

Edmonds United Methodist Church

Guidelights

February 2020 // Volume 66 - Issue 2



Worship Calendar

Verse of the month

"No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house."

- Matthew 5:15

FEBRUARY 2

Pastor Ann preaching,
"Shine Bright!"

Text: Matthew 5:13-20

Holy Communion for All

Foundry at 6:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 9

Pastor Jerry preaching,
"The Deepest Sermon
Ever Preached"

Text: I Corinthians 1:18-31,
CEB; Matthew 5:1-12

Foundry at 6:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 16

President's Day Weekend

Pastor Jerry preaching,
"Jesus Reviews Our
Growing Edges"

Text: Matthew 5:21-37;
Deuteronomy 30:15-20,
CEB

Foundry at 6:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 23

Pastor Jerry preaching

Text: Matthew 17:1-9

Foundry at 6:00 p.m.

Prior to the start of Lent, we offer to you
**Healing Services for
Repentance, Re-creation, & Hope**

Wednesdays on February 5, 12, and 19,
at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Welcome Words

February is a great time to express God's love as well as the Welcoming spirit. Think about writing letters or cards to people who are home-bound, in nursing homes, or in the hospital. Write a note to a newcomer you met at church and offer a welcome and encourage their return. Send a Valentine and let someone know you miss seeing them at church or in your neighborhood. "Real mail" is heartfelt!

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Letters from the Pastors



As I write these words, the US Senate is hosting a presidential impeachment trial. The whole matter might be in our rear-view mirror as you read this. But the issues remain relevant. We, who profess common faith in Jesus, may wonder which candidate(s) Jesus would support if he were walking among us today. I do! We know all

the leading candidates for President profess Christian faith (except for Bernie Sanders, who claims Jewish heritage). How does one determine which candidate Jesus wants us to support? Is that the question we should ask?

Let me clarify my theology of American politics. I consider Proverb 21:1 (The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of God. God turns it wherever God will), Romans chapter 13, which calls us to be subject to those in authority, and 1 Timothy chapter 2 which calls us to pray for those who have authority over us, as well as other texts. My conclusion is that God is interested and active in the political affairs of nations, even ours.

Back to the question I posed above. We might think that wherever we could find candidates who quoted Matthew 25, they must be the ones we should support. Yet finding a helpful guiding strategy is not that simple. For example, Jesus was a pacifist, so we might expect him to condemn soldiers or those who carried weapons. But Matthew 8, tells the story of how Jesus related to the Centurion. Furthermore, Jesus held a high moral standard, yet we read in 1 Samuel 13 the story of David and his adultery, (which may well

have involved coercion). But after Nathan confronted David about his sin, David repented and God (after taking the life of the child conceived from that liaison) blessed David and he continued to be a man after God's own heart. These matters around a theology of politics are not simple.

In this election year, I want to encourage us to stretch ourselves. Do we often have conversations about local or national political concerns with people who disagree with us? I challenge us to intentionally invite someone of different political views to a conversation, and then to listen. Make it a habit! When we do it, we usually discover that each person has found some of the truth, sometimes only a small morsel, but at least a bit. Let's be careful not to oversimplify political issues or exaggerate our preferred candidate's assets while minimizing their liabilities. A good debater can articulate the other side's case as well as their own. Can we do that?

My bottom line is that God is active in the current political affairs of our nation and others as well, with one caveat (see Romans 8:28). I pray that God will send us the leaders we need, though they may not necessarily be the leaders we most want. One more thing: I assume that just as I pray the Holy Spirit continues my sanctification day and night (see John Wesley's writings here), I assume the same is taking place among candidates who profess our faith, and even those with whose political views I disagree, whether I can see their gradual maturing or not. Can anyone see mine? How about yours?

In His grip,
Jerry



"Since my youth, I think that I have never lost the intuition that community life could be a sign that God is love, and love alone. Gradually the conviction took shape in me that it was essential to create a community with [people] determined to give their whole life and who would always try to understand one another and be

reconciled, a community where kindness of heart and simplicity would be at the center of everything." These are words from the founder of the Taizé Community, Brother Roger, from "God is love alone." Today, the Taizé Community, located in Burgundy, France is made up of over one hundred brothers who are Catholics and from various Protestant backgrounds representing around thirty nations. Every summer, thousands of young people spend a week at Taizé studying scriptures, praying and singing, sharing stories, participating in workshops, engaging in communal

work, and living a simple life in community.

