

Guidelights

EDMONDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024 | VOLUME 70 - ISSUE 5



Rev. Barry Ray, Rev. Donna Pritchard, Rev. Dr. Carey G. Anderson at First African Methodist Episcopal Church

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We live, work, and worship on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people, most notably the Snohomish Tribe, who fished off these shores and gathered clams, cattails, and more in the marsh of Edmonds long before the arrival of settlers. We uphold their dignity and sovereignty as Nations unto themselves and seek to live in understanding and community with them.

Letter from the Pastor

It is sad, but ... the old expression "Love makes the world go round" has never been true.

It wasn't true ...

- in Jesus' day, when the Roman Empire was building its economy through slavery & corruption & violent taxation



Pastor Donna Pritchard

- when European Christians decided to "drive the infidels" from the Holy Land and crusaded around destroying art, literature, culture – and thousands of innocent people

- when colonizers landed in Africa and pilaged the natural resources and enslaved countless women, men and children

- when explorers entered the Americas and once again enslaved the native peoples, and stole gold and silver and eventually the land itself.

It seems more like greed, envy, avarice, hate and bitterness are what usually drive the course of world events, even as recently as today.

But as someone else once said...

If "love makes the world go round" rings more falsely in our ears today than ever before, it is still true that love makes the ride worthwhile.

Only love makes the seemingly endless "go

round" of hate and greed, injustice and fear – which motivates much of this world – only love makes it bearable.

We see that every time someone stops in the midst of a busy day to listen to a child, every time someone brings food for the food bank, or volunteers in the English as Second Language classes at Edmonds College.

We see it every time someone finds room in an already crowded budget for one more cause, one more way to share. We see it in this church every single day...love makes the ride worthwhile.

We saw it in the great outpouring of friendship and hospitality when we met with FAME for worship. Your love, expressed through your gifts of time and money, is making a big difference in the world. I just want to say "Thank you!"

In the coming weeks we will all be experiencing another time of transition as I retire (again) and as you prepare to welcome your new pastor, the Rev. Jeremy Smith, and his family. I know your love and passion for ministry will continue to "make the ride worthwhile" in countless ways. As I've repeatedly affirmed, "this is a great church!" and I know this next change will not slow you down a tiny bit.

There is a lot going on in May, including another joint service with First AME here at EUMC. Pastor Anderson is preaching and he will be joined by his awesome Praise Choir! You won't want to miss it!

Grace and Peace
Pastor Donna

SERMON CALENDAR

May 5	"Branches and Vines"	John 15:1-8
May 12	"Even Though..."	Psalms 23
May 19	"Wild Hopes"	Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:22-27
May 26	"Adopted!"	John 3:1-17; Romans 8:12-17

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

MONTHLY:

Communion Sunday - 1st Sunday of the month

Foundry Service is on a break until further notice

Dinner & Game Night - 2nd Friday of the month, next: Friday, May 10, 6-8:00 pm

COMING EVENTS:

Edmonds Floretum Garden Club Plant Sale - Sat May 4, 2024 | 9:00 am-12:00 pm, front lawn

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Day - May 5-20 | Red Dress exhibit on front lawn

Memorial for Shannon Heitritter - Saturday, May 11, 1:00 pm

Evergreen Ensemble Concert, Saturday, May 18, Trinity Lutheran church

Pentecost Sunday - May 19, 10:00 am - wear red or other flame color!

Celebrating our Methodist Connection at EUMC with Seattle First African Episcopal Church,
Rev. Dr. Carey G. Anderson preaching - May 19 | 1:00 luncheon - worship at 2:00 pm

Seattle First African Methodist Episcopal Church
Edmonds United Methodist Church

Celebrating our Methodist Connection

Sunday May 19, at EUMC
1:00 pm lunch - 2:00 pm worship
Rev. Dr. Carey G. Anderson,
preaching



Rev. Dr. Carey G. Anderson

Next Dinner and Games Night on May 10

SECOND FRIDAYS

COMMUNITY DINNER & GAME NIGHT

All Are Welcome! Invite Your Friends!

It's that time again! Bring your favorite board game, a dear friend or two, and a side or dessert to share. We'll provide pizza for our upcoming Community Game Night on Friday, May 10, 6-8pm in the Wesley Room. Set-up starts at 5:30.

Invite your friends, everyone is welcome!

Sign up on [SignUp Genius](#)

Our First Joint Worship and Fellowship at FAME

First African Methodist Episcopal Church

An experience we will never forget!



