

Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter—January 2026



Core Convictions

Several months ago, I created a list of my core convictions, those thoughts and beliefs that underlie what I think, say, and do. They make their way into my sermons, Bible studies, and prayers whether or not they relate to my main point. So, I thought I would share them with you over the next few months. I invite you to consider these, and I welcome respectful conversation as we grow in our lives of faith together.

Conviction #1:

We are loved, just as we are, by God.

God loves us. Period. Without qualification. Without question. Always.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth and all living things, God created human kind in God's own image and likeness. And though we often do not follow God's way or live in right relationships with God or with one another, God calls us back, again and again, wanting to be in relationship with us. The Hebrew Bible – the Old Testament – is all about the Israelites turning away from God, God calling them back, and the Israelites returning, only to fall away again. God's love is steadfast and faithful, inviting and welcoming. For God so loved the world that God gave Jesus, sending him into the world so that the world might be saved through him (John 3:16-17 paraphrase).

In Romans, Paul writes, "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (8:38-39). Nothing, not even our hateful thoughts or deeds, nor our self-

centeredness, nor our faithlessness, nor our choices, *nothing* can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Though, this doesn't mean that we don't break God's heart when we turn away. We do, but God loves us anyway and calls us home, again and again.

And this means that ***YOU are loved, just as you are. Always.***

In faith, hope, & love,

Sara

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O God, may your light guide us this year as we seek to be faithful disciples, sharing your love and grace in the world. Let the ***Light of the World*** shine in and through our lives to bring peace and hope in a world desperately longing for both. As we follow your light on our journey ever closer to you, may we light the way for others to follow as well. ***Amen***

Upcoming Services & Sermons

1/4/26	“Light of the World”	Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	<i>Epiphany</i>
1/11/26	“Light to the Nations”	Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43	<i>Baptism of Christ</i>
1/18/26	“Light for the Way”	Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42	
1/25/26	“Light of Healing”	Isaiah 9:1-4; Matthew 4:12-23	
2/1/26	“Light of Folly”	1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Micah 6:1-8	<i>Communion & Officer Installation</i>

TREASURER'S REPORT

November Finances:

Receipts	\$ 7,503.59
Expenses	\$ 8,511.39
Receipts—Expenses	(-\$ 1,007.80)

Special Offerings:

2 ¢ a Meal	\$ 66.00
PW Thank Offering	\$ 105.00

Scheduled Special Offerings

1/4/26 – 2 ¢ a Meal
2/1/26 – 2 ¢ a Meal
2/15/26 – Blanket Sunday

Head Elder for January

Johnny Sellars

January Prayer Family of the Week

- 4 Jennifer & Carlie Anne Nicholson
- 11 Jim & Rose Owle
- 18 Liesl Owle & Kaitlyn Brown
- 25 Barbara Rosser

January Birthdays

- 5 Ava Williams
- 6 Darrell Matthews
- 6 Dave Mead
- 16 Willis McNeill
- 21 Jim Owle
- 29 Michael Edwards

12 MONTHS OF Blessings

2026 – A YEAR OF GIVING

January - Canned Vegetables
green beans, corn, carrots, potatoes,
peas, spinach, mushrooms, diced
tomatoes

Edgewood Supporting the CUOC

The Psalms Expressions of Faith

Bible Study

January 13 to March 24
Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Just bring your Bible and a friend!



at MonkeyKat Books
just down from the Fairview Dairy Bar



Sit & Chat with your pastor

Wednesday, 2:30-3:30 pm
January 7, 14, 21, & 28

If you're looking for a reason to get out of the house, to see a friendly face, to sit and chat, or just sit and read in companionable silence, I hope you'll join me!

BLESSED NEW YEAR WISHES

My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19



Edgewood Choir

This choir provided an outstanding performance on December 21, 2025. Thanks to all who participated and a special thanks to Erin for organizing and directing the group. **JOB WELL DONE!**



We are saddened by the death of our long-time member and loyal servant of our church. Harold will be remembered for his generosity and years of service to the church. Our sympathy and prayers go out to Helen, Wilson, and other family members and friends.

I am the Resurrection and the Life says the Lord.
John 11:25

Harold Wilson Weathers

April 29, 1935 - December 8, 2025



AN OLD-FASHIONED FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 13, 2025
3-5 p.m.



Christian Education Committee

The “**Old-Fashioned Family Christmas**” held December 13 was filled with singing carols, good food and fellowship. A number of door prizes had been donated for those lucky enough to have their names drawn. Everyone took home a bag of fruit and candy.

Thanks to everyone who furnished refreshments and stayed to make it a special time.

We thank the Decorating Committee for having the Fellowship Hall decorated so beautifully. Special thanks to Jeannie Williams who played the piano and LeRoy McSwain who read the Christmas story from Luke’s gospel. Thanks to the Christian Education Committee for the work they did to make the celebration a success.

Jean McSwain: Chair

THANK YOU JEAN!

Our “**Old-Fashioned Family Christmas**” party was a huge success. Thirty-seven people attended. We had plenty of food and great music. Every one enjoyed the fruit & candy bags. Some folks are asking if we can have it again next year.

Thank you Jean for organizing the event and thank you Jeannie for the music.

