

Guidelights

EDMONDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024 | VOLUME 70 - ISSUE 3



PHOTO BY JULIE BOYD

Hope Springs Eternal

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

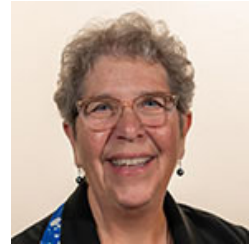
Thank you! Thank you to each of you who prayerfully, thoughtfully, and generously responded to this year's Pledge Campaign. Now more than ever we are putting our money where we say our priorities live, and it is thanks to all of you.

As of the end of February we have received 152 pledges for a total of \$849,460 toward our general operating budget of \$1.2 million this year. There are still some pledges coming in (if you haven't given us your estimate of giving, please do so soon!), and we can expect to receive additional funds (typically as much as \$300,000) from sources beyond pledges.

So, this is good news for our ministries and for the future of our church. Now, more than ever, I want to say "thank you"!

Now, speaking of our stated priorities (Children, Youth and Families; Social Justice work; Welcome, Inclusion and Diversity; Stable Leadership and Governance; Community Service and Outreach; and Music)—please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, March

17, to hear an update on the work of our Strategic Priority Teams and to discuss next steps as we live into our dreams. This meeting will be held in Wesley Hall as a part of our coffee hour.



Pastor Donna Pritchard

This will be a busy month for all of us as we continue our Lent journey preparing for Easter. Please make note of the Holy Week Schedule and mark your calendar now for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Donna

"So, this is good news for our ministries and for the future of our church. Now, more than ever, I want to say 'thank you'!"

SERMON CALENDAR

March Sermon Topics

March 3	Lent 3	"What will the Neighbors Think?"
March 10	Lent 4	"Necessary Exposure"
March 17	Lent 5	"Dying to Live"
March 24	Palm Sunday	"Off the Record"
March 31	Easter Sunday	"Resurrection"

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, March 8, 6-8:00 pm

COMING EVENTS:

Palestine Documentary, "1913: Seeds of Conflict"- Sunday March 10 after worship in the Chapel

Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Sunday, March 31, 10:15 am

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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:



A graphic with a purple and yellow background featuring a large cross on the right side. The text is arranged in two columns, listing the days of Holy Week with their respective times. The background has a subtle pattern of small dots.

HOLY WEEK	
March 24, 10:00 am	Palm Sunday
March 28, 7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday
March 29, 7:00 pm	Good Friday
March 30, 7:00 pm	Holy Saturday
March 31, 9 & 11:00 am	Easter Sunday

EDMONDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
IN THE SANCTUARY

Click [HERE](#) for more information on Holy Week

All-Church Strategic Planning Meeting

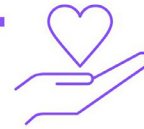
Sunday, March 17, following worship in the Wesley Room