I went to Taizé for the first time as a young adult and it was a transformative time. Experiences of silence, song, and sharing with friends from around the world helped me hear the genuine within myself. It was such an incredible experience that I returned two more times. This year, in Taizé's 80th year, the global United Methodist Church is organizing a "Wesley Week" at Taizé during the first week of August. And we are excited to announce that Edmonds United Methodist Church is planning on participating in it! We will have information sessions in February and are hoping that all our youth and young adults who are curious and interested will have an opportunity to attend and learn more. As we begin a new month, I am hoping that as a beloved community we embody reconciliation – an essential way of living in the Taizé Community and journeying in our Christian faith. I pray that our young people who go to Taizé this summer will have an opportunity to encounter Love, embody reconciliation and kindness, and return to us inspired to teach and lead us in a new way!

Pea Patch Garden Spots Available

Are you interested in growing garden-fresh vegetables for your family and/or the Food Bank? We have several plots available in our sunny garden. Contact Gail Colson if you are interested at colsongail@yahoo.com, 425-771-9402.

Mary's Place Ministry

EUMC has had a long relationship with Mary's Place, an organization that provides safe, inclusive shelter and services that support women, children, and families on their journey out of homelessness. EUMC ministry is in the form of tangible donations, which are collected in a basket located downstairs in the Aldersgate room next to the other donation bins, and delivered to Mary's Place. Currently there is a high need for the following:

- Twin Sheets & Blankets (URGENT NEED)
- Maternity Clothes
- NEW Underwear (all sizes & genders)
- Stroller Covers
- Towels
- Hair Brushes (new)

You can find information on other needed items here:
www.marysplaceseattle.org/share-your-stuff

The Gift of Silence

By Kathi Matthes, Stephen Ministries Leader

I am honored and blessed to be part of two wonderful ministries at EUMC, our Refugee Team and Stephen Ministries. Lately, I have been thinking a lot about "silence." Part of my work with our Refugee families is driving them to and from medical and dental appointments. Since I do not speak Dari or Ukrainian, there are often long periods of silence in the car. As the title "chatty Kathi" describes me well, I sometimes find the silent periods uncomfortable. As I am driving, though, I have also witnessed moments of peace with the silence. In our Stephen Ministry training, we are taught to "honor" the silence that sometimes happens when you are with a care receiver. Our culture is so busy, with endless noise surrounding us. But, I've often felt communication in the silence, with a grateful smile or a caring hug. There can be a sense of sacredness pass between people in a silent moment. My Stephen Ministry training has become a gift in many areas of my life. Appreciating the silent moments is one of those gifts.

Time On Your Hands?

Maintenance and repair projects, big and small, arise around our church facilities regularly and when many hands join together, these tasks can be fun and easy to tackle. There are several members of EUMC who have generously volunteered their time and talents to help David Walters, our Facilities Manager, keep our building and grounds in tip top condition. But, you guessed it, more hands are welcome. Come join the Facilities Team on Monday, February 10, at 10:00 a.m. Let's harness the energy of so many talented folks and better coordinate our efforts. If you can volunteer time to change a light bulb, rake groundcover, paint a room, replace a door or anything in between, we hope you will join us. Coffee and donuts will be available.

Gratitude – the 2020 Women's Retreat

We've heard it said that gratitude is the key to happiness. Others say that gratitude expands the soul. It's also been said that the practice of gratitude can change your life. We'll be exploring these ideas at the 2020 Women's Retreat.

Women of all ages and all walks of life are invited to attend this reflective, relaxing, and fun weekend retreat. The retreat will feature engaging guest speakers, time for prayer and contemplation, music, crafts, massage services, canoeing and swimming, as well as additional opportunities for relaxation and fellowship.

The Women's Retreat is April 17 – 19, at Warm Beach Camp in Stanwood. For more information and to register, please go to: www.edmondsumc.org/family

Your registration includes your room for two nights, six meals, and access to the full agenda. All women are welcome.

Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer.

And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good.

