

Guidelights

EDMONDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023 | VOLUME 69 - ISSUE 7



Photo by Lisa Burns

Song for Autumn

by Mary Oliver

Don't you imagine the leaves dream now
how comfortable it will be to touch
the earth instead of the
nothingness of the air and the endless
freshets of wind? And don't you think
the trees, especially those with
mossy hollows, are beginning to look for
the fires that will come—six, a dozen—to sleep

inside their bodies? And don't you hear
the goldenrod whispering goodbye,
the everlasting being crowned with the first
tuffets of snow? The pond
stiffens and the white field over which
the fox runs so quickly brings out
its long blue shadows. The wind wags
its many tails. And in the evening
the piled firewood shifts a little,
longing to be on its way.

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

In the 12th chapter of the book of Romans, the apostle Paul lifts up the image of the church as the body of Christ. Eugene Peterson paraphrases Romans 12:4-6 with these words:

"In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't."

This is a great image for us as we continue our work on a Strategic Plan for Edmonds United Methodist Church. We need each other, and every voice counts as we identify our five priorities for the next five years. If you have been working in an area of ministry, or engaged in a particular learning process that you would like to see continue, or if you have a pressing concern you would like to see us address, be sure to participate in the planning process.

On Sunday, October 15, our 10:00 worship will focus on what we have learned about the

needs of the community around our church, as we continue the conversation. Then on Saturday, November 11, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm plan to join the Strategic Planning Retreat, under the guidance of the Rev. Dana Brown, Leadership and Organizational Consultant with 20 years' experience directing non-profits and building the leadership of low-income people to make social change. Dana is a gifted facilitator who will help us listen deeply to one another and to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst. The retreat will be engaging, fast-paced, highly relational and fun. You won't want to miss it!



Pastor Donna Pritchard

Again, in Peterson's paraphrase of Paul: *"I'm speaking to you of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you."* (Romans 12:3)

Living in pure grace, I give thanks for every member of this body of Christ, and for all we are doing – and will yet do – together.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Donna

Sermon Calendar

October 1	World Communion Sunday	"Spread the Table Wide - Company's Coming!" Rev. Ken Burr preaching
October 8	Blessing of the Animals	"Take a Breath: Be Still and Hold Your Breath"
October 15	Needs of Our Neighbors	"Take a Breath: Breathe Out Love"
October 22		"Take a Breath: Breathe Out Justice"
October 29		"Take a Breath: Breathe Our Possibility"

Calendar/Events

MONTHLY:

- Foundry Service - 1st Sunday of the month 6-7:00 pm in the sanctuary
- Potluck & Game Night - 2nd Friday of the month 6-8:00 pm in the Wesley Room
- Meet & Greet with the Pastor - 2nd Sunday of the month in the Library following worship
- Communion Sunday - 1st Sunday of the month

COMING EVENTS:

- Gillespie and James Endowment Funds applications due - October 1
- Blessing of the Animals - Sunday Worship, October 8, 10:00 am
- Strategic Planning in Worship - Sunday Worship, October 15, 10:00 am
- Administrative Board Meeting, October 17, 6-7:00 pm open meeting, 7-8:00 pm Board members only
- All Church Strategic Planning Retreat - Saturday, November 11, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

“Meet & Greets” – with the Pastor

The 2nd Sunday of each month, newcomers to EUMC are specially invited to join Pastor Donna in the library immediately following worship for a time to connect, ask questions about the church, and begin to get acquainted. If you’ve only been here a few times, or if you have a burning question that’s been on your mind, please don’t miss this chance to “Meet and Greet”.



Five Priorities
Five Years
Strategic Plan

**Mark your calendars! All-Church Strategic Planning
Retreat - Saturday, Nov. 11, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**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.

Friday, October 13, Wesley Room

5:30 pm Set up

6:00 pm 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!

