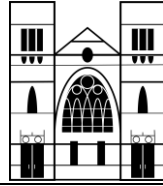




First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church



news from the
EDGE

The Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood

May 2026

THE MYCELIAL SPIRIT

I'm a bit disappointed that I missed hearing Merlin Sheldrake speak at Carnegie Music Hall last month. He's the author of *Entangled Life*, a book I highly recommend. It's a deep dive into the world of fungi, but honestly, I find that reading about ecology and the wonders of creation can be more spiritually nutritious than reading straight theology at times. For God reveals Godself through the Book of Nature, through raccoons and magnolia trees. God created this beautiful planet as a way to walk with us through life.

In his book, Sheldrake writes something that resonates with our "Re-Wilding" series:

"A mycelial network is a map of a fungus's recent history and is a helpful reminder that all life-forms are in fact processes not things. The 'you' of five years ago was made from different stuff than the 'you' of today. Nature is an event that never stops. As William Bateson, who coined the word genetics, observed, 'We commonly think of animals and plants as matter, but they are really systems through which matter is continually passing.'"

As we move through May, we are shifting from the "me and Jesus" focus of early Easter into the "Wild Entanglement" of the whole community. If nature is an "event that never stops," then the Church isn't a static thing we belong to or a building we visit. It is a system through which the grace of God is continually passing. It is a mycelial network of spirit and connection.

This month, we are leaning into the truth that we are not isolated beings, but processes entangled with God and one another:

May 3 & 10: We explore Wild Entanglement and Connection. We're giving up the idea that we can do faith alone. Like the fungal networks beneath the forest floor, we are sustained by a "Wood Wide Web" of grace that shares nutrients, carries warnings, and ensures that the weakest parts of the forest are not left behind.

May 17 (Ascension Sunday): We celebrate the Wild Flesh of God. This is the wild idea that when Jesus ascended, he didn't "unzip his human suit" and leave it behind. He took our human biology and placed it permanently in the heart of the Trinity. God loved being human so much that he decided to stay human forever.

May 24 (Pentecost): We wrap up the series with Wild Diversity. The Spirit doesn't create a manicured, uniform lawn; the Spirit creates a wild meadow.

We are not "things" for God to fix. We are an event in which God is participating. Lent taught us to break the pots that kept us rootbound; Easter is teaching us that our roots are now part of a vast, invisible network of love that is much bigger than we imagined.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Jason

WORSHIP & FORMATION SCHEDULE

May 3: Season of Easter - Living into Wild Entanglement 🕯️🍷

1 Peter 2:2-10 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, John 14:1-14 – Liturgist: Amanda Rineer

May 10: Season of Easter - Living Into the Wild Connection

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; John 14:15-21 – Liturgist: Flo Raisig

May 17: Ascension of the Lord - Living Into the Wild Flesh of God 🕯️🍷

Ephesians 1:15-23; Psalm 47; Luke 24:44-53 – Liturgist: Susie Cribbs

May 24: Day of Pentecost - Living Into the Wild Diversity 🕯️🍷

Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; John 20:19-23 – Liturgist: Tyler Shoaf

May 31: Trinity Sunday 🕯️🍷

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8:1-9; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Our last service in the Sanctuary before moving to the Gathering Place for the summer!

🕯️🍷 = We will celebrate Communion / Lord's Supper



Session Notes

At their April 14 meeting, Session approved the following:

- Building usage by Jenifer Weber for a piano musical performance May 10, 3-5 PM.
- Building usage by Luis Hernandez for a piano recital May 17, 2:30-4:30 PM.
- The baptism of Tyler Shoaf and acceptance of potential new members Tyler Shoaf by profession of faith and Sirvasha Evans, Susie Cribbs, and Jen Wright by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Entering Tyler Shoaf's baptism and membership of Susie Cribbs, Tyler Shoaf, Sirvasha Evans into our church rolls.
- Election of Patricia Elliott-Rentler to serve as an Elder Commissioner to the Pittsburgh Presbytery April 30 stated meeting.
- A request from Garfield Community Farm and Wild Indigo Guild to sell plants from their mobile market at FPCE on a Sunday afternoon in May or June.
- A request by Sarah Steranka for a benefit recital (the Hugh Lane Foundation and TransYOUning) on June 20 at 6-9:30 PM.
- Use of the Gathering Place February-March 2027, 9AM-2PM by VITA (volunteer income tax assistance).
- Building usage by the Edgewood Foundation Art Show on November 7, 9 AM-3PM.
- A request by Will Teagarden to hold a cello ensemble in the Gathering Place on Tues., June 2, 7-10 PM.
- Buying keypad equipment and hiring Locksmith PA to install a Network wireless system.
- Hiring Robert Dodaro to complete a sump pump project.
- Moving forward to order watercolor design t-shirts from LionWorks at WPSD-single order: \$8.00 youth-adult XL; 2XL-\$10; 3XL-\$14.; 4XL-\$18.

