

Edgecomb Community Church

United Church of Christ

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Photograph by Meghan Holmes on Unsplash

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 10, 2020

Mother's Day

Scripture: Matthew 23:37 & Luke 13:31-35

Sermon: *"Mother's Day for All"*

In celebration of Mother' Day on Sunday, I invite you to think of two teachings or experiences that come to mind when you think of your mother or a person who was / is like a mother to you, or a person you admire and hold dear. I also invite you to gather an item that reminds you of your mother or this person so you can share it with us doing worship. If you would rather not share, that is perfectly fine, too.

We'll be worshipping on Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on Mother's Day, May 10th. All are welcome attend. I'll send the Zoom link in a future email.



*"How often have I desired to gather your children together
as a hen gathers her brood under her wings"*

The following is from Bert Christensen's, *Truth & Humour Collection* concerning things our mothers taught us. Do any of these sound familiar to you? ☺

Things our Mothers Taught Us List:

She taught me **logic**: *"If everyone else jumped off a cliff would you do it too?" "Because I said so, that's why"*

She taught me **medicine**: *"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they're going to freeze that way."*

She taught me about **foresight**: *"Make sure you wear clear underwear, in case you're in an accident."*

She taught me about **genetics**: *"You are just like your father."*

She taught me about the **circle of life**: *"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out of it."*

She taught me about my **farming roots**: *"What, were you born in a barn."*

She taught me about **anticipation**: *"Just wait until your father gets home."*

She taught me about **payback**: *"One day you will have kids and I hope they are just like you."*

She taught me about the importance of **prayer**: *"You'd better pray that stain comes out of the carpet."*



George Greene

Schooner Cove Retirement Community

Resident Spotlight

George Greene

George Greene was born in Boston and grew up in his family's apple orchard in Ashland, about 25 miles west of Boston. Following high school George attended the University of New Hampshire and received a Bachelor of Science degree.

After working for a year on the family orchard, George joined the Navy for three years and served during the Cuban missile crisis. He then received his Masters' degree in horticulture

from The Pennsylvania State University and was fortunate enough to get a job there in the Cooperative Extension program. George helped farmers with various problems from irrigation and flood control to making produce stay fresher longer. He continued his education part-time while working and earned a PhD in horticulture.

While working on his doctorate, he met Pat, his future wife, who had just finished her master's in child development. She had grown up in Fort Fairfield, Maine on a large seed potato farm. The two were introduced by another student and they were married a year later. When George obtained his PhD in 1971 there were many people who had gone the route of getting a doctorate but there were very few vacancies. He needed a job and wasn't going to be picky about where. George spoke with the horticultural department head at Penn State concerning a job opening they had. He was discouraged from applying because the department head thought he should work elsewhere to broaden his experience. "But I thought, well if I don't apply for it, I won't get it," George said with a laugh. If they don't want me they won't hire me. I guess I was lucky."

George worked the rest of his career at The Pennsylvania State University as a horticultural researcher, working on the university owned farms at the Fruit Research and Extension Center. He taught farmers what he had learned from his research and from colleagues around the country. He was based at the Penn State Research and Extension Center in Biglerville which is located eight miles north of Gettysburg. George was in charge of the construction of a large controlled atmosphere storage building at Biglerville where research was conducted. The State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania presents a yearly award to an outstanding grower or researcher, and George was the recipient in 1989.

George retired in 2001 and he and Pat moved to Wiscasset in 2003 where George planted apple, peach, plum and pear trees to keep himself busy. Last year, they moved to Schooner Cove Retirement Community on the LincolnHealth- Miles Campus in Damariscotta. George and Pat have one child, Susan, and one grandchild, Grace, both of whom live in Wiscasset. Grace attends the Damariscotta Montessori School in Nobleboro.

***Sue Sikes sent the following link about The Corona Virus Story:

<https://www.acesconnection.com/clip/the-great-realization-4-min-probably-tomfoolery>

**Kiwi's poet viral fairytale strikes a chord
in Hollywood**

Finally there's something good about Covid-19 spreading across the world - a Kiwi poet's bedtime fairytale video. New Zealand-born poet Tomos Roberts' video, The Great Realisation, has already racked up more than twenty four million views across facebook and YouTube. **To see the article:** <https://www.odt.co.nz/star-news/star-national/kiwi-poets-viral-fairytale-strikes-chord-hollywood>

Find the video on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nw5KQMXDiM4>

The Great Realisation - Tom Foolery | Why Hindsight 2020 | "The Corona Virus Story"



Face masks, from China with love

BY STEVE CRAIG STAFF WRITER

YuJi Smith, 12, of Edgecomb donated 200 surgical face masks to the Maine Veterans' Home in Augusta, courtesy of a relative in China and in honor of a World War II vet.



YuJi Smith, 12, of Edgecomb, in the backyard of the home she shares with her parents, Kimberly Smith and Hal Ostrom. YuJi was adopted from a Chinese orphanage at 11 months old.

Brianna Soukup/Staff Photographer

Both came from China, special gifts in their own way. A little girl and, nearly 12 years later, a box of 200 surgical face masks.

How the girl and the face masks ended up in the lobby of the Maine Veterans' Home in Augusta is a story of family members on two sides of the globe – both intent on helping others during the worldwide coronavirus outbreak.

YuJi Smith, a sixth-grader who lives in Edgecomb, was 11 months old when she was adopted from a Chinese orphanage by Kimberly Smith and Hal Ostrom. According to her parents, YuJi has expressed an interest in learning about her birth family since she began speaking English at 3 1/2 years old.

When YuJi was 5, shortly after the family moved to Maine from Connecticut, her DNA sample was submitted to a genetics analysis company that traces ancestors and family connections. As YuJi grew older they would check the company's website for possible matches. When she was 11, they tried to connect with the top match, but did not get a response.

