

# Guidelights

EDMONDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023 | VOLUME 69 - ISSUE 2



## *Join us for Holy Week*



### 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 Pastors

## "SYNERGY"

Synergy is a law of nature. The words mean "combined effort being greater than the parts", and it has often been used to describe the functions of an effective team. In leadership parlance "synergy" is one of those golden conditions which propel a group forward in whatever task is at hand.

The flight of Canadian Geese has often served as an example of synergy. A flock of geese can cover great distances precisely because they work together "synergistically", forming themselves into a "V" formation. In that formation the flock adds 71% greater flying range, than if each bird chose to fly alone. And this is not just because of the aerodynamics of goose bodies!

The genius of the flock in flight is that leadership is rotated. When the goose at the head of the flock gets tired, another one takes over, as leadership is shared. Meanwhile, those behind the leaders honk encouragement to keep the pace moving.

Synergy is  $1 + 1 = \text{more than } 2$ . It is true for geese, and equally true for us. At some level, we already know this. Perhaps it would be good for us to pay attention to the geese. One morning not long ago I was taking a very wet walk while being surrounded by a huge flock of geese, at least a hundred or more birds. About a mile into my walk, something spooked the flock, and they took to the air amidst much honking and flapping.

My first thought was "Oh dear, Mr. Hitchcock!", remembering the movie, "The Birds". But then I began to watch as the geese all headed off in roughly the same direction, though not in one single V! Instead, those geese formed at least a dozen different "V" formations, all honking encouragement, all making for whatever pond or saturated field was next, all sharing the power of synergy.



Pastor Donna Pritchard



Pastor Ann Jacob

In the coming weeks we will be looking for ways to create and capitalize on synergy here at Edmonds UMC. We will consider membership trends, ministry goals, demographics of the church and the surrounding community, common values, etc. All of this work will help us create a strategic plan for growth and vitality now and into the future. Working together as a staff, elected leaders, and the whole congregation, our combined efforts become greater than our parts. We may find there are several formations flying alongside one another, while we celebrate what is working now, while also adding new ministries to deepen our discipleship and live out our mission.

The trick for us—just like for the geese—is to make sure we are all traveling in the same direction, with clarity about God's vision for EUMC. Stay tuned for invitations to join the conversation. You can read more about the Strategic Planning Process in the article which follows.

Happy to be in the flock with you . . .  
Pastor Donna

We are a hybrid church. We invite you to join us in the sanctuary or online on our website, [www.edmondsumc.org](http://www.edmondsumc.org) or on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/edmondsumc](http://www.facebook.com/edmondsumc)

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## Worship Calendar

**April 2 - Palm Sunday** Donna preaches as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem at the start of Holy Week. Sermon title: "I Love a Parade!"  
*Bring your coins and dollars for the Heiffer Project!*

**April 2 - Foundry** service in the sanctuary at 6 pm.

**April 6 - Maundy Thursday** 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Angela Molloy preaches as we remember Jesus' last supper; communion will be celebrated.

**April 7 - Good Friday** 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Tenebrae service of shadows and darkness as we remember Jesus' arrest, crucifixion, and death.

**April 8 - Easter Vigil** 7 pm in Kennedy Hall. A family-friendly service as we wait for Jesus' resurrection.

**April 9 - Easter Sunday** 9 am and 11 am (note time change) in the Sanctuary. Ann preaches as we remember and celebrate Jesus' resurrection with special music, beautiful flowers, and tons of joy!

**April 16 - "Disability Awareness" Sunday** Angela Molloy preaches, 9 and 10:30 am in the sanctuary

**April 23 - "Youth Sunday"** Deacon Erin and EUMC youth lead in worship 9 and 10:30 am in the Sanctuary.

**April 30 - "Earth Sunday"** Donna preaches as we remember our calling to act as stewards of creation, sermon title: "It's Electric!"

