

# Edgcumbe

## Presbyterian Church

July 30, 2025

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### Three All-Community Backwoods Events this Weekend

A bonfire on Friday, workday on Saturday, and a concert on Sunday! Here are the details:

- Join us for a bonfire in the EPC Backwoods **this 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, a chair and even s'more fixings, as desired. It only takes a spark.
- Then in the "afterglow" of our time together, we have a Backwoods Stewardship and Work time **Saturday morning, August 2**, beginning at 10am. Come with your garden gloves, water and bug spray!!
- Concert in the **Backwoods, Sunday, August 3, 5-7pm**, featuring three local musicians as a benefit for the Jessa Roquet Music Foundation. *This also means No Bible Study on this Sunday.*

### the how of living into freedom...

these past weeks the words from galatians 5:1 have woven into our hearts and minds:

***christ has set us free for freedom...***

and now we add to that the words from colossians 2:6-7:

*6 So live in Christ Jesus the Lord in the same way as you received him. 7 Be rooted and built up in him, be established in faith, and overflow with thanksgiving just as you were taught.*

in these 2 verses, we are given the road map of **how to walk into freedom** for which christ has set us free.

**"...so live in Christ Jesus the Lord...."**

to be centered in and live from christ jesus, or the christ consciousness, is our starting point—**always**. for this to happen, we have **to desire, to be willing, to consent** to live in christ. however, often what is required to do this is to untangle from who/what we think god is. oftentimes there are unconscious blockages which impact our desire and willingness—such as fear, guilt or resentments about who we think god is. we become **willing to see** what blocks there might be within us to that connection, and then we bring them to holy spirit for her

repurposing. and, as mentioned on sunday, i have never felt compelled in my 30 years of ministry to say this, but now we might also have to untangle from our beliefs and stories of who jesus is. currently the name of jesus is being used in our culture in ways that are not in alignment with who i encounter in scripture. this means now our work is to examine if we have any “stories” which block our connection to jesus, as well as god.

**“...as you received him....”**

you can see why unearthing our unconscious fears, guilt and resentments is so critical in this process, because until those perspectives are healed, we will be unable to receive god’s love and grace. and, as colossians 2 shows us, receiving is the next step on the **how** to live into freedom. receive! receive love! receive grace!! our first “action/doing” in living in christ is receiving the love and grace, in each present moment. this then invites us to be undefended and consent to god’s loving presence and healing action in our lives.



**“Be rooted and built up in him...”**

the great thing about the backwoods is that we have immediate demonstrations of this invitation! an essential part of any tree (or plant) is not just the part we can see, but their **roots**. the roots are how plants and trees receive and draw up water and nutrients from the earth to grow and be built up. similarly, we live into freedom by being planted and have our roots in god! god is our mother earth from who we grow and are built by, as we grow and extend our limbs into the will of god!!

**“....be established in faith....”**

as is the case with most of the new testament, what has been translated as “faith” is actually a mistranslation, and is rather the word for **trust**. be established in our **trust with god**. this is a dynamic and vital quality of our connection with god...that **we trust god**. this trust strengthens and establishes us for freedom.

**“...and overflow with thanksgiving....”**

and due to this transformation into freedom, we are filled with gratitude and thanksgiving. our thanks does not depend on a certain set of external circumstances being met, but what is **already true**, the kingdom within us as jesus taught. then, from that place of living, receiving, rooting, trust and thanks, we extend into the world as a tree extends, with the fruit of the spirit. we live the circle of life, as the tree of life.

we are that tree. i invite you right now...

*breathe* \* feel your roots deepen into god\*,  
*breathe* \* receive god’s nourishment\*, and then  
*breathe* \* spread your limbs of grace\*.

be a tree!! 🌳 🌲 ❤️  
peace!! pastor luna 🌀

**August Mission: HPSHS Kleenex & Gift Cards**

The Mission focus for August is our neighbor, Highland Park Senior High school. During August we will be collecting Kleenex boxes so that each staff person at the school will get one. (That's about 180 boxes!!). We know that the school budget doesn't include purchasing tissues for the staff so they end up buying their own. This is a nice gesture on our part. Fall is coming and with that comes runny noses!

We will also collect funds to be used for gift cards that the social work and mental health staff can distribute to students in need. They can be used for anything that the students need such as clothing, food, bus passes, school supplies, etc. Please consider our neighbors this month for your mission giving, and thank you!

### 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. If you can't make to worship and want to add or update your info, please write to our Office Manager Krysta at [epchurch2149@gmail.com](mailto:epchurch2149@gmail.com).

### Invitation to Highland AA and Al-Anon Picnic

Dean G has extended an invitation to the EPC community on behalf of Highland AA, inviting us to join the Open Gathering (Open to all, in recovery and not) Picnic of Highland Alcoholic Anonymous. There will be an AA and Al-Anon speaker, as well as food and fellowship in the Backwoods!! All are welcome!! 🥰

**Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, 4 to 7pm**

Overflow parking at Highland Senior High School lot

### August Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to:

Ingrid & Ron Eggert	8/11
Jane & Mark Tafel	8/20

## Scenes from the Backwoods...

Mark and Jane T sharing stewardship in the Backwoods with their grandsons! ♥

