

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian Church

July 8, 2026

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Deepest Gratitude!

Well, Beloveds, as I write this, Phil and I begin Sabbatical in one week's time. The community began this process in the Autumn of 2024, when the Sabbatical Grant writing team convened and began the work of gathering people and dreaming for this time. They labored to submit an extensive grant proposal to the Lily Foundation hoping the church would be funded for a Pastor Sabbatical Grant. Then the work shifted as we learned that Edgcumbe was not one of the recipients of the Grants, and so we all listened for a new way forward. The Worship Team has been in conversations for a year planning Sunday mornings, and Session had been preparing, too. And then in April, so many of you contributed to the Sabbatical fundraising focus...giving Phil and I an opportunity to reach for opportunities of hymn writing, being in California for the Enneagram Prison Project Community camping trip, and an enneagram conference. And with a couple of smaller sabbatical grants from our local Presbytery and the PC(USA), there became monies which will allow experiences at the Iona Community in Scotland and a Holy Relationship Retreat in the Netherlands (at a place which translates as "The Moon Farm"!!!!). Every step and aspect of this Sabbatical experience has the generosity and care of this community woven throughout...and we receive this all with ***such profound gratitude***. We are excited to rest, and to adventure together, and we ask Holy Spirit to guide our way and our experiences.

The Holy Spirit has brought each of you to Edgcumbe in this time and space...so please know that your presence is purposeful. You are the Beloved Community, the Body of the Living Christ, and Edgcumbe has a lot of living to do in these next months. I am so excited to hear the stories of your time and experiences that you will bring to the community retreat in October, and how different preachers, worship experiences, and gatherings have shaped what it has meant to be together during these months.

May each of you be well and at peace. Check in and reach out to each other. And may the Spirit of love and grace be received and extended from you all. Blessed Be!! Pastor Luna ☯

Holy Spirit, in this Holy moment, You be in charge,
And we will follow you, trusting that Your direction will lead us to peace!!



Prayers for...

Michelle Trebtoske's beloved father, Peter, died Saturday night. We always gave thanks for the deep faith and love Peter would bring into worship at Edgcombe the time he attended with Michelle!! Now we hold **Michelle** and **Shiloh**, and Michelle's family of sister **Julie** and niece **Samantha** in prayer in these days of their deepest grief and heartbreak. May the love of this community enfold the Trebtoske clan in care and in grace.

July Mission: Threshold to New Life

Our mission focus for July is Threshold to New Life. Their website is: Threshold2newlife.org. Richard Bahr, director, will be visiting EPC on July 19th.



The number of people experiencing homelessness is up 10% since 2015. Losing housing creates new barriers to regaining housing. We find it both humane and smart to help people keep the housing they already have.

A homeless person can cost taxpayers almost \$3,000 a month. We give grants to individuals and families who need help making ends meet with their housing...helping them pay a portion of their rent. 97% of donations go directly to help families with their living situations. More than 1,000 Twin Cities families received assistance in the last 3 years.

To donate, you can put cash or check in the offering plate during worship or give online, designating any gifts to "July Mission."

Backwoods Updates: Stewardship

As Pastor Luna and others have been addressing the larger invasive plants (Buckthorn & Burdock), the [Creeping Bellflower](#) (see photo) is becoming a presence in the Backwoods this year, as it is spreading across the Twin Cities landscapes. However, again, with a concerted intention, we can go a long way to continuing to re-establish the native ecosystem.

If you have been wondering how you can participate in the caring for this community, we invite you to consider helping out in the Backwoods. We would love to identify 3-4 new people who would be interested in this restoration work in the Backwoods. Please connect with Pastor Luna to learn more and get any training you might need!!



October Retreat: Payments are due (and Planning Help)

Hi all, Chelsea W here! This is a reminder to **please send in your full payments for the EPC October Retreat by the end of this week.** If you need an extension, or if you need financial support, please email me at chelsea.witbrook@gmail.com and we can get you covered.

In case you're wondering who is signed up, here's the list (and after seeing this list, if you're feeling left out and want to register, there's still room in the dorm rooms, or you can commute. Just shoot me an email!)

Phil, Luna, Mark W, Shelley, Chelsea W, James, Rachel, Ratchet, Connie, Dave, Jan, Leslie, Jay, Lisa, Ron, Ingrid, Mark T, Jane, Emily, Sheila, Anna, LaGretta, Ruth, Michelle, John

Note: for payments, please send \$182.19 per person if you're in a hotel style room, \$149.75 if you're in the dorms, and \$128.13 if you're commuting. Thank you!

Retreat Planning Committee

If you are interested in helping with the October retreat, please let me know. Some tasks that will need filling are: leading a prayer, helping set up/clean up certain activities, creating a photo slideshow of our community's Sabbatical, or leading a fun activity. Shoot me an email at chelsea.witbrook@gmail.com if you're interested!



MOUNT OLIVET CONFERENCE
& RETREAT CENTER

Watch for New Updated EPC Community Directory! 🎉

We have been working on updating the EPC Community contacts and directory. Please pick up a copy when you come into worship this weekend. Jan Fitzgerald moved last week. Here is her new address:

Jan Fitzgerald
1834 Mississippi River Blvd S
Apt. 323
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Photos from Belarus

Pastors Phil and Luna had a conversation with Jenya this week to already talk about Christmas music! 🌲 ❄️ Jenya is well, and sent some photos....



Birth Play Project ready to perform

The young people who have been rehearsing Shakespeare's darkest play, Titus Andronicus, in our sanctuary will be finishing up over the next week in preparation for their six performances at the Black Forest Inn in Minneapolis, running from July 23 - Aug 1. If you are



interested in attending, go to [THIS LINK](#). They do the whole play in under 90 minutes.

The director of this play told us that putting on this production has been filled with both challenges and growth—emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually—for the whole cast and crew. She also mentioned that doing the rehearsals in our sanctuary added to the sense of holiness and support for their work!