
Edgewood Presbyterian Church



Newsletter October 2021

Pastor's page

At the end of the month comes Halloween. As a child, this was one of my favorite holidays, simply because of all the candy I could get. When I was a young boy, it was safe to get homemade goodies from our neighbors and complete strangers. Amidst the chocolate bars and bubble gum I would find cellophane wrapped homemade popcorn balls, caramel apples, and cupcakes. A sugary bliss awaited me at the end of a night of ringing doorbells and shouting "Trick or Treat!"

Amidst the overabundance of goodies I was given, there would be some candies that just didn't measure up. My taste buds rejected those strange hard candies that had a strawberry jam inside. You know them. Their wrapper tries to make them look like a strawberry. Red with yellow polka dots and green where the tops twist together. They were an abomination to me. Even though I was richly blessed with a pile of delightful treats, somehow, I felt disappointed. Those strawberry monstrosities ruined the

pile. They contaminated all the rest of my treasures. They detracted from the joy of Halloween. They tainted everything else. Looking back, it was foolish for me to think that way. And yet, how many of us still see the strawberry candies in life?



The blessings of family and friends help us feel so rich. But then a simple misunderstanding damages a relationship, and creates alienation. Strawberry Candy!

Our retirement investments have been growing at record rates, but a small correction causes a slight dip. We panic and find ourselves filled with dread. Strawberry Candy!

COVID has changed the way we do things. But carefully we get back together. We worship together. We have Sunday school together. We see each other. We laugh together. We rejoice in God's goodness. But a year and a half later, things aren't back the way things were. No choir. No fellowship events. No this. No that. Strawberry Candy!

Strawberry candies can be found anywhere and everywhere, and can

make a world full of wonderful sweetness seem damaged.

In Philippians 4 the Apostle Paul writes, *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to*



God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Paul writes this letter in the midst of great personal difficulty. His life is full of Strawberry candies. But he doesn't surrender. He rejoices in all God is doing. When life is difficult, he sees the faithfulness of God. When his friends fall away, he sees the nearness of God. When he has no personal strength, he turns to prayer. Through it all, Paul rejoices in God.

Has life been dropping Strawberry candy in your Halloween bucket? Rejoice in the Lord. Have you been worried about the future? Rejoice in the Lord. Have you been disappointed? Rejoice in the Lord.

Rejoice and pray! And God will be with you.

Wishing you abundant life through Christ!
~ Chad~

Session Notes

The next stated session meeting will be October 28, at 11:00.

The Property and Grounds Committee has looked after getting the office painted and it looks great! Thanks Johnny and Patricia for the improvements.

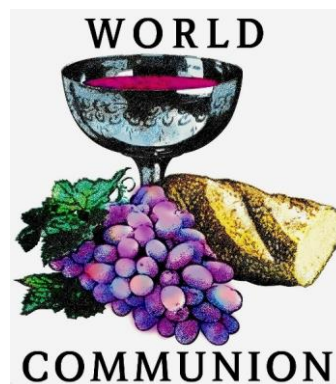


THE
OFFICE
WAS
PAINTED!

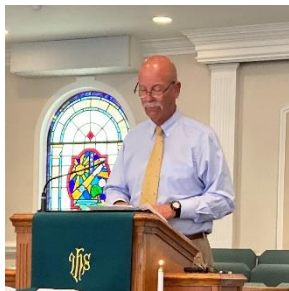
September 25, 2021



World Communion Sunday is October 3, when we will celebrate Holy Communion with other Christians around the world, remembering Christ's sacrifice for us.



***Thanks to all
who read
scriptures for
our worship
services***



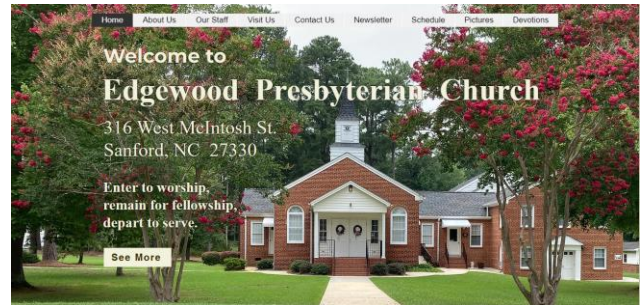
The PW coordinating team will meet October 4, at 2:00.

