



Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon, which cuts without wounding and ennobles the one who wields it. It is a sword that heals.

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Edmonds United  **Methodist Church**

January 20, 2019 - 9:00a.m. & 10:30a.m.

Pastoral Letter on Special February General Conference

Dear friends,

Since 1972 our denomination, the United Methodist Church, has been debating the inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals in our churches. Our church has taken a strong pro-inclusion position and is part of a network of 900+ congregations who feel similarly and are benefitting from a stance that we feel best honors the Gospel call of love.

We are writing to you today to tell you about an important denominational meeting coming up next month that is set to make a decision on this issue, one that may affect our congregation. You will likely hear much in the secular media about the meeting, since it holds the possibility that the United Methodist denomination may split around LGBT full inclusion. Our Lay Member of Annual Conference, Keith Skore, is working with other leaders to put together two important informational meetings on this issue to be held on Sunday, January 27 at 11:45 am and Sunday, February 3 at 10:30 am. We strongly encourage your participation so you understand the issue and what is at stake prior to hearing secular media accounts.

Some background: After years of debate on the issue -- which have included church trials in which clergy were defrocked for disobeying the official policy of our denomination against full inclusion and the election in 2016 of a Lesbian bishop -- our denomination's primary legislative body, the General Conference, asked our Council of Bishops to convene a study group to recommend a path forward. The study group of the bishops, called "Commission on the Way Forward," convened for two years and came up with a preferred plan and two alternate plans to be presented at a special 2019 General Conference which is now set to convene Feb 23-26 in St. Louis, Missouri.

In the bishops' preferred option, called the "One Church Plan," each local church and annual conference would decide how best to minister to LGBT folk. An alternate plan, called the "Traditional Plan," was also created but not recommended by the bishops. In this plan, churches who disobey current church rules on LGBT inclusion would be expelled from the denomination. Other plans have also been designed that have variations on those two options.

Given our church's strong stand in favor of full inclusion of LGBT folk in the life of our church we will be closely watching the meetings in St. Louis to see where we stand after the denominational decisions are made. If the One Church Plan is approved, we will likely see few changes. If the Traditional Plan is adopted, we may find ourselves forming a new Methodist denomination with other like-minded churches. In either case, we see very few changes in our church that would be visible to regular attenders or local church leaders.

We encourage you to plan to attend one of the important informational meetings and then to hold our General Conference in your prayers as it meets in February. We pray for full inclusion of LGBT members in our denomination because we as a church and as individuals have experienced the joy that comes from helping God's love and acceptance be known to everyone.

Cordially,

Rev. Dr. Sandy Brown
Lead Pastor

Rev. Clarissa Fuentes
Associate Pastor

Order of Service

Welcome! We invite you to complete the tear-off 'I Am Here' form at the side of this bulletin and pass it to the outside aisle where it will be collected by the ushers. Hearing assistance devices are available. Please ask an usher if you would like to try one this morning. As a courtesy to other worshipers, please turn your cell phone's ringer off. We encourage congregants to speak quietly during the prelude so the music can help us center ourselves on worship. Thank you!

We Gather

Prelude Tribute to Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.: Hyun-Ja Choi
We Shall Overcome
Spiritual, arr. Chuck Marohnic
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Thomas A. Dorsey, arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome Rev. Dr. Sandy Brown

*Passing the Peace

***Opening Hymn** *Lift Every Voice and Sing* Red Hymnal #519, vs. 1 & 3

***Opening Prayer** *(by Norman Yeater)* Rev. Clarissa Fuentes

We Proclaim

9:00a.m. Children's Message Jen McLaughlin

10:30a.m. Children's Music *Forget Your Perfect Offering* Joyful noise
Lisa G. Littlebird

***Scripture Readings** Deuteronomy 7:1-6; Matthew 5:38-47

Anthem *Our God is Love* Chancel Choir
Hal H. Hopson

***Song of Preparation** *Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace* Tune: MARYTON

Prayer of Preparation

Sermon *Conversations with an Athiest: 2) Is the Bible Violent?* Pastor Sandy

We Respond

Silent Meditation

Sermon Response *Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace*

Tune: MARYTON

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Offering our Gifts and Our Lives

Invitation to the Offering

Pastor Clarissa

Offertory

We Are Not Overcome
Wardell & Heiskell

David Hendrix, Lindsay Hogan,
& Andrew Horton

*Doxology

What Gift Can We Bring?

