

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

July 9, 2025

In this issue: This Week!, Outdoor Worship, Spiritual Seeing, Bowling!, July Mission, Backwoods workdays, Updating EPC Directory, Ty's Lyrics

This Week!

Many happenings in the Edgcumbe community this week! Find out more in the articles below! Hope you can join us!

Tonight! 6pm All Community Bowl at Concord Lanes, S. St Paul - all welcome!

Saturday 10a All Community Backwoods Work hours

Sunday 10a Outdoor Worship with 1st Presbyterian and Cherokee Park United

Outdoor Worship Sunday

Join us this Sunday, July 13, for worship in the backwoods joined by two local Presbyterian congregations—First Presbyterian Church/South St Paul and Cherokee Heights United Church/St. Paul. Bring a chair or blanket, any outdoor accoutrements (hats, water, bug spray), and please consider bringing a post-worship treat to share with our guests! 😊

Spiritual Seeing

Today we remember a basic law of spiritual seeing: *We will look upon that which we feel within.* If hatred finds a foothold in our hearts, then we will perceive a fearful world. If we feel the love of God within ourselves, then we will see a world of mercy and joy and love. The moment that we truly understand and follow this spiritual law is the moment that the healing of the world begins.

This is exactly how Jesus lived. Jesus never forgot that he was one with God and everyone else, and this meant that Jesus was plugged into the light and power and love of the universe. In Matthew 5, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, 'You have heard it said, "Love your neighbors and hate those who persecute you." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' Jesus also said—while hanging from the cross!--'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.' Following Jesus does not mean being slightly nicer to the

FOR FREEDOM
Christ has
set us free;
STAND FIRM THEREFORE
and do not submit
again to the
yoke of slavery
galatians 5:1

people around you (which is still a great idea, by the way). Following Jesus means first loving and then praying diligently for our enemies. It means bringing complete forgiveness to every situation. It means never forgetting who and whose we are.

Are you feeling bummed about division or hatred or violence in the world? Here is another saying that Luna and I often come to:

- If I want the world to be different; I need to be different. If we want the world to change, we need to change.

Following Jesus' example, today we find the courage to change, to be different, to love our enemies, to pray for those who persecute us, to forgive everybody for everything.

Galatians 5:1 reminds us that “**Christ has set us free for freedom.**” The freedom to live in love and joy and peace is already mine. How do I want to use that freedom today? Hope to see you at the bowling lanes! -Phil

EPC Bowling and Fellowship – July 9

Where: **Concord Lanes**

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

When: **Wednesday, July 9th at 6pm–TODAY!!**

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.



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

July Mission: The Retreat Scholarship Program

In the serene setting of the Wayzata Big Woods, our mission of the month (The Retreat) provides a residential program of immersion in the 12 Steps of AA. For over 35 years, The Retreat has provided a continuum of innovative, affordable services to alcohol and drug-dependent individuals and their families. Within the healing setting of the Big Woods (a setting reminiscent of EPC's own Backwoods), guests learn the benefit of prayer, meditation, and quiet reflection, as they begin new lives of recovery.



On Sunday, July 20, The Retreat Women's Program Coordinator, Chris Nehotte will join us at church. To learn more about the mission before her visit: <https://www.theretreat.org/>

Through a non-clinical, mutual-help approach, The Retreat provides services at a significantly lower cost than other programs. However, scholarships are crucial for many people in need of services. The Retreat's scholarship program is supported by charitable giving, and this is where EPC can make a difference.

You can support The Retreat this month by giving via check or online payment (either way, indicate 'July mission' in the note/memo line.) Residential services cost \$203 per day. Let's see how many days of recovery services we can provide this month!

Backwoods All-Church Work mornings in July



It is that time of the year when the lushness of the backwoods has started to take over the meditation path and station pathways. We will be hosting 2 all church work mornings to begin addressing these areas. There are various work tasks that can meet all levels of abilities, so please join us as we steward this area of ministry. Please mark **Saturdays July 12th and 19th beginning at 10a**, and come with gloves, hat, long sleeves, a hand trowel, something to kneel on, and water. Also please consider bringing some hand pails or buckets to collect the greenery.

Can't make it to those Saturday times but would like to contribute to the care? Talk to Pastor Luna about discussing tasks that can be met on your own timeframe over the next few weeks!! Thank you!!

Backwoods Thursdays—An Invitation to you from Mark Tafel

This is an invitation to join other Edgcumbers for fellowship in the woods every Thursday morning, weather permitting. There are two phases to this gathering. The first is Centering Prayer at 6:30 by sitting in a circle on the colorful chairs in the back. The second is working in the woods, which mostly entails uprooting invasive species such as buckhorn. Those are the Dagnet Joe Friday facts of the matter. You are free to participate in one phase or both and leave whenever you wish. So far, the work crew has not worked past 9 o'clock.

Now for the ethereal (extremely delicate and light in a way that seems too perfect for this world) take on the experience. Greeting dawn in surrendered silence among people you love throws open the doors to the heart at their widest. Collectively in the wake of work and conversation, undesirable brush is cleared and the spirits are lifted by the bon homme *esprit de corps* of Christian fellowship. If you have the time and inclination, this service is too rich not to give this invitation your full consideration.

EPC directory

We are working to update the EPC community directory with contact information. On the next few Sundays (after Backwoods worship), we will set out our current draft or pass it around the

sanctuary. Please review your information on the master draft, or add your name(s), or correct any misinformation if you would like to be included!! 😊 We do not publish this information online; we only make hard copies for anyone who wants a copy.

Ty's Music Lyrics

The lyrics from the song that Ty Loiselle wrote and sang for us last Sunday, July 6:

*Well The farmer he did say, this always happens to me
The rain won't fall tomorrow, I'm 10 weeks behind what I borrowed and
Imprisoned by the chains of man, a capitalist cog and the devils hands got me*

*Well the mother she did say, this always happens to me
Your brothers drunk and stupid, so I'm always stuck and looped in
Imprisoned by her own conscious mind, a mother at war with love and family*

*Well the pastor he did say, this always happens to me
The congregations angry and the governments to blame
Imprisoned by the changing times, well that evil man he might just kill me*

*Well I guess that I did say, this always happens to me
Daddy's dead and brothers mean, misunderstood and never seen
Imprisoned by my own grief and pain, paralyzed by what those people think of me*

*Well the spirit it spoke to me
Don't you see the simplicity
Bound by hate and guilt and greed
Perceptions of reality
Be free
Let it be
Be free, let it be
Be free*