Rev. Barry Ray, Rev. Donna Pritchard, Rev. Dr. Carey G. Anderson



Pastor Donna preaching

The moment we drove into the parking lot at First AME the extravagant welcome began. A FAME member waved us into the parking lot with a big smile, showed us where to park, and pointed the way to the front door. There we were met by welcoming handshakes, hugs and warm smiles of friendship. We were then presented with an amazing luncheon spread in the Fellowship Hall which included mac-n-cheese, fried chicken, yams, and piles of fresh fruit. 70 to 75 EUMC members sat at tables among members of FAME and soon lively conversations were buzzing around the room.

We were ushered into the beautiful historic sanctuary by the FAME Praise choir with our own Denise Williams (our Church Administrator) leading the first song with her amazing beautiful voice! Pastor Anderson welcomed us into a service of unity and celebration of our joint Methodist roots. He spoke of meeting with Pastor Donna and the decision to create an intentional worship. Creating cross-cultural relationships is important to him and his church. "This is something that is really dear to me, because when brothers and sisters dwell in unity we can change things."

Pastor Donna started her sermon with a very funny joke ([go watch the video](#)) and went on to preach about the urgent need in these times to practice genuine Christ-like love, honestly and courageously.

Pastor Anderson closed the service with a symbolic circle of friendship and joining of hands. "I want to do something that is a symbol of solidarity. Heaven wants us to be connected by the heart. But this is where it starts. When we can reach out to the 'other' and say not only will I hold your hand and you hold mine, we're gonna walk together. We come from different places, from different spaces, different experiences but we have to learn to live together down here if we're talkin' about going to heaven up there."

We shared music, preaching, scriptures, and love. Yes, today we felt great unity with this wonderful, gracious congregation of new friends.

We look forward to their visit on Sunday May 19 at 1:00 for lunch and 2:00 for worship.



EUMC Choir



Denise Williams (our Church Administrator) and her husband Buddy singing in the FAME Praise Choir



Closing prayer in unity and solidarity



LGBTQIA+ Pastors Now Welcomed into the UMC!

It is indeed a new day, and the Holy Spirit is moving within The United Methodist Church! As I write this, the General Conference, meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, has just eliminated the ban on the ordination of LGBTQIA+ individuals. The revised Social Principles – which removes the harmful and discriminatory language about LGBTQIA persons from the Book of Discipline – passed out of committee with a whopping majority and is expected to be approved by the Plenary session later this week.



Last week General Conference overwhelmingly approved the regionalized plan of organization for the Church, which will de-center the United States and put us on a more equal footing with our United Methodist siblings around the world. This will also allow for some contextual and cultural differences when it comes to social issues.

As I consider who we are, where we have been and where we are now going, I offer to you this profound prayer from Catholic Bishop Ken Untener, which was written for a celebration of departing priests:

"It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The Kin-dom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the Kin-dom always lies beyond us..."

"This is what we are about. We plant seeds that one day will grow.
We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

"We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest..."

We are prophets of a future not our own."

Evergreen Ensemble to Perform on May 18 & 19

Just last year our Director of Music & Worship, David Hendrix, started a new venture by founding Evergreen Ensemble, a professional choral ensemble based here in Edmonds. After presenting the inaugural concert last April in our very own sanctuary, Evergreen Ensemble is now preparing for the final concerts of their first full season with a program titled "Sacred Place". The performances are on May 18, 7:00 pm, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood, (not at Edmonds UMC this time) and May 19, 3:00 pm, at Trinity Parish Episcopal Church in Seattle. Tickets are available at www.evergreenensemble.com.



Support David, as well as many of the musicians who regularly contribute to our worship services at EUMC, by attending one of these concerts!

Red Dress Project May 5

For the 3rd 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 outside on the front lawn. Every dress represents the life of an Indigenous Woman or child who is missing, murdered or 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. Today Washington state is one of the leaders in solving MMIW and persons cases.

New steps 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. Funding for task force has been extended through 2025.
- As of October 27, 2023, a total of 72 missing Indigenous person alerts were issued, and 65 of the individuals were located. Tragically, two individuals were found deceased and 5 still missing.
- In 2023, in part in response to recommendations from the MMIW Task Force, the Washington Legislature created and funded an MMIWP Cold Case Unit within the AGO. The purpose of the team is to assist federal, municipal, county, and tribal law enforcement agencies in solving missing person and cold homicide cases involving persons of Indigenous

ancestry who go missing and are murdered at a higher rate than other demographics. It is the first unit of its kind in the nation.

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 2022, there were 5,487 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls, although the US Department of Justice's federal missing person database, the January 2024 report from NamUs, only logged 840 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 is working hard to drop from having the highest number of missing and murdered Indigenous women in the country.