- Maya Angelou

February Movie with a Message

Saturdays - February 15 & 29 | 4:00 p.m. | Library



UMW presents two free movies this month in the church library at 4:00 p.m. All are Welcome. On Saturday, February 15, join us for a showing of *Apollo 13*, and as a bonus, we'll be showing the romantic comedy, *Leap Year*, on February 29! Popcorn will be served.



MLK Events at the ECA

By Jennifer McLaughlin, Director of Family Ministries

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a day off of school that can quickly become another day off to play and recreate; but the events at the ECA have created a space for youth and people of color in our community to communicate what they want people to hear and to reiterate the vision of MLK. This year at the beloved community



morning program, organized by Courtney Wooten, EUMC's Joyful Noise choir sang the black national anthem alongside Northside Step Director DarNesha Weary, Erwin Weary, Sr., and accompanied by Harold Wooten. This was an experience that will stay with EUMC kids forever. Local kids performing included Mariner High School Afro-Fusion Dance Team, Mariner Step Team, Northside step, Mosaic and Kaleidoscope Dance Companies, Edmonds-Woodway vocalist Natasha Thompson, and Unathi Machyo. First Nations tribe members kicked off the event in the performances by 206 Drummers. And spoken word poet Christian Paige cried out about oppression, poverty, and white supremacy. Paige called for interruption to the status quo and an invitation "to create a community that speaks of oppression, racism, poverty, gaps; not as issues that we face, but as parables of what can be conquered by collective impact."

The evening event, entitled "Be The Light," featured a symphony created by Dr. Stephen Newby, who took the audience through history with the sounds of the Black Baptist Church. Dr. Joy Jones, Josephine Howell, Phillip Ferrell, Nichole Eskridge, and Price Arts Dance performers joined Newby in his story-making. Barclay-Shelton Dancers also presented a beautiful piece entitled Be The Light, where each dancer embodied being light. The Beloved Community Award was presented to community activist, youth empowerment program manager, college administrator and former Lynnwood City Councilmember Shirley Sutton. Donnie Griffin was honored for being a "humble and unselfish role model for all of us in our aspiration to live in a community that rises above the social, spiritual, and political divisions that negatively affect our well-being."

Edmonds UMC helped make this event happen thanks to a generous grant from United Methodist Women and support from EUMC Family Ministries. It was a wonderful day not only celebrating the vision of MLK, but inviting us to hold up that vision like a mirror and asking all of us how will we be a part of speaking to injustice and conquering oppression, racism, poverty, and gaps. Let's be the change!

Photograph by Larry Vogel, mltnews.com/community-turns-out-to-honor-dr-martin-luther-king-recognize-shirley-sutton/

UMC Youth Springs into 2020!

EUMC is a welcoming space for all 7th-12th graders on their spiritual and life journeys, and our mission is to engage these wonderful young people in fellowship, service, fun, and formation.



Youth Fellowship

Sundays, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. February 2, 9, 16, 23 | EUMC Youth Hall

Youth gather together for small group discussions on life and faith, led by Youth Director Greg McLaughlin, the EUMC Youth leadership team (Meghan Labelle, Teagan Huff, and Becca Hershey), and Adult Volunteers Tom and Carol Woltjer. In February, our spiritual theme will be "making friends and being friends", to see what our faith can teach us about growing stronger in our friendships with one another.

SERVE - 2020 Mission Trips!

Save the Date(s) - July 26 - Aug 2, Yakima, WA or Tsaile, AZ and Aug 1-12 Taize, France

One of the most important ways for Youth to know the heart of Christ is to be the hands of Christ. Over the last 5 years, EUMC has sent over 75 youth on mission trips to serve, learn, and grow together. 2020 will feature two trips. One trip will be to Taize, France, August 1-12, for Grades 10-12 (see Ann's article on p.3), and to either Yakima WA or Tsaile, AZ, July 26-August 2 for incoming 7th -12th graders. See edmondsumc.org/missions for more information, and save the date of Sunday, February 16, at 11:45 a.m. for informational meetings.

FUN -

Mark your Calendars for the following upcoming events.