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

HOMECOMING SUNDAY AND CHILI-COOK-OFF

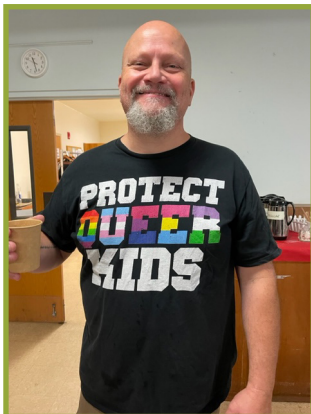
1st Place

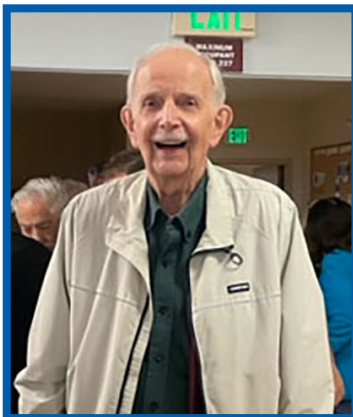


2nd Place



3rd Place





A big thank you to Kathy Karner and the kitchen crew, the musicians, to all the Chili Cook-off contestants, to the dessert makers, and to everyone who came and had such a good time. It is good to be together in fun and fellowship!



Preparing for the Retreat on November 11



REGISTER
NOW

Last spring, we started meeting as a congregation to learn the dreams we each hold for Edmonds UMC. Ultimately, our prioritized dreams will help determine five congregation priorities to guide our collective decisions in the coming five years.

We are grateful so many of you participated in the first set of discussions about your dreams for our church.

Now, we are preparing the main event of our process, Strategic Planning Retreat on November 11th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in Kennedy Hall. So mark your calendars to attend and fill out the registration form at the bottom.

Strategic Planning Retreat 11-11

Why is it so important for you to come to this event? The Retreat where everything comes together to determine our five congregational Priority Goals for the next five years. We need your continued voice and input in the process – especially if you have not had a chance to come to the other meetings. All voices matter. This plan involves all of us.

We will review the survey information and workshop data where we learned about our collective dreams for the church and the knowledge gained from local demographic data, and review the community needs we learned about through one-to-one conversations.

With this important step forward, our retreat will be led by Dana Brown, Leadership and Organizational Consultant with 20 years' experience directing non-profits and building the leadership of low-income people to make social change. The first part of the day will be an overview of the process, discussion about ground rules, and a review of our work done to this point as foundation for the day's work.

We will move between large and small group discussions throughout the day to share our thoughts and priorities for the church and then together distill those down into a handful of Priority Goal areas.

When we reach consensus on the five Priority Goals that we will use over the next five years to guide our missional work, we will begin the next step of identifying development ideas for each Priority Goal area and start conversations on those ideas. This step will continue beyond the retreat in small work groups to bring more clarity to specific measurable goals.

REGISTER NOW by clicking the button above.

The doors open at 9:30 am for coffee and pastries and the retreat begins at 10:00 am. Lunch will be provided, and you must sign up in advance, so we know how to plan. Childcare will be provided for the day as well with advance notice. (Sign up with registration.) The schedule is packed, and we are grateful for your ownership and commitment to this important step in the Strategic Planning process.

Meet Karin, our new Director of Family Ministries

Before Karin even knew there was a job opening at the church, she felt something tug at her when she drove past the building. The tug happened again and again so she finally went to the website to learn about the church—and there on the homepage was the announcement for the Director of Family Ministries position. And even though she'd just taken another part-time position, she felt perhaps that she should apply—and now here she is, the newest member of our staff. A coincidence? We don't think so. Karin fits our job description and our church so well and we feel truly blessed and honored to have her here.

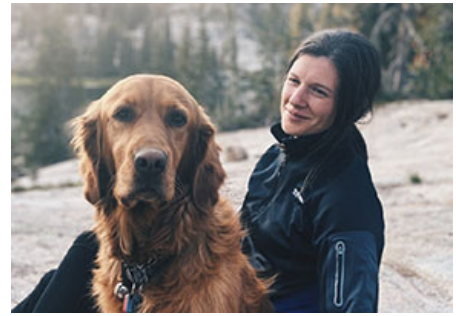
Working with kids has been her life's work. She loves their honesty, light and spirit. She has worked with kids as a certified teacher, camp director, church leader, and wilderness guide.