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## Calendar/Events

### MONTHLY:

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

Parent's Day Out - April 2

### EVENTS:

AARP Tax Help in Kennedy Hall: April, 1, 6,7,14, 14 - 9am-5pm

Aging Well Series: Sundays, April 2, 16, 23, May 7 (see p. 6) 11:45am to 1pm

Mission Trip to Nogales AZ - April 15-23

All Creation Sings, choral concert, April 29, 7pm (see p. 15)

EUMC Earth Day Sunday - April 30

Women's Retreat - May 5-7 (see p. 13)

Council on EUMC Ministries - May 23, 6pm, chapel

## *“Strategic Planning”* What’s it all About?

By now, many of you have heard, we are looking forward to a coordinated strategic planning process here at Edmonds UMC. So—what is it? And who is it for? And how will it happen?

First, the goal of this process will be to identify how our congregation will move forward to

- Deepen our discipleship
- Live out our calling to mission; and
- Increase our impact (while also increasing our sustainability and ongoing value)

A successful planning process will do these things:

1. Invite 100% of the congregation and concretely involve at least 40% of the congregation in a process of discernment and planning
2. Inspire the congregation to consider specific ideas about how individuals and the church as a whole might act as disciples (or ambassadors for Christ)
3. Educate ourselves about available resources, existing opportunities, and who we are both as a church and as a part of the community of Edmonds
4. Name and address barriers, concerns, and questions we might have that get in the way of our growth
5. Generate momentum and create buy-in to a shared vision for our further mission with an increased impact
6. Build SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-based) goals, an effective plan to make our vision a reality
7. Engage and develop emerging leaders, youth and young adults as well as long-time leaders and older adults
8. Increase our connections to one another and strengthen our personal sense of calling

As you can see, this process will not be done overnight! Right now, are working with members of the Administrative Board to recruit leaders and flesh out the process. The hope is that small group conversations and one-on-ones can begin by the end of May and that this work will continue throughout the summer months in order to communicate and approve our vision and goals in time for Homecoming Sunday, September 17.

Stay tuned for your opportunities to join us in creating the future we desire!



# Cultural Exchange Continues with Yakama Nation Youth Visit

We at EUMC are grateful for the opportunity to continue building relationships with members of Yakama Nation. This relationship began with a visit by youth and leaders of EUMC last summer to the Yakama Reservation. This May we welcome members of Mending Wings "Dancing Our Prayers" to help lead worship with us Sunday May 21st. This group of young people are supported and mentored by caring adults in their tribe as they navigate the joys and challenges of growing up in our world today.

Once again, members of our youth group will have the opportunity to travel back to the Yakama Reservation in August to participate in a S.L.A.M. trip (Students Learning About Mission). These trips are organized by a Native owned and lead non-profit which has been endorsed by our PNW UMC leadership as an ethical and culturally informed experience. As we continue our own communal walk of discipleship here in Edmonds, we are excited to join these siblings in Christ to experience the Holy Spirit in new ways.



## Hospitality Opportunities

Make new friends! Please support the members of Mending Wings by participating in hospitality while they are here May 20-21.

#1 - Meals at the church: help prepare dinner on Saturday and Sunday lunch.

#2 - Host some youth or leaders overnight in your home on Saturday.

Please reach out to Deacon Erin or Pastor Ann today!

## SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS



# Art Hall for April & May

The theme for the Art Hallway in April and May is:

## Recycle, Re-Use, Repurpose

There are two examples displayed in the Art Hall right now. Take a look and get inspired.

The "junk" included on these pieces of "art", are: rubber bands, twine, straight pins, product labels, twist tie, decorative tape, cake top decorations, bows, scrap of fabric and a cut up cereal box and grocery store box. Feel free to cut up the objects you collect and attach the pieces in an artistic fashion to the surface being used. Be sure to include your name on the back of your work and have it submitted by April 10, when the Art Hallway will change.