Presbyterian Women

Horizons Bible Study
"What My Grandmothers Taught Me"
 This month - "Family Trees"
September 13, 2021

The circle will meet October 11, at 11:00.
Mary Holder will have our lesson 2 on
Tamar.

NEW WEBSITE!



We have updated our church website! Our old website has been neglected because it was difficult for a nonprofessional to maintain.

The photos that you see when you open the site is an effort to present an attractive and inviting image of our church, attempting to attract users who are unfamiliar with us. Hopefully, some will have enough interest to visit us in person.

For our members, we added direct access to our recent **newsletters**, **schedules** of future events, and direct links to some **videos** that have been published on our Facebook page. Included in those video links are special musical performances by Jeanne Anderson and Tamara Lewis.

A link to a **daily devotional** produced by the Presbyterian church is available. A link to **The Bible Gateway** is also provided. It allows you to search for any book, chapter, and verse in multiple bible translations. *You can even search for a phrase!*

Take a look at the website.
(www.edgewoodpres.org) It is still in its infancy and will be subject to ongoing changes. If you have questions, or suggestions for improvements, see Jerry.

Church in the Park

First Presbyterian Church is planning *Church in the Park* at Kiwanis Park, Sunday, **October 17**. The morning will begin at 10:00 with music (combined choirs), worship at 10:30 and concluding with lunch after worship.

There will be a catered meal (\$10 plate, \$5 children under 8). *Please let Patsy McBryde know if you want to participate in the catered meal and please pay her by Oct 10, so she can reserve Edgewood members' meal.*

A golf cart will be available for anyone needing assistance from the parking lot to the worship shelter.

This is an opportunity to commune with God, nature and your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Rev. Chad Neal will hold services at Edgewood that Sunday for those who prefer not going to the Park.

Psalm

¹ Praise the LORD.^[a]

Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.

² Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing
greatness.



Special Offerings

Sarah Wilson Scholarship Fund \$315.00
(September 12)

CHANGE *fatigue*

by Rachel Young

I've been misplacing my eyeglasses lately. I set them down for a moment, for a simple task like changing my clothes, and then I can't find them minutes later. This is unfortunate, as I am nearsighted and need my glasses to work and to drive. In talking with a fellow mom, who is also struggling with a scrambled mind, we hypothesized that pandemic fatigue is causing these brain blips. I am tired. I am tired as a parent. I am tired as a pastor. I am tired as a human being.

I am also tired of navigating change. Pastors, parents and nearly all human beings on the planet have had to make adaptations since early 2020. We could not proceed with "business as usual," which forced us to consider: What's essential? What makes my family tick? What makes the church the church?

Pastors like me experienced something we had been talking about for years: The church is not the building. The church is not the facility in which people worship. Rather, the church is the people doing the worshipping, whether in a physical sanctuary, outside in a parking lot or from home.

Whether they were ready or not, all pastors and congregations have been navigating change since the pandemic began spreading around the globe: changes in worship times, locations and styles; changes in programming; and changes in how we do pastoral care. 2020 and 2021 have been two long years of CHANGE. Is it any wonder that many of us are tired and especially weary of change?

And yet, we must continue to change because we are not yet through this pandemic. We must continue to adapt, even after the pandemic fades. Christendom is breathing its last gasps in the United States. To be a Christian (especially a white Christian) still has its privileges and power, but those privileges are dwindling. I suspect this is one reason certain Christian groups are fighting like mad to maintain their political power. But beyond that, pastors and congregations recognize that most community members do not seek belonging in a church community, and so we continue to experience church closures and declining attendance across denominations. This leaves us (especially pastors) grieving and anxious.

What do we do then, when we're tired of change but must continue to change to survive? As I read recently, pastors must rest. I believe it also helps us to remember two truths, core to our identity: God is God and we are not; and the church is the people called by God to bless their communities and to point others to Jesus through acts of kindness and the pursuit of justice. We worship together not as an end in itself, but in order to enliven us to the work God has for us. The church had an opportunity to be its most essential self in the pandemic. Will we continue to live out our essentialness in the new normal, whatever it becomes?

RACHEL YOUNG is the associate pastor of congregational health at Clear Lake Presbyterian Church in Houston.



*From the Presbyterian Outlook Magazine