

THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

PUBLISHED BY THE EDGECOMB COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC

*"To bring together our communities in spirituality
and loving service to humankind"*

A monthly newsletter dedicated to the dissemination of information from and for the
people of Edgcomb and the Edgcomb Community Church



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EDGECOMB COMMUNITY CHURCH

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WORSHIP SERVICE

The church is now open for live services at 9:30 a.m. with coffee hour following the service at 10:30 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sundays.

Please join us for our livestreamed services which are available at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday using link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAqYh6UMZyucMGNL21xqgA/>
[live](#)

To watch any previous service at any other time use link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAqYh6UMZyucMGNL21xqgA/>

NEWLY UPDATED WEBSITE

www.edgcombchurch.org

THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Editor: Marjorie DiVece

News for the November edition is due by 5 p.m. Thursday, November 25, at edgcomb.church@gmail.com

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please send your Email address to: edgcomb.church@gmail.com

Greetings Neighbors and Friends,

This morning I put on my first flannel shirt of the season! The sky is bright blue with not a cloud to be seen and the crisp air is full of the fragrance of falling leaves. This is the time of year when we begin the process of moving our lives indoors after the long hot days of summer. As daylight becomes shorter and the weather turns colder, many of us will find ourselves gathering around the table with family and friends. In the months to come some of us will gather for Halloween parties, Thanksgiving Day meals, and the feasts and celebrations of Christmas and the New Year. These are the holidays we enjoy being with the people we love.

As I reflect on these times, I'm also aware that we are still living amid a pandemic. I remember with sadness the 685,000 plus people we have lost in our country so far, and how the Delta variant continues to spread through our cities and towns. That is why Pope Francis' words encouraging everyone to get vaccinated against Covid-19 speaks to my heart. Getting the vaccination he said, "authorized by respective authorities" is an "act of love." Helping others do the same is also an act of love. "Love for oneself, love for our families and friends, and love for all peoples. Getting vaccinated is a simple yet profound way to care for one another, especially the most vulnerable," he said.

Did you know that the words *love your neighbor as yourself* is found eight times in the Bible? Eight times. *Loving your neighbor as yourself* is so important to God that God not only repeats it, but God also gives it as a command. And not just any kind of command. Jesus attached the command to *love your neighbor as yourself* with loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. **(Mark 12:30-31)**

So, to begin to *love your neighbor as yourself*, we need to know two things: we need to know what love is and that we are loved. Scripture tells us, "This is love: it is not that we love God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins. (1 John 4:10 CEB)

God loves you. It is a deep and unconditional love and because God loves us first, God is the source of our love. So, for us to give this love, we need to receive it for ourselves because we can't give away what we don't have. To *love your neighbor as yourself*, you need to love yourself. Jesus died for all of us and if he loved us enough to go through what He went through, don't we owe it to Him to love what He loves?

Beloved people, I encourage you, if you haven't already done so, to get vaccinated and in turn to reach out to the people you know and love who are hesitant to get vaccinated, to also get vaccinated. Getting vaccinated against Covid is an act of love for ourselves, as well as for our neighbors.

As Pope Francis so beautifully stated, "Each one of us can make his or her own small gesture of love. No matter how small, love is always grand."

Blessings and peace,

Rev. Kate

Source: The Vatican News, August 18, 2021- *Pope Francis urges people to get vaccinated against Covid-19* by Devin Watkins

Church Calendar

- October 2 Thrift Shop open 9-1
- October 3 World Communion Sunday, Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost, 9:30 AM - Rev. Katherine Pinkham
- October 5 Tuesday Lunch at noon and Thrift Shop open 9-2
- October 9 Thrift Shop open 9-1
- October 10 Celtic Prayer Service, 9:30 AM—Rev. Kate Pinkham (**Breakfast at 8:30 AM**)
- October 12 Thrift Shop open 9-2
- October 16 Thrift Shop open 9-1
- October 17 Twenty-First Sunday of Pentecost, 9:30 AM—Rev. Kate Pinkham
- October 19 Tuesday Lunch at noon and Thrift Shop open 9-2
- October 20 Candlelight Full Harvest Moon Labyrinth Walk 6:00 PM
- October 23 Thrift Shop open 9-1
- October 24 Celtic Prayer Service, 9:30 AM—Rev. Kate Pinkham (**Breakfast at 8:30 AM**)
- October 26 Thrift Shop open 9-2
- October 30 Thrift Shop open 9-1
- October 31 Twenty-Third Sunday of Pentecost, 9:30 AM, Guest Minister Rev. Patricia Rowe-Jones

Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. In 2021, Neighbors in Need "Unfailing Love" offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry, two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

Many churches collect the offering on October 3, 2021, as part of World Communion Sunday, but contributions can be made at any time.



