

# Guidelights

EDMONDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023 | VOLUME 69 - ISSUE 6



## 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 Pastor

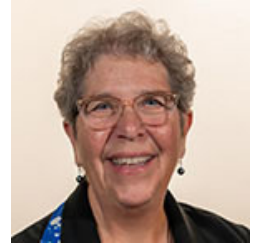
## Collaboration

Choreographer Twyla Tharp, in her book, *The Collaborative Habit: Life Lessons for Working Together*, writes:

*"I define collaboration as people working together – sometimes by choice, sometimes not. Sometimes we collaborate to jump-start creativity; other times the focus is simply on getting things done. In each case, people in a good collaboration accomplish more than the group's most talented members could achieve on their own."*

I am reminded of Tharp's wisdom each time I witness this congregation in action. There are so many ways people here work together to accomplish more than any one of us could achieve on our own – whether that be the choir bringing amazing music into worship, or the congregational care team bringing gracious support to people in need of healing or hope, or even the administrative board bringing insight and wisdom to the procedures and policies of the church.

Certainly, I have seen collaboration at work in the Strategic Planning process which we are engaged in right now. This is a collaboration which is unleashing creativity for the present moment and far into our common future. As we have considered some of the trends we've



Pastor Donna Pritchard

experienced in the last few years, as we've looked at the demographics of our congregation, and our neighborhood within a 10 mile radius of the church, we have begun to share our dreams for EUMC, with an eye to collaboration.

None of us can do this work alone. Every voice counts as we seek to lift up five priorities for our work in the next five years.

Again, in Tharp's words:

*"Like creativity, collaboration is a habit, which begins with a point of view. A clearly stated, consciously shared purpose is the foundation of any collaboration."*

Our priorities for the next five years can provide us that clearly stated, consciously shared purpose so that our collaborative ministry goes on well beyond the next five years. Stay tuned for more chances to collaborate as together we continue to build this community of faith.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Donna

### Sermon Calendar

<b>September 3</b>	<b>Labor Day Sunday</b>	<b>Rev. Curtis White, guest preacher</b>
<b>September 10</b>	<b>"Who Is Jesus?"</b>	<b>Mark 8:27-38</b>
<b>September 17</b>	<b>Homecoming Sunday "Breathe in Grace"</b>	<b>Sermon Series "Take a Breath: Breathing In" Matthew 11:25-30</b>
<b>September 24</b>	<b>"Breathe in Transformation"</b>	<b>Romans 12:1-6</b>

# Calendar/Events

## MONTHLY:

- Foundry Service - 1st Sunday of the month 6-7:00 pm in the sanctuary
- Potluck & Game Night - 2nd Friday of the month 6-8:00 pm in the Wesley Room
- Meet & Greet with the Pastor - 2nd Sunday of the month in the Library following worship
- Communion Sundays - 1st Sunday of the month

## COMING EVENTS:

- Homecoming Sunday - September 17, 10:00 am, luncheon follows
- Church Council on Ministries meeting - September 26, 6:00 pm
- All Church Strategic Planning Retreat - Saturday, November 11, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm



Five Priorities  
Five Years  
Strategic Plan

**Mark your calendars! All-Church Strategic Planning Retreat - Saturday, Nov. 11, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

## “Meet & Greets” – with the Pastor

The 2nd Sunday of each month, newcomers to EUMC are specially invited to join Pastor Donna in the library immediately following worship for a time to connect, ask questions about the church, and begin to get acquainted. If you’ve only been here a few times, or if you have a burning question that’s been on your mind, please don’t miss this chance to “Meet and Greet”.

## Join the UMC Race & Religion in a thirty day Antiracism challenge. Click [HERE](#).

Join us this September for 30 days of antiracism. Each day we will engage in an activity that helps us to become more antiracist in the ways we think and act. Share your progress with a picture or a reflection using #30DaysAntiRacism.