Why church ministry? "Because you can talk to kids about things that really matter" says Karin, "you can't always do that as a schoolteacher." Karin loves to talk with kids about spiritual things in daily life. "Teens want to talk about what's really relevant to them right now. So it's important to adjust the conversation to what's on their minds. I just listen a lot."

Her hope and commitment to the church is that every child who enters the church doors feels safe, seen and celebrated. We all need safe places to be ourselves and express who we really are. Kids won't thrive without that. Every adult in this church has the opportunity to help make this a safe and open church for all our children. "Children need many adults they can trust and learn from, and churches are in a unique position to do that. In this digital age, we want them to have lots of face-to-face time with adults and peers. Intergenerational relationships are really important too. And they need lots of laughter, mental health tools, friendships, support and to celebrate beauty in all its forms." They need a community that will model and teach the formation of faith and grace.

Karin also looks forward to working with par-

ents and having conversations about parenting in a way that helps parents and families support



Karin and Mango

one another. "It's a hard time to parent. There are so many demands on time, and so many anxieties in our culture." Karin plans to draw on the wisdom and experience of members of the church who have training in mental health, who are educators, or want to help organize children, youth, and family activities.

Our families are a vital part of the church and our future. It's an important time for all of us in the church to step up and get involved in family ministry. There is something we all can do and if the spirit is tugging on you too—let Karin know. She will be glad to have you join this important ministry and it's pretty much guaranteed you will have lots of fun and laughter with Karin in charge!

The Children's and Youth Programs Need YOU!

Do you love working with kids? Do you enjoy having meaningful conversations with teenagers? With a new school year already underway, we are in great need of volunteers to **SHOW** our dear children and youth how much we love, support, and advocate for their presence within this EUMC community.

If you are even the tiniest bit interested, please email our Director of Family Ministries, Karin Johnson at karinj@edmondsumc.org to find out more.

THANK YOU!

UMC Trial Reveals Underlying Systemic Racism

"We cannot learn from what we do not see, and so talking about (racism and anti-racism) in public is an important first step."

Elicia Cardenas

September 15 to October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month. The Racial Justice Team intended to share ways to observe and celebrate the contributions and work of our Hispanic siblings. Instead, we want to bear witness to our denomination's version of the trial of the century and offer some reflections on work that we must continue to do to end systemic racism. Bishop Minerva Carcaño, the first Latina bishop, also became the first to go on trial in the Western Jurisdiction in over 100 years. On Friday, September 22, her trial concluded when a jury dismissed all four charges against her. We want to share with our EUMC community how this trial demonstrates the need to do as Bishop Cedrick asks and confront systemic and structural racism.

Kimberlé Crenshaw, law professor and author of Critical Race Theory, explains that women of color experience an intersection of multiple systemic barriers. These barriers impact how women of color navigate the world. The socially constructed identities around race, gender, class, etc., have real consequences in health outcomes, career trajectories, and the ability to accumulate wealth. In a 2014 study, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) discovered that women of color comprise less than 4% of all clergy in our denomination. In the Pacific Northwest Conference, no women of color lead the most prominent and best-paying churches. As such, female clergy of color in our conference hit more than a glass ceiling. Carcaño's experience of a 19-month suspension and full jurisdictional trial is a prime example of structural and systemic racism. We see it. We name it. We ask our community to join us in a call to address it.

The Racial Justice Team recognizes that this trial impacts our clergy and laity of color, and we grieve and stand in solidarity with you.

The Racial Justice Team renews its commitment to the work of racial justice here at EUMC.

We call for deep, consistent conversations and antiracist actions to heal the wounds this trial caused. We remind our community of the upcoming discussions around how to become an antiracist and multicultural organization and the importance of learning our history.

En Solidaridad.



The Racial Justice Team

For more information and perspective, go to <https://marchaumc.org/>

"We create transformative, resilient new realities by becoming transformed, resilient people."

Krista Tippett

Advocates for Justice — Environment

SOLAR PANELS

Discussions regarding solar panels for the church are moving forward. The planning team made a request to the Administrative Board for permission to begin an investigative conversation with the state about applying for state incentive funds towards the purchase of solar panels for the church. Other funding sources are also being explored.