## Aging Well Series

A four week series on Aging Well has been announced by the Congregational Care team. Learn about important preparations to make now before illness, dementia, or impairment sets in. Experts in four different areas have been invited to speak on:

- Estate Planning - April 2**
- Senior Housing Options - April 16**
- Caring for the Caregiver - April 23**
- Hospice Care - May 7**

**In the Wesley Room**  
**11:45 - light lunch**  
**12 - 1pm - presentation**

<b>Aging Well</b> with <b>Positivity</b> and <b>Planning</b>	<b>4-WEEK SERIES:</b>
	<b>Estate Planning</b>
<b>Wesley Room</b>	<b>Senior Housing Options</b>
	<b>Caring for the Caregiver</b>
<b>11:45 Light Lunch</b> <b>12:00 - 1:00 Events</b>	<b>Hospice Care</b>
<b>April 2 * April 16 * April 23 * May 7</b>	

Registration is not necessary, however, in order to have a count for lunch, sign up at the table in the narthex next Sunday or call the church office at 425-778-2119

# Family Ministry Updates

**Blessings!** There are great and wonderful things happening at EUMC with young folks and their grown-ups (that's all of us!). It continues to be a joy to settle in here at EUMC with you. I thank you for your warm and gracious welcome of both me and my family. I am inspired by the joy, passion, and faith of this community especially in the face of complex and difficult realities in our world. Today as I was sending off the final class of young ones from Children's Chapel, I asked a young boy as I had almost 30 others, "Would you like a blessing today?". He smiled and took my hand saying, "Yes, but can I do yours first?" as he drew a cross on my hand. Each of us carry the spark of our divine and amazing God from our very first breaths throughout our lives. That spark shines in our own unique ways. Days after yet another tragic school shooting, I feel deep joy down in my heart not despite the darkness and pain of this world, but through it as we journey together blessed to be in community with one another and with God.

We look forward to having you and your "spark" as a part of the community of faith here at EUMC. Please know you are invited to keep our families of all ages and stages in your prayers and jump into our active ministries where you fit -

- Our new leadership team is forming with a variety of youth voices, parents, and other adults to continue to shape and grow our ministry with families.
- Starting in Lent, we have been leading Children's Chapel on Wednesday mornings with the

joyful little ones and teachers from the Children's Center, volunteers wanted!

- We hosted a festive Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and had wonderful attendance and fellowship for our faith community, we look forward to more meals to come.
- Youth Group continues to meet weekly on Sundays from 5-7 pm for a time of fellowship, dinner, and small group experiences as we explore the world and faith in practical and teen focused ways. Small group leaders, cooks, and lovers of tag games are desired!
- Summer opportunities are well on their way including VBS, Family Camp at Indianola, trips for youth, and an intergenerational service opportunity in Portland.

As always, Vacation Bible School is a fantastic way to care for our young folks here at EUMC and in our community. The Family Ministry team is looking for more VBS helpers of ALL ages and abilities. Would you like to spend your mornings for the week as a station leader for crafts, science, or music? Could you help with snacks? Are you great behind the scenes with check in and preparing materials? Please speak up today and join our team for a fun week of smiles and excitement as we learn how to be menders of our world in Operation Restoration.

Peace and blessings to you and yours,  
Deacon Erin





# Reparations

A few weeks ago, Pastor Ann gave a sermon in which she talked about reparations for slavery. She told us that reparations had been paid by England, in the 1800's, after they abolished their international slave trade. England went into debt to do this, and that debt was not paid off until 2015. There was only one problem. The reparations were not paid to former slaves for their loss of freedom, they had been paid to FORMER SLAVE OWNERS for the monetary loss of their PROPERTY!

## What are reparations?

What is involved in making reparations for enslavement and the hundreds of years that kept African Americans from safety and prosperity in this country? Even after the end of the Civil War and emancipation, promises for land, education, and safety, were broken time and again. Even today lynching continues on in the form of police brutality. Is money the answer? Monetary compensation is one option, but there is much more to reparations than that.