**EUMC Community  
Dinner & Game Night**



**6:00pm-8:00pm  
All are Welcome!**

Come join the EUMC community for a casual all ages potluck and game night.

Friday, September 8, Wesley Room  
5:30 pm Setup  
6:00 pm Dinner & Games

Sign up for set up or for a potluck item [HERE](#). You can add what you'd like to bring in the comments or surprise us. Bring a favorite game or activity to share if you'd like.

If you forget to RSVP, don't have time to get a potluck item, are arriving late, come anyway!! We're happy to have you.

Invite your friends, everyone welcome!

**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)**

Edmonds United Methodist Church  
Sunday, Sept 17  
**Homecoming Sunday**  
**And Chili Cook off!**

**And Dessert Potluck too!**



Worship at 10:00 am in-person & online  
Chili Cook off Luncheon 11:15 am  
Get your recipes ready!

## First Annual EUMC Chili Cook off!

First prize winner receives the "Golden Ladle!"

Sign up as a family, a church group, or go solo!

This is a chance to show the church your fabulous cooking skills!

Sign up **IN ADVANCE** either by [email](#), or on paper at the welcome desk.



**Contestants:** On Sunday 9/17, bring your already-fully cooked-and-warm chili to church in your own lidded crockpot, AND your ladle, with your name clearly labeled in masking tape on both lid AND crockpot AND ladle handle, and plug it in an area you'll see clearly designated in Kennedy Hall Kitchen on Sunday between 8:00 and 9:45 am. Find your table half with your name on it out in Kennedy Hall. Decorate it (with things you brought from home) and sign it, if you so choose - get creative!! Costumes **CAN** be a part of it!!!

**Marketing, people, marketing!!!**

**Don't forget desserts too!**

## A Word about Worship

As we head into Fall we will continue our current worship times:

- > Every Sunday morning at 10:00 am in the sanctuary.
- > Every first Sunday of the month at 6:00 pm for Foundry, our contemplative worship.

### Volunteer to help with Worship

If you would like to help worship happen, you can do so in a variety of ways:

- Be a liturgist, helping with the welcome, the Call to Worship, and the offering
- Provide children's church activities in the library for elementary-aged children or assist in the nursery for babies and toddlers
- Read Scripture
- Offer the children's sermon
- Join the choir or the bell choir
- Help serve communion on the first Sunday of the month
- Join the hospitality team to provide refreshments after worship
- Serve as a greeter or an usher
- Join the Sanctuary Enhancements team to provide seasonal banners
- Sign up to bring flowers for the altar

None of these volunteer opportunities requires a lifetime commitment – helping out even one Sunday is a big help! Let us know if you'd like to give anything on this list a try. Sign up on the bulletin insert or on line through *Breeze* [HERE](#).

## Chancel Choir Returns

Rehearsals begin on Sept 6 every Wednesday night in the Sanctuary from 7-9:00 pm. The choir sings in worship on the first and third Sundays each month. Come join the choir! We really need Tenors and Basses! We love having new voices join us. Contact David Hendrix at [davidh@edmondsumc.org](mailto:davidh@edmondsumc.org).

## Bell Choir Returns under new director, but old friend

Jason Kaylor, bell ringer extraordinaire and former EUMC member is returning to the area and has offered to lead our Bell Choir! Old and new experienced bell ringers are welcome to join! More information is forthcoming.



Photo by Ken Pickle

# Strategic Planning Updates



Over 50 people attended our 2nd all-church Strategic Planning Meeting on Sunday, August 13. The planning team, Theresa Greco, Keith Skore, Diana Nielsen, and Pastor Donna gave a presentation which included summaries of the 4 questions that 112 of you answered, and an overview of some church and community demographic information. If you were unable to attend the meeting you can get a copy of the presentation in the link below.

Top of the list for "What is one dream you have for the church?" is a "robust children, youth and family ministry program!" No surprises there. We all want to see our Sunday School and youth groups filled with children whose families make this their church home.

