Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter - April 2026

Core Convictions IV

In January, I started a series on the list of my core convictions, those thoughts and beliefs that underlie what I think, say, and do, and I invited you into respectful conversation of these ideas as we grow in our lives of faith together.

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.***

Conviction #4:

There is a place for everyone in God's beloved community.

God's beloved community is a way of talking about the reign of God, the kingdom of God, that avoids the hierarchical ideals of a monarchy, a kingdom. For in a kingdom, it's not just the ruler on top; there are tiers of nobles and elites who are esteemed more highly than the average person, more than the poor and marginalized. A kingdom inherently oppresses those at the bottom, as the rest of the hierarchy stands upon their backs.

God is sovereign. God is *the* ruler of heaven and earth. But here, on earth, in God's community, we are God's children, created in God's image, loved equally by God. Our relationships to one another ought to be based on this equality, in interdependence, reciprocity, and compassion. Thus, I talk about God's community, the community of those God calls beloved.

"No Outsiders" is a worship song by Rend Collective (2018).* This is how it begins:

You're our refuge
You have no borders
When I was a stranger, knocking at Your door
You took me in
With no questions, and no conditions
When I was a sinner, running from Your grace
You called me friend

And the chorus:

There are no outsiders, to Your love
We are all welcome, there's grace enough
When I have wandered, Lord
Your cross is the open door
There are no outsiders
I'm not an outsider
To Your love

God's beloved community includes us all. God does not exclude and neither should we. Remember that you are loved, that you are included. Thanks be to God!

And as we thank God for loving and including us, let us extend God's love and inclusion to everyone else. We are God's beloved community in which all are welcome!

In faith, hope, & love,

Sara

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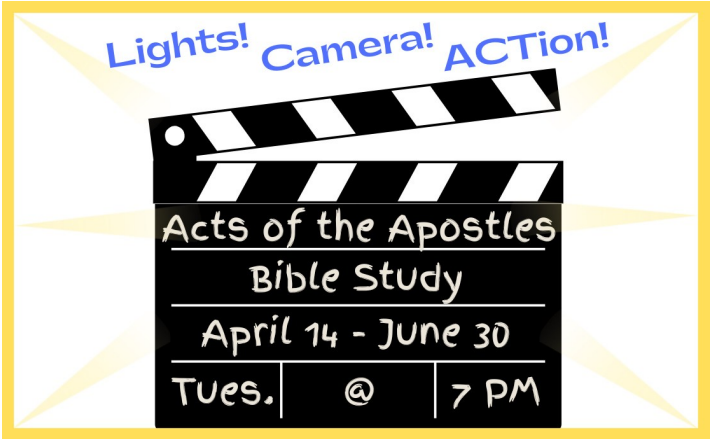
*Watch and listen to "No Outsiders" at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDwKPUumIHo

O God,

Guide us from the ways of death that hold us captive and into the freedom of your love and grace. Breathe new life into our bones, into our hearts, and into our spirits.

Transform us so that we might truly be your church, a beacon of hope and conduit of joy for the world!

Alleluia! Amen



Upcoming Services & Sermons

4/5/26 "Do Not Be Afraid"	Matthew 27:55-61, 28:1-10	*Easter Sunday*
4/12/26 "A Living Hope"	1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31	
4/19/26 "Living Stones"	1 Peter 2:2-10; Acts 7:55-60	
4/26/26 "Life Together"	Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23	
5/3/26 "Life in a New Direction"	Luke 24:13-35; 1 Peter 1:17-23	*Communion Sunday*

Scheduled Special Offerings

4/5/26 - PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing
5/3/26 - Backpack Pals

Head Elder for April
Jonathan Wester

TREASURER'S REPORT

JANUARY:	
Receipts	$ 3,391.33
Expenses	$ 16,144.69
Receipts - Expenses	**(-$12,753.36)**
FEBRUARY:	
Receipts	$ 7,355.35
Expenses	$ 9,562.30
Receipts—Expenses	**(-$ 2,206.95)**
JANUARY - FEBRUARY:	
Receipts	$ 10,746.68
Expenses	$ 25,706.99
Receipts - Expenses	**(-$ 14,960.31)**
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:	
PCC Cents-Ability	$ 34.00
CWS Blankets	$ 350.00

April Prayer Family of the Week

5 Cathy Wicker
12 Jimmy & Jeannie Williams and Family
19 Betty Jo Winfree
26 Steve & Kathie Womack

April Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all celebrating birthdays this month!

Celebrating our Story

75 years

on

May 17, 2026

75th Anniversary Committee

Our church will celebrate 75 years of life on Sunday, May 17, 2026, with a worship service, featuring a special choir and guest preacher, Jerrod Lowery, General Presbyter for the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. After the service, we will continue our celebration in the Fellowship Hall with heavy hors d'oeuvres, cake, and punch. Please plan to attend! It will be a wonderful time to visit with former members, remember the great times of the past, and celebrate our future!

