

Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter—August 2025



Worship ABCs – Part II

During worship on Pentecost (June 8), I began a mini-series on Worship ABCs, discussing the different elements of worship, why we do them, and, maybe, why we do them the way we do them. In June we talked about gathering; the call to worship and hymn of praise; confession, pardon, and Gloria; and song. In July, we've covered the Word and the Sacraments.



Prayer for Illumination & Scripture – As we move through the order of worship, we move into the time of the Word, beginning with a prayer for the Holy Spirit to illumine us, to guide our understanding of the scriptures read and the message proclaimed. This is then followed by readings from scripture. I try to choose two texts that relate, often the gospel reading for the day and one other. Some pastors read an Old Testament Lesson and a New Testament Lesson. Some add in a Psalm or reading from the New Testament letters. According to the PC(USA)'s *Book of Order*, "The role of the congregation is to listen prayerfully, actively, and attentively to the Word that is read and proclaimed. Such listening requires expectation, concentration, and imagination."¹

Proclamation – Along with the Prayer for Illumination and reading of Scripture, proclamation or preaching belongs in the subheading of "The Word." For in proclamation, the preacher seeks to expound on, explain, and apply Scripture to our lives, encouraging discipleship, faith, and justice. My task, then, is to boldly declare the good news, the message of Scripture, the Word that is Christ Jesus. In preparation for my sermons, I read the scriptures; I read commentaries and research the text, I pray and ask God to inspire me so that I may bear faithful witness to the good news of God's love and grace. The Notes or Marks of the Reformed church include "the Word of God...truly preached and heard."² As with the reading of Scripture, the congregation's role is to listen with attentiveness and prayer. In the *ABCs of Worship*, the author notes that "a sermon is to be an encounter of the listener with the living Lord, the Word of God revealed in Scripture."³

Sacraments – In the Presbyterian Church, we recognize two sacraments "as having been instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ through the witness of the Scriptures and sustained through the history of the universal Church," Baptism and Communion, (also called the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist, meaning thanksgiving.)⁴ The sacraments are, according to the *Book of Order*, "the Word of God enacted and sealed in the life of the Church, the body of Christ."⁵ Using ordinary elements of water, bread, and fruit of the vine, we proclaim God's love and grace.

Baptism – Through the gift of God's grace in the water, the movement of the Holy Spirit, which unites us with Christ in his death and resurrection, the Sacrament of Baptism demonstrates and affirms an individual's identity as a child of God and initiates them into the family of God, the Church, so that they may grow and live as an engaged disciple and witness to God's love in the world. We baptize both infants

(Continued on page 2)

and adults as the sacrament is wholly dependent on God and not on us or our ability to understand or believe. When children *and* adults are baptized, the congregation, on behalf of the church universal, promises to nurture their spiritual growth and to help them grow in a life of faith and discipleship.

As the value and validity of baptism comes from God alone, we believe in one baptism. John Calvin, one of the first voices of the Reformed Tradition, he wrote, “we ought to consider that at whatever time we are baptized, we are washed and purified once for the whole of life. Wherefore, as often as we fall, we must recall the remembrance of our baptism, and thus fortify our minds, so as to feel certain and secure of the remission of sins.”⁶

Communion – In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated and welcomed into the family of faith; and in the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, we join with that family, the communion of saints in every time and place, around the table, for a joyful feast hosted by God.⁷ In response to God’s grace and love, we gather as the family of God for the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper remembering Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection in the breaking of the bread and drinking of the cup and experiencing his presence in our midst by the power of the Holy Spirit so that we might be nourished, fed, equipped, and encouraged to live out our faith in the world.

In the PC(USA), we affirm that Christ is truly present with us in the Sacrament of Communion by the power of the Holy Spirit. Unlike other denominations that see the bread and wine transformed into or joined alongside the body and blood of Christ or those that see communion as purely a remembering, we follow John Calvin and affirm that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, nourishing us in a spiritual way. As the Directory for Worship affirms, “all who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding” and “even those who doubt may come to the table in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.”⁷ God, who is bigger and more complex than all of our imaginings, invites and transforms, welcomes and serves whomever God wills. Our table is open to all.

We’ll have more Worship ABCs in August!

In faith, hope, & love,

Sara

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¹ PC(USA) *Book of Order, 2023-2025* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2023), W-3.0303.

² *Book of Order*, F-1.0303.

³ Donald Wilson Stake in *The ABCs of Worship: A Concise Dictionary*, (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1992), 153.

⁴ W-3.0401.

⁵ W-3.0401.

⁶ John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, trans. by Henry Beveridge. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2008), 4.15.3.

⁷ *Book of Order*, W-3.0409.

O God,

In you, we live and move and have our
being. In you, we have life and have it
abundantly. In you, we are beloved
children. In you, we find rest from our
heavy burdens. In you, we are forgiven
and free. In you, we are!

