

Guidelights

EDMONDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023 | VOLUME 69 - ISSUE 1



Photo by Julie Boyd

Join us for our sermon series “Feasting Through Lent”

February 22 - March 26, 2023

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

A few years ago, I had the privilege of participating in a retreat on the island of Molokai, Hawaii. The theme of the gathering was “The Re-Imagined Self”, and among the experiences we shared was being photographed, unexpectedly, by National Geographic photographer Dewitt Jones. When Dewitt shared his first photos with each of us, the reaction was quick and predictably negative. None of us liked what we saw!

Dewitt told us he was not surprised, and then went on to explain. Usually, when someone takes a picture of us, we get ready for it. We may preen and primp a bit, run a comb through our hair, and carefully strike what we imagine to be a flattering pose. When we see those curated photos, we think that is how we look. Few of us really know the face we normally present to the world. But when caught on candid camera—there is no denying the reality which others see all the time.

If we really are intent on making changes—on “re-imagining” ourselves in light of our faith, then



Pastor Donna Pritchard



Pastor Ann Jacob

we must begin at a point of reality. We must risk seeing ourselves as we really are, telling the truth about who we really are.

The season of Lent is intended to help us do just that. As we reflect on Jesus’ life and death, we consider our own living and dying as well. It requires courage and patience, compassion and grace to travel from Ash Wednesday all the way to Easter Sunday. But the journey is well worth the trip, as re-imagining makes way for resurrection for us all.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Donna

Worship Calendar

“Feasting Through Lent” – February 22 through March 26, 2023

“Feasting”? Really? Shouldn’t we be fasting through Lent? Yes of course, but it helps if we pay attention to what we are fasting from and what we are feasting on during this season of reflection and spiritual preparation for Easter.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00 pm February 22nd. Join us for this quietly contemplative service which will include the traditional imposition of ashes and an acknowledgment of our own mortality.

The Lenten theme will then be explored through the following weekly sermons and worship services:

- Lent 1 (Feb 26) Fasting from Noise, Feasting on Silence
- Lent 2 (Mar 5) Fasting from Complexity, Feasting on Simplicity
- Lent 3 (Mar 12) Fasting from Despair, Feasting on Hope
- Lent 4 (Mar 19) Fasting from Discontent, Feasting on Gratitude
- Lent 5 (Mar 26) Fasting from Excuses, Feasting on Enthusiasm

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

Calendar/Events

LENT AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - Feb 21, 5:30-6:30 pm
 Ash Wednesday - Feb 22, Worship 7 pm
 Maundy Thursday - April 6, Worship 7 pm
 Good Friday - April 7, Worship 7 pm
 Holy Saturday - April 8, Easter Vigil 7 pm
 Easter Sunday- April 9, Worship 9 am & 11 am



MONTHLY:

Foundry Service - 1st Sunday of the month 6-7pm in the sanctuary
 Newcomers lunch - 2nd Sunday of the month
 Parent's Day Out - March 12, April 2

EVENTS:

Start of Adult Spiritual Formation Classes - Feb 19
 Church Building Closed for President's Day - Feb 20
 Council on EUMC Ministries - Feb 28, 6pm
 Mission Trip to Nogales AZ - April 15-23
 EUMC Earth Day Sunday - April 30
 Women's Retreat - May 5-7

Foundry service moves to a monthly schedule

Our Sunday evening worship service, Foundry, will be moving to a once a month schedule, to the first Sunday of the month, starting during Lent. (There will be a service on Feb 19 but not on Feb 26.) Foundry is a beautiful contemplative service, with rich contemplative music arranged and played by David Hendrix and his long-time friend Jesse Erickson, with vocals by stunning soprano, Danielle Reutter-Harrah. Included are poetry, scriptures, prayer, songs, communion, and a contemplative practice. If you're looking for an experience that is meditative, reflective, and holy, you'll want to join us every month. We look forward to seeing you on March 5 at 6pm.