To make this day a success, we need your help! Here are some ways that you can volunteer:

- Monday, April 20 at 3:30 pm – Prepare the invitations!
  We will add stamps and address labels to the envelopes and then stuff and seal them.
- Wednesday, May 13 at 11 am – Decorate the Fellowship Hall!
  The more help we have, the faster it will go! We hope to be done in an hour.
- Saturday, May 16 at 1 pm – Prepare some of the food!
- Sunday, May 17
  - ◊ around 9 am – Pick up the rest of the food!
    The order will be prepaid, so it will just need to be picked up at the set time. We will need a couple of folks to help with this.
  - ◊ At 10:30 am – Greet our visitors!
    On the sidewalk at the front of the church, we will have a greeting table for folks to sign in, make a name tag, and receive a gift. We need at least 2 or 3 people to make sure everyone feels welcome!

* Unless otherwise specified, meet in the Fellowship Hall!

If you want to volunteer or have questions, please contact Jean McSwain or Debra Wall. With your help, our 75th Anniversary Celebration will be a great event!

Debra Wall: Chair
Jean McSwain: Vice-Chair

Palm & Passion Sunday

March 29, 2026

Worship was led by
Rev.Sara Martin, Steve Womack, Jeannie Williams, Kylie Wester, Patricia Sellars, and Jimmy Williams.

Edgewood Presbyterian Women

March 9, 2026

Moderator:
Teresa Mangum

Devotion:
Trish Sellars

Hostesses: Teresa Mangum and Barbara Rosser

The program was Lesson Six:
"I Will Say It Again, Rejoice": Presented by: Patsy McBryde

Secretary:
Connie Wynn

Treasurer:
Debra Wall

Scripture Reader:
Trish Sellars

Scripture Reader:
Jean McSwain

Next meeting: Monday, April 13, 2026, 2:00 pm

Lesson Seven: Finding Our Identity:
"The Woman Who Was Bent Over"
To be presented by Dail Dowdy

Hostesses: Coordinating Team

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED!!!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERY OF COASTAL CAROLINA

2026 ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING and BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, April 25

Panthersford Presbyterian Church
10010 Highway 211 West
Red Springs, NC

Finding Resilience, Joy,
And Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Speaker: Kristen Campbell, Moderator for PW Synod of the Sun

Registration begins at 9:00 am with coffee and light refreshments,
information tables, and church displays.
Plenary starts at 10:00 am.
Business meeting immediately following the Plenary.

If you are unable to attend, the plenary will be live streamed at
https://www.facebook.com/events/1242371451192410/

Presbyterian Women
Living for Jesus

Easter Baskets for CUOC

March 12, 2026

Baskets and goodies ready for delivery to CUOC

The assembly line

Had some fun in the process

97 Easter Baskets packed and ready for CUOC clients

CUOC Donations for April

We are collecting toilet paper for CUOC - any size, any brand.

Missions Committee

We had another outstanding collection for the month of March. We delivered 75 pounds of pasta, mac & cheese, spaghetti, and other items to CUOC.

Your donations support the food needs of people served by CUOC. Thank you!

Steve Womack: Chair

Fellowship Committee

Our annual "Soup & Sandwich" lunch was held on March 15, 2026. Twenty-five people attended and enjoyed the large variety of food and great fellowship. Our cooks and the decorating group did their usual outstanding job.

Debra Wall: Chair

Thank you Debra and the Fellowship Committee for another superb job organizing this event.

Communications Committee

Check out the bulletin boards in the hallway near the water fountain and in the Fellowship Hall. There are lots of pictures of our church activities. We currently are featuring pictures for the March 15 “Soup & Sandwich” lunch. We posted 13 new sheets of pictures in March.

We printed 200 Easter cards to be distributed to local long-term care facilities. And we printed 200 return address labels for the 75th Anniversary Committee.

We also put together a large display board for the PW to display in the upcoming PWCC Annual Spring Gathering/ Business Meeting in Red Springs. It has pictures of the various PW mission projects our ladies have undertaken in recent months.

We continue to perform our routine updates of the website, producing the newsletter, and posting worship videos.

Connie Wynn: Chair

Christian Education Committee

Our committee will meet **April 26** to discuss **Vacation Bible School**.

Nancy Mead: Chair

Property & Grounds Committee

We cleaned the carpet in the Monroe –Smith Sunday School classroom where a large dark “mystery stain” had appeared.

We are still awaiting a quote to address the problem with the floor in the sanctuary.

Johnny Sellars: Chair

MAMMA MIA!

Featuring Oleh and Konstantin, and directed by Ron Coley

Our exchange students, Oleh Kopylov and Konstantin Endl were outstanding in the play “Mamma Mia!” at Lee County High School March 26-29, 2026. The play was directed by Ron Coley. Some of our Edgewood ladies enjoyed the performance.