

Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter - September 2026



Core Convictions IX

In January, I started a series on 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. (The previous convictions are listed on the next page.) This month, we are continuing with what it looks like to be a faithful disciple:

Participation in the life of the church, in and outside of worship, is important. It grounds us, nurtures our faith, and provides support and encouragement. It allows us to give back and to respond to the needs of others. In the *Book of Order 2025-2027*, there's a section called "The Ministry of Members," which states, "membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes... taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation," along with eleven other points (G-1.0304).

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.

Don't get me wrong, I want to see you at all of our events and activities. But you don't have to do everything. Being a member of the church, an active, regular visitor, or just a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ does not require your being here every time the church doors are open. We don't want folks to burn out.

You know how much energy you have, what you are interested in, what gets you excited, and what brings you comfort and joy. The church tries to offer opportunities for participation and

engagement outside of Sunday morning worship.

And we are open to suggestions! If there's something you would really like to do or participate in with your faith community, let me or one of our session members know! Not every suggestion will be immediately possible as there may be logistical, technical, and monetary constraints. But we'll have a better sense of what direction we should be heading. We want to meet the needs of our members and regular visitors so that Edgewood is truly a church to call home.

**** If you are not a member of Edgewood, but would like to explore that possibility, please contact me!**

In faith, hope, & love,

Sara

Rev. Sara Martin

919-770-5791

sara.martin@edgewoodpres.org



Note:

Pastor Sara will be away for Continuing Education from September 21 - 29. Please contact one of our elders if you need anything.

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.

O God,



As the trees trade their green garb of summer for their rusty-colored garments of autumn, we rest secure in your steadfast love for us, trusting you to sustain us, to abide with us, to carry us when we are weak, to encourage us when we falter, and to welcome us home, again and again.



Amen

INVESTIGATING THE MYSTERY

The Gospel of Mark

Tuesdays at 7 p.m.



9/8 The Mystery Calms

9/15 The Mystery Provides

9/23 No class this week

9/30 No class this week

Just bring your Bible and yourself!

Upcoming Services and Sermons

Our Life in Christ Together

- 9/6 Live in Love Rom. 13:8-14, Mt. 18:15-20
9/13 Live in Mercy Rom. 14:1-12, Mt. 18:21-35
9/20 Live in Unity Phil. 1:21-30, Mt. 20:1-16
9/27 Guest Preacher - Rev. Kathryn Dudley

We will be celebrating
World Communion
Sunday



during our regular worship
service at Edgewood
on October 4.

Church in the Park

Community Worship for
World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 4
at Kiwanis Park in Sanford

Gather at 10 for brunch
& worship at 10:30



TREASURER'S REPORT

JULY:

Receipts:	\$ 13,734.30
Expenses:	\$ 9,503.95
Receipts - Expenses:	\$ 4,230.35

JANUARY- JULY:

Receipts:	\$ 63,742.40
Expenses:	\$ 76,783.03
Receipts - Expenses:	- \$ 13,040.63

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

2 ¢ a Meal - 8/2	\$ 27.00
Wounded Warrior Project	\$ 147.00

Scheduled Special Offerings

9/6/26	2 ¢ a Meal
10/4/26	2 ¢ a Meal

Head Elder for September

Nancy Mead



September

Prayer Family of the Week

- 6 Chip & Patsy McBryde
- 13 James & Joyce McGehee & Family
- 20 Jody & Kim McNeill, Emma & Alex
- 27 Marty McNeill



September Birthdays

Happy
Birthday!



Session Meeting Highlights - 8/9/26

During the stated meeting on Sunday, August 9, the session approved a “Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy.” Since 2014, the PC(USA) *Book of Order* has required that congregations have a child protection policy, which now includes youth and vulnerable adults. So, in order to be compliant with the *Book of Order*, the session adopted a policy that outlines the theological justifications, best practice standards, prevention steps, and reporting requirements. When we baptize individuals and welcome them into membership in the church, we promise to “guide and nurture,” them as members of the body of Christ. We are to care for and ensure the safety of those entrusted to us. Throughout the Bible, God calls us to protect, care, and provide for the widow, orphan, and alien, those who are most vulnerable in society.