Reparations are the act or process of making amends for a wrong. The United Nations gives these five conditions to fulfill reparations:

1. Cessation: cease the [wrongful] act and give assurance that it will not be repeated
2. Restitution: to re-establish the situation that existed before the wrongful act was committed.
3. Compensation: for damage suffered, if not made good by restitution.
4. Satisfaction: reparations for moral damage, such as emotional injury, mental suffering, and injury to reputation; apology falls under this category.
5. Rehabilitation: on-going care and services.

## In world history, how have reparations been paid?

- Germany paid nearly \$89 billion between 1952 and 2012 for the Holocaust, including almost \$7 billion to the State of Israel.
- In 2003, South Africa agreed to pay \$85 billion to its citizens harmed by Apartheid.

- In 2005, the Canadian government created a \$1.9 billion fund to pay Indigenous people forced to attend government and church-run residential schools. In 2008, the Canadian government issued a formal apology for the practice. A Commission was set up to document stories of survivors.

## We need reparations for African Americans

In 2014, Ta-Nehisi Coates wrote an article for Atlantic magazine called "The Case for Reparations" which was critically acclaimed. Coates told the story of one Black man who moved from the deep south to Chicago after World War II and was denied the right to apply for a mortgage to buy a house, due to discriminatory rules embedded in the G.I. Bill and the FHA loan system. These rules kept Black people from acquiring homes and building wealth through home equity. This is one example of many discriminations due to targeted governmental rules and regulations.

## How can reparations be done in the U.S.?

There has been a bill, H.R. 40, Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act, introduced in the U. S. House of Representatives every year since 1989 to set up a commission to study the subject of Reparations. It has never passed. It has been introduced by Rep. John Conyers until this year when it was introduced by Rep. Shirley Jackson Lee. A companion bill, S.B. 40, has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Cory Booker.

You can email your lawmakers and ask that they co-sponsor these bills and vote to pass them. (Paty Murray is a co-sponsor.)

Together we will explore what EUMC can do to address this problem. Please join our conversation.

Lu Loree, The Racial Justice Team

Contact Beth Lanie, Racial Justice Team, for more information.





# All Electric Sunday

## plus Solar Panel Update

### All Electric Sunday

April is a great month for the Advocates for Justice/Environment Team. It's Earth Day in April, and Earth Day Sunday is on April 30 and the Environmental Team will be bringing you Electric Earth Sunday. If you've ever had a question (or two or three) about how new electric appliances and cars work, this will be the day to get answers.

As you drive into the church parking lot, you will see some electric and hybrid cars and some old cars as well. Their owners will be on site to talk to you about them, explain why they love them, and why they are good for the environment.

If you are the owner of a vehicle in one of these categories and would be willing to talk to your fellow church-goers about your car, you're invited to share your car and your story. In the next couple of weeks, we'll ask what kind of car you are bringing and we will provide you with a sign.

On this same Sunday, in the Narthex, we are arranging to have induction cooktops to examine and someone there to explain all about them. If you have a gas stove at home and have given any thought to replacing it, here will be a great place to find out exactly what would be involved and to talk to someone who has done it—and maybe to see how it works.

Also at the table will be other electric appliances, some of which you may not have realized come in an electric version—leaf-blowers, for example, much quieter than the gas-powered version, and much cleaner.

In addition to all the equipment, we will have brochures and pamphlets for you to take home. So, do stop by.

### Solar Panel Update

Earlier this year, we sent out a survey to gauge your opinion on which climate-related projects you were most interested in pursuing. The number one choice was Solar Panels for the church roof. And so, we have begun work in a couple of areas.

First, we are continuing to investigate other churches who have successfully installed solar panels. We have talked to one local church and one in another part of the country.

Second, there are companies that specialize in setting up the funding model that works best for each organization, including churches and other non-profits. We are looking at several options, none of which involve the annual operating budget.

