

Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter—May 2025



No Words

For the newsletter this month, I have no words. No words of insight; no words to inspire; no words. They have been drained out of me over the last few weeks. I think this may be fairly common for pastors and preachers after Easter. We've led ourselves and our congregations through the wilderness of Lent, trying to evoke devotion and repentance, and yet, not drowning us in sorrow for our sin, for we know that Easter is coming – Easter has, in fact, already come, and we have been saved! Then there was Holy Week, multiple services to prepare for, striving to provide meaningful moments and to be faithful. And then, the Alleluias of Easter, the desire to say something profound and inspiring, but also keeping it simple and letting the story itself be the good news.



We might expect things to slow down and settle after Easter Sunday, but in many ways it doesn't. It's still Eastertide. The good news of the resurrection and our shouts of Alleluia clamor to be proclaimed and heard. The good news is still new!

Yet, alongside the fanfare and festal banners, life rolls along. People get sick. People struggle to make ends meet. People go hungry. People die. People are also born, healed, find fortune, and celebrate. I understand that being a pastor means being there, being available, for all the highs and lows of life; the tears of joy and the tears of grief; the unfiltered giggles of genuine amusement and the near-hysterical laughter at the absurdity of life; welcoming new life and new members and standing witness at the end of life, holding out God's promise, God's gift of resurrection. This part – the heartbreak and joy of being a pastor – doesn't follow a liturgical calendar, but continues on.

So, all that to say, I'm tired, and I wouldn't have it any other way!

I guess I had a few words for you after all.

In faith, hope, & love,

Sara

Pastor's Office Hours

Sunday

Monday–Wednesday mornings

Saturday (various times)

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

O God,

Bless us at the rising of the sun
and at its setting,
at our birth
and at our death,
and every moment in between!

Amen

Upcoming Services & Sermons

5/4/25	"In Our Midst"	Luke 24:36-43; Psalm 30
5/11/25	"Conversion and Call"	Acts 9:1-20; John 21:1-19 <i>Mother's Day & Graduate Recognition</i>
5/18/25	"A New Thing"	Acts 11:1-18; John 13:31-35
5/25/25	"An Unexpected Outcome"	Acts 16:9-15; John 14:23-29
6/1/25	"A Timeless Song"	Acts 16:16-34; Luke 24:44-53 <i>Ascension Sunday</i> <i>Congregational Meeting following worship</i>
6/8/25	<i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	

Bible Study

IN THE BEGINNING

Exploring the Book of Genesis - Part 2

May 13 - June 17, 2025
Tuesdays at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.

We will look at Genesis 25-50, the stories of Jacob and Joseph and their families, still exploring who God is and who we are in relationship with God.

Just bring your Bible and yourself!

Scheduled Special Offerings

5/4/25 – CUOC Backpack Pals
5/18/25—PW Birthday Offering
6/1/25 – CUOC Backpack Pals



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE
CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH!**

Head Usher for May
Jean McSwain

Betty (Holder) Bullard



Edgewood lost a long time member on April 23, 2025. Betty was active in the Women of the Church and was recognized as a wonderful cook and often shared her baked goods with friends. Our sympathy goes out to her family.



4 Dr. Erin Cooper Watson
11 Harold & Helen Weathers
18 Wilson & Dawn Weathers
25 Jonathan & Maggie Wester, & Kylie

CUOC Food Donation Request for May

We are asking you to **donate a specific food item** for CUOC again this month. **For the month of May**, we ask you to donate **peanut butter**. Any size will be acceptable. It will be made available to the clients shopping for food.



April CUOC Food Donations

The members at Edgewood are **incredible!** We asked you to donate fruit cups and apple sauce in April for the CUOC Backpack Pals program. You responded with over 320 items! These, along with other donations from our church totaled 119 pounds of food for the month! Thank you for your help in feeding our neighbors in Lee County who need help.



Some of our April donations.



Delivery to CUOC

Communications Committee

During the month of April, we maintained the church website, recorded, edited, and posted the worship services on Facebook. We posted 21 sheets of pictures on the bulletin boards. ***Pictures of the March 30 Fellowship Luncheon and the April 19 kid's Easter Party are posted in the Fellowship Hall.*** A special thanks to Kim, Debra and Trish for sending pictures to us from the Easter Party.

If you have items of interest that you would like to see published on the bulletin boards or in the newsletter, please inform Jerry, Patsy, or me.

Connie Wynn - Chair

Volunteer?

Volunteers are always needed at CUOC. If you have some free time and would like to contribute to helping some fellow Lee County neighbors in need, this is a great place to help. The volunteers are mostly retirees who are very cordial, friendly, and easy to work with. Your only pay is the satisfaction that you helped some people who desperately need assistance to feed their family.