A NOTE REGARDING STAFF WORSHIP

A friendly reminder that Sunday is the day our non-worship-leading staff join in praise to God. On Sundays, Judy and Rob Mysels participate in worship as they feel led. They are not "on the clock" during that time, so I ask that you hold any work-related questions for office hours during the week. If there are questions for staff, please speak with Pastor Jason 🕯️ on Sunday mornings or call the Office M-F, 9AM-2PM at 412/241-4613 (after hours, leave a message on machine) or leave an email anytime at office@fpcedgewood.org. Thank you for your understanding. – Pastor Jason

Per Capita

Reminder: This year's per capita is **\$40 for each member** on our roll. Each church is assessed by the number of members and each year, FPCE pays the entire Per Capita to PCUSA upfront at the beginning of the year in order to get a slight discount. In other words, our church pays forward the amount for each member. By contributing your portion of per capita, you have freed up dollars in our regular budget for the work of our congregation in this community. Please consider submitting your Per Capita to FPCE.



FOCUS
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Tuesday Book Club

Our weekly Book Club continues discussing the book *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith* by Anne Lamott (2000). This group meets at 10AM at the home of Rhonda Apossos, 361 Maple Avenue. All are welcome!



Sunday School

Sunday School for our littlest ones takes place during worship in the Gathering Place. Just drop your child off and Rhonda or Lorraine will lead them in a Bible activity while you are in worship!

SIES DE MAY DINNER, May 6, 6PM: Join us for a free, slightly late Cinco de Mayo celebration. We will have a variety of taco fillings, vegetarian and gluten free options. Enjoy some good food and fellowship as we kick off our summer community dinner series. Feel free to bring non-perishable food donations for the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry.



**Community
MEALS**

COMMUNITY DINNERS RETURN

Save the Dates: The First Wednesdays of June, July, August, and September, 6PM we'll be firing up the grill on the side lawn with your favorites. And, as usual, they're FREE! So bring your family, friends and neighbors for good food and fellowship!!!

DEACONS DOINGS...

It was such a pleasure for the Deacons to serve breakfast to everyone in April. Thank you to all the Deacons who helped set up, brought food, and cleaned up. It's a wonderful new tradition that the Deacons enjoy as much as the congregation.

Deacons made Easter themed care baskets in April for our friends of the church. 12 baskets were made with all kinds of goodies including: chocolates, chips, fresh fruit, crackers, little Easter gifts and hand made cards provided by our church youth. Thanks to everyone who contributed, packed baskets and delivered them.

SAVE THE DATE: We are gearing up for this year's Strawberry Festival on June 13th. Last year's festival was such a success that we are sticking with a Saturday and a similar (but even better) experience. Not to worry, we will have plenty of our traditional strawberry shortcake. More details coming soon.

As always, your Deacon's are here to serve. If you need something, help in some way, someone to pray with, someone to chat with, some cheering up, someone to tell some fun stories to...**WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.** Please reach out and we are at your service.

Love in Christ - FPCE Deacons



Join FPCE as we honor our Veterans at our annual Memorial Day Service. On Sunday, May 24 you are invited to attend the Edgewood Memorial Day Ceremony. The ceremony will be held at Edgewood Memorial Park starting at 1:00PM. A luncheon will be held after the ceremony in the Social Room of the church, provided by Edgewood Veterans.

PET MINISTRY

On April 18, the Pet Ministry had the first, annual Service of Remembrance for pets who have died. This faith-based service was held in the sanctuary under the pastoral guidance of Rev. Rebeca Abbott, with a liturgy of Bible verses, music, poems and a video of the Rainbow Bridge. Thirty-nine participants attended the service where 12 pets were memorialized in a ceremony that included a power point picture, pet naming, chime, candle lighting, and a memorial token of remembrance.

