

Guidelights

EDMONDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023 | VOLUME 69 - ISSUE 3

WE REFUSE TO LET HATRED IN!

WE SIDE WITH

Love

JOIN A COMMUNITY VIGIL AGAINST HATE IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR LGBTQIA+ SIBLINGS

WHEN
Tuesday, May 2
6:00 PM

WHERE
Edmonds United
Methodist Church
828 Caspers St,
Edmonds, WA



Questions? Contact: vigil@edmondsumc.org

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

Happy Spring! The tulips are blooming, we'll be hitting weather in the 70s this week, and May is around the corner.

As we enter May, I think of the transitions ahead. My last Sunday at Edmonds UMC will be June 11. It's bittersweet to leave this community that has been my home for the last four years. I have loved each of you deeply and I have felt your love radiate back. And so in this pastoral letter, I want to name a couple things I noticed, appreciated, and cherish about this beloved community.

I grew up as a pastor's kid, and so I've had the privilege of knowing and loving many congregations. When I first got to Edmonds, I told my parents about the extraordinary lengths the lay people went to, to welcome me. I will always hold dear, the question our lay leaders asked, "what is your favorite color?" during the SPRC intake meeting. I responded, I love all colors, but I particularly love eggplant purple, sage green, and fuchsia. I didn't know the purpose of that question, but when I arrived at the parsonage in Edmonds, I connected the dots. The lay leaders and parsonage hospitality team wanted me to feel at home, to feel loved. I walked in the door and there was a sage colored couch in the living room, in the kitchen were utensils that were eggplant purple, in the bathroom were towels with fuchsia highlights, and in the bedroom was a bedspread with all three colors. The intentionality of the way love is expressed consistently in this community does not escape me. What I learned on my first day with you and what I have witnessed time and again over these last four years is a community steeped in Christ's love.

The road over the last four years was not easy



Pastor Donna Pritchard



Pastor Ann Jacob

all the time. We lived through a global pandemic and still have traumas of that experience. But, through car parades, pre-recorded worship services, Brady bunch Zoom small groups, Facebook live poetry and music music with Hyun-Ja, and reimagining beloved community we have journeyed this path together.

I am the first person of color, millennial, openly queer, woman who has served Edmonds UMC. And I am grateful for the opportunity to lead and serve with all of you through a time of deep civil unrest. We have marched for justice and Black lives, we have celebrated the LGBTQIA+ community, we have supported organizations near and far with our resources, and lamented the continued proliferation of guns and gun related death in our country. It's been a full four years.

I'm grateful for each of you. Thank you for loving me, forgiving me, and serving with me. I'm grateful we got to witness Christ's love in one another on this journey.

Three things: 1) may your journey be filled with curiosity, empathy, vulnerability, and listening. 2) know that in beloved community you will continue to be shaped by the school of love. 3) practice your faith in liberative and loving ways, proximate to the margins.

With love and grace,
Pastor Ann

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



Community Vigil May 2, at 6:00 pm at EUMC

On Sunday morning, April 16, our church was the target of an act of intimidation and hate. In solidarity with our Transgender and LGBTQIA+ community, EUMC is hosting a community vigil as "We Side with Love" on Tuesday, May 2, at 6:00 pm at our church. We expect people from all over our community to join us--members of other churches, community and civic leaders, and the press. The vigil will be a space for collective lament and a call for collective action to stop the spread of hate and to demonstrate the persistent hope that love always wins.

We hope you will join us.

Read the full statement at: www.edmondsumc.org/vigil



Click on picture for ticket information



MONTHLY:

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

Parent's Day Out - May 14, 1-5pm

EVENTS:

All Creation Sings, Evergreen Ensemble, Sanctuary, Sat. April 29, 7pm

Open House Tea for Hyun-Ja, May 2, 1-3pm

"We Side with Love" Vigil in support of Trans and LGBTQIA persons - May 2, 6pm

Women's Retreat - May 5-7 registration is closed.