- Team reports
- Team collaborations
- Questions



NOW More Than Ever

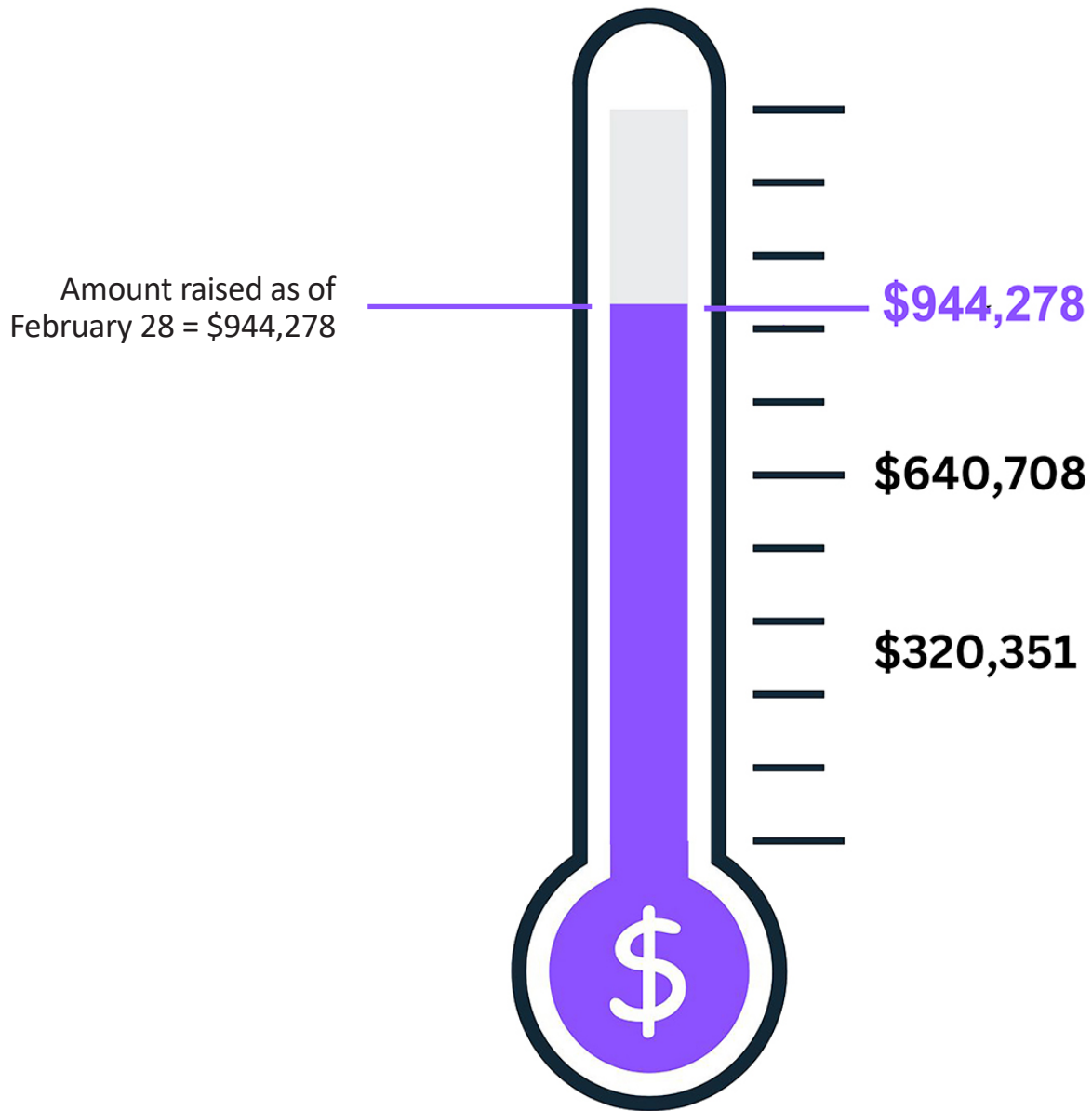
2024 Stewardship Campaign



[CLICK HERE TO PLEDGE](#)

CAMPAIGN UPDATE!

GOAL = \$1,281,416



Many thanks to Chuck Maki and Mary Bohmke for chairing our Stewardship Campaign this year!

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.



Sunday morning help!

EUMC is looking for 3 to 4 nurturing and committed adults to provide caregiving in the nursery (0-3 yr olds) on a rotating basis during Sunday mornings, 9:30-11:30. Position can be paid or unpaid—college student, grandparent, etc. Please reach out to Karin with any interested candidates or connections, karinj@edmondsumc.org.

JOIN THE FUN!



All children in the church and community are invited to our Easter Egg Hunt between our Easter Services at 10:15 am. Rain or shine! Gather in the library to be directed to the starting point.

Next Dinner and Games Night on March 8



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. Sign up below. Feel free to drop in for any part of it. In the Wesley room, Friday March 8, 6:00-8:00 pm. Set-up starts at 5:30.

Invite your friends, everyone is welcome!