Second on our dream list is, "Welcoming and open to all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender, race, age, and abilities." It's encouraging to see that our loving community is what drew so many of us into the church and we want that to continue.

We also said that we want to be a church of faith and justice, with a balance of the two. Anti-racism and social justice are highly valued by this congregation as ways to live out our faith.

**Download the results of the All-church Survey [HERE](#).**

## WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

On August 27, our third all-church Strategic Planning meeting explored "Who is my neighbor?" As we discern our five goals for the next five years, we want to see beyond our needs as a local church, to the needs of our community. As we heard from Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth, we must not look at ourselves "through a mirror, but through a window" which draws us to a broader view outside our church and into the community.

As we discern who is my neighbor, we talked about how to engage in conversations with

**Mark your calendars.  
All Church Strategic Planning Retreat.  
Saturday Nov. 11, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

community members, including city council members, principals, police and fire chiefs, social service agencies, and our next door neighbors and friends. Not for the purpose of evangelism—but to enlarge our understanding of the needs of our neighbors and community. Better understanding will help us make more relevant choices regarding our service in our community.

Pastor Donna shared some tools for holding one-on-one conversations. Everyone was invited to talk with friends or neighbors. Then some attendees signed up to hold conversations with a civic or public leader. If you would like to engage with a community leader, let us know! You can provide a name or we can send you one.

This is a daring and bold step! And this is a church that knows how to take bold steps! "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:30-31

## Family Focus Group meeting

Four families participated in our Young Family Focus group in a lively conversation about what brought them to our church and what are their dreams. Some new families were drawn to the church because of what is on our reader board regarding social justice—and all because they felt so warmly welcomed here.

They expressed a desire to raise their children in a progressive and inclusive church where they can develop their faith and put it into practice through service in the church and community. They are looking forward to meeting other young families and working together to build a strong children's program here at the church.

If you would like to participate in future activities or focus groups with young families send us an [email](#).

# Adult Spiritual Formation

**Learn. Grow. Serve. Make friends.**

Fall session of Adult Spiritual Formation begins on October 1 and runs for six weeks. Registration begins Sunday, Sept 17 online and in person on paper at Sunday worship. Last day of signup is September 27.

Spiritual Formation groups are designed to connect church members to each other. They are part learning, part action, part social. The relationships we develop in small groups can last a lifetime, whether it's a Bible Study group or a dominoes group. We are stronger and healthier together.

Class and Group Descriptions will be posted on the website on September 15 at <https://www.edmondsumc.org/asf>



“There are two questions that we have to ask ourselves. The first is ‘Where am I going?’ and the second is ‘Who will go with me?’ If you ever get these questions in the wrong order, you are in trouble.”

- Howard Thurman, 1899 – 1981

African American theologian and twice a guest preacher at EUMC



# National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools



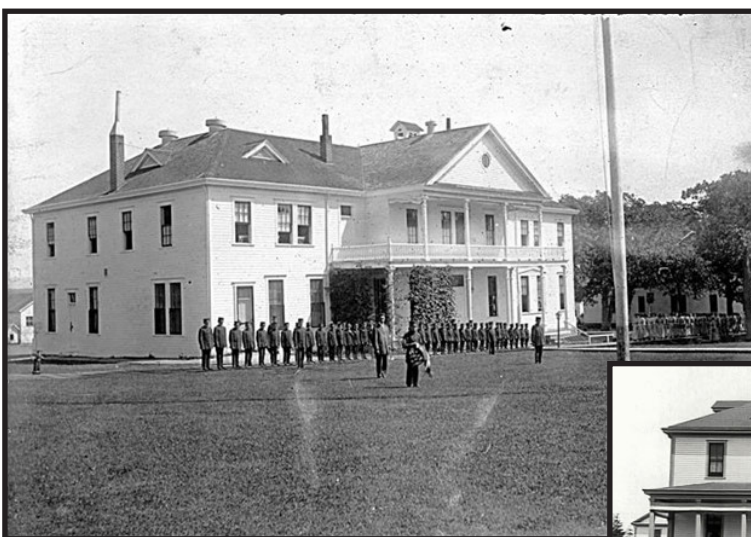
**September 30th** is recognized as the National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools. This is a day to honor the victims and survivors of U.S. Indian boarding schools. These schools were part of a U.S. government program designed to "civilize" Indians systematically suppressing all expressions of their culture. Specifically, Native American children were removed from their homes, families, and tribes and brought, often against the will of their parents, to these schools. The children were not allowed to speak their native tongue, wear native dress, or wear their hair in traditional styles. Children were baptized into the Christian faith and given European names. Disobedience to these rules resulted in harsh punishments for the children.

