

Edgecomb Community Church

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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"The Gates of Heaven being opened."

Photo by Sue Sikes

Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 24, 2020

Scripture: John 17:1-11

Sermon: *A Different Kind of Glory*

We'll be worshipping together on Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 24, 2020. All are welcome to join us. I'll be sending out the Zoom link soon.



The Mary Garden with Tulips

Gifts and Support

During these trying times there are still several ways to support our Church.

Giving monetary support:

1. Checks may be mailed to the Edgecomb Community Church; P.O.Box 113; Edgecomb, ME 04556
2. Payments with debit or credit cards can be made on-line by clicking the [Donate] button under giving on the Church's Website at edgecombchurch.org
3. Tax free retirement distributions can be made from IRA's or qualified pension plans through your investment broker.
4. Bequests or charitable trusts can be setup through a will or trust.
5. When things get back to normal gifts to our thrift shop of volunteer time to help run and maintain the Church are always appreciated. Contact any Council Member or Trustee if you are interested in volunteering time.

This Will Change the Way You See Everything

by Margaret Feinberg

Like me, you may have areas of your life where you feel backed into a corner or there's no way out. The hurting relationship. The shuttered business. The questionable future.

The unstable finances. The mysterious illness. The recent diagnosis.

In the midst of so much uncertainty, never forget: God specializes in impossible situations.

Slithering snakes and fractured families. Deep pits and dank prisons. Hardened Pharaohs and disturbed Kings. Babeling towers and towering giants.

God reveals his presence and power to those who wander in the wilderness, feel like they're nothing more than dry bones in the desert, and those who want to call it quits altogether.

If you squint into the scripture, you'll discover the long list of kings and queens, princes and prophets, poets and everyday people declaring, "God specialized in my impossible situation."

Adam and Eve. Abraham and Isaac. Joseph and his bros. David and Esther. Josiah and Hezekiah and so many more. The list runs long in the Hebrew Scriptures and right into the Greek.

That's when Jesus wowzers us with God's redeeming heart. Healing. Restoring. Bringing back to life. He endured the cross to kick down the doors of hell and triumph over death once and for all. Even the book of Revelation exclaims, "God specializes in impossible situations."

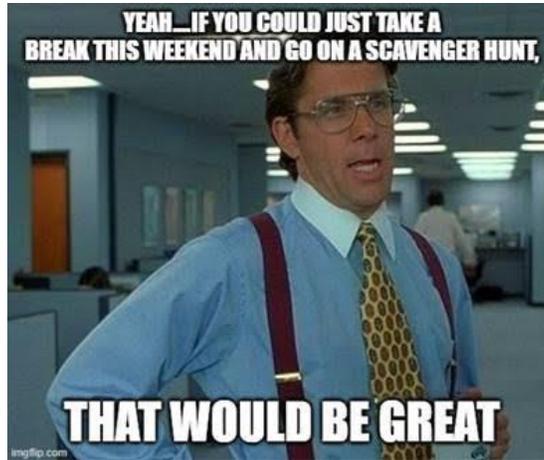
Today, I don't know your area of impossibility. That place where you're tempted to believe that God can't come through, the wrong can't be restored, the deep pain can't be healed.

But rest assured my friend, the same God who led the Israelites through the desert has come to rescue you and me. Rise up, joy warrior! I love you, I am with you, and I am for you,

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

- 1 Corinthians 15:58

Ann Darden sent this wonderful idea for an outdoor Scavenger Hunt



OUTDOOR scavenger HUNT

TO LOOK FOR

- Something Purple
- A Pinecone
- 3 different kinds of rocks
- Something Round
- 2 Kinds of flowers
- Something that starts with the letter G
- Something Very Tall
- Something Green
- 2 Different kinds of leaves
- 1 Stick
- 2 Different types of trees
- Something prickly
- Something that smells good
- Something that starts with the letter B
- 1 Spiderweb
- Something orange
- 1 Bug
- 1 Squirrel
- Something Blue
- 1 Worm
- Something that starts with the letter P
- Something Smooth
- An Ant Hill
- 1 Bird
- Something Yellow
- 1 Butterfly
- 2 Clouds



TO LISTEN FOR

- Wind through the trees
- Leaves under your feet
- Birds Singing
- An animal moving in the trees



TO FEEL

- Rough Tree Bark
- The Sun on your face
- The Wind in your hair
- A Smooth rock
- Something Wet



Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 20th century

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

Sue Sikes sent the following:

New monthly budget: Gas \$0 Entertainment \$0 Clothes \$0 Groceries \$2,799.

Breaking News: Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to stop COVID-19, but to stop eating.

Low maintenance chicks are having their moment right now. We don't have nails to fill and paint, roots to dye, eyelashes to re-mink, and are thrilled not to have to get dressed every day. I have been training for this moment my entire life!

When this quarantine is over, let's not tell some people.

I stepped on my scale this morning. It said: "Please practice social distancing. Only one person at a time on scale."

Not to brag, but I haven't been late to anything in over 6 weeks.

It may take a village to raise a child but I swear its going to take a vineyard to home school one.

I wanted zombies and anarchy. Instead we got working from home and toilet paper shortages. Worst. Apocalypse. Ever.

You know those car commercials where there's only one vehicle on the road - doesn't seem so unrealistic these days ...

They can open things up next month, I'm staying in until July to see what happens to you all first.

Day 37: The garbage man placed an AA flyer on my recycling bin.

The spread of Covid-19 is based on two things:

1. How dense the population is.
2. How dense the population is.

Appropriate analogy: "The curve is flattening so we can start lifting restrictions now" = "The parachute has slowed our rate of descent, so we can take it off now".

People keep asking: "Is coronavirus REALLY all that serious?" Listen y'all, the churches and casinos are closed. When heaven and hell agree on the same thing it's probably pretty serious.

Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask and ask for money.

Home school Day 1: I'm trying to figure out how I can get this kid transferred out of my class.

Okay, the schools are closed. So do we drop the kids off at the teacher's house or what?

For the second part of this quarantine do we have to stay with the same family or will they relocate us? Asking for myself ...

Coronavirus has turned us all into dogs. We wander around the house looking for food. We get told "No" if we get too close to strangers and we get really excited about going for walks and car rides.

The dumbest thing I've ever bought was a 2020 planner ...

I was in a long line at 7:45 am today at the grocery store that opened at 8:00 for seniors *only*. A young man came from the parking lot and tried to cut in at the front of the line, but an old lady beat him back into the parking lot with her cane.

He returned and tried to cut in again but an old man punched him in the gut, then kicked him to the ground and rolled him away.

As he approached the line for the 3rd time he said, "If you don't let me unlock the door, you'll never get in there."

Fred Rogers, 20th century

"The connections we make in the course of a life--maybe that's what heaven is."



Oh, Lord

Blessing and peace,
Kate