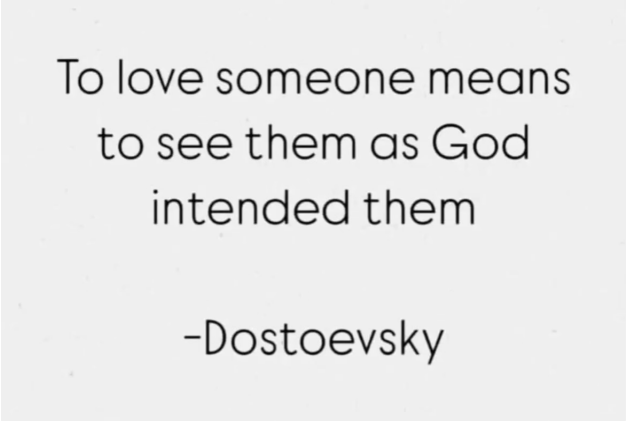
Edgcumbe
Presbyterian Church
November 4th, 2026



In this issue: *Jay's Reflection from Sunday's Text, Steward Note from Treasurer Ron, Gratitude Meeting, Diaper Fund, Artplayce Update, November Mission, Thank You for Birthday Celebration! From Pastor Luna, Session Notes from Elder Chelsea*

Reflections from Jay McG from Sunday's Text....

Pastor Luna's distinction between "who we are" and "what we are" has stayed with me. I tend to think of myself as Jay: an individual with my own history, thoughts, and experiences, separate from everyone else. That is true, but I am beginning to wonder whether the deepest truth about me is found in my belonging—in being one with others, one body, through Christ.

In Matthew 22:34–46, Jesus brings together the commandments to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. These loves are inseparable. My relationship with God draws me into relationship with the people God loves. My neighbor's joys, struggles, and needs become part of my concern.

Jesus then asks how the Messiah can be David's son when David calls him Lord. His question unsettles a familiar understanding of the Messiah's identity. This calls me into asking how much my familiar ways of identifying myself misses the mark and serves to reinforce my sense of isolation.

When Pastor Phil asked Pastor Luna to say more about the difference between "who I am" and "what I am," I thought of Jesus' encounter with Mary Magdalene after his resurrection. When Jesus tells her not to cling to him because he had not yet ascended to his Father, I hear an invitation to a relationship she cannot yet fully imagine. She had found her beloved teacher, but Jesus knew that the fullness of that love and belonging would be complete through her relationship in the Christ.

Jesus sends Mary to the disciples, whom he calls his siblings, and speaks of his Parent as their Parent. Even in that moment of personal recognition, he opens the circle of belonging. Mary's love carries her toward others with universe-rearranging news to share.

Perhaps I, too, am being invited to loosen my grip on an understanding of myself as separate and self-contained. I am still Jay. My particular life matters. Yet through Christ, that life is bound to yours.

What might change if I carried that awareness into the week? Would I listen more closely? Be slower to dismiss someone? Recognize another person's suffering as something that concerns me?

I am Jay, and I belong to God and to you. I am learning to let that belonging shape how I love.

It's Stewardship Season...A Word from Treasurer Ron E

Please pledge. And if possible, increase your pledge.

As we discussed Sunday during worship, pledging is important because the Session needs to know how much money will be available when planning next year's budget, especially re pastor and staff salaries. Our 2026 expenses so far this year almost exactly equal our income. Simply put, that means we will need more money next year to meet increasing costs (everything from snow plowing to insurance premiums). Pledge cards are on the table in the back of the sanctuary or send an email to Krysta indicating your pledge: epchurch2149@gmail.com
Thanks, Ron

Your Invited-Thanksgiving Day Gratitude Meeting 10AM-Sanctuary

Highland AA will be hosting its annual Thanksgiving Day Gratitude Meeting in the EPC Sanctuary again this year at 10 AM. Everyone gets a minute or so to share what they are grateful for-Lasts about an hour. Treats, coffee and fellowship to follow the meeting in the parlor. It is a very powerful spiritual experience and a great way to center yourself before the big feast! All are welcome to attend and share-you do not need to be in a recovery program.

Diaper Fund Drive for Ty, Jaime and baby Eqlipcia!

As you know, babies go through loads of diapers! One way we can help Ty is through contributing $$$ towards this purchase. Please consider contributing. You can either VENMO me, Shelley, @Shelley-Holden-44 or feel free to write a check or hand me cash!