Sign up on [SignUp Genius](#)

Lessons From the Pandemic

From the Stephen Ministers

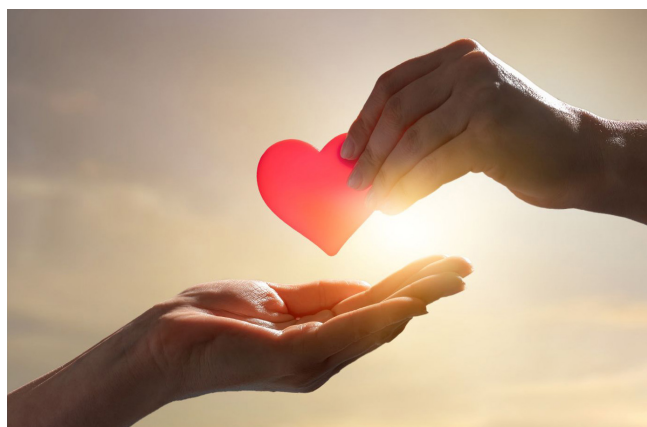
The Covid-19 pandemic thrust many challenging changes upon us: deaths from the virus, job losses, business closures, sheltering at home, caring for children and aging parents, overworked healthcare workers, restricted family gatherings, in-person church, and more. In looking back closely over the past four years, we can glean some positive changes that occurred.

1. Blessings—Often we neglect to appreciate the gifts in our lives until they are taken away. Covid-19 has helped us appreciate many of the things we may have taken for granted.

2. Compassion—Here are a few ways we have learned more compassion: healthcare workers who selflessly served us, neighbors, friends, and strangers who shared with us and helped us.

3. Creativity—Creativity flourished during the pandemic. Ways to connect and adjust took on new dimensions and taught us all to think outside the box.

4. Togetherness Despite Limitations—We learned how to maintain our connections with others by brainstorming ways to keep our relationships solid, finding creative ways to nurture each other and grow despite limitations. Online church is now a part of this new way to be a community.



5. A Greater Appreciation for Teachers—As parents assumed a larger portion of the responsibility for the education of their children, they learned a greater appreciation for what it takes to educate a child and now no longer take their child’s teacher for granted.

6. Interest in Reading—During the pandemic many people began to read more. Others wrote notes of encouragement and support for others. Many started activities that were neglected pre-Covid, such as games, cooking at home, and family meals together.

7. Spiritual Growth—Churches found innovative ways to minister to others. Pastors learned Facebook Live and Zoom. Music directors brought wonderful music to our homes. Churches learned to bring church to people by adopting technology,

reaching many who would not ordinarily worship in a traditional congregation with four walls. This continues.

8. A Right Perspective on Ourselves—With restricted freedoms and our health threatened, our ability to earn and spend money limited or gone, much of our independence evaporated. We learned that we are not self-sufficient, that we rely on God and others to survive. May we never forget this lesson from the Pandemic.

stephen
MINISTRY®

"Often we neglect to appreciate the gifts in our lives until they are taken away."

Black History and the "Methodist Building Cafeteria"

"On February 21, 1947, the process to serve everyone at the Methodist Building Cafeteria on Capitol Hill no matter the color, race or creed began."

For a century, social witness and justice seeking have been the watchwords for the work of Church and Society on Capitol Hill.

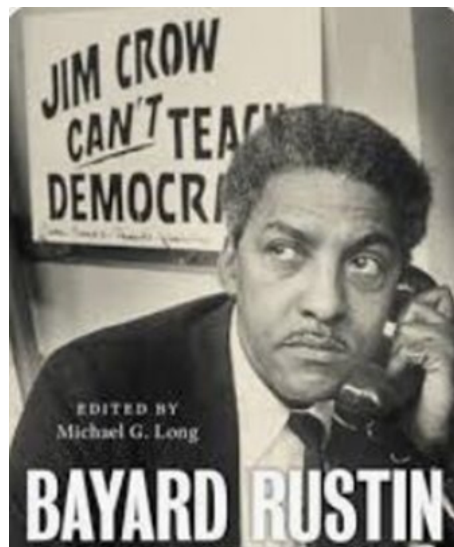
Unfortunately, there have been times when we as an agency neglected and participated in acts of injustice and racism in our own house. For this, we repent and pray for forgiveness.