Dinner Church discontinued

It has also been decided to discontinue Dinner Church at this time with a reevaluation in the future. We're grateful to all the volunteers who made dinner church possible, especially for the fabulous meals provided by our 4 star chef Kathy Karner.

Our New Administrative Board

Edmonds United Methodist Church 2023 ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD



Alex Araujo



Marta Card



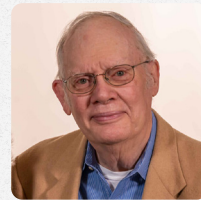
Julia Eckberg



Ed Egerdahl



Chuck Gillespie



Bill Lambert



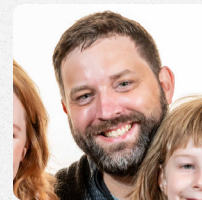
Laurie Napa



Diana Nielsen



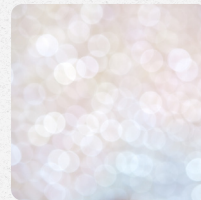
Mia Rue



Jake Waldron



TBD



TBD



Rev. Ann Jacob
Co-Pastor



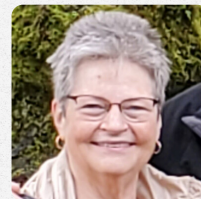
Rev. Donna Pritchard
Co-Pastor



Denise Williams
Church Administrator



Scott Anderson
Lay Member to
Annual Conference



Marlene Lund
Lay Member to
Annual Conference



Lynn & Ron Heitritter
Co-Lay Leaders

Say hello to our new Administrative Board for 2023. This board is made up of ten members, two returning members from last year, Laurie Napa, and Julia Eckberg, plus seven new members; Alex Araujo, Marta Card, Ed Egerdahl, Chuck Gillespie, Bill Lambert, Diana Nielsen, Jake Waldron, and one youth member, Mia Rue. There are four ex-officio members:* Scott Anderson and Marlene Lund, lay-members to annual conference; our co-lay leaders, Lynn and Ron Heitritter; and staff members, Pastor Donna, Pastor Ann, and Denise Williams, church administrator.

The executive committee members of the board are Laurie Napa, president, Julia Eckberg, vice president, Marta Card, secretary, and Ed Egerdahl, treasurer, plus the pastors.

What does the Administrative Board do?

In our "simplified Board structure", all board mem-

bers on our Admin Board deal with all aspects of Human Resources, oversight of finances, and maintenance of building and grounds.

Each of these administrative areas will include a group of volunteers who will be called upon for specific tasks related to these areas. More information will follow on how to add your name to those groups.

There is a high level of energy and enthusiasm on the new board to serve this church in the post-pandemic renewal of the church, and into the future.

We also want to express gratitude for the hard work that our previous Board members tackled during the transition to the new simplified board model and the challenges of being church via Zoom in a pandemic.

Thank to the outgoing members for their service the past year:

*Ex-officio members are non-voting members.

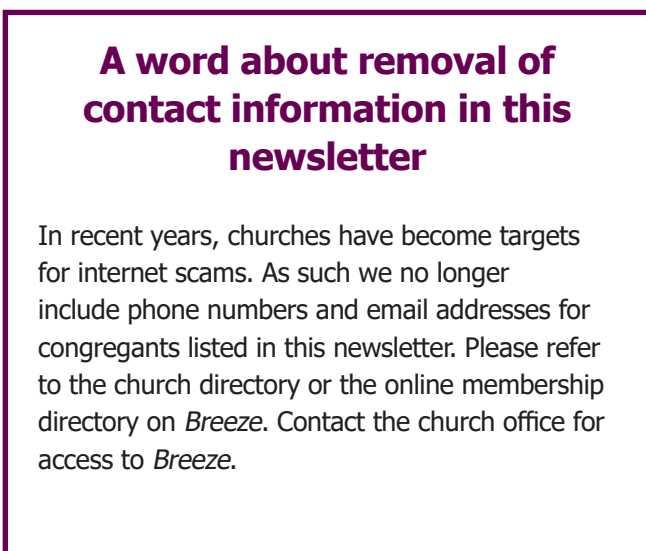
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. . . Administrative Board cont'd

Scott Anderson, Shelly Ehni, Cheryl Hay, Stan Gent, Megan LaBelle, and Adrien Daranciang.

