

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

April 15, 2026

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*Join Us **Tomorrow** for our first Campfire in the Backwoods for 2026! More information below!

"Peace Be With You."

The question we should ask ourselves around Easter is not, "Do I believe that Jesus rose from the dead?" The better question is, "How ready and willing am I to accept God's peace?" When Jesus shows up in the disciples room after the resurrection in John 20, what he says to them is, "Peace be with you." They are hiding and afraid, and Jesus offers peace. Thomas doubts that he is alive, and Jesus offers peace. He doesn't offer up the story of the resurrection. He simply reminds them and us that what God offers us in every single moment is peace.

Are you hiding or afraid? Do you have doubts or shame? Are you feeling uncertain about the direction of your life or the world? Jesus says to us, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet trust." The world teaches us that Seeing Is Believing. Jesus teaches us that Trusting is Peace.

April Mission: Pastors' Sabbatical Fund

Sabbatical Fundraising for the Month of April - written by Elder Chelsea Witbrook
Pastor Phil and Pastor Luna will be away on Sabbatical mid-July through mid-October. For the month of April, instead of donating to a typical "Mission," we're asking the congregation to support our Pastor's sabbatical expenses. Sabbatical is meant to be a time of rest, healing, learning, and joy, and our Pastors have some wonderful trips planned to accomplish exactly that! It also helps them renew their energy and creativity so they can continue this meaningful work in our EPC community, which will enrich the quality of our community experience as a whole.

If you donate, here's what you'd help make possible:

- Luna attending the Hymn Society Annual Conference in New Jersey-- so she can continue nurturing this vocation of hymn writing! (Also, Phil and Luna would drive out there, and road trips are fun, but expensive!)

- Phil and Luna attending the Enneagram Prison Project Camp in California. Meeting with fellow staff and Ambassadors in person to rest and play would be such a joy! (Also, another LONG road trip!)
- Phil and Luna attending the Sound and Vision: Creativity Week at Iona community in Scotland. Being a pastor requires endless creativity, and this retreat will certainly inspire! (Plus, plane tickets and some time exploring Scotland)
- Phil and Luna attending the Holy Relationship Retreat and Soul Liberation in the Netherlands. This is an experience designed for couples. Since our pastors also happen to be married to each other, this investment in their relationship is good for us all! (Plus, flights and 3 nights in Amsterdam)
- Phil and Luna attending Relationships with the Essence and Virtues Workshop with Russ Hudson in St. Paul. Russ is a fantastic spiritual teacher and will certainly offer our pastors fodder for preaching and teaching.
- A GebbenGreen Family Weekend on the Superior Northshore with their children for a couple nights in a cabin.

SERVING MEALS AT UNION GOSPEL

If you'd like to join us for any of these shifts, please e-mail Lisa Holden at lholden58@gmail.com. There may still be availability to join in the fun!

- April 17th, Friday, 11:30 to 1:30
- April 21st, Tuesday, 6:00 am to 8 am



Election of New Elders and Upcoming Ordination

Congratulations to our community for raising up new Elders to serve on Session. At the brief congregational meeting this past Sunday, the congregation elected Ratchet Mattison and Dean Gruessendorf to the Elder Class of 2029. We will have their ordination during worship on Sunday, April 26th. Thank you Ratchet, Dean and the Holy Spirit for this new chapter of our lives together!! 🎉

Backwoods Restoration of Ecosystem: Open for the Season! And two Upcoming Events...

Backwoods ecosystem restoration ministry has begun for the 2026 season! The EPC community has been working 10+ years removing various invasive species to the Backwoods. The land was once overtaken by various invasive



species including buckthorn, burdock and garlic mustard, and by being unchecked for decades, was unbalanced and unhealthy for anything but these monocultures. A HUGE thank you to all who have joined in the restoration work in big and small ways. It truly does take a village to steward the Backwoods! And now, our Backwoods' Meditation Path and Stations for reflection and prayer are welcoming not only people coming to the Edgcumbe Presbyterian building, but is a destination for the neighborhood and school communities.

Join us tomorrow, Thursday, at 6:30 for our first **Campfire in the Backwoods** in 2026. It will be a New Moon that evening, which invites us to name an intention for the coming month. Come and join us, sharing some time together and speaking out loud an intention you have for yourself!

We will also have our first **All Community Backwoods Workday** on **Saturday April 25th** beginning at **1pm**. Please bring gloves, sturdy shoes and long sleeves as we do various tasks of stewardship.

Two May Events: Kafka House & Enneagram Class



May mission of the month and LUNCH at Eggerts' on May 7th

In May we will be supporting Kafika House in Tanzania, a mission familiar to many of us at EPC. (As many of you know, Ron and Ingrid Eggert have a long history with this organization). Sarah Rejman, Founder of Kafika House, will be in the Twin Cities in May, and we are all invited to meet her at the Eggerts'

home at noon on May 7th. Their address is 1868 Simpson Street, Falcon Heights, MN 55113. Please email Ron and Ingrid at ireggert@gmail.com and let them know you'll be there!

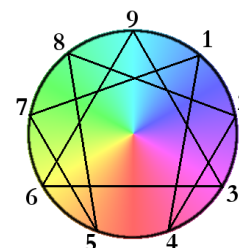
Enneagram Intro Workshop: Differentiating Ego and Essence **facilitated by Chelsea Witbrook**

Saturday May 9, 2026

Time: 1:00 - 4:30pm

Location: Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church, in the "Parlor" room

Suggested Donation: anywhere between \$20-\$100 (*No one will be turned away due to lack of funds.*)



Brush up on the Enneagram! Learn about all 9 personality types, how to find your own type, and how to differentiate between your Ego and your Essence.

In the process, you will build understanding and empathy for yourself and others.

Bring your family and friends! This is a wonderful way to connect and strengthen bonds.

Whether you're an experienced Enneagram student or brand new, you will benefit from this exploration.

This workshop will be interactive, informative, and FUN! Anyone age 16+ is welcome.

Register [HERE](#).

April Session Notes

Session met on Thursday April 9, 2026.

Discussion items:

- Phil led us through the Presbyterian Book of Order in view of the ordination of two possible new elders, Dean Grussendorf and Ratchet Mattison.
- Sabbatical plans: members of the sabbatical committee, Chelsea Witbrook and LaGretta Lunde, discussed aspects of the pastors' sabbatical (July 14-October 14, 2026): Sunday worship service are mostly covered and there are tentative plans for an overnight weekend at Mt. Olivet camp for the congregation and pastors on October 17/18.
- Luna is applying for a grant for both of them from PCUSA. Their tentative plans cover aspects of personal development as well as rest and learning.
- Various ideas for congregational events during the sabbatical: small group activities led by session members, starting a book group, hikes after church, art projects.
- Pastors' reports: Phil shared that the Enneagram Prison Project will start again in mid May at Moose Lake Prison.
- Making plans for another new member class.

Submitted by Ingrid Eggert