Lastly, as they used to say on the old TV series, stay tuned. We will continue to keep you informed through eNews and Guidelights. And, if anyone is interested in joining the effort, be sure to contact Gayla Shoemake.



## FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY: *Self-Care for the Caregiver*

**Caregiving is difficult:** It can be physically and emotionally exhausting. Caregiving may result in increased demands, financial strain, family conflicts and social withdrawal. Over time, caregiver stress can predictably lead to burnout, including feelings of hopelessness, helplessness, fatigue, sleeplessness, and other physical and mental problems. How can we take good care of ourselves while caring for our loved ones?

**1 Self-compassion:** Being kind to yourself is the foundation of self-care. Give yourself credit for the challenging, complex work of caregiving rather than engaging in self-critical, harsh thoughts. Be good to yourself by paying attention to your own needs, which allows you to be more balanced, focused and effective as a caregiver.

**2 Relaxation:** Chronic stress harms our physical and mental health. To counter this, regularly engage in stress-reducing practices. This can include breathing exercises, meditation, and other relaxation techniques.

**3 Eat, Sleep and Move:** Make eating nutritious meals a priority when helping others. Eat balanced meals and avoid processed foods high in sugar and saturated fat, which increase inflammation in the body. Get enough good quality sleep. Sleep is essential to recharge our bodies. Engage in regular exercise to keep your body strong. Regular exercise releases chemicals that help regulate mood, sleep and other body systems.

**4 Stay Connected:** Keep in contact with your social network of friends and family to avoid



isolation and burnout. Join a support group of other caregivers to help you realize you are not alone. Others with similar experiences can give you strength for your own journey.

**5 Take Time Out for Yourself:** This is not a luxury but is essential for self-care. Find a way to carve out time daily to engage in self-renewal.

**6 Ask for Help:** It is frequently hard to ask for help when we are overwhelmed with caregiving. There are many community resources that are available to assist those who are caregivers.

Too often, caregivers neglect their own health and well-being and put their own needs on the back-burner. We can't stop the impact of a family member's illness, however we are responsible for our own self-care.

Tim Guirl, Stephen Minister

**"Keep in contact with your social network of friends and family to avoid isolation and burnout. "**

## United Women in Faith A Meeting of Churches

United Women in Faith (UWF) hosted a District meeting on Saturday, March 25, with invitations to 30 churches. Forty women attended the meeting and leaders were from the District and Conference levels. We were lucky to have the Conference President from Vancouver, WA, to lead the group for Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Secretaries. Women from Bothell, Coupeville, Port Orchard, Fall City, Bellingham, Marysville, and more were in attendance, besides the many members from Edmonds UWF.

Breakout sessions were held to address the roles in United Women in Faith. The discussions were based on membership, communication, roles, social action, reading program, and fundraising to help missions in communities and worldwide.

After 150 years of service, this worldwide group is struggling to keep up membership. Our focus has always been on women, children, and youth. We are always looking for new members to help with events and keeping the focus on mission/charities and we build with fellowship and the care and nurturing our own group. Feedback reported a very successful meeting and the sharing around the group gave ladies, many being leaders, ideas to take back to their own groups/church. Thanks to the many, many people that assisted in setting up this meeting and making it a 10 on the rating scale.

Gay Johnson

## Our Thrift Shop



Our little thrift shop on the lower level of the church is all about raising money for our charity work, and providing low-cost clothing and household items for those who need them. And it's fun! It's fun opening bags and boxes to see the treasures that are donated and meeting new people and talking to all the customers and hearing their stories is very enjoyable.

Some volunteers like organizing and setting up displays, and some of us like greeting people and having a chat. We laugh a lot. Isn't that great? We enjoy our time together, and we get to sell things that bring in money for important causes. It is all good.

Guess what? The volunteers here get first dibs on purchasing the incredible donations coming in the door from the Edmonds community. We can still use more volunteers. Training is provided and you never work alone. Contact Gay Johnson.