On her 12th birthday, in November, YuJi and her parents scanned the results of possible relative matches. Again, the same person in China was the clear top match. A message was sent through the DNA website. Twenty minutes later, YuJi had a response from the woman, Qingrong Chen. A third cousin, it turned out, but an important first authentic birth relative.

"I was pretty excited because I did not really know much about my past in China," YuJi said. YuJi and her parents began communicating regularly with Chen, using the Chinese social media app WeChat. They learned Chen lives in Guangzhou, the capital city of Guangdong Province on China's southern coast, and is a mother of three sons. Two of her sons live in the United States. As the novel coronavirus hit Wuhan, the WeChat messages focused on Chen's health and safety.

Then the dynamic shifted as the virus spread across Europe and inevitably into the United States. Were YuJi and her parents safe? Did they have face masks? Despite assurances that YuJi's family was safe, Chen persisted. The Chinese government would allow her to send up to 200 face masks at a time.



*YuJi Smith, 12, donated face masks to the Maine Veterans' Home in Augusta in honor of her mother's father, Nelson George "Bud" Smith Jr., who served in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters during World War II.
Brianna Soukup/Staff Photographer*

When the personal protective equipment arrived, in a tightly wrapped box, YuJi and her family decided to donate the face masks to the Maine Veterans' Home in Augusta.

"First for us, this is so wonderful for YuJi to have family and not only to find people but people who from the start are acting like family –gracious and welcoming," said Kimberly Smith. "It's one thing to find people you're related to, but I mean, these are really tender, very sweet people, her kind of people because that's what YuJi is like."

"I think it shows that all people are connected," YuJi said.

The masks also provided a way for YuJi to connect to her adoptive family's history. The masks were donated in honor of Smith's father, Nelson George "Bud" Smith Jr., who served in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters during World War II as a signalman with the U.S. Navy Armed Guard.

Maine Veterans' Homes is an independent nonprofit organization with six locations. The Augusta home has avoided a significant COVID-19 outbreak like those at several long-term care facilities in Maine, including the Maine Veterans' Home in Scarborough. "The staff was touched by this kind and thoughtful donation," said Josh Scroggins, the director of development and communications at the Maine Veterans' Homes.

"In this case to see YuJi, a 12-year-old child, take this gift that was meant for her and then donate it to veterans in honor of her late grandfather is extremely special," Scroggins added. Bud Smith died in April 2008. YuJi was adopted in late October 2008, culminating a three-year process. "He knew we were trying to adopt. That was one of the last things he responded to," Kimberly said of her father. "We have a special family mythology. That he went up there (to heaven) to lay down the law and help move things along."

They do not know where YuJi was born, but on a family trip to China last summer they were allowed to go to Beijing and view her official adoption records. Through a translator they learned that YuJi was found, at about 10 days old, by a teacher and then taken to the orphanage. YuJi enjoys school, attending the Center for Teaching and Learning. She says her favorite subject is math. She also enjoys swimming with the Boothbay Region YMCA Dolphins club team (butterfly is a top event) and taking ballet lessons. Her father thinks she has a potential as a writer.

The coronavirus has impacted YuJi's family directly. Ostrom is a self-employed optometrist who has maintained his practice in Connecticut. "When we moved to Maine it wasn't really practical for me to close up my business and start over up there," said Ostrom, 62. "So we make it work. Normally I would see patients in Connecticut Monday through Thursday, then take a train to Boston and a (bus) to Portland."

When the coronavirus hit New England, Ostrom decided he needed to stay in Connecticut to cover patient emergencies and that it wasn't ethical or safe to be traveling between two states that both have quarantine restrictions. He hasn't been home to see his wife and daughter since mid-March.

"It's been tough. Tough on my daughter, too," Ostrom said. Ostrom had to appreciate from afar the significance of YuJi donating Chinese face masks to an American veterans home.

"It's just so cool. The relationship between these two countries is a little strained even before all this started and just to make some sort of connection, no matter how minuscule it is, it's a good thing, right?" Ostrom asked. "It's just showing one individual reaching out to another can make some changes maybe."

Are there folks in your community going out of their way to help others during the virus outbreak? If so, please send details about their efforts to kindness@pressherald.com

Sources: <https://www.pressherald.com/2020/04/30/maine-acts-of-kindness-from-china-with-love/>

Mother

by Frederick Buechner

Jesus was by no means sentimental on the subject of mothers. He said that people who loved their mothers more than they loved him were not worthy of him (Matthew 10:37), indicating that duty comes first. And when they told him his mother was outside waiting while he spoke to some group or other, he said that his mother was anybody who did God's will (Matthew 12:50), indicating that his fellow believers came a close second.

To his own mother he could be very abrupt. When she came to him at the wedding in Cana to tell him the wine had given out, he said, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come" (John 2:4), meaning perhaps that she was to let him alone, that at that early point in his ministry he wasn't ready to be known as a miracle worker. He was speaking his heart to her if not exactly reprimanding her, and it was just "woman" he called her, not "mother."

Some of the last words he ever spoke were in her behalf, however. She was standing at the foot of his cross when he told her in effect that from then on his disciple John would look after her. "Behold your son," he said, indicating him to her (John 19:26). Again it was just "woman" he called her, but her welfare and safekeeping were among the last thoughts he ever had.

Our mothers, like our fathers, are to be honored, the Good Book says. But if Jesus is to be our guide, honoring them doesn't mean either idealizing or idolizing them. It means seeing them both for who they are and for who they are not. It means speaking the truth to them. It means the best way of repaying them for their love is to love God and our neighbor as faithfully and selflessly as at their best our parents have tried to love us. It means seeing they are taken care of to the end of their days.

~originally published in *Whistling in the Dark* and later in *Beyond Words*