

# Edgcumbe

## Presbyterian Church

June 25, 2025

*In this issue: EPC sayings, June Mission, Bowling!!, Edgcumbe Reflection, Thank You Letter from Highland Park SHS, Session Notes from June*



### EPC Sayings

One way to see what a community values is to note the catchphrases of the community. Here are some phrases or sayings that I associate with EPC. What ones would you add?

- God is the love in which I forgive.
- Now-change-trust: God's kingdom is right now; I am willing to change my heart and mind; I chose trust. *(from Mark 1)*
- My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. *(from John 15)*
- The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, trust, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. *(from Galatians 5)*
- Everything is either an expression of love or a call for love. Everything.
- I don't need love; I am love.
- The opposite of love is fear.
- It is for freedom that Christ set us free. *(again Galatians 5)*
- Deep calls to deep. *(from Psalm 42)*
- Holy Spirit, in this holy moment, you be in charge, and we will follow you, trusting that your direction leads to peace.

Consider taking one of these sayings and making it your own this week. Make an art card and put it by your bedside, or set your phone alarm to go off each hour with this reminder, or spend five minutes meditating in the morning and evening around your chosen saying. The Holy Spirit wants to support your spirit. Let her in and see what miracles emerge!

Looking ahead: We plan to have worship in the backwoods on Sunday, July 13, joined by two local Presbyterian congregations—FPC South St Paul and Cherokee Heights United Church.



### June Mission: Kafika House

On Sunday, June 1st, Ron and Ingrid Eggert introduced our mission of the month, Kafika House in northern Tanzania. Ron spoke from his experience of 9 years serving as the physician at a Lutheran teaching hospital. Children in the region suffered in disproportionate numbers from cleft palate, club foot, hydrocephalus, and devastating burns from cooking fires. Volunteer surgeons came regularly to operate on up to 70 children in a 2-week period.

At Kafika House, children receive loving care until they are able to return home – for a week or up to several months. Prior to their surgeries, many of these children have been hidden away due to their disabilities. Arriving at Kafika House marks the first time that they have unlimited nutritious food, playmates and peers, education, and the opportunity to truly embrace childhood.

Through our giving this June, we can provide more loving, transformational care to children in Tanzania. You can give online at Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church's website, or via check on Sunday. Visit Kafika House website to learn more here: [www.kafikahouse.org](http://www.kafikahouse.org)

## EPC Bowling and Fellowship – July 9

Where: **Concord Lanes**

**365 Concord Exchange N,  
South St Paul, MN 55075**

When: **Wednesday, July 9th at 6pm**

Cost: About \$10.00 (we aren't pre reserving lanes this time, but have been assured that they will have space for us) We do not want cost to be a barrier, so if you have interest and not the funds, please reach out to Connie H-V or Jane T.



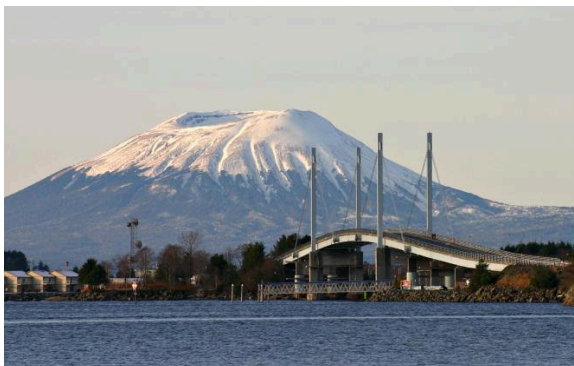
RSVP: Just to get a rough idea of how many people are coming, **please text Connie** at 651-307-7964 (if you haven't already contacted Jane). If you haven't RSVP'd but just want to show up- that is fine too! Let Jane or Connie know if you need a ride.

