

Edmonds United Methodist Church

Guidelights

March-April 2020 // Volume 66 - Issue 3



Wilderness

“state of the wild”

Lent begins in the wilderness. The Spirit guides Jesus into the wilderness where he comes face to face with temptation and struggle. Yet, in his forty days of fasting, resisting, and wandering, Jesus is shaped and formed for his ministry. Similarly, through the wilderness of Lent, we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit. We rarely enter the wilderness willingly, but hopefully through our wandering we remember who we are and whose we are. The wilderness can become sacred even if it remains dangerous. There is no wilderness space too harsh or threatening for God's love.

We bring the theme of wilderness in Jesus' ministry, as well as our own lives, with us into Holy Week. From the fervor with subtle solemnity that fills Palm Sunday as Jesus enters Jerusalem through Holy Saturday when a vigil is held outside Christ's tomb awaiting his resurrection.

Joyful “Hosannas” will ring throughout the Sanctuary as we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the festival day of Palm Sunday! The procession of palms into worship will be led by our children's choir, Joyful Noise, who will also provide music in worship in collaboration with the Chancel Choir.

Once in Jerusalem, we follow the way to the Upper Room on Mount Zion where the Last Supper took place.

The word Maundy is derived from the Latin word for command, and so this Maundy Thursday service, is built around the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples in the Gospel of John; “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 13:34). In our liturgy we will commemorate Jesus' last supper with his disciples, his washing of their feet, and his time of prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest and crucifixion. We will share in a service of holy communion with time

for reflection and prayer as we enter the final days of the wilderness of Lent.

“So I walked.

**And it felt like forty days and it hurt
like forty nights.**

**And I waved to the people I passed there
in the wilderness.**

**We tipped our hats to one another, Silently
recognizing the weight we
each carried...”**

*Sarah Are - The Wilderness is a Place of New Life —
Resilient Life*

Turning from Maundy Thursday, we acknowledge the weight of Jesus' cross as we understand our own burdens of illness, divorce, depression, loss, and worry in a Tenebrae service, meaning “darkness” or “shadows.” In a prolonged meditation on Christ's suffering, which has been practiced by the church since medieval times, we will relive his Passion in scripture and music, led by our Chancel Choir during our Good Friday service. Gradually, seven candles will be extinguished, culminating with the Christ candle, to symbolize Jesus' betrayal, arrest, crucifixion, and death. Once extinguished, the Christ candle will remain unlit until our service of Easter Vigil, when we begin our celebration of the resurrection.

**“It's only in the wilderness that you can
see the stars.”**

*Sarah Are - The Wilderness is a Place of Mystery & The
Unknown*

We venture to the deep mystery of Holy Saturday questioning what has happened and what will be. But the veracity of such a day is the tiny spark of knowing what is to come.

For much of the church's history, the Easter Vigil was the central service that celebrated Christ's resurrection and victory over death. We will join in this tradition of keeping the vigil by once again lighting the new fire, remembering beloved biblical stories of God's goodness and salvation, sharing a meal of holy communion, and welcoming new members into our congregation. This service of joy is our re-introduction to the resurrected Christ and gives a taste of what's to come on Easter morning!

W

“So now I wonder —

**What if the wilderness is the birthplace
of creation?**

**What if the wilderness is where call
begins?**

**What if the wilderness is where joy
is birthed?**

**What if, between the dirt and the sky
and that wide orange horizon,
the wilderness is where we find you?”**

Sarah Are - *The Wilderness is the Birthplace of Joy*

Gather to rejoice as one at the resurrection of Christ! In the light of Jesus’ victory over the grave, our final exploration of wilderness in this season will be to consider the wilderness as a place of rebirth and new beginnings. Join us in our celebration with a shared meal of holy communion and a fanfare of festival music and hymns led by our Chancel Choir, Chapel Bells, Easter brass, and organ.

Your Wilderness

We welcome you into the idea of transforming areas of your own life through the mindful space of wilderness during Lent this season. As we live in the beautiful PNW, we would love to see your images of wilderness! Send your pictures to photos@edmondsumc.org or use #edmondsumc on Instagram and Facebook.

