

Guidelights

EDMONDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024 | VOLUME 70 - ISSUE 4



Many thanks to the "Sisters" group for planting this beautiful Spring display around the circle last fall.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We live, work, and worship on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people, most notably the Snohomish Tribe, who fished off these shores and gathered clams, cattails, and more in the marsh of Edmonds long before the arrival of settlers. We uphold their dignity and sovereignty as Nations unto themselves and seek to live in understanding and community with them.

Letter from the Pastor

Happy Easter! By the time you read this, we will have pulled out all the stops in our celebration of Resurrection Day. By the time you read this, the “Alleluias”, the songs, the notes of the brass band will all have faded away along with the egg hunt and the butterflies and maybe even the new Easter clothes. By the time you read this, Easter Sunday will have come and gone once more.



Pastor Donna Pritchard

But I pray that Resurrection is still the order of the day – for you, for me, for all of us together. The Good News of Easter is not meant for only one day of celebration. The amazing Good News of new life, new possibilities for abundant life in Christ – that is something to hang onto and to live into every day.

The surprise of Easter, the hope of resurrection, can be ours every moment. I like the way the poet David Whyte reflects on the surprise in this poem:

*A garden inside me, unknown, secret,
neglected for years,
the layers of its soil deep and thick.
Trees in the corners with branching arms
and the tangled briars like broken nets.
Sunrise through the misted orchard,
morning sun turns silver on the pointed
twigs.
I have woken from the sleep of ages and I
am not sure
if I am really seeing, or dreaming,
or simply astonished
walking towards sunrise
to have stumbled into the garden
where the stone was rolled from the tomb
of longing.*

Happy Easter, indeed!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Donna

SERMON CALENDAR

April Sermon Topics

April 7	John 20:19-31	“Believing Without Seeing”
April 14	John 8:12-19	“Lighten Up!”
April 21	John 21:1-19	“A Miraculous Catch”
April 28	Earth Sunday – Rev. Laura Baumgartner, guest preacher from Haller Lake UMC	

We are a hybrid church. We invite you to join us in the sanctuary or online on our website, www.edmondsumc.org or on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/edmondsumc

Calendar/Events

MONTHLY:

Communion Sunday - 1st Sunday of the month

Foundry Service - 1st Sunday of the month 6-7:00 pm in the sanctuary

Dinner & Game Night - 2nd Friday of the month, next: Friday, April 12, 6-8:00 pm

COMING EVENTS:

Celebrating our Methodist Connection at Seattle First AME Church, Pastor Donna Preaching -
April 21, 3:00 pm

"Go and Do Likewise: Following Jesus into our Common Humanity," joint presentation with Trinity
Lutheran Church, Thursday, April 25, 7:00 pm

Women's Retreat - May 3 - 5, 2024 – Save the date for a wonderful weekend!

United Methodist General Conference in Charlotte, NC, April 23 – May 3, 2024

Celebrating our Methodist Connection at EUMC, Rev. Dr. Carey G. Anderson preaching
May 19, 3:00 pm



Go and Do Likewise: Following Jesus into our Common Humanity

Conversation with Terry B. Kylo

Thursday, April 25, 7:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church, 6215 196th Pl SW, Lynnwood

Co-sponsored by churches in the area including EUMC

More information click [HERE](#)

Next Dinner and Games Night on April 12



It's that time again! Bring your favorite board game, a dear friend or two, and a side to share. We'll provide pizza for our upcoming Community Game Night on Friday, April 12, 6-8pm. All are welcome!

In the Wesley room, Friday April 12, 6:00-8:00 pm. Set-up starts at 5:30.

Invite your friends, everyone is welcome!

Sign up on [SignUp Genius](#)

Seattle First African Methodist Episcopal Church
Edmonds United Methodist Church

Celebrating our Methodist Connection

April 21 at 3:00 pm at FAME

May 19, 3:00 pm at EUMC



Rev. Dr. Carey G. Anderson



Rev. Donna Pritchard

This spring we are embarking on a new opportunity to make connections between our church, Edmonds United Methodist, and another Methodist congregation, First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Seattle (FAME). While we represent two different denominations, we share a common Wesleyan theology and a similar polity, or organizational structure.

On Sunday, April 21, we are invited to First AME Church of Seattle (1522 14th Avenue in Seattle) at 3:00 for a time of fellowship and hospitality, followed by a joint worship service in their sanctuary. We will return the favor the afternoon of May 19, when we host hospitality from 3:00-4:00 here in Wesley Hall, followed by a joint worship service in our sanctuary.