- March 14-15 - Marvel Super Heroes themed Lock-in
6:00 p.m., Saturday, March 14 to 10:00 a.m. Sunday, March 15. Youth Hall. Grades 7-12.
- April 19 - Special Earth Day Outing TBA. 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- June 14 - Annual crossover barbecue & picnic at Carkeek Park, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- June 26-28 - Family Camp (All EUMC) at Camp Indianola
- July 13-17 - Vacation Bible School

Our Thrift Shop Needs You

Do you love helping people or organizing? This may be a place for you. We are looking for a few more people to volunteer so the Thrift Shop is fully covered and doesn't have to close due to short shifts, vacations, or illness. We are organizing, sorting, pricing, and displaying new items. All training will be provided. All profits go to United Methodist Women, who give to charity, mission projects, church events and other ministries. Our shop provides some treasures to shoppers, and income to help our charity work. Feel free to contact Gay Johnson or Millie Surdyke. Ask questions or drop by the shop. We are open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Both men and women are welcome to join us.

EUMC Girl Scout Cookie Sales

Girl Scout cookie sales are coming up soon. Girl Scouts in the EUMC congregation/affiliated with EUMC are invited to sell cookies on:

- March 1 - after first service
- March 1 - after second service
- March 8 - after first service
- March 8 - after second service

If your daughter is interested, please contact Tina LaBelle with availability at tina.labelle@comcast.net or 425-743-9895

2020 EUMC Women's Book Club Schedule

- March 6 – *Ordinary Grace*
William Krueger
- May 1 – *The Hate You Give*
Angie Thomason
- July 10 – *I Will Always Write You Back*
Caitlin Alifirenka
- Sept. 11 – *A Gentleman in Moscow*,
Amor Towles
- Nov. 6 – *Leopard at the Door*
Jennifer McVeigh
- Dec. 4 – Holiday Brunch & Book
Selection
- Jan. 2021 – *Where the Crawdad's Sing*
Delia Owens

The Force Awakens - A Potential for Transformation Through Technology

By Lynn and Ron Heitritter

As Co-Lay Leaders of EUMC, we identify ourselves with the senior cohort of retirees. Many in this cohort have been pillars of EUMC for decades longer than we have, heavily investing themselves in the church with their time, talents, and treasure. As members of the senior cohort, we might characterize ourselves as members of "The Church of What's Happening Now." At the same time, those of us in this cohort are not "the Church of The Future." Our younger counterparts will be carrying forth God's transformative love - long after we have joined the "great cloud of witnesses."

In Acts 2:17, scripture informs us that in the future, sons and daughters will prophesy, young people will see visions, and old people will dream dreams. Reflecting on our status as "old people dreaming dreams", we write to share our dream for EUMC's future and express our support for our young professional staff whose vision embraces an openness to transformation through enhanced technology.

While we are not avid consumers of social media, we have been awakened from our complacent slumber to an awareness that the church of the future will be significantly shaped by social media. We are persuaded that the time has come for EUMC to radically expand its social media presence in order to tell the story of God's transformative love manifested in and through EUMC.

This journey of awareness began by perusing recent reports from the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference which provided demographic data about EUMC's geographic circle of influence and by reviewing LifeWay Research church statistics on social media use (<https://blog.capterra.com/church-statistics-social-media/>).

While the PNW report documented that just under half of the people within 10 miles of EUMC consider themselves to be spiritual, more than half of those people don't believe they need to participate in a church to believe in God. Of great interest was the PNW finding that over 52,000 people within a 10-mile radius of EUMC identify themselves as Methodist. LifeWay Research reports that while almost 85% of protestant churches use Facebook, less than 13% are effectively using Instagram, even though Instagram has 400 million users and offers a lifeline to the outside community. We had viewed EUMC's Facebook account, but we had no familiarity with Instagram.

We began to wonder if EUMC might be able to share God's love through enhanced social media, such as Instagram, so we opened a personal Instagram account to investigate. How surprised we were to discover what has begun to happen! At the beginning of January, our staff began posting creative and authentic posts about our faith community and the EUMC Instagram account has recently been explored by over 200 new viewers and current postings have been viewed more than 1600 times! To us, this translates into an increasing number of people in our community who are seeking to know more about authentic stories of faith and who are being enabled to "see" God's tangible presence at EUMC. Whether or not folks might then decide to physically attend EUMC, the potential for transformation through our investment in enhanced technology might well be one innovative way to continue to worship, grow and serve.