Holy Week at a glance

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020 - 9:00 & 10:30 am - Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday

April 9, 2020 - 7:00 pm - Sanctuary

Good Friday

April 10, 2020 - 7:00 pm - Sanctuary

Easter Vigil

April 11, 2020 - 7:00 pm - Amphitheater

Easter

April 12, 2020 - 9:00 & 11:00 am - Sanctuary

Wilderness

Worship Calendar

Verse of the month

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

- Jeremiah 29:11

MARCH 1 LENT I

Pastor Jerry preaching,
“Don’t Tempt Me!”

Text: Psalm 32:1-7, CEB &
Matthew 4:1-11 CEB

Celebrating Miss Jen
Holy Communion for All
Foundry at 6:00 p.m.

MARCH 8 LENT II

Pastor Jerry preaching,
“The story of Nicodemus”

Text: Genesis 12:1-4 & John 3:1-17

Foundry at 6:00 p.m.

MARCH 15 LENT III

Lynn Heitritter preaching

Text: John 6:1-15

Foundry at 6:00 p.m.

MARCH 22 LENT IV

Pastor Jerry preaching, “Selecting
Leaders: The Heart of the Matter”

Text: John 9:1-12 & I Samuel 16:1-13

Foundry at 6:00 p.m.

MARCH 29 LENT V

Foundry at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome Words

Spring is a time of new beginnings, a renewal of faith and the hope of things to come. Welcome each day with the spirit when greeting friends and especially meeting new people at EUMC. This church will blossom because of you.

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Introducing Our New Lead Pastor!

Dear EUMC Family,

Thank you for holding the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) in your prayers as we discerned our next Pastoral Team.

The following are condensed versions of announcement memos I received from our District Superintendent. The EUMC SPRC worked long hours closely with our District Superintendent Mark Galang and our Bishop Elaine Stanovsky to discern the Pastoral Team for our church. The SPRC Committee was unanimous in accepting the Bishop's appointment of Pastor Jenny, and extending Pastor Ann another year.

- Shannon Speight, SPRC Chair

Bishop Elaine Stanovsky intends to appoint the Rev. Jenny Smith as Lead

Pastor of Edmonds United Methodist Church, effective July 1, 2020.

Rev. Jenny Smith grew up in Ohio and Alaska. She is a 2005 graduate of Florida Southern College and a 2010 graduate of United Theological Seminary. Jenny was ordained as an elder in the Pacific Northwest Conference in 2012. She served two appointments in the Alaska Conference before serving the last five years with Marysville UMC. Jenny has a deep passion for healthy leadership cultures, collaborative ministry, personal transformation in Christ, leadership development, writing, and speaking.

Jenny has been married to Aaron for almost 15 years and they have two children: 8-year-old Isabella and

5-year-old Wesley. Jenny loves breakfast food, paddle boarding, reading, and baking. Aaron has a background in IT work, music, and youth ministry. He also loves woodworking. Isabella loves to dance, bike, and create art projects. Wesley runs everywhere and loves cereal, football, and trucks.

"We recognized the excellent work Ms. Jacob has provided the church



throughout this time of transition. After consultations with the SPRC, Ms. Jacob, the Bishop, and the Cabinet, we feel it is important to extend her interim time of service with you so that she can continue her work of helping the church find that place of healing and stability." - Mark Galang, District Superintendent



Gratitude – the 2020 Women’s Retreat



Gratitude is defined as “the state of being grateful” (Merriam-Webster). To be grateful is to grant ourselves time to breath and let the joy or sorrow of our experience ease; to let our gratitude expand

our souls. Through prayer and contemplation and guest speakers: Rev. Jenny Smith (our new Lead Pastor!), Pastor Ann, and Peggy Farrah, we will explore ideas surrounding gratitude at this year’s Women’s Retreat.

The Retreat will be held April 17-19 at Warm Beach Camp in Stanwood and will also feature music, crafts, massage services, canoeing, and swimming. Women of all ages and all walks of life are invited to attend this retreat weekend.