United Women of Faith meeting



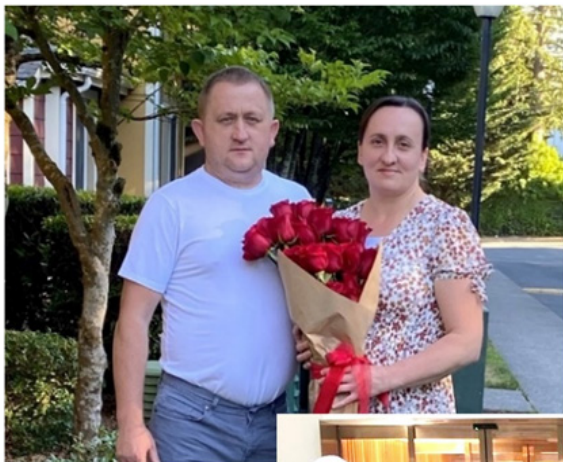


# Refugee Resettlement Ministry

First in a series of Updates

by Lynn Heitritter

## Our first family arrived in 2018: Ukraine



Mariia & Yurii  
20th anniversary



Katya, Tetiana and Iryna

Mariia's  
sister,  
Tetiana  
escaped  
from  
Ukraine -  
entered US  
via Mexico  
May 2022



Mariia's  
brother, wife  
and 3 children  
arrived in US  
October 2022 -  
escaped  
from Ukraine  
via Poland

**June 7, 2018:** We welcomed the Kotoks as our first refugee family for resettlement from Ukraine into our local community. We remain in continued contact with them, rejoicing in their ever-increasing self-sufficiency. April 2022: the Kotoks welcomed Mariia's 29-year-old sister, Tetiana, who escaped Ukraine by going through Mexico – no longer an option for those wanting to escape Ukraine. Tetiana was granted one year "humanitarian parole" at the southern border and has now been granted an additional 18-month stay in the U.S.. Tetiana hopes someday to return to Ukraine.

**October 2022:** Mariia's brother, Serhii; wife, Illona; and three children, Evelina, Marta and Dasha, were sponsored by the Kotoks to enter the U.S. after a 9-month stay in Poland to escape the war. They entered the U.S. with the status of "humanitarian parole" for two years.

Ukrainians, such as the Kotok relatives, are welcomed to the United States under a special U.S. government program called "Uniting for Ukraine" to escape the war. The "Uniting for Ukraine" program offers a temporary two-year stay in the U.S., given that individuals or families find someone to financially sponsor their stay. They do not get any resources from refugee agencies as "refugees", such as the Kotoks did upon their arrival. There is concern for the many Ukrainians brought into the U.S. with the temporary status of "humanitarian parole" because there is no path to citizenship which might allow them to stay if they cannot go home. Those



Refugee Resettlement cont'd . . .

with a status of “humanitarian parole” are in a very different category than those who have a “refugee” status. Should humanitarian parolees desire to stay in the U.S., their only option is a costly path of hiring an immigration lawyer to help them seek asylum. The hope of seeking asylum is to receive a positive judicial review of their case and the option to pursue a green card to establish legal permanent residence in the U.S.

May 2022: Congress passed legislation for Ukrainian “humanitarian parolees” to receive cash assistance, health insurance through Medicaid, food assistance (food stamps) and a work permit –for the temporary period they are allowed to stay in the U.S.

While Tetiana has not yet received her U.S. work permit (after 10 months), Mariia says that Tetiana is working “in some program” as a seamstress. Mariia’s brother’s work permit is held up due to some “mistakes in the documents” and it is unknown when his work permit might arrive. He will work as a finish carpenter with Yurri when he is allowed to work. But for now, resources from the Office of Refugee Resettlement rent assistance are depleted due to the large number of humanitarian parolees and, without a work permit, Mariia’s brother is under tremendous stress to provide for his family. The Kotoks are grateful to the refugee team for offering support to their extended family members by delivering food bank food to all family members along with free diapers for the youngest child of Mariia’s brother.