Red Dress Project - May 5-21

Mending Wings, Yakima Nation youth - May 21 in worship

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

"Your Issues are My Issues"

A reflection on recent hate speech directed at our church

by the Racial Justice Team

The recent incident at church was a racist, transphobic, homophobic call to violence. It was an attempt to intimidate EUMC and cause fear. We, congregants, could have responded by turning inward and quieting our resolve as an affirming and Reconciling Congregation. Instead, this community chose solidarity with love.

As United Methodists, our call to love our neighbor and our call for justice are intertwined.

We are the Racial Justice Team, and we believe that our liberation is tied to one another.

Race remains at the root of oppression that divides us along the lines of race, gender, class, sexual identity, and expression; ability intersects with them all. Our hyper-individualized society leads us to see our circumstances as the result of self-determination. This perspective inhibits our capacity to address how our systems are inequitable and directly impact our daily lives, especially for those on society's margins. We have only to look at the incarceration rates of Black men, the violence directed at our Trans siblings, and the rate of income division for proof. In March, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, told the Commission on the Status of Women that gender equality is vanishing and will not come for another 300 years.

Audre Lorde, poet, educator, and Black feminist scholar underscored this concept in her

work, "There is no Hierarchy of Oppressions," published in 1983. Lorde explains the complex connections between her identities and her lived experience as a Black and Lesbian female. Lorde faced racism because she was Black, sexism for her gender, and bigotry for who she loved. Lorde endured efforts to diminish her whole identity and, thus, her humanity. It is why she pressed us to "battle the forces of discrimination wherever they appear."

The May 2 vigil exemplifies our influence when we act collectively. Alone we can do very little to fight intolerance and hatred. However, we harness tremendous energy when we unite



and rise together with our collective power. Here at EUMC, we understand this principle. We used it when we organized to enact legislation to prevent gun violence. It is how we actively affirm our stance as a Reconciling

. . . Continued on p. 5

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congregation. It is why the work of the Racial Justice Team continues to call for reparations and participation in antiracist training. Together, we can imagine a transformed society with economic equity and security, radical hospitality offered to all, and a healthy and thriving planet.

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. We join our AAPI siblings in celebrating their history and contributions. We join our Native neighbors in honoring the lives of missing and murdered women, girls, and those identifying as female by drawing attention to the Red Dress Project. In June, we look forward to commemorating Juneteenth on June 19, a celebration of the emancipation of enslaved people, because July 4 represents freedom for some, not all. We anticipate participating in Pride activities throughout the month of June.

We rejoice in our humanity and in all the ways it is created.

Pastor Ann urged us to be Easter people telling others to "embody God's love in the world". May we continue to see and love one another in the full spectrum of our mind, body, spirits.

Julia Eckberg, Racial Justice Team member

"The recent incident at church was a racist, transphobic, homophobic call to violence. It was an attempt to intimidate EUMC and cause fear. We, congregants, could have responded by turning inward and quieting our resolve as an affirming and Reconciling Congregation. Instead, this community chose solidarity with love."



CELEBRATING EASTER TOGETHER



Photos by Ken Pickle

Visit from Hyun-Ja

Many of you will remember our beloved organist, Hyun-Ja Choi. An incredibly gifted and talented organist, Hyun-Ja served Edmonds UMC as our organist for 8 years. In July 2020, Hyun-Ja needed to leave the U.S. and return to South Korea as we worked through her visa process. Unfortunately, we have not been successful in pursuing a work visa for Hyun-Ja, and so she is in Edmonds for two weeks to collect her belongings and visit with our Edmonds UMC family. Due to her family obligations, Hyun-Ja will only be here for a short visit and will be in worship to play for our two Sunday services on April 30, 2023! On Tuesday, May 2 from 1-3pm will be an open house for folks to meet and greet Hyun-Ja and express their thanks and gratitude. We recognize that this visit and the reality that Hyun-Ja's visa process has not been successful might bring up many emotions for our EUMC community. May we have the grace to hold the complexity of all that is while we love and support one another. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Ann, annj@edmondsumc.org.



