

# Edgcumbe

## Presbyterian Church

### December 23, 2025

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### This Week: Christmas Eve Worship & Sunday's Year-End Potluck

**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.

**Sunday, Dec 28, 10a Worship** with Potluck and Year End Reflection - Join us for a potluck and bring a dish to share! James Witbrook will be offering an experiential approach to:

Looking back-- with compassion to honor who you grew into in the past year

Looking forward-- How do I want to move forward in alignment with who I want to be? (This is different from setting a New Year's resolution!) This is an exercise in listening to Spirit about what is possible for you, and finding ways to live into that with joyful hope.

NOTE: *There will be **no Zoom** for these two worship services.*

Also, **Pastors Phil and Luna will be away from Dec 25-Jan 1.** If you have a community need during this week, please reach out to your Elders (Chelsea W, Ingrid E, LaGretta L, or Jay McG).

New Members! Hymn Singing! Bookmarks! Cookie Sharing! Solstice  
Fire!!! And a Reflection from New Member Rachel S.



Wow! My heart is so full from our Sunday together!! 💙 So much joyful life within the Edgcumbe Community!! 🌈 Thank you to each of you for the ways you showed up and shared in the life of the community so fully!! What we are doing here is being the Living Body of Christ, re-minding us how we are the Light of the world and living out Jesus' teaching of loving God, loving neighbor, and loving self!

After Sunday, new member Rachel Swan wrote to the Belonging Team (who organized the Cookie Sharing) this email:

*I want to share something my friend said on a post I made about joining EPC. She is a long time episcopal friend and former colleague.*

*She said " Welcome "home" Rachel! The Edgcumbe community will be blessed. And I am profoundly thankful you continue to honor the longing in your soul."*

*I was struck by her using the word longing. I couldn't help hearing the word and then adding to it to become be-longing. That is what is true for me today. The words, the connections being made, it's all such a gift. I feel, we both—ratchet and me—feel like we belong.*

*Thank you for welcoming me, and for being a part of my own be-longing. Today felt a little like heaven to me.*



I am so profoundly struck by the truth in Rachel's reflection....that our lives can be shaped by a nameless and profound sense of longing, which can leave us restless and filled with a sense of dis-ease. And that something profound and healing occurs when we experience **be-longing**. And I am noticing the "be" part of this word...that coming into presence—with an open heart, a quiet mind, and a grounded body—allows us to be in the moment of Now so that we have the capacity to be-long.

We can think that we are inherently the body of Christ, but it is only when we ***have a felt experience*** of it does that become transformative and healing. And so we continue to surrender to Holy Spirit, and ask Her to move within and amongst this Edgcumbe community so that we can know Immanuel—God is with us!!

Holy Spirit, in this holy moment, you be in charge, and we will follow you,  
trusting that your direction leads to peace!!

In Joy!! Pastor Luna ☯



### 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 Edgcumbe 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 ([www.epchurch.org](http://www.epchurch.org)) by clicking on the GIVE NOW button in the upper left. Thank you!

### Community Spiritual Discipline for January 2026: A Word from Elder Chelsea W.

#### **30 Day Meditation Challenge- begins Jan 1st!**

Hello Edgcumbe family! This is Chelsea W. speaking.

I hope you join us for a transformative 30 days of deepening into self awareness, presence, and embodiment, starting Jan 1st. A couple things to note about this meditation series:

- 1) I created it for a wide and diverse audience, so there is not any specific "Christian language" used. However, this does not mean that this is a secular practice! The daily discipline of cultivating Presence within our bodies, hearts, and minds is inherently spiritual. It is another form of deep, experiential prayer. When we are Present, we come into contact with The Presence (of God), and we deepen that relationship, as a practice of building Trust through direct experience and contact. As summed up beautifully by G.I. Gurdjieff, "Unless we are present, we cannot pray. When we are present, we *must* pray."



2) These practices are not "woo woo," esoteric, or "far out." They are a practical, down-to-earth approach to building skills in re-training our minds (*metanoia*). Redirecting our Attention, learning to feel the body, and skillfully opening our hearts to give and receive are skills that can be learned with the right tools, guidance, and dedicated practice. *Anyone* can do this!

How to join? Bookmark or save [this link](#) to the meditation playlist on Youtube. A new meditation will be posted every day from Jan 1-30. Each one is about 20 minutes long. See you there!

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From Pastors Luna and Phil: Hold this opportunity 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!!

### Solstice Fire Reflections

A poem shared around the fire from an Edgumbe Gratitude Journal, and an image of sunset at 4:34p....

#### *A Bonfire Poem on Winter Solstice*

I arise and feel body pain, dark illusion and  
fearful worldly whispers  
The morning is silent and dark, but Love sings  
and calls to me  
A song enters my mind----where did it birth?  
Love is here within  
I echo the song with hands and voice as light enters in  
God is Love, Love is light and comfort  
Love is joy, peace and hope.



### EPC Staff Thank yous!

It has been yearly intention for EPC Session to give a gift card to the staff employed by the Edgumbe Presbyterian. We wanted to share the responses....

From **Jenya**: Thank you, Session, for the bonus! I appreciate it very much. Merry Christmas and happy Holidays!

From **Sol**: Thank you 🙏 very much appreciated! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year .

From **Krysta**: Thank you for your generosity and for the opportunity to be a part of the community. Merry Christmas!

From **Luna**: Thank you, Session and entire Community for this generous gift! It is a complete honor and gift to be in shared ministry with you all!! May we—the Living Body of Christ—share our Light and Love with all!! ✨💙✨

From **Phil**: Ditto. I love you all.