Celtic Prayer Services

Edgecomb Community Church is now holding a Celtic Prayer Service the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. A breakfast will be served before the service at 8:30 a.m. in the parish hall free of charge. The prayer service begins at 9:30 AM.

This is a great way to visit and meet your neighbors in a low key and informal setting, and experience a different kind of worship service.

Please join us!

October Birthdays

Ed Hamilton	1
Dick O'Connor	7
Steven Wijdzinski	8
Eliza Chase	9
Pam Soule	23



November Birthdays

Joan Spurgat	17
Natalie Potter	18

October Full Moon Candlelight Labyrinth Walk

Our next full moon candlelight labyrinth walk will be held on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 6:00 PM.

According to the Farmer's Almanac, the full moon in October came to be called the Hunter's Moon because it was the time for hunting in preparation for the winter months. As the animals began to fatten up ahead of winter, hunters could easily see deer and other animals that came out to forage in the harvested fields and woods. The earliest use of the title "Hunter's Moon", in the Oxford English Dictionary, is from 1710.

Come and join us on the special evening and walk the *Labyrinth in Field* by candlelight. It is a wonderful way to walk in quiet meditation while enjoying the evening in the beauty of God's amazing creation.



October Tuesday Lunches

Come on by for our 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month free lunch program at noon.

This months menus:

October 5 – Lasagna, Salad,
Garlic Bread, Apple Crisp

October 19 – Navy Bean Soup,
BLT Wrap, Potato Chips,
Chocolate Chip Cookies

Thrift Shop News



Two Raffles

Double Sided Quilt for \$3/ticket
Fall Stonehill Products Basket \$1/ticket
***Grab Bags also available by donation
to benefit Fuel Assistance Program***
Many new fall and winter vests and
coats now available.

**Holiday décor and gifts will be sold
from November 20 to December 11.**

History of Indigenous Peoples' Day

Since 1991, dozens of cities, several universities, and a growing number of states have adopted Indigenous Peoples' Day, a holiday that celebrates the history and contributions of Native Americans. Not by coincidence, the occasion usually falls on Columbus Day, the second Monday in October, or replaces the holiday entirely. As of 2020, the holiday is observed by the states of Minnesota, Alaska, Maine, Louisiana, Oregon, New Mexico, Nevada and Vermont, as well as South Dakota, which celebrates Native Americans' Day, and Hawaii, which celebrates Discoverers' Day.

Why replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day? Activists have long argued that holidays, statues, and other memorials to Columbus sanitize his actions—which include the enslavement of Native Americans—while giving him credit for “discovering” a place where people already lived.

“Columbus Day is not just a holiday, it represents the violent history of colonization in the Western hemisphere,” says Leo Killsback, a professor of American Indian Studies at Arizona State University.

Columbus Day became a federal holiday in 1937, in part because of efforts by Roman Catholic Italian Americans. During the late 19th and early 20th century, members of the stigmatized ethnic and religious group successfully campaigned to establish a Columbus Day in order to place Catholic Italians, like Christopher Columbus, into American history. In doing so, they edged out people of Anglo-Saxon descent who wanted a federal holiday honoring Leif Erikson as the first European to reach the Americas.

But decades later, the question of which European got here “first” is beside the point. “Indigenous People's Day represents a much more honest and fair representation of American values,” writes Killsback, who is a citizen of the Northern Cheyenne Nation of southeastern Montana.

The day also represents a subject that many American students can go through school without ever learning much about. In a 2015 op-ed, Shannon Speed, director of the American Indian Studies Center at the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Chickasaw tribal citizen, wrote that “virtually none of my university students has had any education whatsoever in the history of this country's treatment of the 10 million or so people who lived here before Europeans arrived.”

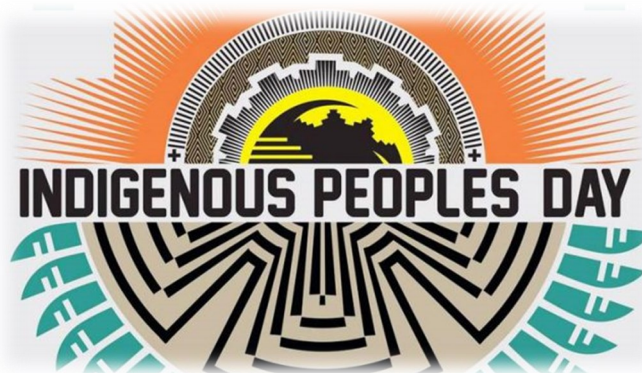
Indigenous Peoples' Day can't fully address the erasure of Native American history from public education on its own. But it offers a focus to this history in schools, where many history textbooks leave out Native Americans or sanitize white colonizer's treatment of them. When the city of Austin adopted Indigenous Peoples' Day in October 2017, the resolution stated that the city wanted to encourage schools to teach this history.