Hyun-Ja at the organ

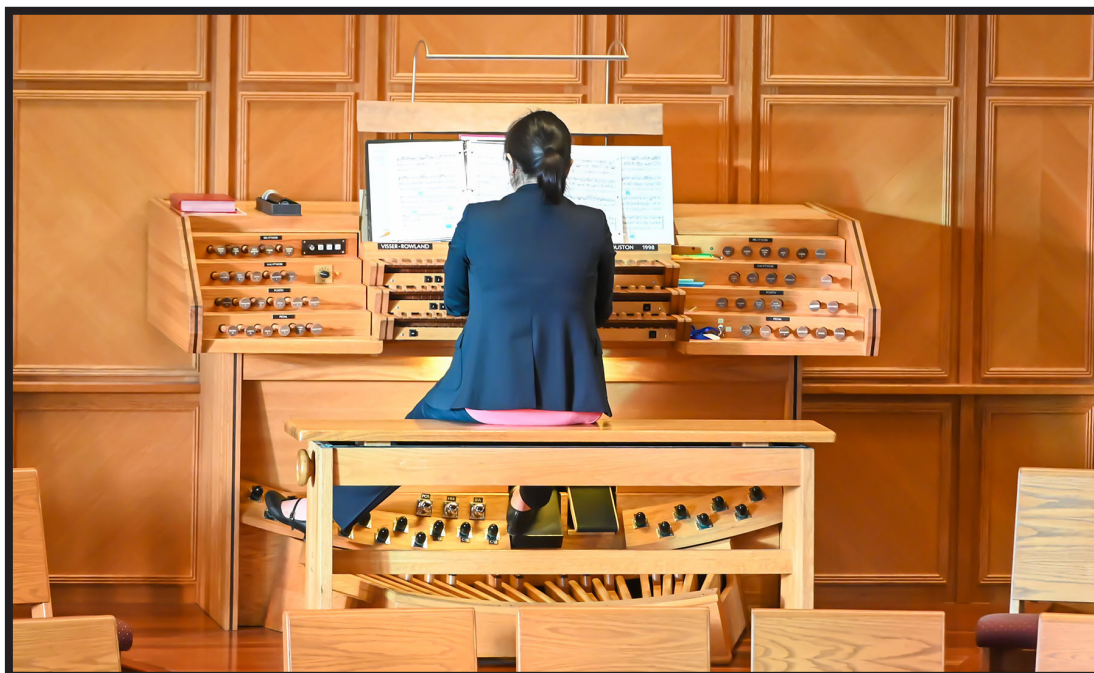


Photo by Ken Pickle

Thank you Joyful Sound Bell Choir for your wonderful music in church! It was so beautiful.



Photo by Ken Pickle

The Joyful Sound Bell Choir, under the direction of Amber Saldivar truly made a joyful sound that touched everyone in the sanctuary. From left to right: Amber, Vincent, Jeffrey, Uzo, and Elizabeth

Opportunity to be a Blessing

We are seeking five additional volunteers for a short weekly commitment that can be done from your home and that would be a blessing to our dear congregant, Nancy Lind. She is missing a daily phone reading of the Upper Room devotion, which she used to receive from John Rodenberg prior to his passing last year.

If you are available one day per week for 15 - 20 minutes, Nancy would be blessed with a wonderful start to her day as you read the devotion to her over the phone. The Upper Room devotions are free online and are also available in print copy.

If you would like to be a blessing to Nancy in this way, please contact Lisa Burns for further details.



Nancy Lind

Family Ministry Updates



Youth Sunday



Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents. We are so grateful for our wonderful youth and our youth program.

Thank you for leading us in worship, and thank you Deacon Erin for your leadership.

