

# Edgcumbe

## Presbyterian Church

September 10, 2025

*In this issue:* Outdoor Worship; Jesus; Sept Mission; ArtPlayce Call for Artists; Worship Team; Highland AA Picnic **this Sunday**; Campfire Sept 19, Photos Midway Paint the Pavement

### Outdoor Worship this Sunday

We are planning to worship in the Backwoods this Sunday at our usual 10am time. Bring a chair or blanket, if you want. Hope to see you there!



### jesus is our brother, teacher and healer...

more and more of late, the larger culture attributes values and actions to jesus i would say are **not** in alignment with how i encounter his teachings. now is a great time to start refamiliarizing ourselves (or beginning, if you don't have a connection) with jesus. jesus is our brother and was a profound teacher, and he came for the healing of our minds. his love for god's children (that's us and all of humanity/creation) is immense, and so there is a deep undercurrent of love in his presence and teachings. the essence of what jesus is teaching us is that the world we have orientated to and think of as "the normal world" is in fact 100% upside from the kindom of god. he asks us to see this, and to follow him to live in the kindom **now**.

as i work deeper with *a course in miracles*, i am given opportunities to re-enter scripture with a new set of eyes. one thing learned from acim is that there is a difference between special relationships and holy relationships. special relationships are those that we put the word "my" in front of: my husband, my child, my parent, my time, my body, my country, my money, etc. linguistically, the word "my" is a possessive determiner, which shows "ownership". these are the very things the upside world teaches us to value. however, what we don't see is that these very relationships function as defenses against god's love, and are in fact idols in our lives. jesus tells us in luke to "hate our mother and father, spouse and children (etc)". he is not telling us to hate the people, but these roles of special relationships. essentially, he says, you cannot follow me if you value these more than me. and at the end of our luke text, he says again, none of you who are unwilling to give up your possessions can be my disciple.

those things in our lives that we put the word "my" in front of us block us from god's absolute love and healing. This happens within special relationships because they are mixed with judgments, expectations, fear and guilt. we have been taught to value and even establish

special relationships....but they come at a cost. ***the cost of specialness is holiness.*** Jesus is waking us up to the kingdom of God's grace and innocence. And when we have expectations and judgments, we have lost sight of seeing one another with Christ's vision of love and innocence.

waking up from the upside down world begins when we are willing to see, and willing to be wrong about the beliefs we have held. The "normal world" of ownership and judgment brings only suffering, and we have created lives which block love's presence. We are invited time and time again to choose anew. Come back into at\*one\*ment. Allow Holy Spirit to repurpose everything for God's will. And, as our breathing re-minds us, we first receive God's love, and then we extend God's love. This is the purpose and function of our lives.

Let us be the living body of Christ and live in the kingdom!! Blessed be!! In joy!! Pastor Luna ☺  
*holy spirit, you be in charge, and we will follow you,  
trusting that your way leads to peace.*

### **Sept Mission: NAMI Minnesota**

The mission for the month of September is the National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota (NAMI MN), which provides community educational programs and services to people experiencing mental illness, including sponsoring the national Suicide Prevention hotline (988). NAMI has only a small staff supported by a host of volunteers who perform a variety of activities to help raise awareness and fundraising for NAMI's mission. More information is available at [their website HERE](#).



### **ArtPlayce Call for Artists from Coordinator, Lisa Holden**

Call for artists: We are looking for artists who are willing to share their work with the walls of the EPC sanctuary! I have one or two more people lined up, but after that I'll need to find more. Are you an artist? Do you know of an artist who might be interested in displaying their art at EPC? Please reach out to me and let me know! Thank you, Lisa Holden

### **New Worship Team - Sept 18**

Our new Worship Team will have our first meeting on next Thursday, Sept. 18, at 1pm in the church sanctuary. We will be discussing future worship plans, the possibility of a special healing service, sanctuary set up, sabbatical coverage next year, etc. If you would like to be a part of this team, please talk to Pastor Phil.

We are also looking to start a "Fellowship & Belonging" Team (working title!) soon. If that sounds more like your cup of tea—or your bowling pin, or campfire, or game night, or overnight retreat—then look for an announcement in the near future about how you can get involved.

## 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!! 🎉

**THIS Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, 4 to 7pm - Note: No Bible Study**

Overflow parking at Highland Senior High School lot

## Backwoods Campfire Next Week Friday

Join us for a campfire at the Backwoods fire pit next Friday, Sept 19, at 6:15pm. Feel free to bring chairs and s'more elements if you desire. The Backwoods has its own magic in the evening time!

## Photos from the Midway Paint the Pavement

Pastors Luna and Phil were primary organizers for an intersection mural painting outside their home in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood last Saturday. The design is by Luna. Over 100 people showed up to help. It was so fun that we wanted to share some photos!