"Today, historians have labeled the program an act of cultural genocide, as the institutions were meant to eradicate Native American language and traditions." Yakima\* Herald Republic, February 17, 2019.

Through our relationship with [Mending Wings](#) of the Yakama Nation, our church became aware that the Fort Simcoe boarding school on the Yakama Reservation was run by the Methodist Church. A Racial Justice Team member brought a proposal to Annual Conference "to collaborate and consult with the [UMC] Circle of Indigenous Ministries to initiate a process of repentance and reconciliation with the Yakama Nation and make necessary reparations" for Methodist leadership of the Simcoe Boarding School. (See Guidelights July/August edition, p. 7.)

## Legislation for the Commission on Truth and Healing

A new bill S.1723 was introduced in the Senate again this year to create the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. For more information go to the The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) which is dedicated to advocating for Native peoples impacted by U.S. Indian boarding schools. They seek truth through education and research, justice through activism and policy advocacy, and healing through programs and traditional gatherings. <https://boardingschoolhealing.org/truthcommission/>



Left: Fort Simcoe Boarding School Yakama Reservation

Below: Tulalip Reservation Boarding School



\*Yakama is the spelling for the tribe, and Yakima is the spelling for the nearby city.



## Palestine Update

Three news items from August, 2023.  
Rev. Dick Gibson

Every day, reports are worse than the day before, with extremist settlers attacking Christians and Muslims walking the streets in the Old City of Jerusalem, rampaging through refugee camps, and defacing worship centers; with military shooting children; house demolitions; lack of water and electricity in the West Bank and Gaza.

In August, three reports surfaced to aid our understanding:

**1 - A letter to the American Jewish Community**, from leading Jewish figures, from left to center right, co-authored by Lior B. Stermfeld of Penn State Univ, calls on American Jews to recognize the "APARTHEID behavior" of Israel and demand that U.S. leaders restrict American military aid from being used to control Occupied Palestine, AND end Israeli immunity in the UN and other international organizations. The letter states that a "democratic state" means equal rights for all, otherwise there is a danger of dictatorship. The letter reminds people that Pres. Jimmy Carter used the word "Apartheid" 17 years ago to describe Israeli behavior, and now Jews must join in embracing equality for Jews and Palestinians inside the state of Israel. Jewish supremacy has been growing for years, most recently enshrined by the 2018 Nation State Law.



**2 - Respected journalist Chris Hedges of the New York Times** writes of Palestine devastation at the hands of Israel, and provides proof that this is exactly what Israel's founders had in mind, writing "the oppression is a result of imposing a military occupation, horrific violence and APARTHEID, backed by billions of U.S. dollars on the indigenous population of Palestine: the all powerful against the all powerless." Zionism's goal, since the incep-



tion of Israel has been to displace Palestinians from the land and reduce those who remain to a struggle for basic subsistence, as noted by Israeli history professor Ilan Pappé. The Big Lie (that Israel is right and must defend against Palestinian terrorists) feeds the dual reactions to the situation as racism among supporters and terror among its victims. To stand up to Israel has a political/social cost few are willing to pay. Even the most tepid criticism (protests) about Israel's policies means a political death wish!