Awareness leads to action

- Learn about the problem in our state and our country. Research and share information. Go to nativehope.org





Vacation Bible School
August 5-9, 2024
9am-12pm
Pre-K-6th Grade \$75 Scholarships Available!
Edmonds United Methodist Church

Come join us for Camp Firelight: A Day Camp Adventure with God (Psalm 56:3), exploring the ways God walks beside us with intention, wisdom, peace, and joy! August 5-9, 2024, 9am-Noon. Sign up your kids to participate [HERE!](#)

Volunteers: We need your help! Join us in leading elementary school kids during Vacation Bible School this summer, August 5-9, 2024, 9am-Noon. Register online to serve in this ministry. [HERE](#)

Karin Johnson, karinj@edmondsumc.org

SUMMER CAMP 2024

- Elementary 1 Camp**
June 29 to July 2
- Family Camp**
July 14 to 17
- Middle School Camp**
July 29 to August 2
- High School Camp**
July 29 to August 2
- Elementary 2 Camp**
August 12 to 15

Register at campindianola.org/camps

Job Opening for P/T Youth Leader

We are looking for a dynamic person to lead our Family Ministry Youth Program. This is a part-time position. Click [HERE](#) for the full job description.



Children, Youth, and Family Update

By Karin Johnson, director

Do you believe that God believes in you? Why are the “small and unnoticed” things such a big deal? How big of a role do your insecurities play in your life? Do they ever affect your faith? What message was Jesus sending us by not choosing the top leaders in the community for his disciples? Do you wish God’s voice would be louder in your life? Does all the noise in our lives make it hard to hear God? Do you believe God is good? Always?



Above are some of the questions we’ve been exploring in Youth Group over the last few weeks while meeting together on Sunday evenings from 6-8pm. With the regular and consistent help of Luke Van de Krol! (shout out to all the volunteers out there who make our work possible), we’re continuing to build safety and trust as a community so we can dive into conversations that actually matter.

What are you struggling with? Do you believe unconditional love is a thing? How would it impact your days if you did believe it to be true? Would it change the way you lived?

I’m so proud of this group of kids – they are thoughtful, hilarious, and unafraid to jump into the dichotomies of this life. Thank you for the ways you have and will continue to show up for them with your advocacy and support.

And simultaneously, our Children and Family programs continue to grow. We celebrate their presence at worship, in the Progressive Parenting class, Sunday School, Game Night, and look forward to building more opportunities in which children can continue to engage and live into relationship with each other.

United Women of Faith

Picking a Movie with a Message

The movies I pick are heartfelt, possibly true, maybe faith-based messages, often culturally based, and maybe a message you need to hear. If I shed a tear, it should be on my list. If I learned something new and it gave me pause, it should be on my list. I must tell you that many, many stories evoke emotion, and we need to heed their messages. Sometimes, I share a lesson, and sometimes it is just something we need to think about and choose sides later. It will be thought provoking, and it will make you feel. Maybe you laugh, maybe you cry, but there is a message. We take a few minutes after each movie to discuss what message we found in the movie. I hope you will give one a try. If you are at all interested, get on the email list, so you will receive updates. So far my list is 3 typed pages of titles. A good movie is a good movie!!!!

Gay Johnson

Next Movie with a Message

"Finding Normal"

May 18 | Saturday at 4:00 pm

In the Library

The only thing standing between Dr. Lisa Leland (Candace Cameron Bure) and her dream wedding in the Hamptons is a 2600-mile drive from Los Angeles to Long Island. But a run-in with the law in the country town of Normal, Louisiana leaves Lisa with a choice: jail or community service. Sentenced to three days as the town's doctor, Lisa soon finds her world turned upside-down by a man and discovers a lot more to Normal.

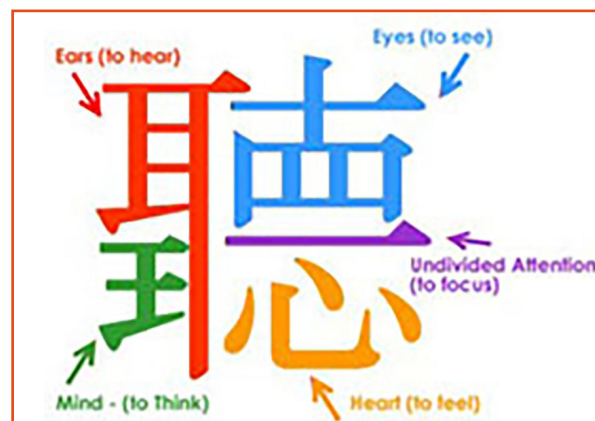


The Art of Listening

Whether we think we are good listeners or not, listening is a skill that requires practice; it is an art that can be learned. How can we become better listeners? Here are some tips to listening well.

