

Guidelights

EDMONDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023 | VOLUME 69 - ISSUE 9



Advent 2023

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

It's Advent! The word "Advent" literally means "coming". It is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*, used in the Bible to point toward the coming of Christ and the fulfillment of God's promised reign.

In the season of Advent (the four weeks leading up to Christmas Eve), we focus on themes of anticipation, preparation, waiting, hoping, dreaming God's future within us and around us.

This Advent there is much to anticipate here at EUMC! The season is full of preparations being made to live into the six priorities identified at the recent Strategic Planning Retreat and adopted by the All Church Conference November 19. Teams have already begun meeting to put together some goals related to each of these priorities:

1. Children, Youth & Families
2. Social Justice work
3. Welcome, Inclusion and Diversity
4. Stable Leadership and Governance
5. Community Service and Outreach
6. Music

If you would like to join one of these teams, fill out the interest form on the website or call the church office. Your name and contact information will be shared with the group convener so that you can be invited to their next meeting.



Pastor Donna Pritchard

While the season carries this work forward it also gives us many moments to reflect, prepare and celebrate the arrival of Christ at Christmas. Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00 am.

Join us for the Annual All Church Conference

Our District Superintendent, the Rev. Mark Galang, will preside over our annual All Church Conference **Saturday, Dec. 2 at 4:00 pm**. All are encouraged to attend this important business meeting.

Pastor Donna

EDMONDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Advent Sermon Series

Using much loved Christmas movies to illustrate themes of the season,
our Advent theme is "If Only In Our Dreams"

Pastor Donna Pritchard, preaching

"If Only In Our Dreams"

Dec 3, Advent 1 "All Aboard!" - Movie: The Polar Express

Dec 10, Advent 2 "You'll Shoot Your Eye Out!" - Movie: A Christmas Story

Dec 17, Advent 3 "It's a Wonder-FULL Life" Movie: - It's a Wonderful Life

Dec 24, Advent 4 "Christmas Doesn't Come in a Box"
- Movie: How the Grinch Stole Christmas

The graphic features a dark blue background with white stars and a white, starry Christmas tree on the right side. The text is centered and uses a mix of white and gold colors.

Calendar/Events

MONTHLY:

Communion Sunday - 1st Sunday of the month

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

Community Dinner & Game Night - 2nd Friday of the month, 5:30-8:30 pm in the Wesley Room

Meet & Greet with the Pastor - 2nd Sunday of the month in the Library following worship

EVENTS:

Brief service of thanksgiving for our dying pine tree, December 2, 3:30 at the tree

All Church Conference Saturday - December 2, 4:00 pm. in the sanctuary

Strategic Planning Teams presentations on Sunday, December 17 in worship



EDMONDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December Events



- Hanging of the Greens, November 26, after worship
- Holiday Bazaar, December 1-2, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
- First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 10:00 am
- Edmonds Toy Shop volunteering, December 9
- Christmas Concert, December 10, 7:00 pm
- Carol Sing & Christmas Party, December 17
- Longest Night, December 21, 6:00 pm
- Christmas Pageant, December 24, 5:00 pm
- Christmas Eve Services, December 24, 7:00 pm & 9:00 pm



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

Life in the Church



EDMONDS UMC
INTERGENERATIONAL
*Community Dinner
& Game Night*
FRIDAY 12/8 | 5:30-8:30 PM

Join us for an a casual night of dinner & games for all ages and abilities. We'll provide pizza and salad. Bring a side or dessert if you'd like. We'd love to have you!

All Are Welcome!

Come join your community for a casual all ages dinner and game night at EUMC in the Wesley room. We'll provide pizza and salad. Bring a side, dessert or favorite game to share. Feel free to drop in for any part of it. In the Wesley room, Friday 12/8/23, 5:30 - 8:30 pm.

Invite your friends, everyone welcome!

**GO TO
SIGN-UP GENIUS**

Goodbye Beloved Tree

Sometimes we are so used to seeing something that we don't notice a change. There has been a change at the driveway entrance to the church from Caspers Street. The big pine tree has died and will be removed on December 11. We will gather by the tree for a Thanksgiving Appreciation on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 3:30 pm. This short Appreciation will be before the All-Church Charge Conference at 4pm. A new tree will replace it.



