the women who went to jesus' tomb after his crucifixion and were met by two men who asked them, "why do you look for the living among the dead?" this question brings a powerful resonance into our lives *today*. when you turn on the news, look at your phone, go to social media, check on your financial plans, connect with family...what are you looking for, and what are you finding? are you finding life and god's infinite healing presence, or are you left with feelings of anger, frustration and despair? are you hearing these unexpected angels asking: why do you look the living among the dead?

we are invited to cultivate a real and vital connection with the **living** christ, which offers us the experience of god's kingdom in each present moment. and being grounded in life, in forgiveness, in peace, we then bring that with us into each moment, and bring life to the dead. your life is purposeful as the bringer of living christ in to all spaces and at times. and, being grounded in the love and light of christ, then we ask holy spirit to guide us, so that we might be instruments for god's healing and loving will.

i invite you, right now, to **pause** and **breathe**, to be re-minded, open your heart and mind to the living jesus. say hello, have a conversation and tell him what is on your heart. and when

that feels complete, ask holy spirit to ground you in our one body, our one heart. you and your life are a very real demonstration of resurrection. you are a bringer of life!

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

views from the backwoods



one of the gifts of being in the back woods is getting to interact with the larger community around the edgcumbe building. for instance, there is an educator, jesse, from highland park middle school, who comes and walks around the backwoods everyday before he begins work. perhaps you have noticed that our neighbors are undergoing a significant remodeling project, so it was interesting to talk with him yesterday and hear how the construction is impacting his classes working with students with specialized learning programs.

another part of my time yesterday, not even remembering that it was earth day, being delighted when one of the classes of the montessori children (who are in epc's building) pattering through the backwoods trail. their teacher, ms. ava, told me they were on an earth day walk with the intention to hug the trees!! and as i am talking with the montessori kids, i start hearing increasingly loud shouting next door in the highland park senior high school parking lot. then realizing they were protesting the mistreatment of the earth, and standing up for the earth's wellbeing.... "and when do we want it?" they chanted, "now!!"

our youngest generations have such a deep and intrinsic connection with the natural world, and as i was leaning against the buckthorn puller, i became immensely grateful and humbled that edgcumbe has its own story about caring for this patch of earth that we are called to steward. we are the guardians for these spaces, and our woods and greens spaces become available for the larger community to rest, renew, and reconnect with a sense of the sacred.



thank you, one and all, for this mutual call of tending to the earth together. it has become a place of refuge for the community!

Looking Ahead: Backwoods Workday

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.

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. Thanks for your support!