From the earliest days, The Methodist Building operated a cafeteria for people who were Church and Society employees, staffers on Capitol Hill. Senators, House Members, Methodist people from around the world, tourists and visitors.

This cafeteria was officially segregated until February 21, 1947 when the agency began the process of changing the cafeteria's segregation policy, becoming the only integrated cafeteria on Capitol Hill in 1947.

As one might expect, the building cafeteria manager received numerous negative letters for the buildings' integrated service policy. However, many messages welcomed and honored the new change.

Bayard Rustin a civil rights activist (photo on right from Time Magazine article) and the great architect of the March on Washington, along with his colleagues were instrumental in



desegregating the dining room in The Methodist Building. Throughout 1947, with Rustin as its Chairperson, a committee of citizens made up of pastors and leaders from around the country worked tirelessly delivering proposals and organizing protests opposing segregation in D.C. coffee shops and cafeterias.



The Rev. James Cannon, Pastor of Asbury Methodist Church in D.C. was among the members of the citizen committee seeking an end to the practice of refusing service to black people in D.C. cafeterias. During a committee meeting held July 24, 1947 at Asbury Methodist Church, Rustin reported, "was the successful breaking down of the practice of not serving colored persons in The Methodist Building Cafeteria, 100 Maryland avenue NE." as written in the Washington Evening Star, July 25, 1947. The Washington Evening Star Newspaper was the predecessor to the Washington Post.

The United Methodist Building, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, continues to be a faith-based, strategic space and vital gathering place for social witness and the pursuit of justice and peace.

*From the General Board of Church and Society
<https://www.umcjustice.org/>*

Advocates For Justice – Environment

Solar Panels to be installed at Edmonds United Methodist Church



The Advocates for Justice – Environment team would like to thank the Church Administrative Board for their approval to install solar panels on the south facing sections of our facilities.



The ability for the church to do this is primarily based upon the work the church does to support low-income families which qualify us for the *State of Washington Community Solar Expansion Program*. The church programs reviewed by State are:

- Housing the Edmonds Food Bank
- Operating the Children's Center
- Mission giving from the Kathlyn James Fund
- Refugee Resettlement program
- Mission giving in support of those in need of housing and food assistance

The Community Solar Expansion Program will provide up to 75% of the cost to install and commission the solar panels after any other grant funding. This will fund \$132,000 of the cost.

In addition, the *Federal Government's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)* allows non-profit organizations to receive a grant for up to 30% of the cost of installation of solar panels. This will fund \$75,400 of the cost.

The State of Washington exempted the installation of solar panels from sales taxes, lowering the cost of installation by approximately \$25,000.

These two grants will fund a total of 82.5% of the installation cost (\$207,400). The remaining funds, about \$45,000, will be funded from our Open Endowment Fund as an investment which will reduce electric costs by almost \$12,000 annually.

ATTENTION! Things that you need to know!

Does your church ministry group need project funding?

Applications due on April 1

The Gillespie Fund

The Gillespie fund provides grants to ministries already established within the church. Gillespie grants are awarded to outreach ministries that exemplify their commitment to “make disciples” in our community.

These grants are intended to fund something extra for the ministry, and not just replace the regular budget.

Kathlyn James Endowment Fund

The Kathlyn James Endowment Fund provides grants for innovative ministry proposals - submitted from all age groups within the congregation who are members of EUMC.

Completed applications must provide the committee with substantive information with a specific focus on serving families and children in poverty.

Priority is given to applications that provide opportunities for active ministry participation by the EUMC faith community.

The next round of applications are due on April 1. The applications are on the website. [Click here.](#)

Movie with a Message

"Miss Potter"

Saturday, March 9, 3:00pm, Library
Miss Potter is a 2006 biographical drama film directed by Chris Noonan. It is based on the life of children's author and illustrator Beatrix Potter, and combines stories from her own life with animated sequences featuring characters from her stories, such as Peter Rabbit.