See Nancy, Connie, Debra, or Sara if you would like to volunteer.

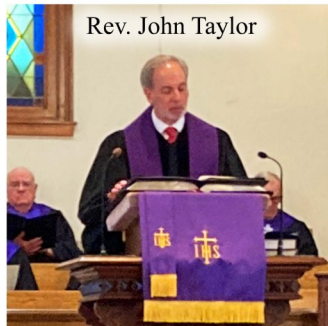
Maundy Thursday Service

April 17, 2025

Hosted by Jonesboro Presbyterian Church—Rev. Sara Martin delivered the sermon.



Rev. Sara Martin



Rev. John Taylor



Why do we celebrate this day during Holy Week?

Maundy Thursday gets its name from the Latin word, “mandatum,” which is the root word of the English words, “mandate” and “command.” Jesus’ command on the night of his Last Supper with his disciples was:

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” – John 13:34

The focus of Maundy Thursday is the meal Jesus hosted for his disciples to celebrate the Jewish Passover. Jesus came to Jerusalem, as did hundreds of Jewish pilgrims, to celebrate the Passover feast God commanded the Israelites to observe after they were freed from slavery in Egypt. The early Christians recreated this significant event of Jesus’ final week. For Christians, it is also a celebration of freedom from slavery – humankind’s slavery to sin. Originally called the “Eucharist,” from the Greek word for “thanksgiving,” it is also referred to today as “Holy Communion” or the “Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.” The first recorded accounts of this practice of the early Church is from the Apostle Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth:

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” – 1 Cor.11:26.

<https://westminsterpeoria.org/what-is-maundy-thursday/>



Easter Sunday Blessing

Having our choir perform Easter Sunday made the service extra special. Dr. Erin Cooper Watson, our music director, organized and directed the group who volunteered for this presentation. Erin also delivered outstanding performances of several compositions on the piano.

We were so blessed to have the choir and Erin make this day special.



a church to call home

Home is a place of comfort and support; a place to be encouraged and equipped for discipleship; a place where joys are celebrated and sorrows are mourned together; a place for which we seek and in which we are found; a place where we dwell with God and God dwells with us; a place where the prodigal is welcomed home and where the least of these are considered the first; a place where no one is a stranger for we are a family, made one in Jesus Christ.

Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Sanford, NC



Presbyterian Women Circle Meeting



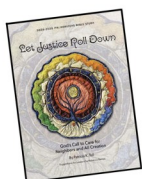
April 14, 2025

Next Meeting:

2:00PM, Monday, May 12, 2025

Ladies, please join us!

The May Meeting will be
"Intergenerational Justice",
Lesson 8 in the
PW/Horizon Bible Study



Food provided by : Teresa Mangum, Joyce McGehee,
Debra Wall, & Connie Wynn



Moderator:
Teresa Mangum



Treasurer:
Debra Wall



Devotion:
Trish Sellars

Mary Holder Honored

Mary Holder was presented a Life Membership Award on April 13, 2025 in recognition of her 51 years of dedicated service to Edgewood Presbyterian Church. She served as an Elder for a total of 18-years and held various positions in the Women of the Church. She taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, and always offered a kind word or helping hand. She consistently showed what it means to live out the love of Christ. Her presence has been a quiet strength, her prayers a covering over this church, and her wisdom a guiding light for many. She has not only served—she has led, mentored, encouraged, and inspired. Service is not about recognition. It is about obedience, compassion, and love. Mary has exemplified all of those qualities, not for applause, but because of her deep commitment to God and others. **Congratulations Mary!**



APRIL 13, 2025

Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee hosted an Easter Party on April 19, 2 until 4 p.m. They had crafts, Easter egg hunt, refreshments, and goody bags to take home. Twelve young people and 17 adults were present. A special thanks to Stephanie and Trish, with help from Kim, Debra, Nancy, Joyce, and Sara in making this event successful.

The next meeting for the Christian Ed Committee will be Wednesday, May 14, at 6 p.m.

Bible School entitled "True North" will be held June 25-27 from 6 until 8 p.m.

Jean McSwain—Chair



Easter Egg Hunt



April 19, 2025

CRAFTS AT EASTER PARTY

April 19, 2025



Thank you Trish, Debra and Kim for taking pictures at the Easter Party.



April 19, 2025

Vacation Bible School June 25, 26 & 27



Bible School will be held June 25, 26 and 27 from 6 pm until 8 pm. The title of the Bible School will be "True North". Stephanie Sellars, Nancy Mead and Kim Dakdouk will be co-directors.



An adult class will be held in the sanctuary.