

Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter - October 2026



Core Convictions X

We are nearing the end of this series of articles on my core convictions that I began in January. The previous convictions – those thoughts and beliefs that underlie what I think, say, and do – are listed on the next page.

God is big enough and loving enough for the full range of human emotion that we can throw at God.

This means it's okay to be mad at God, to yell at God, to weep, to rage, to lament. God knows us from the inside out. The psalmist wrote, "O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.... Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely" (Psalm 139:1-2, 4). God knows what we are feeling and when we hide behind a mask, pretending everything is okay. I think God wants us to be authentic, to be our true selves when we come before God in our daily lives. God already knows who we are. And God knows whose we are – we are God's.

While the Psalms are filled with praise and thanksgiving, darker, heavier emotions permeate the pages as well. With them, we can cry out in anger before God, we can lament and complain about our current situation, and we can beg for God's mercy and salvation.

"O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses; you have been angry; now restore us!"

Psalm 60:1

"Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck."

Psalm 69:1

*"Have mercy on me,
O God, according to
your steadfast love;
according to your
abundant mercy, blot
out my transgressions."*

Psalm 51:1



*"My God, my God, why have you
forsaken me? Why are you so far from
helping me, from the words of my
groaning?"*

Psalm 22:1

*"How long, O Lord? Will you forget
me forever? How long will you hide your
face from me?"*

Psalm 13:1

We don't have to be "perfect" in our faith. We don't have to hold pleasant emotions or wear a mask before God. Our big, messy emotions, our anger and grief, do not scare God away or make God love us any less. God knows us through and through. And God loves us, just as we are.

In faith, hope, & love,

Sara

Rev. Sara Martin

919-770-5791 ■ sara.martin@edgewoodpres.org

O God,

As the trees shed their summer coats and the cooler winds of autumn blow the leaves away, fill us with wonder and expectation for the changes and transformations the season brings. Help us to let go of what no longer serves us and, so, be open to the new things you are doing in our midst.

Amen

Previous core convictions:

1. We are loved, just as we are, by God.
2. Conviction #1 applies to each human being as we are all created in God's image.
3. Just as we are loved, so too are we called to love one another, to love each human being.
4. There is a place for everyone in God's beloved community.
5. Diversity is, not only important, but essential for society, creation, and, thus, also God's beloved community.
6. Grace abounds, and we should approach life, our relationships, interactions, and activities with grace in mind.
7. The focus of Christian life is not getting into heaven, but following Jesus Christ, being faithful disciples, and living and loving as Jesus did, here and now.
8. Faithfulness includes having doubts and questions as they help us grow and deepen our life of faith.
9. Yet, faithful discipleship does not necessarily mean participating in everything, but in those activities, events, and ministries that are meaningful to us, that bring us joy, or even that challenge us in faith.



New Season

As the air turns crisp and leaves change color, autumn invites us into a new season of life. The vibrant greens of summer give way to the warm golds and reds, and we are reminded of the beauty of God's design in nature. The shifting seasons constant, while guiding us through every transition. Autumn is traditionally a time of harvest, a moment to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the blessings in our lives.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

By: Sandy Dull



All Saints' Sunday

November 1, 2026

Join us as we light candles to remember our loved ones, those who passed away this year and all of the others we hold dear in our hearts and memories.

Upcoming Sermons

Disciple Stewardship Season

10/4 "Invited" Mtw 22:1-14; Mtw 4:8-12

10/18 "Invested" Mtw 25:14-30; 1 Cor 12:4-13

10/11 "Engrafted" Mtw 21:33-46; Jn 15:1-11

10/25 "Committed" Mtw 25:31-46; Mtw 22:34-46

TREASURER'S REPORT

AUGUST:

Receipts:	\$ 8,230.32
Expenses:	\$ 12,103.07
Receipts - Expenses:	- \$ 3,872.75

JANUARY- AUGUST:

Receipts:	\$ 71,536.20
Expenses:	\$ 90,459.11
Receipts - Expenses:	- \$ 18,922.91

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

2 ¢ a Meal - 9/6	\$ 61.16
------------------	----------

Scheduled Special Offerings

10/4/26	2 ¢ a Meal
11/1/26	2 ¢ a Meal

Head Elder for October
Jonathan Wester

October

Prayer Family of the Week

- 4 Willis McNeill, Chris, & Glen
- 11 Jean McSwain, Trent & LeRoy
- 18 Nancy & Dave Mead
- 25 Drew Morrison



October Birthdays



*Happy Birthday to
everyone celebrating
birthdays this
month!*

Our Next Session Meeting - 10/11/26

Watch for highlights in the November Newsletter!

Sunday School 2026-2027

Adult

Monroe-Smith Class

"The Present Word:
Adult Bible Lessons"

Teresa Mangum
Jean McSwain
Steve Womack
Connie Wynn

Youth +

The Gospel According to...

ex. Harry Potter
The Simpsons
Star Wars...

Adrian Martin
Rev. Sara Martin

Children



Nancy Mead
TBD

Youth + is for anyone who is interested!

INVESTIGATING THE MYSTERY

The Gospel of Mark

Tuesdays at 7 p.m.



- 10/6 The Mystery Scandalizes
Chapters 8 & 9
- 10/13 The Mystery Challenges
Chapter 10
- 10/20 The Mystery Defies
Chapters 11 & 12
- 10/27 The Mystery Urges
Chapter 13

Just bring your Bible and yourself!



