

# Edgcumbe

## Presbyterian Church

May 28, 2025

*In this issue: Two Trees, Pastors Away & Worship Plans, June Mission, Bowling!!, Thursday mornings in Backwoods for prayer and stewardship, June Birthdays & Anniversaries*

### Two Trees

Last Sunday, we explored a simple but profound Biblical insight. The Bible begins (Genesis 2) with two trees: the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil. The Bible ends (Revelation 22) with two trees: the Tree of Life on both sides of the River of the Waters of Life. If you remember the story, Adam and Eve choose to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil. Human experience, as we generally know it, is lived under the shade of this tree. When I asked how it feels to live from a place of judgment, from an attitude of deciding in every moment what is right and what is wrong, people in worship answered with words like— constricted, shrinking, rigid, caught in certitude, spiney (full of thorny spines), self-righteous, separated. What does it feel like for you?

One way to read the whole Bible is as a thought experiment, something like this, “How well does it work to decide for ourselves what is right and what is evil? What happens when we let God be the decider and follow only the Holy Spirit?” By the last chapter of the Bible, we get a vision of what this might look like. In the New Jerusalem, the Tree of Judgment, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil, isn’t even there. Only the River of Life, only the Tree of Life. The tyranny of choice is lifted from our shoulders, and we are left with...only life. And the leaves of this life-giving tree will bring healing to the nations, and its fruit will feed every mouth, and there will be no more curses and no more night for God’s light will shine upon us.

If you want to imagine your own life with and without the knowledge of good and evil, here is a little experiment you can do. On Day 1, assume every thought, every opinion, every judgment you have is 100% correct. Lean into your own rightness. See how you feel at the end of the day. On Day 2, assume the opposite—that every judgment you make is evil and disgusting in God’s eyes. [Be careful with this one. If this becomes too painful, feel free to stop at any point.] Again see how you feel at the end of this day. On Day 3, try being completely neutral about everything: what you eat, what happens in world politics, how the Lynx/Wolves/Twins are doing, how you were parented, your BMI index, absolutely everything and anything that comes up. On this 3rd day, I’m not suggesting you stop caring or that you close down your heart. Instead the invitation is to shut down, for just one day, the incessant industrial judging complex that lives in



your head. At the end of Day 3, how do you feel? Next Sunday in worship, I'll ask if anyone tried this and how it went. =)

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

### **Pastors Away June 2-15, and worship plans**

Pastors Luna and Phil will be away tending to different aspects of their ministries. Pastor Luna leaves for Scotland on May 29th, where she will be traveling to Scotland to



have two weeks in the Iona Community attending two different workshops: hymn writing and on the life of St. Columba. Pastor Phil will be in the Bay Area of California guiding an Enneagram Prison Project course in a jail in San Mateo county.

During these weeks, Session has been crafting community worship for Sundays June 8th and 15th. We are excited to offer these opportunities for the entire community.

### **Sunday, June 1, Worship with Communion, 10am**

Hear a Moment for Mission about Kafika House (see below).  
Pastor Phil will be here, and we will celebrate communion together.

### **Sunday June 8: All-Church Potluck Brunch, 10am**

**Hosted by Shelley Holden & Mark Wehde**

**2240 Ferris Lane, Roseville, MN 55113**

*Park in their driveway (not the neighbor's) or in the circle.*

**Please RSVP to Shelley at [sjholden44@gmail.com](mailto:sjholden44@gmail.com)**

**Bring your favorite brunch dish!**

Chelsea Witbrook will lead a short reflection time.

### **Sunday, June 15, Backwoods Worship, 10am**

Bring a chair or blanket to enjoy our beautiful Backwoods.

The service will be coordinated by Elder Jay McGregor.

### **June Mission: Kafika House**

This coming Sunday, June 1 st , Ron and Ingrid Eggert will introduce our mission of the month, Kafika House in



northern Tanzania. Ron and Ingrid lived and worked in Tanzania for 9 years, beginning in 2003 until the onset of COVID. Ron served as physician overseeing medicine and pediatric wards of a Lutheran teaching hospital. He and his colleagues were faced with the problem of what to do with children needing post-operative care, for a week up to several months. Children were unable to leave the hospital until surgical wounds healed, since home for most of them was a single room with stick and mud walls and dirt floor – a non- hygienic environment for healing. With hospital beds at a premium, a vision for Kafika House (originally known as Plaster House) was formed.

Now, since 2008, Kafika House has been providing loving, low-cost care to children with surgically-correctable disabilities, including club foot, cleft lip/palate, burn scar contractures, leg deformities, and hydrocephalus. The work is fueled by charitable giving.

You'll learn more about the mission, the Eggert's experiences, and how generous giving from EPC can make a difference – this Sunday, June 1. Visit Kafika House website here: [www.kafikahouse.org](http://www.kafikahouse.org)

## **Bowling!!**

Hello EPC Family, we are finalizing our EPC Bowling Plans! We will be going to Concord Lanes and need to know which of these 3 dates works for you:

- Monday, June 23rd at 6pm
- Wed, July 9th at 6pm. or
- Monday, July 14th at 6pm

The cost is about \$10 a person. Please email Jane Tafel at [tafeljane@gmail.com](mailto:tafeljane@gmail.com) and let her know if any of these dates work AND which dates are not good for you.



PS... If you hate bowling but just want to come hang out and cheer the bowlers, please come to the event!

## **Thursday mornings in the Backwoods: Prayer and Stewardship**



You are invited to a gather with us Thursday mornings in the Backwoods for meditation and stewardship. We gather at 6:30am in the circle of chairs for a 20 minute mediation sit. Then, we move into the backwoods to tend to the restoration of the native ecosystem by removing the invasive species and tending to the path and stations. Come at 6:30am for prayer, or join us at 7am for some loving attention and care given to the beautiful woods!! Questions: contact Mark Tafel at [tafelmark@gmail.com](mailto:tafelmark@gmail.com).

If this does not fit into your schedule, know there are many ways to contribute to the stewardship of the backwoods...do you feel the nudge to contribute in some way?? Speak to Pastors Luna or Phil.

## June Birthdays and Anniversaries

The word "CELEBRATE!" is rendered in a playful, 3D block font. Each letter is a different color: C (pink), E (orange), L (yellow), E (light blue), B (purple), R (pink), A (orange), T (light blue), and E (purple). The letters have a slight shadow, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

### Happy Birthday to:

LaGretta Lunde	6/11
Janet (Jan) Fitzgerald	6/15
Lisa Holden	6/16
Zack Humphery	6/16
Fred Clary	6/24
Eleta Pierce	6/24
John Owens	6/29

### Happy Anniversary to:

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

*Do we have your birthday and anniversary date?? If not, please contact Krysta, EPC's administrator at [epchurch2149@gmail.com](mailto:epchurch2149@gmail.com).*