Amen

Upcoming Services & Sermons

8/3/25	"Building Bigger Barns"	Luke 12:13-21; Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23	
8/10/25	"Keep the Faith"	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40	<i>Blessing of the Backpacks</i>
8/17/25	"Stress of the Job"	Luke 12:49-56; Hebrews 11:29-34, 39-12:2	
8/24/25	"Pushing Buttons"	Luke 13:10-17; Isaiah 58:9b-14	
8/31/25	<i>Glory to God Sunday</i>		
9/7/25	"The Power of 'Re-'"	Jeremiah 18:1-11; Luke 14:25-33	



Meet Matthew Bible Study

August 12 - September 16, 2025

Tuesdays at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.

*Just bring your
Bible, yourself,
and a friend!*

We will explore the Gospel according to Matthew. How did Matthew portray Jesus? How does his picture of Jesus correspond to Luke's picture?

August 12	Introduction	none
August 19	Jesus' Beginnings	Matthew 1:1-25
August 26	Preliminaries	Matthew 3:13-4:11
September 2	Sermon on the Mount - 1	Matthew 5:1-5

TREASURER'S REPORT

MAY TOTALS

Receipts	\$ 6,480.75
Expenses	<u>\$ 10,888.98</u>
Expense—Receipts	(\$ 4,408.23)
Special Offerings:	
Memorial Gifts	\$ 1,005.00
PW Birthday	\$ 143.00

August Prayer Families



3 Kim Dakdouk
10 Ronnie & Dail Dowdy
17 Charles & Sandy Dull
24 Michael Edwards & Family
31 Mary Holder

Scheduled Special Offerings

8/3/25 – Marshall Presbyterian

8/17/25 - Wounded Warrior Project

9/6/25 - 2 ¢ a Meal

Head Usher for August
Jonathan Wester

August Birthdays

*Happy Birthday
to everyone
celebrating
birthdays this
month!*



CUOC Donations for August

The suggested food item to donate to CUOC during the month of August is canned vegetables.

In addition to the school supply donations you made in July, we also delivered 6 pounds of canned goods and 10 pounds of milk.

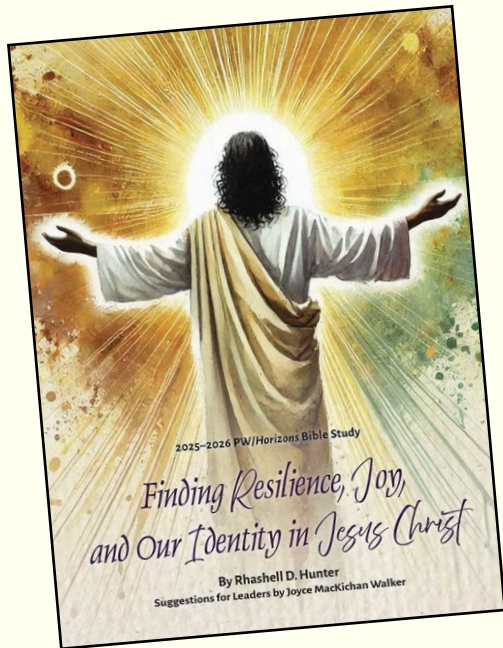


Edgewood PW

Our first Circle Meeting will be Monday, September 8, at 2:00 pm. Lesson One will be "Mary Magdalene, the Tower".

We hope you can attend!

Teresa Mangum: Moderator



LESSON ONE: Mary Magdalene, the Tower



LESSON TWO: Mary "of a Certain Village"



LESSON THREE: Jesus Is Tested



LESSON FOUR: The Prodigal Child, the Eldest Child, and the Devoted Parent



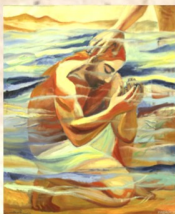
LESSON FIVE: The Gift of the Woman Who Was Poor



LESSON SIX: Finding Our Joy in Christ: "I Will Say It Again, Rejoice"



LESSON SEVEN: The Woman Who Was Bent Over



LESSON EIGHT: Remembering Jesus' Baptism



LESSON NINE: When You Are Walking With Jesus: The Road to Emmaus

Presbyterian Women

The Annual Fall Gathering of the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina will be held at Pocket Presbyterian Church on Saturday, August 16, 2025, beginning at 9:00am.

All women are invited.