Photos by Ken Pickle

Art Hall for April & May

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

Recycle, Re-Use, Repurpose

Weavings from recycled plastic bags by Loucinda White



Aging Well Series

Final Lecture

Hospice Care - May 7

In the Wesley Room

11:45 - light lunch

12 - 1pm - presentation

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

4-WEEK SERIES:

- Estate Planning
- Senior Housing Options
- Caring for the Caregiver
- Hospice Care

11:45 Light Lunch
12:00 - 1:00 Events

April 2 * April 16 * April 23 * May 7



Caring for the Caregiver

Session #3

All past lectures can be heard on recording. Go to the church website for a link.

[Recording](#)

[Handouts](#)

Mending Wings to Participate in Worship Service, Sunday May 21

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



United Women in Faith (UWF) Making an Impact

Much of our work in the community is with charities and individuals and is done by providing financial resources and grants. And through our thrift shop we also pass along clothing and household items that need "a place to go". Recently we've been reaching out more and more with these donations to groups doing good mission work.

Here is a summary of one such day:

"Hi everyone: I just wanted to let you know about this past Wednesday, when Gay and I delivered clothes from our Thrift Shop that were ready to "move on". We first traveled to Clothes for Kids. At this well-organized place, they served 5,000 kids between August and March! They carry sizes 3T-18 for kids in Snohomish County. We then went to the Hygiene Center which offers homeless people a place to shower—and delivered socks! Next, we traveled to Annie's Kitchen, which serves dinners on Wednesday evenings and delivered men's and women's winter wear.

I think that it would be fun for us to go to Annie's kitchen some Wednesday evening to help serve the dinners. They have cooks, so it is just helping to serve the meals. Anyway, all the places really appreciated our donations, so thanks to all of you that donated or worked at the Thrift Shop. In Christ's name, Randi Warner."

We are planning a Wednesday evening at Annie's Kitchen to help serve dinner to the 75-100 people that come to Edmonds Lutheran Church for dinner. More information to come.

Gay Johnson

ANNIE'S COMMUNITY KITCHEN



Annie's Kitchen crew

<https://annieskitchen.edmondslutheran.org/>

Red Dress Project May 5

For the 2nd year in a row, EUMC will participate in an international day of remembrance for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women on May 5th. We honor this day by displaying an exhibit of red dresses inside and outside the church. Every dress represents the life of an Indigenous Woman or child who is missing, murdered or an unaccounted for. Historically and today, cases of MMIW have been ignored by local law enforcement and left unsolved.

Why should we care about this at EUMC?

The state of Washington and the City of Seattle have had among the highest such cases in the country. However, that is changing with new aggressive laws that provide resources and services for all law enforcement agencies in the state, including tribal law enforcement, to work together.

New steps are being taken to solve MMIW cases in WA

- December 2021, Washington state set up a taskforce to assess systemic causes for the MMIWP crisis and determine effective solutions.
- A new statewide alert system went into effect in 2022—22 alerts occurred; of these 16 people were found alive, one found dead and five people still missing (by Jan 6, 2023.)
- The State Attorney General's office is sponsoring Senate Bill 5137 which will authorize a cold case investigations unit for MMIW.

THE FACTS:

- Native American women go missing ten times more often than any other group in this country.
- The National Crime Information Center reports that, in 2016, there were 5,712 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls, although the US Department of Justice's federal missing person database, NamUs, only logged 116 cases!
- Murder is the third leading cause of death for native women.
- 4 out of 5 Native American Women are affected by violence
- Most MMIW cases get buried in police department files and go unsolved.



- Seattle has the highest number of missing and murdered Indigenous women in the country. Washington state ranks number two among all the states.

Awareness leads to action

- Learn about the problem in our state and our country. Research and share information. Go to nativehope.org
- Support SB 5137 – “Creating a missing and murdered indigenous women and people cold case investigations unit.” Go to [SB-5137](https://leg.wa.gov/bills/2022/SB_500-599/SB_5137). Register your support for the bill.



CHURCH STAFF

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



Photo by Ken Pickle

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*.)



**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