As part of the cohort of the Church of What's Happening Now, we consider it our sacred mandate to support the innovation and vision of the Church of the Future. May The Force be with us!

February *Guidelights*

The deadline for the next issue of *Guidelights* is **February 20, by 12:00p.m.** The maximum word count is 300. Please email articles to Jessica Pair at jessicap@edmondsumc.org.

Interim Lead Pastor
Jerry Poole

Interim Pastoral Associate
Ann Jacob

Director of Youth Ministries
Greg McLaughlin

Director of Family Ministries
Jennifer McLaughlin

Food Bank Executive Director
Casey Davis

Director of Worship Arts
David Hendrix

Organist
Hyun-Ja Choi

Chapel Bells Director
Ian Alvarez

Interim Bookkeeper
Yousra Nakkour

Coor. of Media & Information
Jessica Pair (Editor)

Office Coordinator
Alyx Payne

Office Assistant
Jacque Benjamin

Building Manager
David Walters

Custodian
Gloria Anderson

Children's Center Director
Kim Erickson

Office Hours

The Church office will be closed in honor of President's Day on Monday, February 17. We will reopen on Tuesday, February 18, at 8:00 a.m.

Monthly Donation Envelopes

If you received monthly donation envelopes with an incorrect name and/or address, please know office staff are working to correct the issue with the company who provides and mails our donation envelopes to congregants. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office at 425-778-2119.

Church Council

Tuesday, February 4 | 7:00 p.m. | Chapel

Church Council meetings give congregants the opportunity to listen to new and on-going ideas. Lend your voice on everything from discussions on new ministries and finances to upcoming events and denominational decisions. The Church Council meets the first Tuesday of each month.

Trustees Update: Let There Be Light

New exterior lighting on the westside of the church is making our dark nights much brighter. New LED lighting has been installed at Children's Center play area, above exterior doors and over the west patio and loading dock, for a total of eight new energy efficient LED lights. Thanks to Dave Walters, Denny Balascio, Howard Carr, and Jerry Leising.

Donating to Edmonds Food Bank

As of January 1, 2020, Edmonds Food Bank is officially a 501c3 non-profit organization. If you'd like to make a donation to the Food Bank with a check, please make your check out to Edmonds Food Bank. Checks can be mailed to the church or dropped off at the front office and the office staff will route your envelope to the Food Bank mailbox. Online donations can be made at edmondsfoodbank.org/donate

Financial Report

	January 2020
Income (Pledges & Other Income)	\$47,100.80
Income (Children's Center)	\$54,367.15
Total Income (Month/Year):	\$101,467.95
Expense (Staff, Ministry, Programs)	\$12,294.82
Expense (Children's Center)	\$36,141.87
Total Expense (Month/Year):	\$48,436.69

Please direct questions regarding church financials to Interim Finance Administrator Yousra Nakkour at yousran@edmondsumc.org or 425-778-2119



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Join us for Sunday worship at 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. or Foundry service,
Sundays at 6:00 p.m.

Annual Reports Tell Our Story



www.edmondsumc.org



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This time every year church leaders are asked to write a summary of the previous year for the church's annual report. This can seem like a burden, and just one more thing to do. But these reports tell the story of our church. It's a way for our congregation to hear about, not only the church events, programs, small groups and mission opportunities, but to read about facts, figures, and decisions that happen in committee meetings.

You can find annual reports in the church library on the East wall. I looked at the 2002 report and found that we had a mission trip to China, we were getting ready for building construction, and in March of that year we celebrated Dave Gillespie's 30th anniversary in UM ministry. In the 2007-2008 report, you can find that we had an emphasis on the sanctuary remodel and mortgage reduction, the Children's Center bought a bus, Pastor Dave left and Kathlyn James joined us, and we had a mission team that went to Kenya. I also found that we lost some important church leaders that year: Harold Huycke, Bill Leraas, Polly Moore, Ida Holte, Martha Scott and Jerry Mudge. These people played important roles in the life of our church.

What are the stories from last year? If you are a leader of a committee, ministry area, or small group, share your story with the rest of your church. A deadline has not been set yet, but please think about it, send something to the church office this month if you can! Questions can be directed to Cheryl Hay, Floyd and Janet Barker.