The new Board members look forward to serving EUMC with love, commitment to community building, social justice, community service, good financial stewardship, and commitment to being the hands feet of Jesus and to "love one another" and "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before our God."

Contact members of the Executive Committee if you have a suggestion or question about the administrative work of the church.



Women's Book Study Group

Women's Book Group Selections for 2022-23
This group meets in the library, every other month from 10:00-11:30am. We welcome new members.

March 10, 2023

The Misadventures of a Cross-America Kayaker

By Hank Landau

(Note: all church members welcome for the author's in person presentation at this group meeting.)

May 12, 2023

Jesus and John Wayne

How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation

By Kristin Kobes Du Mez

July 14, 2023

Members Only

By Pandya Sameer

Sept. 8, 2023

Parable of the Sower

By Octavia Butler

Nov. 10, 2023

American Dirt

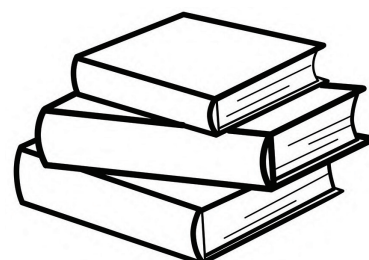
By Jeanine Cummins

Jan. 12, 2024

Braiding Sweetgrass

by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Contact Laura Siebens for further information.



From Your Stephen Ministry Team: Transitions

I've recently been thinking about transitions and I imagine it's probably because of the immense challenges we've faced over the past three years, certainly exacerbated by the pandemic. Transitions can often be exciting, but scary and difficult as well. Part of the excitement of a transition is that it can feel invigorating, but there also can be fear with leaving something familiar, the unknown ahead. Our Stephen Minister team regularly witnesses the transitions our Care Receivers face. These transitions include the death of a loved one, loss of a job, living with chronic illness, family conflicts, and financial uncertainty, to name a few. Often, people are experiencing more than one of these issues at the same time. An article by Peter W. Marty, from the June 29, 2022 Christian Century titled "Looking Ahead", discussed the importance of embracing the future, while learning from the past. It ends with the following paragraph, "The longer we live, the more memories we see in our rear-view mirror. But that doesn't change the size of the mirror. We still need a big windshield in front of us to see what's ahead, which is where we'll spend the rest of our lives."

As EUMC looks to the future, transitions abound. We've gone from online worship to hybrid worship, from zoom meetings to in-person and hybrid meetings, to our staff working from home, back to working in our offices. We've experienced staff changes. And, in September we welcomed our new co-Pastor, Donna Pritchard. As I look to the future, I'm starting to feel the excitement that can come with new challenges. Blessings abound at EUMC and your Stephen Ministry team is looking forward to sharing our gifts with you as we embrace the future together.

Many blessings from our team,
Kathi Matthes, Stephen Minister



Finding Solace

Do you ever wish you had a warm, welcoming place you could retreat to—a place that is quiet, peaceful, and private? The Prayer Area in the Chapel may be just the place you are looking for. With flickering candles and cozy prayer shawls to wrap yourself in, you can breathe deeply and let your body relax. Here is a place to talk to God about whatever is on your mind—or to praise Him and give thanks. It is a holy place. You may pray silently or aloud (chances are you are alone and no one will hear you).

Or, you may wish to write a prayer to God and tuck it into the Prayer Wall. It's a special feeling knowing that your prayer is left with God. All prayers are confidential and burned once a year to release them, through the smoke, to God. Whatever you do or however you pray, this is your time to just sit or kneel and be in God's presence.

