

Guidelights

EDMONDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2023 | VOLUME 69 - ISSUE 5



Go and Do
LIKEWISE



**Pacific
Northwest**
2023 Annual
Conference Sessions

See p. 7 for a summary of the sermons of Bishop Bridgeforth at Annual Conferences on the Parable of the Good Samaritan featured in this artwork by the artist [He Qi](#) in the piece titled "The Good Samaritan" (© 2001, licensed and used with permission).

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We worship on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people, most notably the Snohomish and Suquamish tribes who every summer fished off these shores and gathered clams, cattails and more in the Edmonds marsh long before the arrival of settlers. Coast Salish people are still here, continuing to honor and bring to light their ancient heritage. We remind ourselves that colonization is an ongoing process, with Native lands still occupied due to deceptive and broken treaties. We respect their sovereignty and their right to self-determination. We honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water, and make efforts towards truth-telling reconciliation.

Letter from the Pastor

If You Can't See It...

I can't remember the details, (like names and places), but I love this story out of professional basketball. It seems there was a coach who regularly had his players lie down on the court, faces to the ceiling, and close their eyes. He then asked each player to imagine making the winning basket. He went on to have them visualize working smoothly together as a team, running the ball consistently down to their goal and making basket after basket together.



Pastor Donna Pritchard

One of his players questioned this technique, thinking it was all a waste of time. Whereupon the coach replied, "If you can't see it...you can't be it."

There is no discounting the value of a good visualization. It helps to know and it is even better to "see" where we want to go, what we want our future to hold. This is what is at the heart of our current Strategic Planning process.

Let me share with you some of the trends we have been uncovering. In the last ten years, EUMC has lost 44% of its members. Currently our membership stands at 325. Our worship attendance has declined 20% in ten years. Currently we average 260 in worship (counting

9:00 and 10:30 and Foundry and all the special seasonal services together).

Now might be a good time for each of us to lie down on our backs, close our eyes, and begin to visualize! Because I do not believe we are destined to stay on these downward paths. I do not believe that our future needs to be determined by our current trends – even considering the disruption and the ongoing trauma of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I think there is some wisdom in the saying "if you can't see it, you can't be it." So here's what I am "seeing" as I imagine the future of EUMC. I am seeing vibrant, lively worship which draws an average of 500 people to worship each week. I am seeing worship attenders who choose to become church members because this is a place where they can also become disciples of Christ, through active mission and ministry in the local community and in the larger world. I am seeing a church budget – fully subscribed – which reflects our priorities and provides adequate resources for growth. I am seeing a church which is unapologetically progressive, inclusive, socially active, and faithful to the vision of God revealed through Christ.

I am seeing a community where lives are healed, people are transformed, and hope is a constant. I am seeing... well, I could go on a long time. But I wonder – what is it that you are seeing? Because we can't be what we cannot see.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Donna

"You Asked for It"

You are invited to help craft worship for the month of August by suggesting we sing some of your favorite hymns and asking for a sermon on a specific topic. What is it you wonder about in the Bible, or in the faith as it is lived out every day? Fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday morning or bring it by the church office.

Email the following information to Pastor Donna at: donnap@edmondsumc.org

Favorite Hymn Titles: and Sermon Topics:

Calendar/Events

MONTHLY:

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

EUMC Community Dinner and Game Night - 1st Saturday of the month 6-9 pm

COMING EVENTS:

Vacation Bible School - July 10-15

"SLAM" Mission Trip to Yakama Nation - August 13-18



**EUMC Community
Dinner & Game Night**



**6:00pm-8:00pm
All are Welcome!**

Come join the EUMC community for a Casual all ages potluck and game night.

Coming up: Saturdays, July 1 and August 5
 5:30pm Setup
 6:00pm Dinner & Games

Sign up for set up or for a potluck item [HERE](#). You can add what you'd like to bring in the comments or surprise us. Bring a favorite game or activity to share if you'd like.

If you forget to RSVP, don't have time to get a potluck item, are arriving late, come anyway!! We're happy to have you.

Invite your friends, everyone welcome!