Palestine/Israel Update

Dr. Mae Cannon, Executive Director of Churches for Middle East Peace, shared with us on Sunday, November 12th about the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people under the invasion and bombardment by the Israeli military. She reminded us that Gaza has been under a military blockade for 17 years.

If you wish to make a donation to help Palestinians who are injured and suffering, you can give through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), or the Palestine Children's Relief Fund. Their contact information and weblinks are:

UNRWA USA National Committee
P.O. Box 18697
Washington DC 20036
<https://www.unrwausa.org/donate>

Palestine Children's Relief Fund
P.O. Box 1926
Kent, OH 44240
<https://pcrf1.app.neoncrm.com/forms/general>

There will be additional opportunities to have informal discussions in the near future, and plans to present short films followed by discussion after the beginning of the year are in process.

Questions?
Contact Rev. Dick Gibson or Cheryl Hay

A Service of Light on the Longest Night

This time of year brings lots of merriment, holiday greetings, parties, and times of connecting with family and friends. The music, lights, decorations, stores loaded with gift items all bring smiles to our faces as we hustle and bustle about. Or, at least we feel as if we should be smiling. But, for many, this time of year can be bittersweet.

For those experiencing loneliness and grief because of a loss of someone dear, loss of family or friend connections, loss of job, health, mobility, or a profound change or loss of something else in their life can be difficult. We remember persons and/or events that have been a part of our lives in the past, but are now changed or gone, and thus, the holiday season brings challenges, sadness, and perhaps anger.

On the longest night of the year, in this season of long dark nights, a quiet meditative service will be offered for sharing our grief and hurting places with God and for remembering how it used to be.

You are invited to The Longest Night service at Edmonds United Methodist Church, in the sanctuary, on Thursday, December 21st, at 6:00 PM. If you wish, invite someone dear to come with you.

stephen
MINISTRY®



"On the longest night of the year, in this season of long dark nights, a quiet meditative service will be offered for sharing our grief and hurting places with God . . ."

"Even in the darkest days, the moon and sun make their ancient, reliable journeys. Birds sing. Some green thing insists on growing in a ravaged land. Our own human life force refuses to give up."

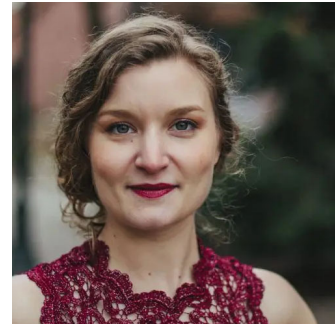
~ Trebbe Johnson



"O Holy Night" Christmas Concert, December 10, 7pm

This year's Christmas Concert will feature two familiar EUMC singers, David Hendrix and Danielle Reutter-Harrah singing favorite songs of the season like O Holy Night, Jesu Bambino, and Messiah excerpts. Members from the EUMC Ensemble will add traditional Christmas Carols through the program. The concert is free, but donations are welcome in support of the EUMC music program.

Danielle Reutter-Harrah performs baroque music from coast to coast. She recently performed the role of Vespetta in Telemann's comic chamber opera *Pimpinone* with the Boston Early Music Festival, which the Boston Globe called "terrific." Her favorite past performances include Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ullise in patria* (Melanto) and *Orfeo* (La Musica/Messagiera), Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (Dido/Belinda), and Handel's *Ariodante* (Ariodante). She performs frequently with local Seattle ensembles including Pacific MusicWorks, Whidbey Island Music Festival, and the Byrd Ensemble. Upcoming performances include Bach's *Coffee Cantata* with Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado (Lieschen), Mozart's *C Minor Mass* with Sonoma Bach (soprano), and a concert with Seattle Baroque Orchestra entitled "For All Our Sisters." Danielle received her BM from the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music and her Masters of Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and teaches voice and piano privately.