Unfortunately, we have seen on the news where church leaders and other Christians have been accused and convicted of mistreating and abusing vulnerable individuals. Being at church and among Christians should be safe, but it isn’t always the case. So, as we seek to grow and to welcome more young families in our community, it’s important that we be able to assure them that we are committed to their child’s safety and well-being by taking precautions, screening, and training whoever works with children and youth.

So, yes, per this policy, we will be requiring everyone who works with children and youth - both paid and unpaid - to complete a background and fingerprint check. If you do not want to do this, that’s okay, but you would not be allowed to work with children and youth in Sunday School or at other events. This policy is about and for children and youth in our faith community. It’s about doing what we can to keep them as safe as we can. If you’d like to discuss this, please contact Pastor Sara to set up an appointment. Copies of the policy are available upon request.

The session also appointed Johnny Sellars as our commissioner for the October 3 Presbytery Meeting.



Alec Erickson Baptized

Alec, the son of Catherine and Ben Erickson, was baptized at Union Presbyterian Church in Carthage on August 16, 2026. Catherine recently became a member of Edgewood, but she requested that her son be baptized at Union Presbyterian as many of her ancestors had a long history with that church. Nancy and Dave Mead represented Edgewood at the worship service.

Do you not know that all of us who were *baptized* into Christ Jesus were *baptized* into his death? Therefore, we were buried with him by *baptism* into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in the newness of *life*.

Romans 6:3-4



For if we have been *united* with him in a death like his, we will certainly be *united* with him in a *resurrection* like his... For whoever has died is *freed* from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also *live* with him.

Romans 6:5, 7-8



Rafael Morales

December 31, 1934 - August 19, 2026

We are saddened by the loss of another long-time Edgewood member on August 19, 2026. Rafael and his wife Pat were diligent workers in the church and community. They contributed their time and talents for the greater good of everyone.

We offer our prayers to his family.

A Symbol of God's Love

Our church felt full of joy last Mother's Day as we gathered to worship. As we were leaving the church doors, every mother received a beautiful, bright vinca plant as a small symbol of God's love.

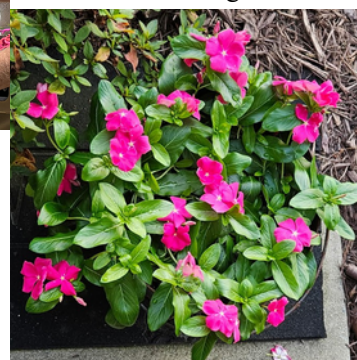
We thank our church leaders and volunteers for making every mother feel seen and deeply appreciated on that special Sunday!

~ Sandy Dull



May 10, 2026

Same flower August 2026



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...

Adrian Martin
Rev. Sara Martin

Children



Nancy Mead
TBD

CELEBRATE!

Fall Sunday School Kick-off!

August 30th



A New Sunday School Class!

A new Sunday School class for Youth+ (Youth & anyone who's interested) will be starting in September. *The Gospel According to...* will look at movies, books, and TV shows and see how our Christian faith is in conversation with popular culture, both informing and being reflected in popular culture and how popular culture informs our faith. We will explore *Harry Potter*, *The Simpsons*, and *Star Wars*, to name a few.

Jesus taught in stories. The parables show up in the various gospels revealing truths about faith and living in community through fictional situations. This Sunday School class will be doing the same, just with contemporary stories.

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina Annual Fall Gathering

Joyce McGehee, Connie Wynn, Debra Wall, and Teresa Mangum represented Edgewood at the PW Annual Fall Gathering at Highland Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville on August 29. Rev. Sara Martin also attended.



MAHJONG 101

The first "Beginning Class" was a great success. We had 21 students and 7 instructors.

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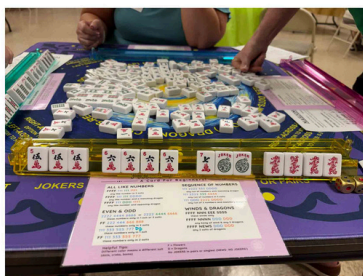
MAHJONG 101

Free Beginning Classes
Thursday, August 27
and September 3,
6-8:30 p.m.

At Edgewood Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall
316 W. McIntosh Street
(Behind the Lee County Court House)

Help our brains, meet new people, and enjoy fellowship.
Just come, we will have the game, the card and snacks.
We have room for only 40 players.
Text only: 919-556-7178 to sign up.

