

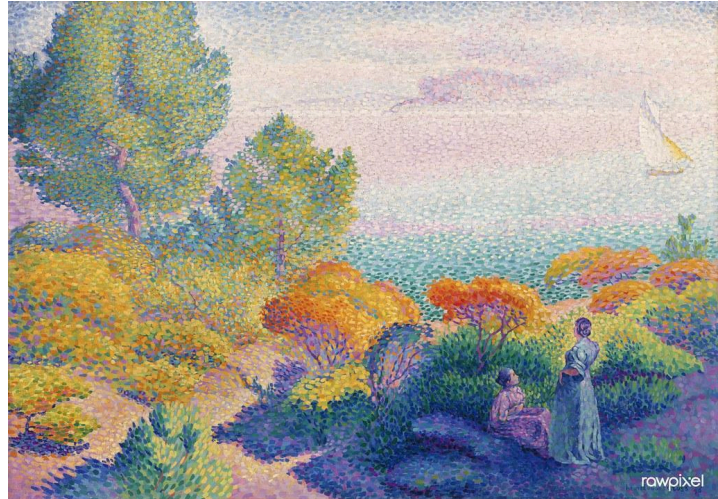
# Edgcumbe

## Presbyterian Church

September 17, 2025

*In this issue: Campfire **this Friday**;  
Jesus; Sept Mission; New Member  
Exploration; Call for Artists; Sept  
Session Notes*

### Backwoods Campfire This Friday



Join us for a **campfire at the Backwoods fire pit this Friday, Sept 19, at 6:15pm**. Bring chairs and s'more elements, if you desire. The Backwoods has its own magic in the evening time! It might be too rainy, so look for an email during the day on Friday to confirm or cancel the event.

### If I Want the World to be Different

Thomas Merton, 20th century mystic and prophet, wrote this:

*What is the relation of contemplation to action? Simply this. He who attempts to act and do things for others or for the world without deepening his own self-understanding, freedom, integrity and capacity to love will not have anything to give others. He will communicate to them nothing but the contagion of his own obsessions, his aggressiveness, his ego-centered ambitions, his delusions about ends and means, his doctrinaire prejudices and ideas.*

This quote articulates a key insight to how we approach life at Edgcumbe Church. Our action in the world comes out of a sense of surrender to the way of the Holy Spirit and an awakening to who we really are. The other option is the way of fear, the way of obsessions and aggressiveness, of delusion and prejudices.

Another way to talk about our approach is to use another quote; a quote that Luna and I saw on a wall shortly before we started at EPC eighteen years ago. The wall mural said:

*If I want the world to be different, I need to be different.  
If we want the world to change, we need to change.*

Our usual ego-response to difficult things we see in the world is to try to change the world. What if took every headline or worry or aggravation and turned it into an opportunity to love and forgive? Consider Jesus for a moment. The people around Jesus wanted him to get rid of the Roman occupiers, to bring down the cruel king Herod, to overthrow the religious oppression of the Pharisees, to re-establish the Davidic Kingdom (*Make Judea Great Again!*). Jesus does nothing to further any of these goals. Instead, Jesus remembers who he is (a child of God) and

what his purpose is (to embody God's love and forgiveness in every moment). By doing this, Jesus heals the world. Then Jesus turned to his followers and said, As I have loved you, so you shall love one another. He doesn't run for office or change any laws or start any organizations. He simply loves and that changes everything.

This week, let us see every aggravation or anxiety or trigger as an invitation to expand the capacity of our love. We do this by forgiving. Forgiving what? Everyone, everything, all the time. By being a person of love and forgiveness, Jesus healed the world. By being people of love and forgiveness, we can heal the world.

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

### **Sept Mission: NAMI MN**

On Sunday September 14, Edgcumbe community heard an awesome presentation by Kay King, Nami Coordinator and Community Educator. National Association for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) provides numerous resources for individuals and families struggling with mental illness. NAMI acts as a resource clearing house for extensive help programs including:

- Crisis Hotlines: Suicide lifeline; mobile crisis response teams; military and veterans crisis line; national crisis text line; national domestic violence hotline and sexual assault hotline
- NAMI support includes educational programs and seminars on mental illness that affect 1 in 5 adults including: anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, eating and personality disorders.
- Education classes, booklets and fact sheets (check out Edgcumbe's table behind the sanctuary for many of these)
- Suicide prevention
- Support Groups
- Public awareness presentations
- Advocacy for community and government support



A major part of NAMI's budget comes from an annual walk (including Kay's salary). This year the walk is Saturday September 27 at Minnehaha Regional Park at 11 AM. Contact Leslie Snow if you want to be part of Edgcumbe's team, and register at [namiwalks.org/minnesota](http://namiwalks.org/minnesota). Please consider a donation to NAMI for our September mission. You can donate on our [website](#) and include Sept Mission in the memo box, or with a check including a mission memo. More information on NAMI is available at [their website HERE](#).

### **New Member Exploration**

In the coming weeks we will be offering one or two Membership Exploration gatherings after worship. If you are interested in becoming a member of this dynamic community, please talk to Pastor Luna or Pastor Phil, including the Sundays that you could be available in October.

## 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

## September Session Notes from Elder Ingrid E.

Session met on September 11, 2025. The following items were discussed:

- 17 people are available to attend the next series of membership exploration. Also asked for feedback about the process from Chelsea W, who attended the last series, and had positive reviews
  - 2 bids are pending for the roof/steeple repair
  - we discussed various opportunities for church members to participate in committees
  - Christmas Eve worship was set for 4:00pm on Dec 24
  - sabbatical: with the denial of the Libby grant, plans are revised:
    - timing now: Aug/Sep/Oct
    - some local presbytery grants available
    - consider asking for congregational support
    - Include worship team in sabbatical planning
  - financial report: income and expenses are in line with the budget
    - Anticipating purchase of new printer in 2026
  - Pastors' reports:
    - Phil was not able to attend the meeting as he was still waiting for police to show up due to their parked car having been rear-ended
    - Both pastors will be gone (Australia) Nov 12-26 for a wedding at which Phil will officiate
    - Luna is planning to attend a hymn-writing conference in Richmond, Va Oct 22-25, for which she received a grant
  - PLEASE NOTE: we will have a bonfire in the Backwoods on Friday, Sept 19 at 6:15 marshmallows, somemores??
  - next session meeting scheduled for Thursday, Oct 9, 6:15pm
- The meeting closed with prayer