PLANT-BASED DIET WORKSHOP

Save the dates! Sundays January 14 through February 4 after church we will be presenting "Conscious Cuisine for Curious Carnivores" - you won't want to miss it! Details coming soon.

Small Group Ministries Highlight

Sisters Group - You Reap what you Sow

Planting bulbs for next Spring's beautiful floral display. Thank you Sisters (and your helper!)



Mexican Train Dominoes group

This is a lively, active ASF group that meets weekly in the church Library all year long. Open to all ages for this fun social game group!

No need to register. Just show up.
Wednesdays weekly - ongoing | 1:30-4:00pm
in the Library



"No matter where life takes you,
 the place that you stand at any
 moment is holy ground. Love hard
 and love wide and love long and
 you will find the goodness in it."

Susan Vreeland

Mission Endowment Fund: Seed Money for Dreams

**The Mission Endowment Application
Deadline is THIS Sunday - October 1, 2023**

There are two mission endowment funds available for applications:

The Dave and Kris Gillespie Endowment Fund

The Kathlyn James Endowment Fund

Gillespie Fund

The Gillespie fund provides grants to ministries already established within the church. Gillespie grants are awarded to outreach ministries that emphasize their commitment to “make disciples of Jesus Christ” in our community. These grants are intended to fund something extra for the ministry, and not just replace the regular budget.

For example, the Gillespie Fund has provided grants for scholarships to the Women’s retreat and scholarships for children to be able to attend VBS.

Funds from the Gillespie grant were also used to expand EUMC’s scouting program to develop a troop for girls.



The Gillespie Fund covered the cost of teaching materials, troop expenses for outings and scholarship funds for girls whose families were not able to pay the required dues needed to be a member.

[Click here to complete "Gillespie Fund Application."](#)

Kathlyn James Endowment Fund

The Kathlyn James Endowment Fund provides grants for innovative ministry proposals submitted by members of EUMC. Applications must have 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.

In the local community, Kathlyn James funds have assisted refugee families and children to resettle into our community.



This is a picture of many of our refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan.

In the global community, the Kathlyn James fund has assisted EUMC church member Chidi Okoro to build schools for children in her home village in rural Nigeria.



**All Saints Academy
Abia State, Nigeria**

This is a before and after photo of some of the great work Chidi has done.

[Click here to complete "Kathlyn James Fund Application."](#)

Caring for the Caregiver

“Thirty-nine percent of all adult Americans are caring for an adult with a chronic health condition. Caregiving can be a stressful responsibility leading to poor health, mental distress, and less life satisfaction for the caregiver. It can be challenging for caregivers to find the support that they need” (Danielle Day, Iowa State University)

Our Stephen Ministers are offering a series of three classes on Caregiving and how to care for loved ones while also caring for oneself. How do we care for our own needs while addressing the needs of the person we’re caring for can seem an impossible challenge.

In the caregiving classes we will focus on precisely how to meet this challenge:

- How to identify and manage problem situations
- How to cope with the impact of stress while caregiving
- How to communicate effectively and establish healthy boundaries
- How to identify and manage emotions as a caregiver

The three classes will be taught by Stephen Ministers who have completed training through the six-week “Powerful Tools for Caregivers” course. Please join us to learn some powerful caregiving tools, whether you are currently caring for someone, or may in the future.

When: Three Sundays, Oct. 22, 29, Nov. 5, right after the church service

Where: Wesley Room

Class Format: Presentation by Stephen Ministers, followed by a question and answer discussion period.

Click here to [REGISTER](#).

stephen
MINISTRY®

Church Staff

Pastor
Donna Pritchard

Church Administrator
Denise Williams

Director of Worship Arts
David Hendrix

Director of Family Ministries
Karin Johnson

Accountant/Bookkeeper
Ellen McMurrey

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

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

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Next deadline is October 20.
Articles less than 400 words. Include
a picture or graphic.

Guidelights editor: Diana Nielsen
Proofreaders: Shelly Ehni, Cheryl Hay



**Edmonds
United
Methodist
Church**

GUIDELIGHTS (USPS 004-110)
is published monthly by
Edmonds United Methodist Church
828 Caspers Street,
Edmonds, WA 98020-2618.

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