Eric Neuville Hailed for his "seemingly effortless vocal acrobatics" (Capital Times), Seattle-based tenor Eric Neuville is a regular on operatic and concert stages throughout the country. His GRAMMY-award winning career has included performances of Young Thompson in *Cipullo's Glory Denied* with Nashville Opera, Laurie in *Adamo's Little Women* with Madison Opera, Mozart's *Requiem* with the Seattle Symphony conducted by Itzhak Perlman, Testo in Monteverdi's *Il combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda* with Seattle Opera, John Muehleisen's *Pietà* with the St. Olaf Choir and Magnum Chorum, a remounting of the award-winning recital *Modern Dickinson* at the Victoria Bach Festival, and the world premiere of John Muehleisen's *A Kipling Passion* with Choral Arts Northwest. He also has been a regularly featured ensemble member and soloist with Austin based ensemble, *Conspirare*, as well as locally with Pacific MusicWorks. He holds degrees from St. Olaf College, The University of Texas at Austin, and the the University of Washington. Eric currently resides in Seattle with his wife and two kids and recently made a career change to pursue his dream of becoming a pilot, which he now does for Alaska Airlines full time.

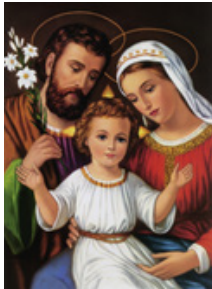


Nativity Around the World

Racial Justice Team

Merry Christmas! Веселого Різдва! krisamas kee badhaee! White European-ancestry Americans have a long tradition in the United States of celebrating Christmas in a way that has changed the story of Christmas from its Biblical setting in the Middle East and re-cast the people as white European looking people. Is this something you can notice in our icons? In our tree decorations? On our cards? Baby Jesus, the Holy Family, and the people who came to see them were Brown and Black people.

Consider these two images. They are beautiful, aren't they? Are they Middle Eastern Jewish?



There are as many ways to portray the Holy Family and Jesus as there are countries and cultures in the World. They may be painted as Ecuadorian, Nigerian, Icelandic, Indian, whatever fits into our cultures. Below are some other representations:

left: artist unknown, right Nicole Lanthier



left: Laura Balmaceda, center: Vicki Shuck, right: Woonbo Kim Ki-chang

Some of these stunning pictures are from the website <https://cultivatedlearning.org/nativity-art-around-the-world/> which is a rich source of culture for children, youth, and adults. Some are for sale as well!

Let's consider and talk about where our portrayals of the Holy Family come from as we celebrate Christmas together. Heri ya krismas, God jul, دي ج م داليم دي ع, barka dà Kirsimatì, Feliz Navidad!



Illustrations from *The Huron Carol* by Frances Tyrrell

Busy People – Edmonds United Women in Faith

This is our end of the year report. In Edmonds, we are a small but mighty group. We're in a lot of places—managing a thrift shop with only 8 volunteers and making connections with other groups in the surrounding community. Our group meets once a month for lunch, trying different restaurants in the local area. We also host Movies with a Message in the church library on the second Saturday of the month (all are welcome). In August this year we hosted a rummage sale earning \$681.

This year we changed our operating days in the Thrift Shop to Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and this year, we made a real effort to give unsold items to other charities “in kind” allowing them to connect with homeless and low income families directly. Our list includes Washington Kids in Transition, Clothes for Kids, Pathways for Women Dress for Success program, Aurora Commons, EUMC Women’s Retreat, and Habitat for Humanity. One week, a few of us helped serve dinner and food staples

at Annie’s Kitchen. We plan to return.

Our annual Holiday Bazaar is on December 1 & 2 and includes vendors, bakery tables, Christmas items, and gift items. The Thrift Shop will be open for shopping too! This is a two day event and on Saturday, we are hosting a silent auction with fabulous treasures.

The profits from our thrift shop go to local and international charities in addition to supporting missions in our own church. This year’s cash donations will go to the following charities—Feeding America, Feed the Children, Smile Train, Pathways for Women, Washington Kids in Transition, Heifer Project, Scout Troop 312, Women's Retreat, Edmonds Food Bank, Edmonds Toy Shop, UMCOR, and Atlantic Street Center for a total of \$4,280. We also paid an allocation of \$4,000 to United Women in Faith for missions.

- Gay Johnson



The thrift shop run by the church women: United Women in Faith is struggling to stay open every week, especially with the holidays upon us. Do you like meeting new people, chatting with friends, helping organize? This may be a place for you. You choose your schedule, how often you work, and what you like to do. Many opportunities are available. We are only open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 10-2pm. A few people often stop in on Wednesdays to organize new donations, Wednesdays are usually only 10-12pm. Come see our place. Ask questions. Bring a friend.