Worship Calendar

JULY 2	JULY 9	JULY 16	JULY 23	JULY 30
<p>“Joy at the Table” Letting everyone find their own joy in God</p> <p>John 15:1-8, 11</p>	<p>“Joy All Around Us” Recognizing & claiming joy</p> <p>Psalm 19</p>	<p>Guest Preacher</p>	<p>Guest Preacher</p>	<p>“Little Things Matter” Persistence & patience in ministry pays off</p> <p>Mat 13:31-33, 44-52</p>

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

Youth End-of-School-Year Celebration!



Great job everyone!



Thanks to everyone who brought food, cooked food, provided set up and clean up!



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Hello! It was so great to see so many of our youth come out for the BBQ last night. Many of the kids seemed excited about getting together in the near future. If any parents or kids have ideas for get-togethers this summer, let's work together to make that happen! Kara Rue (Brook & Mia's mom)

Saturday July 1st 6pm-8pm

EUMC Community Dinner & Game Night (all ages)

Come join in the fun! Potluck and game night Sign up to help, bring goodies, or just to come and play!

RSVP [Here](#)

July 10-14

Operation Restoration, VBS

Angela needs volunteers, register [HERE!](#)

Thursday, July 20th 5 - 7:30 pm

Youth Pool Party at Sam & Sebastian's house!

- Incoming 6th graders - Outgoing 12th graders invited!
- Pool & Hot Tub will be open!
- Pool table, too!
- Please bring a towel, and a snack or drink to share
- Dinner will be provided

919 Sprague St, Edmonds 98020

RSVP appreciated 425 773 1042 (text)

No pets or younger siblings, please

Saturday July 22nd 6pm-8pm

EUMC Community Dinner & Game Night (all ages)

Come join in the fun! Potluck and game night

[RSVP](#)

August 13-18, 2023

EUMC Youth Mission S. L. A. M. Trip on the Yakama Reservation

This is an incredible opportunity for kids to be of service and connect with the people of the Yakama Reservation.

<https://www.edmondsumc.org/slamtrip>

Contact Kara Rue if you want to join or have questions



JOIN THE FUN!
GET INVOLVED!

Strategic Planning off to a Good Start!

The Strategic Planning process for EUMC kicked off with an orientation and beginning conversation this past Sunday. Over 40 people were in attendance! If you missed it, let me fill you in:

First, the Purpose of this planning is to identify a missional identity of Edmonds United Methodist Church, in order to formulate 3 to 5 priorities for the next 5 years.

These priorities will

1. Function as a filter for integrated planning across ministries;
2. Guide engagement to increase participation levels among members and outreach to new populations;
3. Provide increased financial sustainability; and
4. Deepen community understanding of EUMC's unique theological values and social benefit.

The Strategic Plan will also help us determine the best use of our resources—people (both paid and volunteer), facilities and finances. The process will involve the Administrative Board, Council on Ministries, existing small groups, ministry teams, and all of us who call this church our home.

The Strategic Planning process is being developed and coordinated by a team (because we're in this together) of Theresa Greco, Diana Nielsen, Keith Skore and Pastor Donna.

If you missed the opening session, and would like to join the conversation now, you may do so by answering the questions posed last Sunday by emailing me:

1. **When did you first come to EUMC and what brought you here originally?**
2. **What excites you currently about EUMC?**
3. **What is one dream you have for the future of this church?**

Stay tuned (through Sunday morning announcements, E-News, and Guidelights) for next steps in our Strategic Planning process.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Donna
donnap@edmondsumc.org

Didn't make it to the kick-off?

If you weren't able to be at the kick-off, there are still many opportunities to participate and give your input. We really want your voice too! You can still answer these three questions by email to pastor Donna, or by participating in a discussion with your small group or church committee, filling out a questionnaire insert in the bulletin, attending future all-church meetings.

We want to hear from:

- parents of young children
- parents of teenagers
- teenagers
- young adults
- college students
- new members of the church
- our elders
- long time church members
- grandparents
- visitors to the church
- people of color
- people who watch us online
- LGBTQIA+ folx
- people who haven't been to the church in a long time
- people who grew up in this church, but stopped coming
- people who love the church—and people who aren't so sure
- anyone else who's not on this list!

Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth's Message for Annual Conference

Throughout the 2023 Annual Conference season across the Greater Northwest Area, Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth offered a series of 4 messages to provide a common direction to the whole conference. The GNW Area includes the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho, and Pacific Northwest Annual Conferences.



During his installation service, Bridgeforth offered a message based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan introducing the Annual Conference theme, "Go and Do Likewise," with Jesus' words providing both challenge and direction. The bishop encouraged United Methodists across the GNW to "pray with our feet" and "get to neighboring" among many other topics. He used the acronym **M.I.L.E.** to guide his speeches over the week of local Annual Conferences.

M "Ministry that matters"
June 13, 2023 - Alaska Conference. Bishop Cedrick continued a series of messages he started at his installation and continued at the opening worship of the conferences of the GNW Area. This sermon focused on "Ministry that matters" specifically in the areas of housing, health care and climate care.

I "Itineration or going the "MILE" To
June 8 - Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference
To Bishop Cedrick the focus on Itineration means getting pastoral leaders where they can thrive and getting congregations the pastoral leadership they need.

L "Lay Ministry enhancement"
June 13 - Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, Bishop Cedrick encouraged us to develop and train our Lay Ministry for greater shared ministry in our churches and our communities.

E "Eliminating racism"
June 15 – Closing Worship service, Bishop Cedrick called all of us to the task of eliminating racism in our policies and structures that perpetuate racism. A consultant has been hired to help us in our churches, districts, and conferences to develop plans and practices to make necessary cultural and structural changes.

Listen to all of Bishop Bridgeforth's sermons go to the Bishop's page for Vimeo links [HERE](#):

The Methodist Church must take responsibility for harm done at the Fort Simcoe Boarding School on the Yakama Nation Reservation

A proposal was made at Annual Conference "to collaborate and consult with the [UMC] Circle of Indigenous Ministries to initiate a process of repentance and reconciliation with the Yakama Nation and make necessary reparations" for Methodist leadership of the Simcoe Boarding School.

"Bishop, we committed harm among the Yakama people and others. We want to build healthy relationship, but to go deeper, we must acknowledge the pain we caused our neighbors. We must use our words to heal. We must remember our history, weep and wail at our history, and repent of our history and the bias it seeds. We must listen to and offer reparations for the wounds carried by those that we should have recognized as our neighbors. We feel compassion leading us beyond words to action as we follow Jesus' example of doing window work."

To read the entire statement, click [HERE](#).

Stephen Ministry Welcomes new Member, Lynne Weakland



LR - Claudia Carr, Kathi Matthes, Margaret Robinson, Tim Guirl, Lynne Weakland, Judy Lehman, Joan Hollowell, Carol Megenity

Stephen Ministry—Before or After?

I've heard that Stephen Ministry is considered the "after" event. Like after a death, or after a job loss, or after a relationship ends. But finding a Stephen Minister is also a "before".

When in crisis we often look for extra help and someone to talk to. We need someone who will not judge us, who will keep all that is said confidential and maybe just sit with us while we cry. This is certainly a good description of a Stephen Minister. We want you to know that we are always here for you in difficult situations.

But what about the time when you are contemplating change or becoming aware of

a potentially difficult situation. You aren't in crisis; you aren't sure about counseling, but you really would appreciate a listening ear. It could be nice to hear your thoughts out loud and have some help processing your next move or your steps toward a new direction. Stephen Ministers don't have all the answers, but we do have questions that can assist you in making your decisions.

These kinds of conversations can help take some of the pressure off and some of the stress out of difficult decisions.

Stephen Ministry is here for YOU.

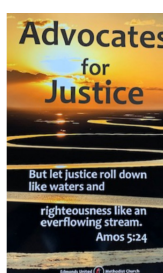
Protesting Cutting of Mature Forests in OR & WA



L-R Siouxan Christian, Lynne Weakland, Gayla Shoemake



Barb Steller made this amazing banner which was attached to the overpass and draped down so southbound traffic could see it during the 8-9:00 am rush hour. L-R Keith Skore, Barb Steller, Siouxan Christian.