Red Hymnal #87, vs. 4

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Clarissa

Announcements

We Scatter to Serve

***Closing Hymn** *We Are Called*

Black Songbook #2172

*Benediction

Pastor Sandy

Postlude

Trumpet Voluntary
John Stanley (1712-1786)

Hyun-Ja Choi

~You are always welcome to be seated and enjoy the postlude~

**For the sake in accuracy of translation from the original, beginning today we are printing only the current translation of the Lord's Prayer, found in our Hymnal at #894. Please feel free to pray any version of the Lord's Prayer that is comfortable to you or that expresses your spiritual tradition.*

Beyond Sunday Morning

Adult Spiritual Formation Sign-ups | Today | between services

Sign-ups will be today and next Sunday with our winter session starting on February 3. Come sign-up for classes you're already a part of, or try something new. There's something for everyone.

Organ Celebration | Today | 3:00p.m.

Our concert to celebrate the completion of our organ will feature past and present organists: Stephen Marshall-Ward, Wanda Griffiths, Henry Lebedinsky, and Hyun-Ja Choi. Admission is free! Plan to join us!

New Senior High Small Group | Tonight | 6:30-8:00p.m.

This small group will follow Pastor Sandy's sermon series title *Conversations With an Atheist* and will focus on the questions many teens have about God and Christianity. Talk to Lindsay Hogan or send her an email at LindsayH@edmondsumc.org if you would like to join!

A Tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. | Tomorrow | 10:00a.m. & 7:30 pm

In Song, Spoken Word, and Dance. The 10:00a.m. show tribute is Free & Kid Friendly. The 7:30p.m. tribute you can find tickets available at ec4arts.org. Continue the racism discussion began at VBS and learn about MLK's vision through the arts! Join us at the ECA on MLK Day! Questions? JenniferM@edmondsumc.org

Edmonds Chapter Alliance For Gun Responsibility Traveling to Olympia | Tomorrow

The Alliance will be presenting priorities for legislation to the Law and Justice Committee of the WA State Senate. A bus will leave Mercer Island that morning with participants who wish to show support. If we have enough interest it is possible that we could take the church bus. Anyone interested or wanting more info please contact Carol Megenity or Bill Lambert.

Edmonds Chapter Alliance For Gun Responsibility Meeting | January 24 | 7:00p.m. | Library

Our guests will be a couple who survived the Las Vegas shooting. They will share their experience with us. We will follow that with a presentation of the Alliance legislation priorities for this session of the State Legislature.

Join Nadia Bolz-Weber in conversation with Gail Song Bantum for the Shameless book tour | February 3 | 7:00p.m. | University Temple UMC

Pastor Clarissa has a limited number of tickets available, first come first served. Please email her at clarissaf@edmondsumc.org if you are interested in attending and carpooling.

Upcoming Youth Group Activities

-February 15 | 7:00p.m. - 9:00p.m. Grog Video Game Night in the Youth Hall

-March 17 | 5:30p.m.-8:00p.m. Whirly Ball. Meet at the church.

Annual Report Deadline | End of February

Leaders - submissions for the 2018 Annual Report are due by the end February. Please email your information to annualreport@edmondsumc.org.

Are you a Furloughed government employee?

If you are a federal employee that's been affected by the recent government shut-down, as a reminder, the Edmonds Food Bank is available, as well as the financial assistance program through the church office. To help with the stresses of this current situation, feel free to contact - Food Bank Director, Casey Davis at caseyd@edmondsumc.org. Financial Assistance Coordinator, Jen Rasmussen at jenl@edmondsumc.org.

Donation Bins on the Main Floor

When placing your donations into the bins on the main church floor, next to the Art Hall, please be mindful of which bins you are using. The wood bin is for the Food Bank, yellow bins are for WA Kids in Transition, and the beige container is for the Thrift Shop. New donation bins will be arriving at a later date.

Beyond Sunday Morning Cont...

Securing Our Building on Sunday Mornings and Other Special Events

Starting today, the south door going into the Children's Center wing will be unlocked from 8:30- 9:15a.m. and again from 10:00-10:45a.m. From 9:15-10:00a.m. the door will remain locked. While we want our building to be welcoming, we also want to protect our children during Sunday School hours. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this new policy, please call or email the church office or Building Manager Dave Walters at davew@edmondsumc.org.

Participate in Worship Service

If you have ever wanted to read scriptures or assist in serving communion, sign-up for your opportunity. If you've never done it before, we welcome you and will guide on what to do. Follow this link <http://signup.com/go/xNMiwfO> to sign up or look for the clipboard being passed around coffee hour. If you have questions, contact Jen Rasmussen at jenl@edmondsumc.org.

SAVE THE DATES:

The Refugee Resettlement Ministry Team | February 10 | Following Second Service

The Refugee Resettlement Ministry Team cordially invites you to an all-church refugee reception luncheon in Kennedy Hall after 2nd service on Sunday, February 10. You will have the opportunity to meet our two Ukrainian refugee families – the Kotok family of 5 and the Prozapas family of 9. You will be seated in Kennedy Hall bedecked in a Valentine theme and served lunch at your table. Our two families will introduce themselves to you with some English and some assistance from interpreters. You will hear Ukrainian music played by some of the children. You may bring a Valentine to give to the families at the luncheon.