To help us prepare to make new friends, here is a little history lesson. The African Methodist Episcopal Church grew out of the Free African Society in Philadelphia. When church officials at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church (the predecessor of The United Methodist Church) pulled the black worshippers up off their knees while praying and led them out of the church building—the racial discrimination by white Methodists could no longer be ignored.

The first African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bethel AME, was founded in Philadelphia in 1794, with pastor Richard Allen. Even then white Methodists tried to interfere with the new church. However in 1807 and again in 1815 Allen successfully sued in Pennsylvania courts for the right of his congregation to exist as an independent institution.

Other Black Methodists were similarly encountering racism in churches throughout the mid-Atlantic region, so Bethel Church helped found a new Wesleyan denomination, the AME. Its geographical spread began in the northeast and midwest U.S., but soon spread to the south and eventually to the Pacific Coast by the early 1850's. By 1880 AME membership topped 400,000, and the denomination then spread across the Atlantic, into Liberia and Sierra Leone and South Africa.

Today, the AME has membership in twenty Episcopal Districts in 39 countries on five continents. Like the United Methodist Church, the work of the AME is administered by bishops, assisted by General Officers managing the departments of the denomination.

The AME motto "God Our Father, Christ Our

... continued

. . . Celebrating our Methodist Connection cont'd

Redeemer, Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family”, reflects the basic beliefs of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In addition, the AME looks to the Apostles’ Creed and the 25 Articles of Religion, held in common with the UMC, as a foundation for belief.

The First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Seattle (FAME) is the state’s oldest black church, having been established in 1886 when Washington was still a territory. It became formally recognized as a church in 1890. This congregation began under the leadership of Seaborn Collins, who in 1892 would become the first African American elected to office in King County.

Today First AME Church of Seattle is pastored by Rev. Dr. Carey G. Anderson, Senior Pastor since November 2004. He will be preaching at our church on May 19 and Pastor Donna will be preaching at FAME on April 21.

All congregants are encouraged to participate in both services. Carpooling is encouraged to FAME church in Seattle.

Refugee Resettlement Update



With rejoicing, we celebrated our first high school graduation last spring . . . and

. . . on February 14, 2024 our first senior high school student completed the naturalization process to become a US Citizen!

We remain committed to accompanying our current adult refugees through the challenging citizenship process as they approach their 5-year eligibility status. While the English and civics requirements for citizenship are daunting, our refugee families know they can count on us for advocacy and support! We are blessed with our calling to “ . . . act faithfully in whatever you accomplish for brothers and sisters, and especially when they are strangers. (3 John 1:5 New American Standard Bible).



Things that You Want to Know!

United Methodist General Conference in Charlotte, NC April 23 – May 3, 2024



Hundreds of United Methodists around the globe are preparing to spend two weeks away from home, work and family to serve as delegates at General Conference. After the battles of the 2019 special General Conference and the strains of COVID that delayed the next regular session to this year, the delegate signers expressed their desire for a different kind of legislative meeting.

“We hope that the gathering in Charlotte, N.C., will bear witness to a more perfect way of faithful service to Christ, who makes all things new and reconciles all people unto himself,” said the delegates’ statement, referencing 2 Corinthians 5:16-20.

The delegates said they “pray that we may transcend the conflicts that have so long divided us.”

Pastor Donna is a delegate at the conference and will give a full report upon her return. Click [HERE](#) to read more about the hopes and expectations for the 2024 Conference.

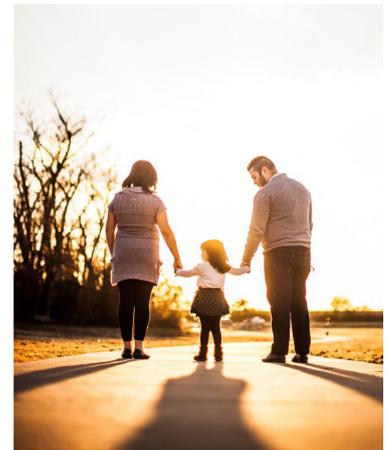
INTRODUCING HOUSING HOPE APRIL 6TH AT 2:00PM



Our neighborhood is expanding this fall! We would like to introduce *Housing Hope*, a non-profit group that is building 54 low-income and transitional apartment units on the Edmonds Lutheran Church property. The estimated

move-in date is October 2024. These will be family units with a focus on finding permanent housing for families with children.

