

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

August 5, 2025

In this issue: Things We've Learned, Concert this weekend, August Mission, Two Concerts, Invitation to Highland AA Picnic

Things We've Learned

Last Sunday in worship, each participant wrote down one thing they have learned in their time at Edgcumbe Church. Here is that list.



One thing I've learned at Edgcumbe Church is...

- How it can look/feel to bring somatic practices and mindfulness into spiritual worship. A group of strangers never felt so good! It feels like home here.
- To truly follow the Holy Spirit, even when I am afraid.
- Love is the most powerful force.
- That who I am is perfectly (imperfectly) fine!! I am loved as I am. I don't need to do anything to earn love. I am loved.
- Trust.
- I cannot fail the test.
- A re-definition of two words. "Obedient" means moving toward what I hear/my calling. "Devil" is a representative term that signifies division from love-force we call God.
- [Big heart emoji]
- To be present.
- I can be comfortable in a church!
- That you can belong even if you don't usually think you do in other places.
- Inner peace is given with grace through the light and love of Christ and God.
- That sometimes taking a breath is enough, and all that is needed to become present to myself and the God-ness within and nearby.
- Spirit is always here, there, ready for us to join in.
- God is love.
- There is more than one fellowship of hope.
- That everyone is beautiful and so am I.
- Faith expands to include all of me.
- [Heart] Love [Heart]
- I'm a child of God and filled with Holy Spirit
- Unconditional love! [Heart]
- God is love.
- Breathe.

Notice what comes up for you as you read that list. Notice the themes. Is there a statement on that list that is calling to you for deeper engagement or exploration? Is there a concrete way that you integrate that learning into your life today, and are you willing to do that integration right now?

*Holy Spirit, you be in charge, and we will follow you,
trusting that your way leads to peace.*

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



HIGHLAND PARK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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!

Lisa H read a letter that the HPSHS's principal wrote to our congregation:

Edgumbe Presbyterian Church,

This is a message from Dr. Winston Tucker, principal at Highland Park Senior High School. I want to first thank you for the continued support of our school and want to share a little bit about our school. Highland Park Senior High School opened in 1964 and serves grades 9-12. We serve the students in the local neighborhood as well as students from throughout the St. Paul School District who are part of either our Spanish or Chinese Immersion program. We are an International Baccalaureate school which focuses on international mindedness, interdisciplinary connections and academic rigor while teaching the whole child. We have approximately 1,400 students and are connected to Highland Park Middle School which serves grades 6-8 and has approximately 800 students.

We are a culturally, racially and economically diverse school. Your support of our school means so much and your support goes to students whose families are known to be in need of basic household items. The gift cards are distributed by the

social workers and or counselors who are responsible and well aware of the financial hardships some of our students encounter. Your support makes a true difference and the continued partnership between our two organizations is very important to our students, staff and families. Thanks for your generosity and continued support as neighbors. Peace and blessings.

Thank you,

Dr. Winston H. Tucker, Principal

Two Backwoods Concerts

On August 3, the annual Music in the Back Woods event featured musicians Obadiah Gamble, Naomi Marie and Alison Wilder performing a benefit concert for the Jessa Roquet Music Foundation. It was a perfect evening with no smoke, wonderful music and lemonade with home-made cookies! The purpose of the Foundation is to foster the growth of vocalists, instrumentalists and songwriters in Minnesota. This event has occurred annually since 2021 in our Edgumbe Backwoods to honor the legacy of musician Jessa Roquet.



The Foundation awards grants to musicians in need of assistance due to personal crisis, issues of health, natural disaster or other emergencies. The grant application process opens soon for grants of up to \$1,500 to be awarded in November of this year. (Check out the Facebook page for Jessa Roquet Foundation for an application link later this week if you know of a musician needing assistance).

Our next concert in the Backwoods will be **Sunday, August 24, at 4pm**, featuring **Heartfelt**, Lisa Holden's choir. This will be a benefit concert for Tubman Center.

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