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.

"1913: Seeds of Conflict"

Our Palestine Advocates for Justice team invite you to watch the documentary "1913: Seeds of Conflict" on Sunday March 10th in the Chapel after worship service. This one hour film explains aspects of the complicated history that prepared the region for the present time. Christians, Jews and Muslims were living side by side long before the Balfour Declaration and British Mandate period. A brief time for discussion will follow. Any questions, please contact Cheryl Hay, Rev. Dick Gibson or Rev. Stan Fowler.

2024 Admin Board Members Meet for Training

High on the agenda for the Admin Board this year is refining and clarifying our church governing structure. Back in 2020 our church moved to a "Single Board Governance," a new more stream-lined structure to simplify and speed up the decision making process. The process got off to a bumpy start with the pandemic and quarantine swirling around us. Some things are working well—but other things—could be better.

Out of the Strategic Planning Process came The Stable Leadership and Governance Team (SLAG) which was formed to address governance issues (Alex Araujo, Page Campbell, Mary Feldhaus, Cheryl Hay, Deb Hawley, team facilitator, Diana Nielsen, Keith Skore, Dave Walters).

The SLAG team has been meeting regularly since last November with a focus on better un-

derstanding the Single Governance Model and how to make improvements in implementation. They presented a proposal to the Admin Board to bring Gregg Sealey, a retired Methodist Pastor, to consult and train the Board on improvements to our governing structure.

Gregg joined the Board at their annual retreat on Saturday, February 23rd from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm to provide training in the SBG model and ways to implement improvements, clarify procedures and roles, and get more people involved in conversations and development of our ministry programs—with a better communication plan throughout all levels of church governance.

It was a highly productive day, and the board looks forward to working with the congregation as we move forward in the implementation of our Strategic Goals—together.



2024 Board Members –

Members serve for a term of three years

Ed Egerdahl, Treasurer - 2nd year
Pam Erickson, Secretary – 1st year
Mary Feldhaus – 1st year
Chuck Gillespie – 2nd year
Deb Hawley – 2nd year
Marlene Lund*– 3rd year
Laurie Napa, President - 3rd year
Diana Nielsen – 2nd year
Judy Phillips – 1st year

Keith Skore,* Vice President – 1st year
Jake Waldron – 2nd year
Jorge Valcarcel – newly appointed member

Donna Pritchard, Pastor
Denise Williams, Church Administrator
Lynn and Ron Heitritter, Church Co-Lay Leaders

**Lay Member to Annual Conference*

Refugee Resettlement Ministry Update: Pictures worth a thousand words

by Lynn Heitritter

Since 2018, the refugee resettlement team has helped to resettle 40 refugees – 25 from Ukraine and 15 from Afghanistan – including 12 adults and 28 children.

We have experienced that a “long welcome” is required to adequately support families who are adjusting to a new language and foreign culture. Our resettlement goal continues to be promoting successful self-sufficiency for our beloved families as they integrate into our local community.

Our team continues to deliver weekly food bank food and we supply diapers on a monthly basis through our partnership with Washington Kids in Transition. We have extended food support to our Ukrainian refugee families who are housing family members escaping from the war in Ukraine.

We monitor school progress and assist if there are challenges. We accompany family members to appointments when there are medical concerns.

With delight, we are often invited to join our refugee families for birthday gatherings, picnics, and other special celebrations.

Highlights include our joy in welcoming five locally born U.S. citizens – with one more little boy on the way in June! For two of these births, I had the sacred privilege of accompanying our Afghan mothers throughout their labor and delivery.



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

READER SURVEY



Help us improve the Guidelights by
answering a few questions.

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

We PROMISE the link works this time!

GUIDELIGHTS SUBMISSION

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

diana.nielsen@comcast.net

Next deadline is MARCH 20.

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

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

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

Member of the Reconciling Ministries Network