Reminder: If you don't want to bowl, but would rather be part of the cheer team- **please come!** The more the merrier! Mark your calendars and don't forget socks!! Jane and Connie

## The Tale of Two Edgescumbes

*A reflection by Mark Wehde*

When we hear the name Edgescumbe, for most of us, it's Edgescumbe Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, a place of faith, reflection, and community. For others though, it's the quiet, powerful silhouette of Mount Edgescumbe rising over Sitka Sound in Alaska. On the surface, they couldn't be more different. One is a volcano; the other, a church. One is shaped by tectonic forces; the other, by human need and spiritual care. But in their own ways, both stand as symbols of strength and quiet presence.



Mount Edgescumbe is a dormant volcano—at least, that's what was thought until recently. Long silent, it has begun to stir beneath the surface. Small earthquakes and uplift remind us that even what was still may simply be waiting. It is a place of

quiet power and watchfulness, long respected by the Tlingit people and by all who live in its shadow.

Our church that bears the same name in St. Paul has also stood watch for generations. Tucked into a quiet neighborhood, it has served as a center of spiritual life, welcome, and renewal. Like many faith communities, it has offered people a place to reflect, to gather strength, and to rebuild in the face of change. The name Edgcumbe links these two very different places, inviting us to see a shared meaning in their stories.

The name of the volcano came from empire. It is a British admiral's name given to the mountain by 18th-century explorers. But over time, that name has come to represent rootedness, renewal, and resilience. One Edgcumbe offers a view of the natural world; the other, a window into human community. So whether you find yourself on a trail to a crater rim or walking through the doors of a church sanctuary, may the spirit of Edgcumbe, rooted in quiet strength and shaped by time, remind us that renewal often begins in stillness.

### A Thank You Letter Received from Highland Park Senior High School

We have recently received a letter from the Administration from HPSHS:

*Dear Leaders and Congregants of Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church:*

*The Highland Park Senior High International Baccalaureate program wishes to thank you for all the support you have shown our school over the years. You have reached out with classroom supplies, volunteered for exam proctoring, and lent use of your spaces for important oral exams.*

*Each of these supports helps us provide and maintain an excellent IB Diploma Program for our students and is a superlative example of community support that we are sure our students will take with them as they move into the next phases of their lives.*

*Regards from the teachers and students who have benefitted from the use of your resources!*

*—Dr. Winston Tucker, High School Principal and Lee Stagg, IB DP Coordinator*

Included was 5 pages of messages from the students and IB teachers who have come and had testing done in the EPC building!! Look for the letter to read the messages in the narthex. We give thanks for the 15 years of deep connection with our neighbors at HPSHS, and gratitude that we have such a varied and vital way to love our neighbors!! 🌈

### June 19, 2025 Session Update

From Elder LaGretta:

- Session welcomed our newest member, Chelsea Witbrook and welcomed back former session member Jay McGregor. Thank you, both for your willingness to serve our community of faith.
- Reverend Stephanie Friant has agreed to preach for us again at least once a month (but hopefully twice) during our pastors' sabbatical from April 6 - July 7, 2026. This August 29, we will be notified if we were awarded the \$60,000 Lilly sabbatical grant for which we applied in March.

- Session has formed a Worship and Arts Team to further support the vision and creativity of worship at Edgumbe. If you would like to join, please contact Pastor Phil at *pastorphilgg@gmail.com*.
- The Building and Grounds Team reports that our flat roof is aging and we have occasional leaking through the steeple. It will most likely need attention in the next 2 years.
- Meredith Holt has been preparing activities for our youngest worshipers which will be placed in the back of the sanctuary. LaGretta Lunde has agreed to assist her.
- Ron Eggert, treasurer presented the May financial report. All budgets are on track. Ron also presented his secretary/clerk's report.
- Pastor Phil shared a story from his recent time teaching an Enneagram Course at a jail in the Bay Area. He also reported that in service to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (PTCA) he has been appointed to the Andrew Riverside Team and the search team for a new Executive Presbyter.
- Pastor Luna also shared a story from her time in Iona. In addition, she reported that she has been appointed to the Nominating Team of the PTCA.
- On Sunday, July 13 we will worship jointly in the backwoods with First Presbyterian of South St. Paul and Cherokee Park United of St. Paul.