VOLUNTEERS
Needed!

- Decorate your vehicle and have a small game or activity
- Provide individually wrapped candy or other small give-away items

A sign-up sheet is in the hallway by sanctuary.

Christian Education Committee

The CE Committee has been very busy. We have put a baby gate in the nursery doorway. *Watch your step!* Thank you, Trisha and Johnny, for installing it for us.

We converted the 2nd floor classroom into a K-5 classroom. We are ready for the children!

On October 30, the CE Committee will host a **TRUNK OR TREAT** event from 2 to 4 pm in the church parking lot. We are very excited about this, and we would love to have many of our members participate. Please sign up in the hallway by the sanctuary or see Nancy, Beth, Stephanie, or Debra if you want to help with this outreach project.

Nancy Mead: Chair



Baby Gate



K-5 Classroom

Fellowship Committee

The September picnic was a huge success. Thanks to Chip, Scott, Kelly, and Johnny for cooking hamburgers and hot dogs and for wearing the new “Edgewood Chef” aprons. Also, thanks to all who helped prepare the fellowship hall for the event, brought food, and helped clean up afterward, and to everyone who contributed prizes for Bingo.

We had 32 people in attendance. I think everyone enjoyed the food, fellowship, and Bingo. Dave did an outstanding job again as Bingo caller.

Our next Fellowship event will be our annual Thanksgiving lunch on Sunday, November 15.

Debra Wall: Chair



**Edgewood
Presbyterian Women**
September 14, 2026



Program - Introduction & Lesson One:
From the PW/Horizons Bible Study
"Unity in Christ, Wisdom from God"
Presented by Jean McSwain



Next Meeting: Monday, 2:00pm, October 12, 2026
Rev. Sara Martin will present Lesson 2: "Connected in Christ"



Moderator:
Teresa Mangum



Treasurer:
Debra Wall



Devotion:
Trish Sellars



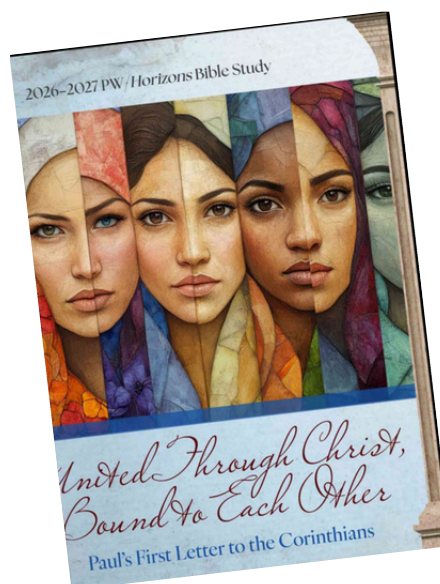
Hostesses for September:
Teresa Mangum & Barbara Rosser

Presbyterian Women

The Edgewood Presbyterian Women will meet October 12 at 2:00 p.m. We hope to see everyone. Lesson Two from the PW/Horizons Bible Study, "Connected in Christ," will be presented by Rev. Sara Martin as Bible Moderator.

Join us for great fellowship time and wonderful Bible Study.

Teresa Mangum: Moderator



Quilts and Animals Mission Project

The Edgewood Piece-Makers and Presbyterian Women will be making their annual donations of handmade quilts and stuffed animals to Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte, NC this month. We will be taking 16 quilts and 21 stuffed animals to be used to comfort young patients.

Teresa Mangum



CUOCLC Thrift Store

CUOC had the grand opening of their new thrift store at 2629 Dalrymple Street on September 8, 2026. The newly renovated building offers increased space to display items for sale, and a cleaner, more pleasant shopping experience.

(Open Tuesday - Friday 10:00am - 4:00pm, Saturday 10:00am - 2:00pm)

Missions Committee

We delivered 82 pounds of canned meat to the CUOC as our September offering. Again, I want to thank everyone for your generosity.

Steve Womack: Chair



Property & Grounds Committee

Quotes have been obtained to install awnings over the entrance to the downstairs Sunday School room and along the walk leading to the Fellowship Hall.

Johnny Sellars: Chair



October - Pasta Sauce
spaghetti sauce, alfredo sauce,
enchilada sauce, gravy



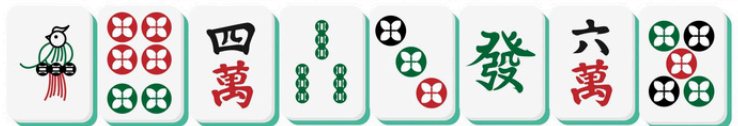
Edgewood Supporting the CUOC

Communications Committee

We posted lots of pictures from our September 19 picnic in the Fellowship Hall. Check them out! Thanks to Joy Holder and Patsy McBryde for contributing some of the pictures. **We welcome pictures of church events from anyone.**

We printed 50 more Mahjong flyers. We also updated the church website and posted worship service videos on Facebook.

Connie Wynn: Chair



MAHJONG

Open Play

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday
(except Thanksgiving & Christmas)

6-8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Donations will support the Presbyterian Women's mission projects.

Jody McNeill Ordained

On September 13, 2026, Jody McNeill was ordained at the Christian Chapel Christian Church in New Hill. After serving at various churches for many years, Jody has now been ordained and has accepted a full time position at this church.

Congratulations Jody!

