

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

August 13, 2025

In this issue: trusting god, trusting ourselves, trusting community; *August Mission*; *Heartfelt Concert*; *Highland AA Picnic*; *Enneagram with Chelsea W*, *Church Directories available*

trusting god, trusting ourselves, trusting community...and an invitation

in the hebrews text from last sunday, we saw how trust was mentioned 8 times within 11 verses. **eight times!!** we are being pointed to the fact that trust is an integral and vital part of this living and following jesus. trust is all encompassing—trusting god, trusting ourselves, trusting others... without any one of those, we falter and have defenses against Love's Presence.

you have often heard me say that we cannot trust something we are afraid of...so our willingness to see our habits and impulses of dis-trust allows us to get to the heart of those tender places of where we do not trust. whenever we are in fear, or reaching for control, or caught in shame—beneath it all it is pointing us to places where we do not have trust.

so, if trust is vital to our lives, we step into two paths of healing. the first, when we see and feel our dis-trust, we bring that to holy spirit and ask her to repurpose it for god's will. the second way of healing is to practice trust by opening our hearts and minds—becoming undefended—toward god, toward ourselves, and to each other.

when we had our new member exploration this past spring, we talked a lot about community...and that we function as the one body of the living christ. One of the ways the perspective of consumerism has clouded our values and our habits is that we have become a culture where we view everything through a lens of "what can i get out of it?" then, when it stops serving my specific needs, we unengage and end our involvement. i have even witnessed people talking about church this way—from only what they are getting from the experience.

however, if church is the place for the teaching and healings of jesus (which is what i believe), then community becomes one of the places for our healing. as edgcumbe lifts up community as one of our important elements, we get to keep bringing back the question: how am i both receiving and giving within this community? not only do we receive the healing and grounding for life, but we get to also contribute to the community as well.



this fall we will be asking everyone in the community: what ways do you want to contribute to the well-being and health of the community?? Perhaps you have been in service in a particular way, and so, instead of “i always do this”, the question becomes, “**how does holy spirit want me to share my gifts and joy with the edgcumbe body??**” how can i participate and contribute to the health of this beloved community?

For some of us who find ourselves often at the edge of the group, these questions can rock us at the core. because the questions point to another question: am i willing to opt into this community? am i willing to be found and woven into this living body?

All of these questions are for you to bring to holy spirit....please take some time over these weeks to listen and discern—how am i being invited to participate and contribute? i join with you in these prayers!!💕 pastor luna

***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 staff person at the school will get one. (That's about 180 boxes!!).



**HIGHLAND PARK
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

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:

Edgcumbe 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

Heartfelt Backwoods Concert Aug. 24

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. See Heartfelt's website [HERE](#).

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

Enneagram Invitation

Invitation to join "Journeying With the Enneagram" Course with Chelsea Witbrook

Meets Tuesday nights: Sept 8, 2025 - Jan 26, 2026

6:30-8:00pm CST on Zoom

This course is a deep dive into the Enneagram-- not only learning details about the different personality Types, but also applying this knowledge in practical ways that will increase your self awareness, deepen your Presence, and expand your interior Freedom and Peace. This small cohort model is an intimate community facilitated by Chelsea Witbrook, and includes weekly teachings and discussions, readings, integration exercises, peer support, and monthly 1:1 coaching. This course was designed to support *sustainable* transformation, growth, and healing for your spiritual life, your relationships, and to increase the quality of your primary relationship: the one you have with yourself! Click [HERE](#) for more information. All are welcome, regardless of level of Enneagram knowledge.

Church Directories are Available

We will have copies (on purple paper) of the updated church directories for 2025 at worship over the coming weeks. If you want a copy mailed to you, please contact Office Admin Krysta at epchurch2149@gmail.com, and she can send you one.