**3 - A new movie, opening Aug 25, entitled "Golda"**, starring Helen Mirren, may only glorify Israel which avoids some of the real words Golda spoke: "There is no such thing as a Palestinian people." "We didn't throw them out, they don't exist." "How can we return the Occupied Territories? There is no one to return them to." "We can forgive the Arabs for killing our children. We cannot forgive them for forcing us to kill their children. Peace will come only when the Arabs love their children more than they hate us." That narrative has been discredited by facts on the ground. "Friends of Israel" have been duped into supporting occupation, colonization, annexation, expulsion; all known as "Ethnic Cleansing" and labeled APARTHEID.

*"We cannot forget that our real power is not necessarily to change the world, but to make a world of change to the people we encounter every day."*

*Cory Booker*

## Welcome to United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) was 100 strong in the 1990s and there were 7 circles. The working women night group was 22 women that met once a month. As far back as 1980, Methodist Women opened the thrift shop, and has continued all these years. As recently as 2015, the current group started at the shop and we added a credit card machine, new racks, and some new displays. Prices have been adjusted and we started running like a real store.



Once the pandemic came, we closed along with the church for a while, but after the initial shock, we soon started seeing new customers.

This year, we changed our days of operation, and it opened many opportunities for us to meet people of the community that love thrifting. We only have 8 volunteers running this little shop. We are open 3 days a week. We have big dreams, but it's hard to find enough volunteers to help. Our group hosts a rummage sale each summer and a holiday bazaar in Winter. We continue to look for more people to get involved. We enjoy our shared time together and we look forward to meeting you and having you join us.

Contact: Gay Johnson

## Movies with a Message—There's Always a Message



We invite everyone to a FREE showing of movies that share a story with a true message. We focus on things that face us all the time: generational differences, racial situations, issues of aging, the generation gap, understanding different nationalities, and wanting a better understanding of the world. We show a movie in the church library on Saturdays at 4:00 pm. Popcorn is served. We stay 10-20 minutes afterwards to discuss the movie and the message. ALL are welcome.

Upcoming dates: Saturdays, September 30 and October 21, 4:00 pm.

## Thrift Shop will be Closed – September 7-23

Some of us are taking a vacation and the thrift shop will be closed for part of September. We are currently open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. During September we are closed September 7 – September 23. This also means that we are not accepting any donations during this time because we have no one to process and organize. We will be back September 28.



We continue to look for more people to help and serve in thrift shop—even one day a month for 4 hours, would be beneficial. No one works alone and training is provided. We look forward to meeting you.

Contact: Gay Johnson.

# Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

*Stephen Ministers are there:*

- . . . *after* the phone call you hoped you’d never get.
- . . . *after* the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.
- . . . *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you’ve held at bay come crashing in on you.
- . . . *after* the doctor says, “I’m sorry, but there’s nothing more we can do.”
- . . . *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”
- . . . *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- . . . *after* the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- . . . *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- . . . *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- . . . *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the “After People.” They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

[www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org)

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**If you are interested in being connected to a Stephen Minister for personal support contact:  
Joan Hollowell 509-869-5608 or Page Campbell 435-210-9693.**

CHURCH STAFF UPDATES

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Pastor Donna Pritchard	Children's Center Staff: Laurie Brown Salwa Ibrahim
Church Administrator Denise Williams	Maritza Lianos Anna Lund Rachel Molloy
Director of Worship Arts David Hendrix	Sarah Shelley Anna Thompson
Director of Family Ministries TBA	Facilities Manager Kevin Danberg
Accountant/Bookkeeper Ellen McMurrey	Custodian Tony Garcia
Director of Children's Center Natalie DeLeon	

**GUIDELIGHTS SUBMISSION**  
Due by the 20th of the month  
prior.  
Next deadline is September 20.  
Articles less than 400 words.  
Include a picture or graphic.

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E-mail: [office@edmondsumc.org](mailto:office@edmondsumc.org)  
Phone: 425.778.2119  
Fax: 425.778.3431

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