

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

January 7, 2026

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The Word was life and the life was the light....

The scripture from Sunday, John 1, is so powerful, and I would love for you to have another chance to receive it truly...so I invite you at this moment to *breathe*, come into this moment with connected to your heart/mind/body, and read these words either silently or out loud (my highlighting):

- 1 In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God....
- 3 Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.
What came into being
- 4 through the Word was **life**,
and the life was the **light for all people**.
- 5 The light shines in the darkness,
and **the darkness does not extinguish the light**.

Beloved Ones, you are the Light of the World for which no amount of darkness can ever extinguish. It is the Truth of Who you are, and it is incorruptible. Our lives are in the rhythm of receiving the Love of God, and then extending the Love of God through our presence, thoughts, & actions. The poet Rumi says it this way:

*If everything around you
seems dark, look again,
you may be the light.*

Let us anchor and open ourselves fully to this truth, and be ready to re-mind each other for the times we forget. The Holy Spirit is with you in every moment, and your life is the embodiment of the Love and Healing of Jesus.

Holy Spirit, in this holy moment, you be in charge, and we will follow you,

trusting that your direction leads to peace. 

 Shine on, beloveds!  In joy, Pastor Luna 

January Mission - EPP



EPP is on a mission to understand why we do what we do, using the Enneagram to inspire transformation —on both sides of the bars— through self-awareness, self-regulation, and self compassion. On January 18 in worship, Pastor Phil will talk with Ashley, a graduate of several EPP courses at Shakopee Prison, along with fellow EPP Guide Susanne Gawreluk. If you would like to support this life-changing work, please donate to this month's mission either online at www.epchurch.org or with a check or cash designed for "January Mission" or "EPP."

Bible Study-All Are Welcome

Most Sunday evenings on Zoom, four to eight of us gather on Zoom with me, Pastor Phil, to read the four scripture texts for the coming Sunday. I send out the texts in an email beforehand, and we post each text in Zoom chat as we talk about it. No previous Bible experience is needed, and there is no pre-work or homework needed to show up and participate. We meet from 6:30-8pm each Sunday, and the link to the Zoom room can be found on the church website (www.epchurch.org). This is a gentle yet powerful way to experience the transformative depth and breadth of scripture with an engaging group of people. If you want to be added to the weekly email list, please message me directly at pastorphilgg@gmail.com.

Team Reports Due For Annual Report

We are beginning to assemble the 2025 Annual Report. If you are a Team lead, or an Elder, please turn in your reports to Phil/Luna/Krysta this week.



30-Day Meditation Challenge

Chelsea Witbrook's 30 Day Meditation Challenge began Jan 1st, but you are welcome to join anytime. 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!

From Pastors Luna and Phil: Hold this opportunity in your prayers as we step into 2026 and look forward to being shaped into Who the Holy Spirit wants us to be in this time and in this place!!

Prayers

Two prayer updates from Pastor Phil.

>>Update on John Owens: John's surgery went as well as possible, with one lobe removed from John's right lung. He is now recovering at home, tired but feeling better every day. He is very grateful for everyone's care and prayers. John cannot drive for several weeks, so he could use a ride to church. He lives at 915 Albion (at Lexington & W 7th). If you can help in this way, please send him an email at jcowens1@hotmail.com.

>>Today a woman was killed by an ICE officer in south Minneapolis. We pray today for God's light to cut through any darkness that separates from kindness and connection.

No matter where you find yourself in this difficult and chaotic time, I encourage you to find space for quiet and stillness. Light a candle to remind you of God's presence. Pray for all those affected by this horrific and senseless violence. Breathe in the love God has for you. On Sunday we will tell the story of Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit descending like a dove and the voice of God saying that Jesus is God's own beloved child. In our life of faith, we are most prepared to live out our calling when we remember that we are loved for who we are, separate from anything we have done or failed to do. It is this place of belovedness that grounds us for a life that leads to connection and peace, a life that enables us to give good gifts to our neighbors.

I'm trying hard not to despair and not to give in to the rage that rises within me when I hear the rhetoric about ICE being here to bring peace to our community. I invite you to join me in being careful about what we read and watch. Time for quiet reflection and being present to those who need us is just as important as reading the latest update. Please join me in praying for our immigrant neighbors, those who are grieving, and for all in positions of leadership who must navigate yet another crisis in our city and state..

May God give us grace to live through these challenging days and to be part of the Spirit's

resistance which practices joy and refuses to let the enemy rob us of the gift of daily life and light. Peace to everybody everywhere..