Time is running short to register, sign-up today at www.edmondsumc.org/family. Your registration includes your room for two nights, six meals, and access to the full agenda. All women are welcome.

A Message from Ann

Hi Friends,

I hope that this finds you healthy and well. As many of you now know and as it was announced on Sunday, March 8, my assignment serving with you has been extended. I am delighted to continue serving with you and cultivating beloved community in this area! It will be a joy to continue working on the missional needs of this community, and partnering in spaces that address injustice and systemic inequality.

During this Lenten season, we have been reflecting on biblical and personal stories that dwell in the wilderness. I am hoping that in this season you are reimagining where the Spirit is leading you and how it is showing up in your life. For many of you, wilderness moments may provide the catalyst for remembering the wideness of God’s love and mercy. Indeed, I hope even as you journey through a wilderness moment, you hold fast to what is true - you are a beloved child of God and there is nothing that separates you from God’s love.

It is from this sense of belovedness and belonging that I invite you to share that love in community. As we continue our Serve campaign, I invite you to prayerfully reflect on the ways you might serve and share God’s love in our community. Perhaps you are being nudged to serve the community in a new way, participate in worship, or join a ministry team. In whatever way you are being called, I encourage you to sign up and share your gifts of time and talent with our beloved community!

In these times of worry and uncertainty surrounding CORVID-19, I continue to uplift our community and world in prayer. I look forward to resuming our worship and seeing you all in person sometime soon!

With gratitude and joy,
Ann

Alzheimer’s Education and Sacred Storytelling Seminars Canceled

Alzheimer’s Education and Sacred Storytelling seminars have been canceled to protect the health of all involved. We are working to reschedule both seminars and will update you as soon as information is available.

Give An Easter Gift of Food, Life and Hope

Each year, we call the children of our congregation to collect coins in Easter eggs for our Annual Lenten Children’s Offering. Those coins are then donated to Heifer International whose mission is to end hunger and poverty by supporting local farmers and their communities. Easter eggs were meant to be distributed on March 8, but our limited worship via livestream due to health concerns prevented eggs from going out. We encourage children and adults to start saving coins and we will distribute eggs as we are able. Please stay tuned for egg availability!

Family Camp is More Than a Weekend Away

Family Camp leaves behind daily life for a weekend to bond with your family. Worship outside, in the nature of God’s creation. Sing loud and proud around the campfire each night and roast s’mores until they’re a sticky golden brown. Play games and get to know other church families. Need a break? There’s free time to walk a path, read a book, or take in the hum of Puget Sound. This year’s Family Camp will be June 26-29 at Camp Indianola. Keep an eye on the eNews for the date registration opens.

Edmonds AGR March Meeting

The Edmonds Chapter of Alliance for Gun Responsibility is canceling their March 23 meeting out of precaution for the current health issue. If you have any questions, please contact Gayle Davis at gayle.davis@davidshaies.com

Serve with Edmonds UMC!



In addition to worshipping together and growing in faith, we invite you into service, sharing your skills and talents with the church.

Informational packets with all the ways to Serve were available for pick up on March 1 and remaining packets were mailed out. We will dedicate ourselves to serving our church community at a date to be decided. If you'd like to fill out an electronic serve card, go to the church website at edmondsumc.org/serve. We look forward to serving with you!

In an effort to maintain and protect our congregation's health during CORVID-19, we have changed the date of dedication. Please watch eNews for communication about

Stephen Ministry on The Road with Tom Young & Sharman Badgett-Young

IN THE BAR-CAFÉ in Assisi as I was waiting to pay for my pizza, hot chocolate, and pastries; another man at the bar was enjoying his red wine, joking about his balding head, in English, a language we don't usually hear much this deep into Italy! I turned to him and said it's (baldness) a sign of wisdom. We laughed and struck up a conversation, and we hit it off. After paying our bill, he asked if he could share something of a spiritual nature with us. He said Assisi is a special place to him because for 20 years he brought his Dad here for a visit. Last year, his Father passed away, but with the encouragement of his wife, he returned this year by himself. Only a week ago, he had a dream in which he saw the face of Jesus beside his Father's face.