EUMC folks present were Barb Steller, Siouxan Christian, Lynne Weakland, Dick Gibson, Keith Skore, and Gayla Shoemake. Friends from EUUC were Gayle Leberg, Barb Powers, and Julie Caruso. We received approximately 120 honks during that hour—but we sometimes forgot to count.

Save Our Forests

On June 26th EUMC Advocates joined environmentalists from all over Oregon and Washington who were waving signs and banners on over-passes on I-5 in Oregon and Washington during rush hour. We learned that both states were cutting mature forests on public lands, rather than leaving the trees as carbon sequesterers. We are asking governors and administrators of both states to STOP this destruction of forests because cutting trees not only destroys the trees—our best eaters of carbon—but also puts more carbon into the atmosphere in the act of cutting the trees.

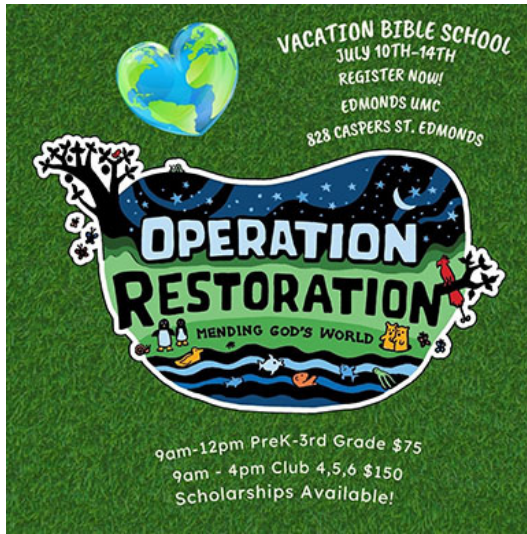
Snohomish County is making decisions soon about allowing logging of mature trees on county land and likewise DNR in both Washington and their partner state department in Oregon. Given the role trees play in mitigating climate issues, even considering cutting mature trees seems, at best, short-sighted.

Solar Panels

Research on solar panels is ongoing, mostly awaiting clear information from the federal and state governments on how we can access resources from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Please forward any new information you might have to Gayla Shoemake.

Plant-Based Diet Workshop

Environmental Advocates invite you to save a Sunday in October for the Plant-Based Diet Workshop. We will have information, recipes, answer questions, and more. Specifics will be coming in the next Guidelights.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

INFO

GIVE SO A YOUTH CAN PARTICIPATE IN VBS OR A MISSION TRIP!

Are you in a position to support and bless others financially? Follow the link below or scan the QR code to give online through our secure website. Choose Children and Youth in the drop down menu to support these summer programs!

<https://edmondsumc.breezechms.com/give/online>



Have a good summer.
The next Guidelights will
come out in September.

Pastor
Donna Pritchard

Church Administrator
Denise Williams

Director of Worship Arts
David Hendrix

Director of Family Ministries
TBA

Ellen McMurrey
Accountant/Bookkeeper

Director of Children's Center
Natalie DeLeon

Children's Center Staff:
Laurie Brown
Marie Chessman
Salwa Ibrahim
Maritza Lianos
Anna Lund
Rachel Molloy
Sarah Shelley
Anna Thompson

Facilities Manager
Kevin Danberg

Custodian:
Tony Garcia

VBS Director
Angela Molloy

GOODBYE PASTOR ANN!

WE WILL MISS YOU
and your little dog too!



Ann & Coco

GUIDELIGHTS SUBMISSION

Due by the 21st of the month prior.
Next deadline is August 21.
Articles less than 400 words. In-
clude a picture or graphic.

Guidelights editor: Diana Nielsen
Proof readers: Shelly Ehni, Cheryl Hay

**A word about removal of contact
information in this newsletter**

In recent years, churches have become targets for internet scams. As such we no longer include phone numbers and email addresses for congregants listed in this newsletter. Please refer to the church directory or the online membership directory on *Breeze*. (Contact the church office for access to *Breeze*.)



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Join us for Sunday worship at 10 am in-person an online at www.edmondsumc.org