I will collect through the month of November then gift to Ty. 🙂
Questions? Email: sjholden44@gmail.com -or- phone: 507-581-4432.
Thanks in advance for your contribution!

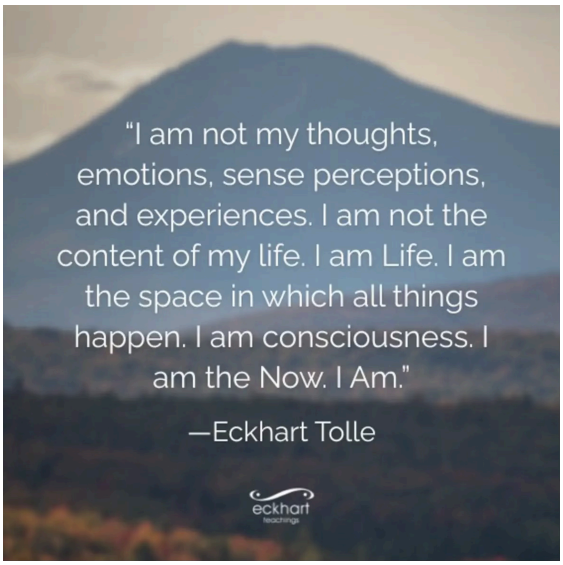
Artplayce Update

Thanks for all who have brought in artwork to hang on our walls! It's going to be a great show. There's still time to bring in your artwork! We will be hanging the art on Friday of this week, but will leave space for more. If you bring it in this week, please leave it in the office with a note of who the maker is, and any details you'd like to share. This art installment will be up through the end of the year. Thanks!

November Mission - Union Gospel Mission

A speaker will be coming from UGM on Sunday the 8th. Our volunteer gig is set for November 30th, a Monday, 11:30 to 1:30. Please send me (Lisa, lholden58@gmail.com) an e-mail indicating you're interested in participating in serving the noon meal. There are 4 spots left as of today, Nov 2nd. I will then send you a link to complete some brief paperwork including signing a waiver and registering for the time slot we've been assigned. Please join us! I hear it was a lot of fun last time! The address of the meal serving site is 435 University Ave E, St Paul, MN 55130. If there is interest, we can arrange for car pooling.

UNION GOSPEL MISSION
TWIN CITIES



Thank you for the Birthday Joy!!....and away for a couple of nights

Beloveds!💙 Thank you for celebrating my 60th birthday after worship this past Sunday!! It was lovely to share this milestone with you all! Thank you to the organizers (I am not even sure I know who was all involved!) and for those of you who contributed food and decorations!! I am planning to bring all the cards and the gifts up to Lake Superior, and open them up on my birthday. It will be like those Sabbatical Blessings you sent Phil and I off with....you will be traveling again with us and the birthday blessings will be a gift to me along the North Shore!

That said, we will be offline Wednesday and Thursday, and will start looking at emails again when we return Friday evening.....

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!🎉

In Joy, Pastor Luna🌀

Update from Session from Elder Chelsea W

Session met last Thursday and we were very grateful to be back together with Phil and Luna on the "team." All the elders reflected on how easy and smooth the Sabbatical time was because everyone stepped up and did their part, both Session members and members of the congregation. Thank you all for sharing your presence and your gifts! We see you and appreciate you.

Here are a few more highlights from the meeting:

- We're on track with our finances for the rest of 2026. Ron is encouraging those who can to increase their pledge(donation) amount for 2027 so that we can continue to increase staff salaries and keep pace with inflation costs.
- We're happy to continue offering space to the Highland Park AA groups to meet in our building to support their ongoing recovery (12 groups meet at Edgcumbe weekly!). We've offered them a new three year lease to continue this fruitful partnership.
- We had a lengthy and robust conversation about whether or not to continue offering use of the sanctuary to the Rehoboth congregation. There are many open questions around this being a good fit for both of our communities, both from a logistics perspective and a mission-based perspective. We are brainstorming, praying, and gathering more information.
- A message from Buildings and Grounds Committee: "If you see something, say something!" We need your eyes to alert us when things in the building are broken, leaking, have screws loose, etc. Send an email to the pastors and Dean and/or Jay if you notice anything that needs repair.