Then a few days later, just before he came to Assisi, he was visiting a small church in Manoppello, a small town a couple of hours from Assisi. In that church is displayed a small shroud that has on it the face of Jesus. During his visit there, Dustin said he felt a strong Presence and ecstasy and was unable to speak, and he lost track of time passing. He recommended more than once that we visit that small church and check it out. We did not make it there, but we felt connected simply by listening to his story.

Women of Action



My name is Chidinma Okoro. I was born into a Methodist church family, originally from Nigeria. The eight women who started United Methodist Women as we know it today had a vision; "Action speaks

louder than words." They were women of action like the women we see in UMW at Edmonds UMC. It is amazing that just a few women keep the Thrift Shop open, host bazaars/rummage sales, sell nuts and homemade jams and jellies to support the charities and ministries

I am proud to be an active member of UMW here. I received a scholarship to go to an inter-generational mission trip to Tucson, AZ, and a generous donation to help a school in my Methodist church in Nigeria. I know that others have benefited by UMW funding. Let's keep the vision of the foremothers alive for another 150 years.

I ask every woman who attends this church to find time to initiate or be part of a UMW group (circle) that works for you. Let's build our organization by having more circles. Our group meets the 3rd Sunday of every month. There is a fantastic reading program with inspirational books anyone can borrow and read. Come join us and bring ideas to move UMW forward because we are called to action. Remain Blessed!

VBS Great Big Beautiful World July 13 – 17 | Registration Opens in March

You won't want to miss our environmental justice themed day camp. Learn more on the church website at edmondsumc.org/kids.

Death

Emily Kudebeh

passed into eternal life on
January 15, 2020

A service was held in February.

Dear God, receive this loved one into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints of light. Amen.

Climate Crisis Update and Thank You

Washington Kids in Transition

By Kim Gorney, Executive Director

Washington Kids in Transition is appreciative of the continuing partnership with EUMC. When we started 5 years ago, our main goal was to feed hungry kids on the bus ride home and we fed 35 kids per day. As of 2020, we feed 250 kids every day, which totals about 32,000 bags of food a year. This food is packed, stored, and picked up at EUMC. We have expanded our areas of giving based on school needs and our areas of helping homeless kids stay in school. Because of this, we've outgrown our space at EUMC.

We are happy to announce we have opened a community volunteer and distribution center in Lynnwood, where we will welcome social workers, case managers, and community volunteers to assist in running our programs. Although we have a new office, our food packing and distribution will still happen through our EUMC office in room 121. Our reach has grown enough to warrant a second employee at WAKITS, so Jennifer McLaughlin will be joining our team as our Part-Time Director of Program and Fund Development.

In 2019, we provided 364 nights of hotel stays for single moms without cars and families with medically fragile children. We helped 28 families stay in their homes preventing homelessness through rental assistance. We paid 32 utility bills that assisted families with lost income from snow days or medical emergencies. We supplied emergency closets with food, hygiene supplies, socks, and underwear at every high school and middle school in the district. In 2019, we helped 172 students by paying for items such as prom tickets, sleeping bags, and high school field trip fees. Through our Granted Wishes program, we respond to financial needs that school social workers apprise us of.

We are grateful for our partnership with and continued support from EUMC. You have made this work possible. Washington Kids in Transition is a volunteer-based organization and with our new office, we have new volunteer opportunities available. If you would like to volunteer, contact Kim at washingtonkidsintransition@gmail.com.

Advocates for Justice - Environment would like to thank those generous EUMC members who helped make the Climate Crisis series in January and February a success. Jessica for the poster, Alyx for reserving the room, Jacque for trouble-shooting, Ken for setting up the audio taping, and Pastors Jerry and Ann for allowing the large display to be housed in the Wesley Room.