* Please sign up at the tables in the Narthex (on /27 or 2/3) if you are able to attend!

Resilience for the Soul | May 3-5

Save the date for the EUMC Women's Retreat! All women are invited to a weekend of relaxation, rejuvenation, and rejoicing. May 3-5, at Warm Beach Camp.

Family Camp 2019 | June 21-23

Bring your Family (or if you are a youth whose family can't go, tag along with one). Camp Indianola, for fun, games, and bonding.

Silverwood 2019 | June 27-29

Yep.. we're going ba-aack! We will be heading to our annual Silverwood Theme Park and Camping Trip. Mark your Calendars now.

Borderlinks Intergenerational Mission Trip | July 24-28, 2019

This trip to the Arizona/Mexico border offers experiential learning opportunities that explore the causes and difficulties of migration, as well as the impact of US immigration policies. Open to families with children, unaccompanied senior high students, and adults of all ages, who have no mobility restrictions. Come walk migrant trails, hear stories, and witness court proceedings. Cost is approximately \$1200 per person. Scholarships available. Applications available by the Church Office. Questions? Email clarissaf@edmondsumc.org.

"Learning & Serving Together" (LAST) | Portland, OR | July 28 - August 2, 2019

EUMC Youth grades 7-12, will serve with L.A.S.T., a service-learning project that links small groups of youth and adults with service opportunities. A program that doesn't "stop at service;" youth and adults are encouraged to think through what they are doing from a biblical perspective. We also study together the root causes of poverty and examine ways in which we all can be a part of the greater solution." Email gregm@edmondsumc.org if your youth are interested in going. Registration forms will go out in January. Cost is \$350. More information at <http://www.lastnw.com/>

Those experiencing grief: Kris Gillespie on the death of her mother Jean Thornton; Family of Shirley Minderhout; Shelby Hanson and Kate Nichols on the death of their grandfather

Those with health concerns:

Margaret Barnes, Ben Hanchinamani, Tina Barner, Rev. Elmer Brunk, Marsha Hutto Emerson, Hillary Wagner, Rich and Vergie Knight, Sten and Jackie Leksén.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

The peoples from the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle include: Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

A simple prayer you may use:

We pray for all your people. Bring peace to those who fear, bring healing to those who suffer, bring comfort to those who grieve, and grow the joy of those who celebrate. We pray these things in the name of your Son. Amen.

If you have an emergency (hospitalization, death) you may dial this number: 425-778-2119 ext. 102. Please leave your name, phone number, and a brief message.

I Am Here

January 20, 2019

First Name Last Name

Street Address

City State

Zip

Phone

Email

- Newcomer (fewer than 5 visits)
- I'm Visiting with/for:

- Edmonds UMC is my church home
- This information is a change
- I would like to receive a name tag.
- I would like information about becoming a member of this church
- Please add me to the email list: Weekly Announcements & Guidelights (electronic)
- Please add me to the mailing list: Guidelights (paper)

Please check all the boxes that apply for more information on a ministry or volunteer opportunity listed below...

Grow...

I would like information about:

- Children's & Youth Ministries
- Adult Spiritual Formation
- Music & Arts Ministry
- Reconciling Team
- Advocates for Justice
- Having a Stephen Minister

Serve...

I would like to learn about serving:

- Thrift Shop
- Tutoring

Sign-Ups...

I would like information about:

- Alliance for Gun Responsibility
 - Olympia trip
- Nadia Bolz-Weber tickets
- Youth Mission Trip
- Reading Scriptures
- Assist in Communion

Leading Worship Today

Lead Pastor

Rev. Dr. Sandy Brown

Associate Pastor

Rev. Clarissa Fuentes

Organist

Hyun-Ja Choi

Music Director

David Hendrix

Family Ministry Director

Jen McLaughlin

Scripture Readers

Kurt Schaueremann, Pat Beaudry

Acolytes

Nico Guerra-Yule

Front Office

Joy Hammersla

BlueVest Team

Deb Hawley

Altar Flowers

Linda Maki

Coffee Hour

Dave & Haydee Walters, Randi Warner, Loretta Erickson

Ushers

Andrew & Mary Feldhaus, Bill Bengsten, Val Mosalsky, Carol Moore, David & Joyce Danielson

Transportation

Shannon Speight, Luke Van de Krol

Visitor Flowers

Rayna Iverson

Welcome Desk

Barbara Greco

Sound & Projection

Ken Pickle, AP Van Meter, Marilyn McKinnon



Edmonds United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation, welcoming all LGBTQ persons. If you'd like more information, please contact the church at 425-778-2119 or office@edmondsumc.org

Edmonds United Methodist Church

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