Debra Wall

Communications Committee

We continued our routine duties updating bulletin boards, the church website, and Facebook page. The Christmas Party generated more photo opportunities, and the Christmas Eve service generated additional photos and video.

Connie Wynn: Chair

Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

Saturday, January 24

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lunch - 11-11:45 AM & Competition - 12-3 PM

Edgewood Presbyterian Church
316 W. McIntosh St, Sanford, NC

Put your jigsaw puzzle solving skills to the test and support the mission projects of the Presbyterian Women of Edgewood!

Tables are \$50, which includes lunch, and can be shared by up to 4 people.

Food! Prizes! Fun!

For more information or to register, contact Debra Wall at 919-888-8325.



See Page 9 for registration form.

Fellowship Committee

2025 was a very good year for the Fellowship Committee. We had great events, good attendance, and lots of delicious food. The Decorating Committee made the Fellowship Hall beautiful for each event.

The Session has approved our budget for 2026.

Beginning a new year, we need to make plans for 2026. **We need more committee members.**

We will meet Saturday, January 31, 2026 at 12:00 pm to determine the events to be held in the coming year, set dates, and plan activities for them. A simple lunch will be provided from 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm. We will start the meeting at 12:30 pm. If you have new ideas, bring them. We would love to hear them. The meeting is scheduled to last only one hour.

Please let me know if you can join the group, or you are welcome to come just to see what it is all about.

We are looking forward to another good year.

Debra Wall: Chair

Property & Grounds Committee

Our biggest project this month was cleaning out the flower beds. Hunter Baily Landscaping was hired to clean up the prayer garden and border along the parking lot. The bushes were pruned and cleaned out.

Johnny Sellars: Chair

Advent Candle Lighting - 2025



1st Sunday of Advent - Jimmy and Jeannie



2nd Sunday of Advent - Stephanie and Trish



3rd Sunday of Advent - Ron, Oleh, and Konstantin



4th Sunday of Advent - Kylie and Steve



Christmas Eve - Kim and Nancy



Presbyterian Women Christmas Celebration

December 8, 2025



Hosted by the Refreshment Committee



Special Guest Speaker - Cheryl Gilmore with her **“Tea Pot Ministry”**



**Next Meeting: 2:00 pm
Monday, January 12, 2026**

Lesson Four: “The Prodigal Child, The Eldest Child, and the Devoted Parent”
to be presented by Debra Wall

Hostesses: Joyce McGehee and Mary Holder



Preparing “goodie” bags for the December 13
Old-Fashioned Family Christmas Party



Missions Committee

CUOC Donations for January

We are collecting canned vegetables in January for CUOC. It can be green beans, corn, carrots, potatoes, peas, spinach, mushrooms, etc.



Steve Womack: Chair

More Hats Donated to CUOC

Thank you Sara for delivering 34 winter hats, knitted and crocheted by our congregation, to CUOC on December 22. Talk to Sara if you'd like to participate in this ministry.



Photo by Rev. Sara Martin

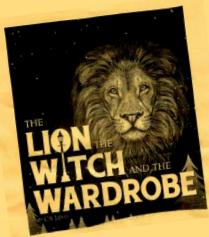
42 pounds of canned meat was donated for CUOC by our congregation in December.

Thank you, Steve and Kathie, for delivering it to CUOC.



Photo by Teresa Seagroves

Some of our Edgewood ladies attended this play at Lee County High School December 6. Oleh and Konstantin played parts and Ron Coley directed the play. It was fantastic!



Our church needs you!

As we begin a new year, please consider volunteering to help on a committee. We have a limited number of members, and just a few accept the responsibilities for planning and organizing activities and events for the church, and for performing the ongoing essential duties. Everyone has a talent and can help in some way. Our elders are organizing their committees for the year. Volunteers are needed! The committees available are: Christian Education, Communications, Congregational Care, Fellowship, Finance, Missions, Property & Grounds, and Worship & Music. Please let an elder or Rev. Sara know if you are willing to help.

Jerry Wynn

Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

Saturday, January 24 - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Edgewood Presbyterian Church

316 W. McIntosh St, Sanford, NC

Food! Prizes! Fun!

A puzzle competition will be held in the Edgewood Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 24, 2026 to support the mission projects of Edgewood's Presbyterian Women. Lunch will be served from 11:00 am until 11:45 am. The competition will start at 12:00 noon and end at 3:00 pm. If the event is postponed due to snow or extreme weather, the competition will be held Saturday, January 31, 2026, with the same time and schedule.

Each team may have one to four people at their table. The cost is \$50 per table, **paid in advance**. Each table will be given an identical 550-piece puzzle featuring a North Carolina scene. If you like to use trays, paper plates, or sorter trays, you must bring your own. Name your team! For example, *The Grannies* or *Puzzle Makers*, something that describes or fits your group.

The 1st place winning team will receive \$50 and a box of sorter trays. The 2nd place team will receive \$25 and a box of sorter trays. The 3rd place team will receive a box of sorter trays.

We must receive your registration form and entry fee **no later than January 20, 2026**. Please mail it to **Debra Wall at 2800 Cemetery Rd. Sanford, NC 27332**. If you have questions or need more information, please call Debra at 919-888-8325.

REGISTRATION FORM

Team Name _____

Name _____ Email _____ Phone# _____

Address _____