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Edgewood Presbyterian Women
annual "Kick-off Luncheon"
and officer installation
August 15, 2026



Joyce McGehee
installed the officers.

NEXT MEETING

2:00 p.m., Monday, September 14, 2026

Jean McSwain will lead us in Lesson One from
the 2026-2027 PW/Horizons Bible Study
"Unity in Christ, Wisdom from God".

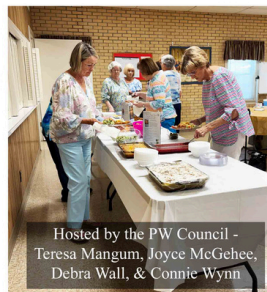
ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

2026 - 2027 PW Officers



Trish Sellars	Connie Wynn	Teresa Mangum	Sandy Dull	Debra Wall	Joyce McGehee
Least Coin	Secretary	Moderator	Birthday Chair	Treasurer	Vice - Moderator
Thank Offering	Search Committee			Sunshine	

Officers not pictured: Dail Dowdy - Historian, Nancy Mead - Advent Chair



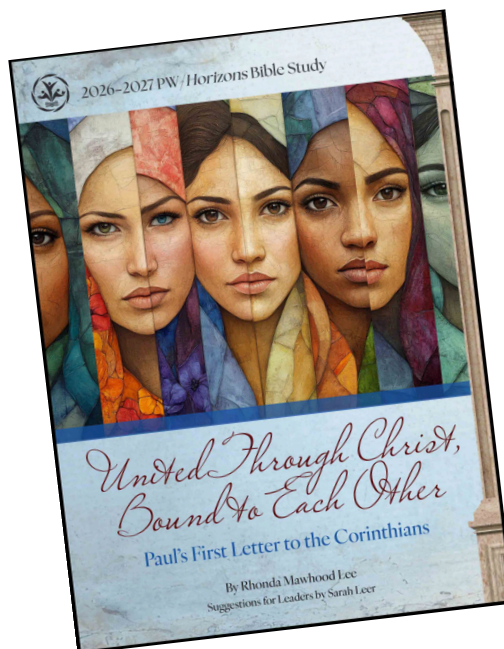
Hosted by the PW Council -
Teresa Mangum, Joyce McGehee,
Debra Wall, & Connie Wynn

Presbyterian Women

The Edgewood Presbyterian Women will meet for
the first circle meeting of the 2026-2027 year on
September 14 at 2:00 p.m. Please consider attending.
We will have the Introduction and Lesson One from the
PW/Horizons Bible Study, "Unity in Christ, Wisdom
from God," with Jean McSwain as Bible Moderator.

We have a great fellowship time and wonderful Bible
Study. Hope you can attend.

Teresa Mangum: Moderator



Church Picnic & BINGO

Saturday, September 19, 2026
4 - 6 p.m.

Grilled beef & turkey hamburgers and hot dogs,
with all the fixings, along with baked beans,
potato salad, chips, desserts, and beverages!



BINGO



Fellowship Committee

Just a reminder, we will have our annual "Picnic & Bingo" on September 19, 2026. Beef and turkey hamburgers and hot dogs will be available, along with salads and fixings. If you can provide some of the side items, a sign-up sheet is available in the hallway outside the sanctuary.

We also need contributions of gift cards and items to use as Bingo prizes.

Debra Wall: 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.

Saturday, October 31

T R U N K

O R

T R E A T

from 2-4 p.m.

Missions Committee

We delivered the 89 pounds of beans to CUOC that you donated during the month of August. Again, I want to thank everyone for your generosity.

Steve Womack: Chair



12 MONTHS OF Blessings

2026 – A YEAR OF GIVING

September - Canned Meat

chicken, tuna, SPAM



Edgewood Supporting the CUOC

Communications Committee

We printed signs to advertise the September Picnic & BINGO Social. We printed 50 flyers to advertise the Mahjong classes. We post new pictures on the bulletin boards each week. Check it out! We also updated the church website and posted worship service videos on Facebook.

Connie Wynn: Chair

Property & Grounds Committee

Anchors have been installed under the sanctuary floor to resolve the issue with some of the boards in the floor separating. Anchors were attached to the joists under the floor with rods going through the walls and bolted outside through thick steel plates.

Johnny Sellars: Chair