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERY OF COASTAL CAROLINA 2025 ANNUAL FALL GATHERING



Resilience and Joy in Jesus Christ

Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Jennie Lee

Pocket Presbyterian Church

669 Pocket Church Rd.
Sanford, NC

Saturday, August 16, 2025

Registration begins at 9:00 am with coffee and light refreshments

Plenary starts at 10:00 am

Workshops begin immediately after the Plenary

(If you are unable to attend, the plenary will be livestreamed on the Pocket Presbyterian Church Facebook page and www.pocketpreschurch.com)

Participants are asked to bring canned food items (peanut butter, jelly, canned meat, canned spaghetti sauce) and bottled water to be donated to the Salvation Army. A monetary offering will be collected for the continued need in Western North Carolina. Donation recipient will be announced at the Fall Gathering.

Communications Committee

We provided our routine services - recording and posting the worship service videos on Facebook, updating the church website, posting pictures on the bulletin boards. We also printed signs to advertise the Ice Cream Social and printed 600 tickets for the quilt raffle coming soon.

Connie Wynn—Committee Chair

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The “Sarah Wilson School Supply Drive” was a huge success!

The response of the Edgewood congregation to the “Sarah Wilson School Supply Drive”, was amazing! Sarah Wilson was a former member and a dedicated educator. This project is a fitting way to honor her memory. Thank each of you for your donations.

On July 30, we delivered **163 pounds** of school supplies to Christians United Outreach Center of Lee County. Your generosity will help many local kids have the supplies they need to be successful in the classroom. Without these donations, many of them would struggle to have the appropriate materials they need. When clients come to CUOC to get food for their families, these materials will be available for their school-age kids.

Steve Womack - Committee Chair



Fellowship Committee

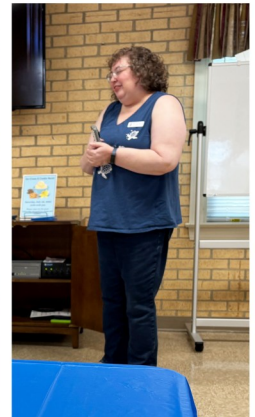
Thanks to each of you who made or bought ice cream and cookies. Everything was delicious. We had a small but mighty group of 19 attendees.

Thank you, Jean, for providing the movie, "*A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*". It was very enjoyable. Of course, Tom Hanks does not make a bad movie. Thanks to the decorating committee for making the Fellowship Hall beautiful and to Rev. Sara for posting our event on Facebook.

Our next fellowship gathering is our annual church picnic with **Bingo**. It is scheduled for September 20, 2025, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. We will have hot dogs and hamburgers with all the trimmings and side dishes. We will also have turkey burgers and wieners. A sign-up sheet will be available in early September. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

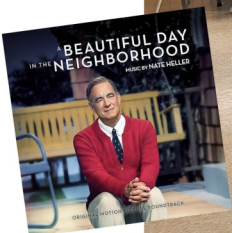
Thank you!

Debra Wall—Fellowship Committee Chair



Ice Cream Social

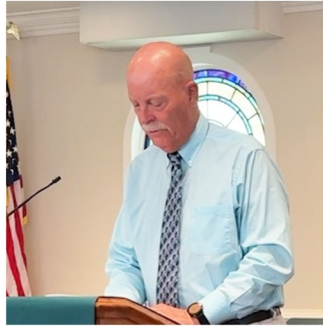
July 26, 2025



From all who attended the event:

Thank you Debra and your committee for organizing this gathering. Everyone enjoyed the ice cream, cookies, and the movie!

**Thanks to everyone who participated in our
“Glory to God Sunday” worship service on June 29.**



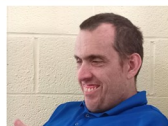
June 29, 2025



It was great to see our Sunday School room
filled to capacity!

July 13, 2025

Photos by Patsy



Tony Muller demonstrated his
amazing talent Sunday, July 27. He is
a former exchange student from France
and visited Ron for a few days.

“Remembering the Edgewood Saints” Scholarship Established

With a heart full of love and appreciation for my church family, I established a scholarship for students at Central Carolina Community College, thanking God for the wonderful people and support of my church family which he provided for over 60 years.

To the glory of God, this scholarship will be named “Remembering the Edgewood Saints”. It will provide assistance to those who need it with the stipulation that they have a church home, because in life, we need our residence and family, but we also need a church family to help us become the person God intends for us to be.

Jean McSwain



Endowed Scholarship Fund Agreement

“Remembering the Edgewood Saints” Endowment (“Fund”) has been established on July 14, 2025 by Jean Oates McSwain (“Donor”) with the Central Carolina Community College Foundation (“Foundation”) and shall be governed by the articles listed below.

Article One: Purpose

The purpose set forth by this endowment is to provide financial assistance to qualifying students attending Central Carolina Community College who have a strong desire to learn and meet the eligibility requirements listed in Article Two below.

Article Two: Eligibility

The eligibility criteria for this endowed scholarship are as follows:

- 1) Need - Must demonstrate financial need
- 2) Student in the nursing program
- 3) Attends church regularly