## Gratitude - EUMC 2023 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 this theme at the 2023 Women’s Retreat. Our last planned retreat was supposed to take place (with this same theme) in 2020. Who knew then what strange twists and turns life had in-store for all of us. As we’re finally able to come together and celebrate being sisters in Christ, it seems only fitting to keep the theme of Gratitude.

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 May 5th - 7th, at Warm Beach Camp in Stanwood. Warm Beach Camp is a lovely venue with ADA accessible bedrooms/bathrooms, and level paved walking paths.

Follow this [LINK](#) to register. Registration includes all weekend programming, most activities, 6 delicious meals, and comfortable lodging. 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 -**

Co-Pastor  
Ann Jacob

Co-Pastor  
Donna Pritchard

Church Administrator  
Denise Williams

Director of Worship Arts  
David Hendrix

Director of Family Ministries  
Deacon Erin Simmons

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

Custodians:  
Tony Garcia

Seminary Intern  
Angela Molloy

## In Memoriam



Photo by Julie Boyd

David Danielson  
October 24, 1938 - March 20, 2023

### GUIDELIGHTS SUBMISSION

Due by the 22nd of the month prior.  
Next deadline is April 22.  
Articles less than 500 words.

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*.)

## David Hendrix Founder and Director of New Choral Ensemble

Hello EUMC community! I'm excited to share with you a personal announcement, which is the launch of a new professional choir I am starting and called Evergreen Ensemble. You may or may not know that, in addition to my work at EUMC, I regularly work as a freelance singer primarily for professional choral ensembles. The opportunities I have had over the years to sing with a variety of wonderful groups have also been a source of inspiration for me as a conductor. Over time a creative dream started to form to start a group of my own.

The vision and mission of Evergreen Ensemble is to create an opportunity for professional singers who share a love of choral music to collaborate and work together at the highest level. By establishing itself as a professional ensemble, it will be a group primarily for singers who are seeking to make this art form a part of their vocation and livelihood and validate the dedication each of them has brought to their craft by providing a work opportunity. The ensemble will ultimately seek to explore a wide variety of choral expressions and genres, focusing primarily but not



exclusively on sacred repertoire, but particularly on compositions and texts that represent an inclusive, diverse, and welcoming worldview.

Additionally, I hope the group will be a choir associat-

ed with Edmonds, and that it will allow me to bring this part of my professional life more proximate to my work at EUMC. Not only will some of our volunteer singers from the congregation be joining us on this program, but our first concert is a creation care themed program



called **"All Creation Sings" and will be on April 29 at 7:00 pm in our very own sanctuary.** The ensemble will also join us in worship on Sunday, April 30, for our Earth Day themed worship service, and then will present **a second concert later that afternoon at 3:00 pm at Trinity Episcopal Parish Church in Seattle.** Tickets are available through our website at [www.evergreenensemble.com](http://www.evergreenensemble.com). I am also pleased to announce that we are partnering with the EUMC Advocates for Justice Climate Awareness group, and that a portion of the ticket sales will go directly to that group and their ongoing work.

I am so grateful for the wonderful support I have already received and hope you will join in spreading the word about and supporting this new project. There is something magical about being in the room and hearing a group of singers who have dedicated so much of themselves to this craft, and who have achieved such high levels of virtuosity and artistry. It's extraordinary in every sense of the word, for the singers and for those listening, and I think makes us more hopeful and compassionate when we walk away from an experience that is so collaborative and beautiful. And every time I've been fortunate enough to be a part of that type of experience myself, I think, 'How can we bring more of this into the world?' That is what I hope Evergreen Ensemble will be a part of.

David Hendrix



# Edmonds United Methodist Church

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Join us for Sunday worship at 9am and 10:30am in-person and 10:30am online at [www.edmondsumc.org](http://www.edmondsumc.org)