The Prayer Area is open
Monday through Friday, 9 am-4 pm
Sundays, 8:30 am-12 pm



Art Hall

During the months of February and March, the Art Hall will feature the theme, "Expressions of Love". All are welcome to contribute no matter your age or art skill level. Whether your skill is painting, photography, needle point, or any hang-able art, we want to see it displayed. The Art Hall belongs to the entire church and no matter who you are, your art is important, and we would love to see it. Work will be accepted through February 12th. You may contact Loucinda White to coordinate hanging your work or leave it on the art table in the hall next to the drinking fountain. If you have an idea but would like help orchestrating your design, Loucinda would be happy to help you. She has over 30 years of experience teaching art and design and working with artists and gallery shows. For the months of April and May, the Art Hall theme will be, "Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose". A workshop day is planned for April 8 to instruct interested artists to create work for the art wall that represents the "3 R's" theme.

Contact information: Loucinda White



United Women in Faith

The United Methodist Women changed our name in March 2022. The group is nation-wide and celebrated 150 years in 2019. We care for and focus on women, children, and youth. Our funds go to charities and church missions and group activities. Our group is hosting a District meeting (30 churches or more) on March 25, 2023 from 9am-12pm. All are welcome. Registration forms are forthcoming. Our meeting will focus on what United Women in Faith do and support. Feel free to check us out. We are women united.



Movie with a Message is Free

Come one, come all to see a movie with a message that is discussed at the end of the show. Not all are faith-based movies, but there will be a message. There are movies on culture, age, never giving up and courage. Some are true and some are just good movies. Come check us out on the second Saturday of the month, in the church library at 4pm. All are welcome, and the movie is free. Connect with us by email so we can send you reminders. Contact Gay Johnson.



Thrift Shop Needs More Volunteers

We have an ongoing need to build back our team of volunteers to cover our new work schedule at the thrift shop: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 10am-2pm. We love our little thrift shop, run by United Women in Faith, but all are welcome to volunteer and help us out. Do you love people, enjoy finding treasures, want to meet new people, or like to organize things? This might be the place for you to help when you want. Call Gay Johnson for more information: Our profits help charities. Join in the fun!



Advocates for Justice – Environment

Climate Crisis Survey Results and Electric Earth Sunday

1. Thanks to all of you who completed the Climate Crisis Survey. Here are the results: We had 59 responses, with choices in the box to the right:

Our Advocates Team will be following up on your preferences and will work further on how to implement them. Suggestions are still welcome.

2. Watch the “e-news” for details on state legislative bills on the environment which need your comments.

3. For Earth Sunday, we are proposing **Electric Earth Sunday on April 30**. We will highlight things electric, including items in your garage, your kitchen, and on the road. We ask those of you who have all-electric cars or hybrid cars to bring them to church on the 30th and be willing to talk with others before, after and/or between services about why you purchased your car, what you like about it, what you dislike about it, and allow other members of the congregation to look carefully at your car and ask you questions about it.

Please contact us if you plan to bring your all-electric car or a hybrid car so we can provide locations for each type of car on the 30th. Please contact Gayla Shoemake or leave a note in the box outside the church office with information about your all-electric or hybrid car and its model and year.

#1 Solar panels

#2 Planting more trees

#3 Electric charging station

#4 Elimination of grass

#5 Electric van

WHY PALESTINE?

We talk about many places of suffering in our world: Peru, Brazil, Kenya, Korea, Ukraine, places of mass shooting, toxic air and water, drought, and storms. We also talk about Palestine. Several United Methodist mission workers are located there. Many members of our churches have visited, to see the holy sites and to walk with the people, experiencing their hospitality. Others have read books describing the history of this land.

Why Palestine? These are our people. We are linked through the generations, from the times of Abraham, Moses, Ruth, Esther, David, Jesus, Mary, Paul, and the disciples.