In her op-ed, Speed wrote of her students' common belief in the “vanishing Indian,” meaning that her students often think of Native Americans as people who lived in the past rather than living people who continue to practice their cultures today.

In Berkeley, for example, the Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee celebrated the holiday's 25th anniversary in the city with dancing, food, and songs from local Native American tribes. Berkeley was the first city to adopt Indigenous Peoples' Day back in 1991, and it continues to mark the holiday by highlighting both the history and contemporary culture of Native peoples.

Source: <https://www.history.com/news/goodbye-columbus-hello-indigenous-people>

https://quincy-network.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2020/10/MGN_1280x720_81008C00-PSGSC.jpgges-day



Christian History of Halloween – The Origins

Halloween began to evolve as early as AD 270 from the Celt's culture in Ireland who practiced a special costume party event the night before their annual feast of "Samhain," which had a two-fold purpose. The feast was not only a memorial to commemorate their deceased relatives but also a thanksgiving to close the end of the summer season of light and to prepare diligently for entering into the darkness of the long winter season.

Superstition has it that the "eve" before the feast was then a time to ward off any evil spirits which they believed were cast out or released from the spirit world realm into their physical world and who would come to attack the feast celebration. Believing that demons, witches, and hobgoblins were real and existed, October 31 then became an annual costume event to try through disguised appearance fool the evil spirits into thinking they were not humans to be harmed.

The Druids, who were the Celt's ruling class, required of everyone to attempt tricking the evil spirits by dressing up to look like goblins, witches, and devils, and by carving ugly, monstrous faces on gourds lighted with candles, and by sweetly putting treats outside their door. The challenge, according to superstition, was to divert the evil spirits attention away from their feast the following day.

Missionary Involvement

The Lord had different plans for the Celt's and during the second century He sent a few missionaries to England and Ireland to convert the people to Christianity. When the Christian missionaries journeyed from Europe and arrived in the land of the Celt's, the Druids, after hearing the Gospel, became eager for all their people to become Christians and to denounce their pagan gods and practices such as superstitiously appeasing and cast off evil demon spirits. In time, they adapted and combined the tradition of their feast on November 1 and "all Hallows Eve" together with the Gospel. The Christian monks decided it would be an effective way to share the Gospel and to dispel and lay to rest the Celt's superstition about ghosts and evil spirits. That Christ, their Creator and Savior, defeated Satan, death, and evil at the cross and through Him alone, evil demons were powerless and would flee.

Halloween and the Samhain Feast also provided an opportunity to be reminded of or learn about Christian heroes and martyrs along with the Celt's continuing to officially recognize and commemorate the souls of their blessed dead who had been declared saints.

Many scholars agree that the commemoration of saints on November 1 first originated in Ireland, spread from there to England, and then to the continent of Europe with the rise of Christianity. By the ninth century, the Roman Catholic Church adopted the Celt's Halloween tradition and Pope Gregory IV sent out an official letter of notification urging that Halloween be observed in harmony with All Saints Day throughout the Roman Empire.

Halloween is derived from the term All Hollows Eve and "Hallowmass," meaning Holy evening.

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Source: <https://www.AllAboutGOD.com/christian-history-of-halloween-faq.htm>



Photo by [seungju lee](#) on [Unsplash](#)

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 ECC Thrift Store 9-1 featuring fall & winter vests and coats
3 World Communion Sunday—ECC Worship 9:30 am in person at the church and live streamed via YouTube	4 Edgecomb School Board Meeting 6-7 p.m. Edgecomb Select Board Meeting 6 p.m. at Town Hall	5 ECC Thrift Store 9-2 ECC Lunch at noon EES PTC Meeting 6-7p.m. via zoom	6	7 Edgecomb Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm	8	9 ECC Thrift Store 9-1 Quilt Raffle tickets for sale
10 ECC Celtic Prayer Service 9:30 AM Breakfast at 8:30 AM	11 Indigenous Peoples' Day	12 ECC Thrift Store 9-2	13	14	15	16 ECC Thrift Store 9-1
17 ECC Worship 9:30 am in person at the church and live streamed via YouTube	18 Edgecomb Select Board Meeting 6 p.m. at Town Hall	19 ECC Thrift Store 9-2 ECC Lunch at noon	20 ECC Full Moon Labyrinth Walk 6:00 PM Schmid Advisory Committee 7 p.m. at town hall	21 Edgecomb Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm	22	23 ECC Thrift Store 9-1
24 ECC Celtic Prayer Service 9:30 AM Breakfast at 8:30 AM	25	26 ECC Thrift Store 9-2	27	28	29	30 ECC Thrift Store 9-1
31 Halloween ECC Worship 9:30 am with Guest Minister Patricia Rowe-Jones						