Throughout our Strategic Planning sessions we heard about the need for low-income housing in Edmonds.



Here is a wonderful opportunity for EUMC to volunteer with others in the community to help struggling families begin rebuilding their lives with affordable housing. We can help them become part of the Edmonds community by volunteering in various ways. Come to an information meeting with Housing Hope, who will give us an overview of the project and answer questions. There will be opportunity to see the blueprints and hear how you can be a part of this journey.

Please join us on Saturday April 6th at 2:00 pm at EUMC in the Chapel. Questions: contact Carol Megenity carolmegenity@gmail.com. 425-821-1527

"DREAM" The Women's Retreat

You've been imagining the Women's Retreat for weeks. Now it's time for the DREAM to come true.



Do you DREAM of being surrounded by friends while you relax in a comfortable lodge with views of the water, the forest, and the most amazing sunsets? Do you DREAM of uplifting conversations and thoughtful discussions? Do you DREAM of quiet walks in the woods or silent contemplation in a beautiful chapel? Do you DREAM of taking time for yourself to rejuvenate and refresh your life? If so, then the Women's Retreat is the place for you!

Women from 13 - 113 (and those female identifying) are invited to gather from May 3 - 5, 2024 at Warm Beach Camp in Stanwood. Warm Beach is a lovely venue, with comfortable rooms, paved level paths throughout the main area of camp, trails to hike, a beautiful chapel, a swimming pool, and so much more.

Karen Gardener is our DREAM-come-true of a keynote speaker. Karen is a recently retired United Methodist Pastor. She likes to participate in international mission trips and is an active supporter of *The Guatemala Project*. She enjoys leading small groups and retreats, and

appreciates helping others find their passion as they travel their spiritual journeys. Karen will be guiding us, as together, we explore the idea of "Waking Up to God".

Prices and room options can be found on our online registration form.

Registration includes all weekend programming, most activities, 6 tasty meals, and lodging.

If you'd rather pay by check, we will have a registration table after service most Sundays (excluding Easter). Please register soon, as the rooms with private bathrooms and massage times fill up quickly. If cost is a concern, please be aware that we have a scholarship fund for those in need. Select the scholarship request box on your registration form.

There is also a box to check if you'd like to volunteer for our DREAM Team. We have many fun and easy ways to be involved.



DREAMing
of our time
together at
The Women's
Retreat!



Retreat Registration Form
Click [HERE](#).

United Women of Faith— Our Ongoing Story

Our United Women’s group is breaking into new chapters. We now have a luncheon group (Dutch Treat), trying different restaurants every month, for fellowship and making new friends. The 8 thrift shop volunteers are keeping our shop afloat by working every week. (More volunteers are needed. The Movies with a Message are also hosted by our group and we have invited all the church to these (free) showings. We will be hosting a leadership meeting with other churches in April. All women are welcome. This is a small but mighty group that wants to help women and children.

We had a dream to make enough money to truly help people in the community and beyond. We are happy to report that two things have changed in the past year; the days of the week in which we are open and the community has found us and there is great generosity of Edmonds people in the donations we receive. We now have treasures to sell. We are making the kind of funds we wished for to help others. In January and February this year our little shop has produced profits of \$2,466. We donate these funds monthly to deserving charities.

Join the EUMC Diversity & Inclusion Team

Have you found Edmonds UMC to be a safe and inclusive place? Do you feel there are things we can do better? We need your help to make sure everyone feels fully seen and embraced in our community, and that our church is as diverse as God’s family. Part of one of EUMC’s strategic initiatives is Diversity and Inclusion and we would love to have your creativity and passion on our committee. If you can help, please contact Marlene Lund at marlenelund2@gmail.com.

Advocates for Justice – Environment

Solar Information Session

If you would like more details and the inside story about the EUMC Solar Project, come to the Information Session in the Chapel at 11:15 am after church on April 7th. Stan Gent, grant writer and Advocates for Justice-Environment member, will be there to share basic information about the project and the grants, and to answer your questions. No registrations necessary.



Environment Team in the Narthex

Also on April 7th, Advocates for Justice – Environment will have its Advocate Table for the Congregation, in the Narthex. There will be information about solar options and other Environmental causes. Forecast Solar, the company installing our solar panels, is also bringing a table with solar information.