We are linked: flesh of their flesh, they gave way to us who follow; for in the beginning was the WORD, and through time the WORD tells the story and enables us all to live abundantly. Today the people of Palestine are “living stones” (see Luke 19:40; I Peter 2:4)

In 1948, the Jewish people were granted a portion of the “holy” land to share with others. Israel arrived as colonists, not willing to share, destroying some 500 Palestinian villages and driving some 700,000 people into exile. Palestinians continue to suffer today, with few coming to their aid. Israel controls the story, and maintains power over the everyday lives of Palestinians. Over the years, violence continues, land is stolen, homes demolished, people killed, (40 just in Jan. 2023) as we watch in silence. Israel declares their neighbors are terrorists, and closes human rights organizations, which publicize atrocities.

Our goal is to tell the story. Our purpose is to reframe the news, our aim is to get more people to understand. Our hope is to encourage others to speak out, to persuade political leaders to change financial support for Israel, end the suffering and protect the oppressed. All people are made in God’s image. Let’s work to help out siblings live together in peace with justice, obeying the 10 Commandments and Sermon on the Mount.

Palestine Network: Rev. Richard K Gibson, Jan. 2023

Black History Month

No matter your heritage, culture, or racial background, Black history is EVERYONE's story. Here are 18 ways you, your family, and friends, can celebrate and participate in Black History Month. From the UMC General Commission on Religion and Race, an organization established (in 1968 - the year the church desegregated) to hold the newly formed United Methodist Church accountable in its commitment to reject the sin of racism in every aspect of the life of the church.

1. Patronize a local or online Black-owned business.
2. Attend church, Bible study, or worship at a historically Black church and experience the Gospel from another vantage point.
4. Learn more about "Black Harry" Hosier (c. 1750-1806), an African-American Methodist preacher and evangelist.
5. Fearlessly learn more about how racism has and still affects Black people around the world and start confronting racism.
6. Donate to a Black nonprofit or empowerment organization in your community.
7. Watch a film by and about the heritage and lives of Black people. Titles to consider: "Antwone Fisher," "Malcolm X," "If Beale Street Could Talk," "Hidden Figures," "The Hate U Give," and "One Night in Miami."
8. Watch and discuss documentaries about the Civil Rights movement and other series on the challenges and triumphs of Black people. Suggestions: "Eyes on the Prize," and Henry Louis Gates' recent series, "The Black Church: This Is Our Story. This Is Our Song."
9. Read a contemporary book by a Black author.
10. Read a story featuring a Black hero to your children, grandchildren, or to a local school class.
11. Learn about an unsung hero of Black history.
12. Attend shows featuring local Black artists, actors, poets, local musicians, or dancers.
13. Explore the breadth of Black music, from jazz to hip-hop, and gospel to southern African folk songs.
14. Call out racism and prejudice aimed at Black people and other People of Color in your church and community.
15. Learn more about the Black UMC caucus, Black Methodists for Church Renewal.
16. Subscribe to and learn from Black media and the Black press.
17. Engage in positive, supportive conversations about Black history and culture on social media.
18. Read Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."

Book Review

As a fourth-grade teacher I read many books to kids. Some of my favorites are those that get my kids wondering and talking with each other. When it comes to racial justice there are several books that I read each year. One book that I like to read is called "a kids book about racism" by Jelani Memory. It is a good book to get conversations started with kids about what racism is and how being different is a good thing! You should check it out!

Happy Black History Month!
Jeni Largent, Racial Justice Team member



SISTERS: You've got a friend in me

Sisters is a group that has long been an important thread in the fiber of Edmonds UMC. It began as a Christ-Care group with the covenant that we are Sisters related in a common Christian purpose living by Christ's commandments.

Sisters currently has twelve members, age 68-91, who extend Christ's love to each other; continue to grow and change together; and care for each other, ourselves and others in that framework. All conversation is kept strictly confidential, and acceptance is unconditional. We meet quarterly in various locations from 12:00-2:00pm.

We support others by sharing joys, concerns, prayer requests, and

fundraisers. For example, in 2020 Susan Morrow had JUSTICE yard signs made and sold as a fundraiser for the Edmonds Food Bank for a total of \$5000. Before the pandemic restrictions took effect, as an ongoing project Sisters donated over 550 pairs of new socks that were in turn donated to Washington Kids in Transition, Seattle Youth Care and other folks in need of new socks.