1. **Be interested in other people.** Cultivate an interest in other people. See conversations as an opportunity to learn, to connect fully with others, and to expand your knowledge and understanding.
2. **Be present.** Pay attention to the other person. When intervening, stray thoughts distract your attention, bring your focus back to the conversation and focus on listening.
3. **Be willing to suspend your agenda.** If you have an agenda in mind, whether it is a view we want to express or a goal we have, we will be thinking about how to respond rather than listening to understand and empathize.
4. **Be open to go with the flow.** Be aware of controlling the direction and content of the conversation. Good listeners go where the speaker wants to go with a topic.
5. **Don't interrupt.** This may seem obvious, but it is difficult to consistently apply.

6. **Don't offer your own experiences in response.** If someone tells you about their experience, don't start to tell them about your similar experience. It's not the same. Instead ask questions to better understand their experience.



7. **Listen for emotions and meaning.** Words count, but tone of voice and body language communicate far more than words.

8. **Ask big, open, questions.** Asking questions is one of the most powerful listening techniques. If used correctly, this encourages the speaker to continue to share, without leading the conversation in a certain direction.

stephen
MINISTRY®

"No matter where life takes you, the place that you stand at any moment is holy ground. Love hard and love wide and love long and you will find the goodness in it."

Susan Vreeland

May is Asian American Pacific Islander Month

Racial Justice Team

Our church includes Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) from several countries! Many of these countries are represented in Edmonds and the surrounding communities which EUMC serves.

A good place to learn about the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities is at the Wing Luke Museum in the International District in Seattle. Through early October there is a special exhibit on music in AAPI communities.

SOUND CHECK! THE MUSIC WE MAKE

Now through October 6, 2024
Wing Luke Museum

This exhibition explores the role music has played in Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander lives & communities as an element of cultural heritage and identity, a form of personal and creative expression, a commercial industry, a connecting and healing force, and an integral part of thriving communities and culture.

The interactive exhibit includes behind the scenes-photos, framed artworks, podcasts, artifacts, storylines, audio, and video that feature AANHPI artists' expressions of cultural identity.

Sound Check! The Music We Make reflects the Wing Luke Museum's mission to highlight personal stories while connecting the community to the dynamic history, cultures and art of AANHPI through vivid storytelling and inspiring experiences to advance racial and social equity.



If you haven't visited the Wing Luke Museum yet, we hope to take a field trip there this summer. Stay tuned!

Also, Tacoma has the celebrated Asia Pacific Cultural Center that focuses on AAPI communities throughout the year. It highlights culinary treats, visual arts, festivals, and many services. They are in the process of funding a new building, so are providing community in a temporary location until their new building is in place.

Also at the Tacoma Cultural Center, on May 4 will be *Korea Day*, where Korean culture is highlighted and taught. Also this summer the *Annual Sawasdee Thailand Festival* is June 1, the *Annual Samoa Cultural Week* runs from July 21-27, and the *Annual Polynesian Luau* is August 24. See their [website](#) for more details.

Celebrate God's Creation by taking part in Asian American Pacific Islander learning and cultural events during the month of May.

(Which AAPI countries can you name?)



Church Staff

Pastor

Donna Pritchard

Director of Worship Arts

David Hendrix

Director of Family Ministries

Karin Johnson

Church Administrator

Denise Williams

Office Coordinator

Jennifer Leonov

Communications Specialist

Diana Nielsen

Organist

Sunghee Kim

Director of Children's Center

Natalie DeLeon

Children's Center Staff:

Laurie Brown

Salwa Ibrahim

Maritza Lianos

Anna Lund

Rachel Molloy

Sarah Shelley

Anna Thompson

Facilities Manager

Kevin Danberg

Custodian

Tony Garcia



Photo by Ken Pickle

GUIDELIGHTS SUBMISSION

Due by the 20th of the month prior. Send to:

dianan@edmondsumc.org

Next deadline is MAY 20.

Articles less than 400 words. Include a picture or graphic.

Guidelights editor: Diana Nielsen

Proofreaders: Shelly Ehni, Cheryl Hay

Edmonds United Methodist Church

828 Caspers Street, Edmonds, WA 98020

office@edmondsumc.org

(425) 778-2119

Sunday worship is at 10:00 am

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Worship, Sundays at 10:00 am in-person & online

Member of the Reconciling Ministries Network