Also, special groups of animals were remembered, including those who have died by abuse and/or neglect, those in captivity, farm animals on whose lives we depend for our sustenance, canine officers and deployed service dogs who have died in the line of duty or after years of faithful service, animal companions lost in natural disasters and wars, emotional support animals, and of course, our church mice! A light luncheon followed the service. Grief care was available.



The next meeting of the Pet Ministry will be held in the Gathering Place on Sunday, May 31 after church services. Forest Jackson from Humane Animal Rescue (HARP) will present an overview of their shelter, food pantry, and veterinary services and we will discuss how we might partner with HARP using our blessing bags for animal companions. The Pet Ministry meets quarterly on the 5th Sunday. All are welcome!



Sharing the Joys & Concerns of the FPCE Family



- Many thanks to Jan Forster for helping to pick up and deliver FPCE Easter flowers
- Beautiful arranging of the Easter flowers by the men and women of FPCE
- Excited to welcome new members: Susie Cribbs, Sirvasha Evans and Tyler Shoaf
- Special thanks to Lorraine Douthett and her Worship Arts Team for the new banners in the sanctuary. The group is working on a table cover for the welcome table at community dinners.
- Happy May birthdays to: Glenn Allen Monk, George Horner and La Von Woodside - happy cake day!

RACIAL JUSTICE PILGRIMAGE is being organized by the Pittsburgh Presbytery to Atlanta, GA and Montgomery and Birmingham, AL. Tentatively Oct. 4-10, 2026. Travel arrangements and cost TBD. There will be 'homework' to prepare for this pilgrimage and to make sure that each participant gets the most out of it including advance meetings and a reading and viewing list. Limited spots are available. Contact Ruling Elder Carla Campbell or Rev. Ralph Lowe if interested.

T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood is ordering T-shirts for everyone to wear to represent at church functions. **Deadline: May 17.** Order will be placed first thing Monday morning. No late orders can be accepted.

Name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Email: _____

Select Your Sizes

Please indicate the quantity for each size needed.

Size	Price	Quantity	Total
Youth Small	\$8.00	___	\$_____
Youth Medium	\$8.00	___	\$_____
Youth Large	\$8.00	___	\$_____
Adult Small	\$8.00	___	\$_____
Adult Medium	\$8.00	___	\$_____
Adult Large	\$8.00	___	\$_____
Adult XL	\$8.00	___	\$_____

Size	Price	Quantity	Total
Adult 2XL	\$10.00	___	\$_____
Adult 3XL	\$14.00	___	\$_____
Adult 4XL	\$18.00	___	\$_____
TOTALS		___	\$_____

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE NEW JUNE EVENTS

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL, SATURDAY, JUNE 13 (11AM - 2PM)

Get ready for a *berry* delightful time! Our annual FPCE Strawberry Festival Fundraiser returns with more strawberry goodness than ever. Of course, our traditional strawberry shortcake will be present, but that's just the start. Indulge in homemade strawberry jam, refreshing strawberry lemonade, chocolate-drizzled strawberries, and a delightful array of yard games and other strawberry-themed surprises. Join us for an afternoon of fun, flavor, and community. Pets are welcome, and costumes are encouraged for animals and humans alike. But be careful: You might turn into a strawberry by the end of the day!



FUNDRAISING CONCERT

The Big Gay Trio presents its annual Pride fundraising concert for TransYOUning and the Hugh Lane Foundation in collaboration with First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood on Saturday, June 20 at 7:30PM at FPCE. Join Sarah Steranka, Will Teegarden, and Brian Gilling as they perform works by queer composers!





Community Events & Announcements

SPRING EVENTS AT C.C. MELLOR MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Summer Block Party – It’s party time! Join us at the Westinghouse Lodge on June 9 to celebrate the end of the school year and kick off summer programming. The day is fun and free for the whole family.



Stuffed Animal Sleepover at CCM Forest Hills: Saturday, May 2 at 10:30

Ever wonder what happens at the library after you leave? Drop a stuffed animal friend off at the library earlier in the week, then stop by for a special story time on Saturday to hear about their adventures and pick them up!

