

# Edgcumbe

## Presbyterian Church

August 20, 2025

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### Choosing Trust

*"By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if they were on dry land, but when the Egyptians tried it, they were drowned." Hebrews 11:29.*

Last week Pastor Luna reminded us that we cannot trust something we are afraid of. She added that: "whenever we are in fear, or reaching for control, or caught in shame—beneath it all our fear is pointing us to places where we do not have trust." So many of us learned in childhood that the world is a fearful place, where we don't feel safe or seen or free. In such an environment, it makes sense to withhold our trust until a person or situation has proved their trustworthiness. Life becomes a constant test: Can I trust this person? Is this group safe enough for me? Will this person betray or hurt me? Will I ever belong?

Hebrews 11 suggests a very different approach to life. Hebrews says that faith (trust) is not earned but chosen. Ponder that for a moment. Imagine a life where you choose to trust. Here are two examples.

Example One. In Hebrews 11, it says that the Hebrew slaves fleeing Egypt crossed the Red Sea because they chose trust. They were caught between the sea and the Egyptian army. Destruction and re-enslavement seemed assured. Nothing in their experience would suggest that walking into the sea would save them. But they did it. They trusted, they took the first step, and they were saved. The Egyptian army had a very different experience. They had just seen the Hebrews cross the sea unscathed. "We don't need to trust," they must have thought. "We have confirmed with our own eyes that this is safe!" And they drowned.

Example Two. Every time I walk into a prison or jail, I consciously choose trust over fear. There are plenty of uncertainties and possible dangers in prison. By choosing trust, two things happen. One, rather than being guarded and fearful, I go into every interaction with an open mind and an open heart. That changes things. Two, I am reminded about what is most-real—that every person is a divine spark loved by God forever. That changes things too.

Now the question is for you. What happens for you when you choose trust. Try it and pay attention. Walk into a coffee shop choosing trust. Show up at church choosing trust. Be more

honest than you usually are and choose trust. Call someone you haven't talked to in a bit and choose trust. Can you feel the difference? That's the difference between living and drowning.

*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!!). 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!



**HIGHLAND PARK  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

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!

### **Heartfelt Backwoods Concert This Sunday**

Heartfelt is doing a fundraiser for Tubman!

- Location: Edgumbe Presbyterian Church in St. Paul. 2149 Edgumbe Road, St. Paul.
- Date: August 24th, 2025
- Time: 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Cost: this is a freewill donation. We are asking for \$20 if you can, but if you can't, please still come! All proceeds will go to Tubman.

What is Tubman? Tubman is a local agency (Minneapolis) that provides help to anyone who has experienced relationship violence, sexual exploitation, homelessness, mental and chemical health challenges and other trauma.

This will be an outdoor concert in the beautiful backwoods at Edgumbe church. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the show! In case of inclement weather, we will move indoors to the church sanctuary. Parking will be limited at the church, but right next door is Highland Park High School and they allow us to use their parking lot. Enter from Edgumbe Rd.

Heartfelt is planning a fun and up-lifting concert for you! I hope to see many of you there!

### **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. 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](mailto:epchurch2149@gmail.com), and she can send you one.

## Shiloh's Scriptures from the Prayer of Honesty this past Sunday

After Sunday's Prayer of Honesty, some people asked Shiloh to share the scripture passages he used. Here is what he passed along:

**James 4:11-12** *"Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?"*

This verse is a reminder that judgment is a role reserved for God alone. When I judge someone else whether in thought, tone, or behind closed doors I'm stepping into a role I was never asked to fill. It's almost like I'm trying to rewrite God's law by acting like I know someone's full story or heart. But only God can see the whole picture, the heart behind the choices. Judgment is the weapon I would use against myself. Love sees beneath the irritation and the judgment, When I judge others, I block the flow of healing for them, but also for myself.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-14** *"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body... even so the body is not made up of one part but of many."*

Paul reminds us that we're all deeply connected under Christ. Different roles, different expressions, different journeys but one Spirit. It's not just poetic it's literal in the Spirit. If I harm or dismiss someone else, I'm hurting myself, because we're spiritually intertwined. When you meet anyone, remember it is a holy encounter. As you see him, you will see yourself.

**Matthew 7:1-2** *"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."*

Jesus cuts to the heart here, judgment boomerangs. What we put out into the world spiritually, especially in how we evaluate or diminish others, returns to us. Not as punishment, but as a mirror. It's not just about being nice. It's about cultivating a way of being where love is the standard we measure by. You cannot be attacked, attack has no justification, and you are responsible for what you believe. When we shift how we see others, we shift how we experience God's kingdom.

## **August Session Notes submitted by Chelsea W**

### **Session update from the Pastors and Elders (from Aug 14th meeting) by Chelsea W**

- **Finance update:** we're doing well financially! yay! We started a conversation on disbursement of our investment funds and will seek some outside advice from a few different sources. (If you or someone you know is an investment guru, let us know!)
- **The steeple on the roof of the church needs repair** this fall (both some carpentry work AND roofing. We have received two bids from different companies, and would like to seek a third bid from someone who might be more specialized in this particular type of work, someone who is a craftsman-- and also willing to get up on this steep, high roof with scaffolding! If you have a referral, let Jay or Phil know.
- **Get involved and share your gifts!** There are two new Teams that are forming: a *Worship* team and a *Fellowship & Belonging* Team. If joining a group of people to help plan and implement these activities is calling or nudging you, please let any Session member know. We would be delighted to have you join us!
- **New Members process:** If you are interested or curious about becoming a member of Edgumbe, stay tuned for some upcoming informational meetings after Sunday service.
- **Pastors update:** Luna will attend (for free!) a hymn writing conference in October ||| Phil and Luna are going to Australia Nov 12-26 for a wedding ||| We will receive the response from the Lily Grant on Aug 29th about whether we received funds for the pastor's sabbatical—stay tuned!