Environmental Eating for Everyone

Advocates for Justice – Environment Team

The Advocates for Justice – Environment Team are ringing in the New Year with a series of four one-hour workshops called **Environmental Eating For Everyone**. Plant-based treats and recipes will be shared. Please join us on Sundays, January 14 to February 4, 2024, at 11:15 am – 12:30 pm, in the EUMC Chapel.

January 14 Session 1: WHAT

Introduction to benefits of a wholesome way of eating such as a Mediterranean or plant-based diet.

Led by Ami Karnosh, CN, Nutritionist

January 21 Session 2: WHY

We can change the world one bite at a time: feel empowered to make a big difference for the planet and for your own health!

Led by Amber Saldivar



January 28 Session 3: HOW

Practical ways to try a different, delicious way of eating (shopping, meal planning, cooking).

Led by Lynne Weakland

February 4 Session 4: POTLUCK /Q&A

Sampling of snack foods; tips and tricks, restaurant options.

Led by Environmental Advocates Team

Register [HERE](#)

For more information contact:

Barb Steller at bsteller@hotmail.com

Carol Sing & Church Christmas Party

Jingle Bells Oh Christmas tree Joy to the world

The First Noel Frosty the snowman

Sunday, December 17
3:00 pm

Bring your favorite Christmas goodies to share if you would like.
Warm beverages provided

Singing, games & fun!
All ages welcome!

All Church Strategic Planning Retreat a Great Success

A total of 90 people attended our planning retreat on November 11! We had 12 tables of seven to eight people who spent the day taking our ten priority topics down to six topics to focus on for the next five years. Discussions at each table were lively, thoughtful, and productive. Decisions were by consensus. However, two topics tied for 5th place in the “dots” vote—so it was decided to go for six goals! Big thanks to Dana Brown, Pastor Donna, to the planning team, the AV guys, the kitchen helpers, the table facilitators and scribes, and to everyone who gave up their Saturday to plan on our church goals and plans for the coming five years.



- Robust Children, Youth & Family
- Welcome, inclusion & diversity
- Social justice work
- Community service and outreach
- Stable leadership and governance
- Music program

Each team selected a "convener" who will organize the team around scheduling meetings and coming up with plans.

On December 17, all teams will present their initial decisions around goals to the church in worship.

The following Sunday we held a “charge” conference to vote on these six priorities and teams gathered after to start organizing around these six priorities:

Join a Team!

If you weren't at the Retreat, you can still join a planning team. We are just getting started so click [HERE](#) to sign up. You will be contacted by the group Convener about dates and times of meetings.

Participants dig deep into the work!



Church Staff

Pastor

Donna Pritchard

Director of Worship Arts

David Hendrix

Director of Family Ministries

Karin Johnson

Church Administrator

Denise Williams

Accountant/Bookkeeper

Ellen McMurrey

Office Coordinator

Jennifer Leonov

Organist

Sunghee Kim

Director of Children's Center

Natalie DeLeon

Children's Center Staff:

Laurie Brown

Salwa Ibrahim

Maritza Lianos

Anna Lund

Rachel Molloy

Sarah Shelley

Anna Thompson

Facilities Manager

Kevin Danberg

Custodian

Tony Garcia

GUIDELIGHTS SUBMISSION

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

diana.nielsen@comcast.net

Next deadline is December 20.

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

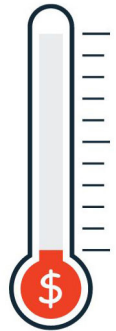
Guidelights editor: Diana Nielsen

Proofreaders: Shelly Ehni, Cheryl Hay

What About that Stewardship Drive? Inquiring Minds Want to Know!

If you've been wondering what happened to the usual October or November Pledge Campaign to support the ministries of our church in the coming year, you are not alone! But please, don't worry—we do still want and need your financial support going into 2024!

We have delayed the campaign this year. Look for it in January or February - in order to create a proposed budget in line with the approved Strategic Priorities for our work together:



1. Children, Youth, and Families
2. Social Justice Work
3. Welcome, Inclusion and Diversity
4. Stable Leadership and Governance
5. Community Service and Outreach
6. Music

While we do this faithful financial planning to match our strategic planning, please be in prayer for all the ministries of EUMC and consider how you can help in 2024. Thank you!





**Edmonds
United
Methodist
Church**

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