

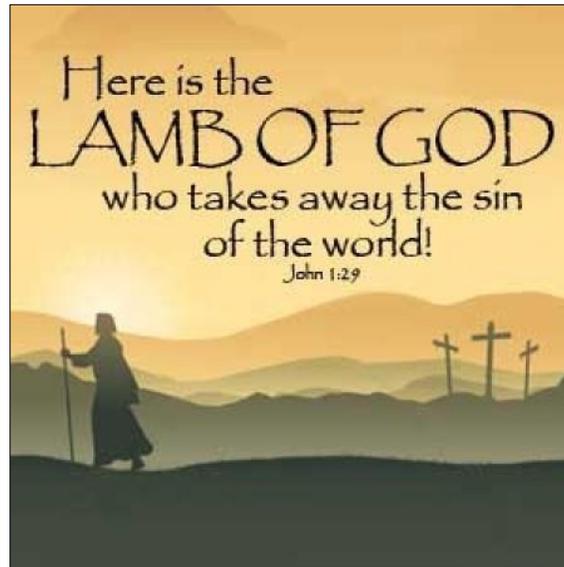
# Edgecomb Community Church

United Church of Christ

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FB/EdgecombCongochurch



**Second Sunday after Epiphany, January 19, 2020**

**Scripture: John 1:29-42**

**Sermon: "Here is the Lamb of God..."**

*"We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it."*

Madeleine L'Engle, 20th century

Sat. Jan. 18 Edgecomb Thrift Shop re-opens at 9:00 a.m.  
Sun. Jan. 19 Second Sunday after Epiphany - Worship at 9:30 a.m.  
Mon. Jan. 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

*"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 20th century

Tues. Jan. 21 **Edgecomb Community Lunch** at 12 Noon  
Sun. Jan. 26 Sunday Morning **Celtic Prayer Service** at 9:30 a.m. The morning begins by sharing breakfast together in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. followed by the Celtic Prayer Service. **\*\*\*ECC's Annual Meeting** will follow immediately after the prayer service.  
Tues. Jan. 28 **Edgecomb Community Lunch** at 12 Noon  
Sun. Feb. 2 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Candlemas – Worship at 9:30 a.m.  
Weds. Feb. 5 **Busy Hands** meets at 1:00 p.m.  
**Celtic Prayer Service** at 5:30 p.m.

**Bible Study is held on Thursday's beginning at 10:30 a.m.** All are welcome to come at any time. Bring a brown paper bag to have lunch together after the study.

**Edgecomb Community Lunch** is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 12 Noon at Edgecomb Community Church, UCC. All are welcome.

**The Edgecomb Community Thrift** shop hours are Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Thursdays, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 9:00 to 12 Noon.

**Don't Be Afraid of the Dark**  
by Molly Baskette

*If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light around me become night,"  
even the darkness is be dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day.*  
- Psalm 139:11-12 (NRSV)

Some of us fear darkness, others embrace it, all of us probably want to control when and how it overtakes us. But we can't, always. Seasonal depression moves in. Circumstances conspire to plunge us into unknowing, the way before us entirely unclear. We fear the shadowed parts of ourselves: the sadness, the despair, the anger that seems to come out of nowhere.

We talk and sing a lot in church about the benefits of light. We are told that the first thing God did was to say, "Let there be light," as if everything that came before had no value. We are told that both we and Jesus are the light of the world, that we shouldn't hide our lights under a bushel basket. We sometimes live in a full-sun spirituality that can make our eyes ache with too much hard shining.

But light is meaningless apart from darkness. We need the respite of night, the salvific hibernation of a rainy winter day, the relief of tears. It's not always about letting our light shine. Darkness can shine, too. Ebony polished to perfection both holds light and reflects it. The psalmist said that even darkness has brightness, and night shines like the day to our God. Every part of us—every feeling, mood and memory—can teach and strengthen us, even those we'd rather reject.

Plumb your own mysteries, what is secret and hidden, even from yourself. Find what lives there in shadow and silence, waiting patiently or impatiently to be revealed, noticed, honored. Be unashamed and unafraid of your darkness, for it has much to teach you.

**Prayer**

Hidden God, there are things we can only learn in the dark and quiet, when we face our own depths. We contain multitudes. Travel there with us, and don't leave us alone. Amen.

*"In my view, the mission of the church is not to enlarge its membership, not to bring outsiders to accept its terms, but simply to love the world in every possible way –  
to love the world as God did and does."*

Parker Palmer, *In the Company of Strangers*, 21st century