

# Edgcumbe

## Presbyterian Church

July 23, 2025

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### The Most-Real Thing

Two questions we explored last Sunday:

- Am I willing to accept my own worthiness to be loved?
- What am I willing to give up in order to experience unconditional love?

I would propose that God's love is more true than my sense of unworthiness. God's love is more true than my fearful stories that I project onto the world. God's love is more true than any sense of separation that I see or feel or imagine. The two questions above are an opportunity to ask ourselves if it might be time to set our sense of unworthiness down, to give up our fears. What would happen if I surrendered completely, in body and soul, to the love of God in Christ Jesus?

The Apostle Paul gives us a glimpse of what would happen. He says that we would begin to experience the fruit of the Spirit. If we allow the tree of our life to root into God's love, then we will begin to experience miracles of love and joy and peace. We will notice acts of kindness and generosity and patience all around us. We will feel a deep sense of gentleness, trust, and self-possession in our own hearts.

Now imagine a world where those fruit are everywhere, in every interaction and conversation and decision that we make. Imagine a world where we truly believe and trust that God's love is the most-real thing. If we can trust this love, then we will begin to see it everywhere. And this new way of seeing will bring healing and life. Illusions of separation and division and fear and unworthiness will fall away, and the real world (the book of Revelation calls it the New Jerusalem) will emerge before our eyes. May it be so. -Pastor Phil

### Steeple Repair and Color Choices

The wood siding on our steeple is deteriorating and needs to be replaced. If you can imagine our steeple, or you look at the photo at the top of this Update, you can see that the current siding color is weathered grey. If we replace this siding, we can decide what color it will be. Because it will probably be painted, we can choose literally any color. We could match the current maroon or brown trim of the church building for a muted and safe option. We could also



do something distinctive or dramatic to catch the eye or make a statement. If you have ideas or opinions, look for an opportunity to have a group conversation—maybe after worship on an up-coming Sunday—or talk to Pastor Phil.

## 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. 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!

**JUNE MISSION UPDATE:** *Thanks to all who contributed to our June mission, **Kafika House**.*

*Through your generosity, we raised \$2,600 to provide loving and hygienic care to children healing from surgery in Tanzania. Because of Edgumbe Church, 2+ children with disabilities will receive the gift of transformational care. Thanks also to Ron and Ingrid Eggert for their inspiration!*

## Backwoods Bonfire

Join us for a bonfire in the EPC Backwoods on Friday, August 1, at 6:30pm until dark. We will provide the fire and a couple of benches. Feel free to bring yourself, friends, your guitar, and even s'more fixings, as desired.

## EPC directory

We are working to update the EPC community directory with contact information. On the next few Sundays, 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.