The first session, held in the Library, was filled beyond capacity for Dick Gibson's presentation on Biblical interpretation and what churches are doing. The next session was moved to the Chapel where Hank Landau explained potential costs we could expect as a result of Climate Change and shared information about The City of Edmonds and its Climate Action Plan Update. In the third session, Gayla Shoemake described how towns in the U.S., countries around the world, and individuals in third world countries continue to become more and more sustainable. In the final session, Stan Gent gave participants suggestions for



Stan Gent presenting on February 9.

what they can do to make a difference using offsets.

For those who want to follow-up, there will be a city-wide Climate Conversations Event on Saturday, March 28, from 9:00 am-1:00 pm in the Plaza Room above the Edmonds Library, with representatives from City of Edmonds, City of Lynnwood, and organizations dealing with climate issues. This Event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Interfaith Climate Action, The Sierra Club, Native American Tribes, and Edmonds Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

At this March 28 event, participants will make individual plans for reducing their carbon footprint, from changing lifestyles and buying carbon offsets, to working with city, county, state, and national officials to enact climate crisis legislation. There is no cost to attend the event. Contact Gayla Shoemake for information gaylashoemake@yahoo.com 425-418-7673.

Gratitude for Ian Alvarez and Kim Erickson

With gratitude for his music ministry, we say farewell to Ian Alvarez who has directed our Chapel Bell Choir for many years and will be moving on. David Hendrix will direct the handbell choir through our spring season. We wish Ian well in his new endeavors and send him with our gratitude and prayers as he remains a welcome member of our congregation.

He adds the following to our message: "I plan to land somewhere close by with the Cascade Percussion Ensemble. I will still be playing with the Cascade Symphony Orchestra, the Octava Chamber Orchestra, Resound Chamber Choir and Sno-King Chorale. Its with my deepest gratitude that I have been able to serve the music ministry of Edmonds UMC for the past twenty years."

Kim Erickson, who has been a faithful part of our church family, resigned her position as Children's Center Director, effective March 4. However this news may have surprised us, God is not surprised and is diligently preparing the person who will lead this Children's Center family in its next chapter.

May Guidelights

The deadline for the next issue of Guidelights is **April 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

Food Bank Executive Director
Casey Davis

Director of Worship Arts
David Hendrix

Organist
Hyun-Ja Choi

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

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

Many Hands Make for Light Work

Helping hands are needed to keep our grounds and facility in great condition. If you would like to help with projects at the church, please join the Facilities Team as they continue to enlist support and coordinate the work on a laundry list of items that need to be addressed. Please contact Lynn Landers at lmhicks@whidbey.com or 425-344-2784 if you have any questions.

Tell Your Story: 2019 Annual Report

Calling all Church Leaders, Committee Chairs, and Small Group Leaders! Please share a summary of your group's work last year with the rest of our church family. Everyone can benefit when we can look at where we've come from and where we are going. Send your article to annualreport@edmondsumc.org by March 31, 2020. It will be published for our annual charge conference in June, at which time the church elects new church leaders. If you have questions, please direct them to Cheryl Hay or Floyd and Janet Barker.

Church Council

Tuesday, April 7 | 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.

| Financial Report | February | January-February |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Income (Pledges & Other Income) | \$123,562.19 | \$170,662.99 |
| Income (Children's Center) | \$44,476.55 | \$98,843.70 |
| Total Income (Month/Year): | \$168,038.74 | \$269,506.69 |
| Expense (Staff, Ministry, Programs) | \$62,014.66 | \$131,739.11 |
| Expense (Children's Center) | \$10,808.06 | \$40,562.35 |
| Total Expense (Month/Year): | \$72,822.72 | \$172,301.46 |



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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.



www.edmondsumc.org



facebook.com/edmondsumc

Foundry Dinner Church

Please join us on the third Sunday of each month for our Agape Feast at 6:00 pm. We'll gather in the Wesley Room for a table liturgy and a meal in beloved community. Everyone is welcome! The meal will be provided by the church and cooked by some of our generous volunteers. Cooking and setup will begin around 3:30 pm for anyone interested in helping with those elements. Come join us for a time of fellowship around the table!