Plant Swap: Saturday, May 2 at 10AM at CCM Edgewood

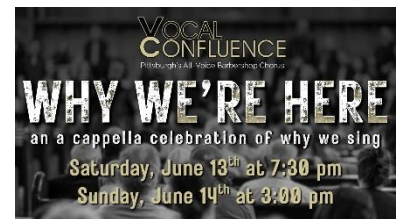
Propagation projects gone overboard? In need of something green to nurture? Bring some sprouts, cuttings, or whole plants and swap with friends and neighbors! There will also be small pots and acrylic paints to decorate.

Generations Speaker: May 5 at 6:30PM at CCM Edgewood

The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh Presents: Generations Speaker. Michelle Ulmann is the daughter of two survivors: her mother from Germany and her father from Austria. She will share the story of her mother pogrom, Ruth, who was a young teenager during Kristallnacht in her hometown. After the November , Ruth was sent to England for the duration of the war through the Kindertransport.

COMMUNITY PLANNING MEETING, May 12, 6PM via Zoom. This is our 6th installment of meeting with community groups to plan calendar events, exchange information, etc. We will be looking at dates June through December. If you are involved with an Edgewood community group, come and share.

VOCAL CONFLUENCE CONCERT: June 13, 7:30PM and June 14, 3PM




WCM MOBILE FOOD PANTRY is at FPCE every Friday at 2:00PM (weather permitting) distributing fresh food and canned goods. Sign up to volunteer at <https://tinyurl.com/WCMatFPCE>.



The Edgewood Foundation is thrilled to be holding our Art in Edgewood at the Church again on November 3rd. More details will follow, but we are in search of local artists. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please have them contact Angel Lehrian - angel@lehrian.com or 412-915-1120. We do not charge artists to display/sell their art in the event, but there is an approval process.

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 2-3 WCM Food Truck 7:00 AA (SR) 8:30 AA (SR)	2 10:00 Yoga (L) 8:00 AA (SR)
3 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Worship Mtg. 6:30 Finance Mtg. (Zoom) 7:00 SAA (GP,L)	4 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	5 10:00 Book Club 4-7 Flute Lessons	6 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 6:00 Taco Dinner 7:00 MilePost6	7 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 4-7 Worship & Arts Team (GP) 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 SAA (L)	8 2-3 WCM Food Truck 7:00 AA (SR) 8:30 AA (SR)	9 10:00 Yoga (L) 8:00 AA (SR)
10 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Property Mtg. 2:30 Weber Piano Recital (S) 7:00 SAA (GP,L)	11 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	12 10:00 Book Club 4-7 Flute Lessons 6:00 Community Planning Mtg. 7:00 Session Mtg.	13 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 MilePost6	14 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 SAA (L)	15 2-3 WCM Food Truck 7:00 AA (SR) 8:30 AA (SR)	16 8:00 AA (SR)
17 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship 2:30 Hernandez Piano Recital (S) 7:00 SAA (GP,L)	18 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	19 6AM-8PM Voting Site (GP) Bake Sale 4-7 Flute Lessons	20 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 MilePost6	21 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 4-7 Worship & Arts Team (GP) 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 SAA (L)	22 2-3 WCM Food Truck 7:30 AA (SR) 8:00 AA (SR)	23 8:00 AA (SR)
24 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Memorial Day Obsv. Fellowship/Deacon Mtg. 7:00 SAA (GP,L)	25 OFFICE CLOSED 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	26 10:00 Book Club 4-7 Flute Lessons	27 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 MilePost6	28 9:00 Cleaning (GP,L) 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 SAA (L)	29 2-3 WCM Food Truck 7:00 AA (SR) 8:30 AA (SR)	30 8:00 AA (SR)
31 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship Pet Ministry Mtg. 7:00 SAA (GP,L)		Meeting Locations: Book Club – Apossos Home Flute Lessons – C.E. Office, Choir Room AA – Social Room Vocal Confluence & ESO – Sanctuary Scouts – Scout or Social Room SAA – Lounge, GP Milepost6 – Basement Band Room Session - Lounge Choir, Worship - Sanctuary				

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BAKE SALE...Mission Committee will be holding a bake sale for the voters on May 19. Check the sign-up clipboard in Gathering Place to donate baked goods or to sign up for a shift to run table.