

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

December 17, 2025

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Advent Happenings: New Members, Hymn Sing, Cookie Share, Solstice Fire & Christmas Eve

- **Sunday, Dec 21, in worship** - Receiving of New Members to the EPC family! Come and celebrate with us the "Yes! I'm in this community!" from Anna H, Emily T, Jeremy D, Sheilah D, Rachel S, Ratchet M 🙌

Also in worship—**congregational hymn sing!!** Choose to sing your favorite Advent and Christmas hymns, and we'll sing select verses from the ones chosen by the community!
- **Sunday, Dec 21, after worship** - Christmastime + cookies = mini moments of JOY! Don't call it a cookie exchange...it is more like cookie craziness! Bring a dozen, take a dozen, it will all work out! Experience the Christmas miracle not mentioned in the Bible. It's like loaves and fishes, but with sprinkles and silliness! No need to sign up, just show up, with or without cookies. Bakers, show off your skills. Non-bakers, it's all good. Consider supporting a local cottage food cookie producer. After church in the parlor and entry. (Rachel is making some GF items). Bring CONTAINERS to transport cookies.
- ****Just Added** Sunday, Dec 21, 4pm** Solstice Fire around the firepit in the Backwoods. Join us on the darkest night of the year as we bear witness to the love and light that burns brightly even in the darkness. Bring your favorite saying or poem about Love to speak into the circle 🔥🌲❄️
- **Wednesday, Dec 24, 4pm** - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, with readings and music and candles and communion. This service FILLS UP, so come early enough to find a seat.

Virgin Birth

At Bible Study this past Sunday, we had an interesting conversation about Mary and Joseph and the virgin birth. Here is a poem by Steve Garnaas-Holmes that I encountered today. You can find more poems and reflections at his website: <https://unfoldinglight.net/>

Virgin birth

The virgin birth may mean the child
is straight from God.

It may mean that Mary could bear the Divine
without anyone else's help.

It may mean that God's grace
is unprecedented, without cause.

It may mean that all we know
is so shallow as, at times, to be wrong.

It may mean that you, too, are susceptible
to the irruption of the Holy.



December Mission: STAR House

STAR House is a nonprofit crisis nursery in Saint Paul, Minnesota which offers free, safe, holistic and trauma-informed care to children in an overnight care facility. In times of crises, some families lack a trusted support system to care for their children. STAR House offers free, safe overnight care for children and supportive services for caregivers. At STAR House, our ongoing mission is to support caregivers in a respectful and nonintrusive way. Gifts can be made by check or online, designating "Dec mission."

Year-end Giving

Thank you for your generous giving to the work and ministry of Edgumbe Church over the past year. Remember that for donations to be counted for the 2025 tax year, they need to be received in the church office on or before December 31, 2025. Donations can also be made through the church website by clicking on the GIVE NOW button in the upper left. Thank you!

Summary of Dec 11 Session Meeting

- We will welcome six new members to our congregation this Sunday, December 21 during worship. Fifteen new members have joined EPC in 2025.
- James and Chelsea Witbrook will lead a service of reflection on Sunday, December 28: Looking Back - Looking Forward.
- Our budget is on track for the remainder of 2025.
- Dates for the Celebration of Communion during 2026 were set.
- We engaged in continued discussion about the need for an upgraded sound system. The possibilities for remodeling the sanctuary to be a more flexible space were also discussed.

- Our annual meeting will be held Sunday, February 8, 2026, with a potluck and meeting ending by 1:30 PM.

–Elder LaGretta Lunde

Community Spiritual Discipline for January 2026:

An Invitation from your Pastors

From time to time, the folk of EPC are invited to participate in the same spiritual practice as a way of joining together and grounding the Body in the Spirit. As your Pastors, we are asking you to come along in a 30-day Meditation Challenge being offered by our own Chelsea Witbrook.

Is this mandatory? No. Will this deepen your spiritual life? We are guessing so. Will this challenge you and will you resist this process? Most definitely! Knowing all of that, we are putting this before the entire community because we know that

- 1) With the blessings of receiving all the new members this year, Edgumbe is re-forming, and we want the entire community to be grounded in prayer and in Spirit.
- 2) Meditation is a uniquely helpful form of prayer. It is also a practice that often reveals things about ourselves that we were not willing to see. Meditation is one of the most effective ways of praying which reveals our authentic selves. The spiritual journey is all about willingness, consent and honesty, and practicing meditation is one way to deepen in all of those qualities.

This is from Chelsea's [website](#):

30 Day Meditation Challenge

DAILY MEDITATIONS POSTED ON YOUTUBE (20 MINUTES EACH)

JAN 1-30, 2026 FREE

Ready to transform your new year? This January, I'm creating something special: a complete 30-day guided meditation journey, with a brand new practice posted every single day, completely free on YouTube. Whether you're curious about meditation or ready to finally build that daily practice you've been thinking about, this challenge is designed for you. Each session builds naturally on the last, creating a supportive path that guides you deeper into presence and mindfulness as the month unfolds.

This is more than just a meditation series—it's your chance to establish a powerful daily ritual that can shift how you show up for yourself and your life. And here's the best part: you don't have to do it alone. Grab a friend, invite family, and discover together what 30 days of consistency can create. Your journey to a calmer, more centered you starts January 1st. I'll see you on the cushion!



Here is a [video](#) of Chelsea describing the 30 day practices.

Hold this in your prayers as we close out 2025, and we look forward to being shaped into Who the Holy Spirit wants us to be in this time and in this place!!