As the season of life has advanced Sisters has evolved from a ChristCare group to Friendship group. We discuss spirituality, talk about current issues, and take turns offering devotions. We try to accomplish projects and support other groups in need. Each meeting has a different theme, devotional reading and closing prayer. For example, our member Avila Arcala gave us an informative presentation on Alzheimer's, member Susan Morrow led us in planting bulbs in the round bed in front of the church doors, and we were serenaded with a live performance by the *Forever Young* barbershop quartet. In between meetings we stay in touch to nurture our true connections.

Sisters' members put God at our center and remain open to what God wants to accomplish through us. We delight in both our old and new friendships, in our differences and shared purpose to God's Word. This sisterhood of mutual respect fills a vital need and has a very positive impact on our lives.

New members are welcome and encouraged. Let us keep Sisters walking with God and changing with the seasons into the future. Please contact our facilitator Audrey Poole.

Mary Sherhart, member representative to the Congregational Care Team



Joyful Sound Bell Choir

The Joyful Sound Bell Choir was created to provide more recreational and social opportunities for teens and young adults with developmental disabilities. We meet to practice on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, from 7-8pm, in the handbell choir room (in the church basement). We will be performing in worship in the near future! If you are interested in participating or volunteering, please contact Amber Saldivar. We would love to have you join us!



Family Ministry Moments

We have had a whirlwind of a fall in Family Ministries here at EUMC. It continues to be a joy to build relationships with and among our families as well as to resource parents and caregivers as the primary teachers of our young people. Together we have had many successful adventures including a Youth Retreat to Camp Indianola in November, weekly Sunday School at both services, and a joyful Nativity Pageant. This spring we look forward to continuing and growing our monthly Club 4,5,6 (for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders), as well as restarting Children's Chapel for the Children's Center.

One of the best parts of my week has become 5 to 7 pm on Sunday evenings as the youth of this congregation gather. We almost always start out with a favorite game, "Grog". In a rush of excitement, young folks take to almost every part of the church building (and outside when it's nice!) as they work together to find and bring back to the safe zone some beloved treasure. This creative version of capture the flag and freeze tag lowers personal barriers and brings a smile to all. I am so grateful for the warm welcome I have received and how I have been invited by all ages to join in on the games, worship, and beautiful ways this congregation serves the larger community in Edmonds. Know that families come in all shapes and sizes and that you are always welcome to come join in the fun and fellowship of Family Ministries at EUMC!

Deacon Erin Simmons, director of Family Ministries



Jeanne Fowler sharing a sacred story with young folks in Sunday School in the desert box.



Youth group at Camp Indianola

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

Office Assistant
Sarah William

Facilities Manager
Kevin Danberg

Custodians:
Tony Garcia

Seminary Intern
Angela Molloy

New Members



On Sunday, February 12, we welcomed five new members to the church. Pictured left to right are Yemi Deckon, Carolyn Goble, Loucinda White, Ken and Theresa Bergsman.

Welcome!

In Memoriam

David Sizer passed into eternal life June 26, 2022
E. Ann Brown passed into eternal life May 6, 2022
Andrew Hershey passed into eternal life May 12, 2022
Kristiana Johnson passed into eternal life July 18, 2022
Gretta Cary passed into eternal life July 24, 2022
Hal Rowe passed into eternal life July 30, 2022
John Rodenberg passed into eternal life November 23, 2022
Byrla Mueller passed into eternal life November 26, 2022
Waide Adams passed into eternal life December 21, 2022
Mary Lou Barr passed into eternal life January 1, 2023

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

GUIDELIGHTS SUBMISSION

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

Guidelights editor: Diana Nielsen
Proof readers: Shelly Ehni, Cheryl Hay



Wild Geese

Mary Oliver

Photo by Julie Boyd

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting -
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.