NO on Initiative 2117

In addition, there will be preliminary information on rejecting an upcoming ballot initiative, NO on INITIATIVE 2117. This initiative would repeal the current law that requires polluters to stop polluting or to pay a fine for their polluting. Currently, the resources from this law have been used to assist communities (primarily ethnic and low-income) damaged by nearby polluters and to install sustainable equipment and programs. If this Initiative passes, it would allow polluters to return to polluting, and not require any consequences no matter how much damage their pollution causes. We will be asking congregational members to VOTE NO—both as a way to continue reducing pollution (carbon, methane, and other greenhouse gases), but also as a way to assure climate justice for those residents whose lives and health are damaged by these pollutants.

Job Opening for Youth Leader

We are looking for a dynamic person to lead our Family Ministry Youth Program. Click [HERE](#) for the full job description.



Providing some tech support

Sam Arguelles takes a moment after church to provide some tech support on Instagram to Beth Lanie, chair of the Racial Justice Team.



NOW More Than Ever

2024 Stewardship Campaign



Thank you from the Stewardship Team

Many thanks to all of you who made a pledge during our Stewardship Campaign. If you didn't get a chance to make one, don't worry, you can still make a pledge at any time of the year. Knowing your estimates of giving help us make wise financial decisions for the church. As of this date, we have received pledges totaling \$976,419 toward our general operating budget of \$1,281,416 for 2024. This is a great response and gives us every confidence we will meet or match our projected budget for the year.

Thank you for playing your part in sharing God's love with the world and helping to transform it through the ministries of Edmonds United Methodist Church!

We are indeed blessed to be in this work with you!

Sincerely,
 Chuck Maki, Mary Bohmke, and Pastor Donna
 2024 Stewardship Team

2023 M.I.L.E. Assessment

What is the M.I.L.E? Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth has called United Methodists across the Greater Northwest Area to follow Jesus' challenge in the story of the Good Samaritan to "go and do likewise." As people of faith, committed to the love of Christ in our various communities, we are encouraged to go the "M.I.L.E."

- Ministry that Matters
- Itineration & Location
- Lay Ministry Enhancement
- Eliminating Racism

At the end of 2023 the Bishop sent an assessment to each church to report back to him on our progress in each area. To read the EUMC Assessment click [HERE](#).

EDMONDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2024 ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD



Ed Egerdahl



Pam Erickson



Mary Feldhaus



Chuck Gillespie



Deb Hawley



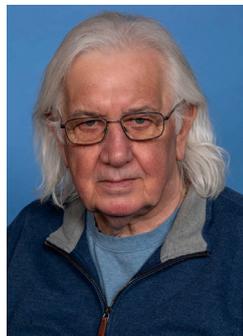
Laurie Napa



Diana Nielsen



Judy Phillips



Keith Skore



Jorge Valcarcel



Jake Waldron



Marlene Lund
Lay Member to Annual
Conference



Donna Pritchard
Pastor



Denise Williams
Church Administrator



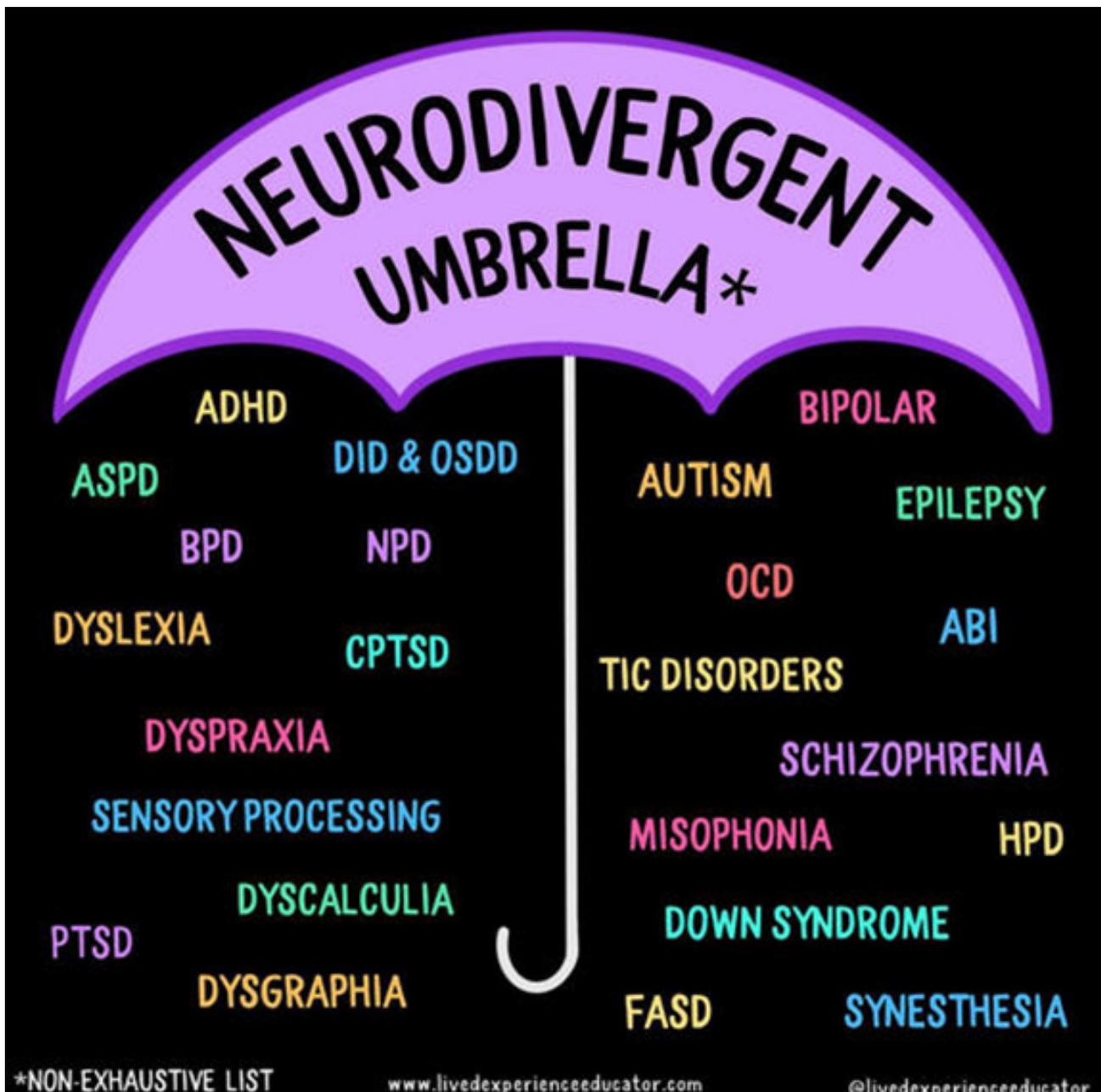
Lynn & Ron Heitritter
Co-Lay Leaders

Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00-8:00 pm. The first hour is open to any member of the congregation that would like to attend the meetings. All are welcome.

Celebrating Neurodiversity

The Inclusion and Diversity Team would like to increase the awareness of our congregation of the Neurodivergent people among us and a part of us and to celebrate the many gifts they bring. A “neurodivergent” person refers to a person on the autism spectrum or, more generally, to someone whose brain processes information in a way that is not typical of most individuals. Below is a range of issues that fall under the umbrella of neurodiversity. Neurodivergence lies along a spectrum and finally acknowledges that not all brains function and process the same way. "Normal" doesn't exist and never has. No longer should we expect all people to conform to the same expectations and metrics.

Here at EUMC we want to welcome all Neurodiverse adults, children, and elders.



From www.livedexperienceeducator.com

Church Staff

Pastor

Donna Pritchard

Director of Worship Arts

David Hendrix

Director of Family Ministries

Karin Johnson

Church Administrator

Denise Williams

Office Coordinator

Jennifer Leonov

Organist

Sunghee Kim

Director of Children's Center

Natalie DeLeon

Children's Center Staff:

Laurie Brown

Salwa Ibrahim

Maritza Lianos

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Rachel Molloy

Sarah Shelley

Anna Thompson

Facilities Manager

Kevin Danberg

Custodian

Tony Garcia

GUIDELIGHTS

READER SURVEY



Help us improve the Guidelights by
answering a few questions.

Click [HERE](#) to take
a brief survey.

GUIDELIGHTS SUBMISSION

Due by the 20th of the month prior. Send to:

diana.nielsen@comcast.net

Next deadline is APRIL 20.

Articles less than 400 words. Include a picture or graphic.

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Proofreaders: Shelly Ehni, Cheryl Hay

Edmonds United Methodist Church

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office@edmondsumc.org

(425) 778-2119

Sunday worship is at 10:00 am

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Worship, Sundays at 10:00 am in-person & online

Member of the Reconciling Ministries Network

