

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



Volume 1

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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>

ECC WEBSITE

www.edgcombchurch.org

THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Editor: Marjorie DiVece

News for the January edition is due by 5 p.m. Wednesday, December 29, 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 Beloved People,

The story of the birth of Jesus is an incredible gift to our lives and to our world. It reminds us of the truth we often forget: We matter to God! This story of love can reverse our expectations and transform our fears to live by a story of hope, peace, joy, and love.

These are not just words on cards you get every December. They are things we need but often cannot find. Join us as we seek to find them together during this season of waiting and expectation as we make our way to Bethlehem. In the retelling of this story, we rediscover its power each year.

No matter where you are on the journey of faith, take time to let God's love enfold your heart this season so that the miracle of the birth of Christ will be a new source of joy in and through your life!

And come to the Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 5:00 PM on December 24th. Invite your friends and family who need the gifts of this season, and let's celebrate the miracle, the joy and the wonder of Christmas together. Let's reach out in love to spread the good news of the great joy of Christmas!

May God touch your heart in a new way this Advent and Christmas season.

Advent and Christmas Blessings,

Kate

Pastor, Edgcomb Community Church



Church Calendar

- December 4 Thrift Shop open 9-2 Bake Sale
- December 5 Second Sunday of Advent
Worship Service—9:30 AM. Decorating
for the Advent Season after worship—
Please plan to help.
- December 7 Last Tuesday Lunch 'til April
Served at noon. Thrift Shop open 9-2
Bake Sale
- December 11 Thrift Store open 9-1 Last day!
Holiday Sale, Bake Sale&Raffles
Reopening in April after a winter break
- December 12 *Celtic Prayer Service*, Third Sun-
day of Advent—9:30 AM—Rev. Kate
Pinkham (**Breakfast** at 8:30 AM)
- December 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Worship at 9:30 AM—Rev. Kate
Pinkham
- December 21—Candlelight Winter Solstice
Labyrinth Walk—6-7 p.m. Please see
further details about the new labyrinth
venue.
- December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Ser-
vice at 5:00 p.m.
- December 25 Christmas Day
- December 26 1st Sunday after Christmas—
Celtic Prayer Service, 9:30 AM— Rev.
Kate Pinkham (**No breakfast**)
- December 31 New Years Eve
- January 2, 2022 - Second Sunday after Christ-
mas—Worship at 9:30 a.m. in Fellow-
ship Hall—"*Agape Love Feast*"

December Birthdays

Marjorie DiVece	9
George Malone	16
Sofia Chase	18
George Green	22

January Birthdays

Calla Wells	4
Maryjane Wells	9
Grace Greene	30
Phil DiVece	31



Church Chatter

Since the pandemic, communications have been sparse and often lacking. To remedy this situation, the third Sunday of each month after/during coffee hour, members and friends are asked to gather and discuss events and issues that are of interest to the church family and community.

Anyone interested in attending is always welcome. Either come down to the parish hall after Sunday worship or just drop in around 10:30 a.m. for coffee, refreshments and some good conversation.

Dear Members and Friends,

After prayerful consideration and discussion, the Edgecomb Community Church Council at their meeting held on Wednesday, October 24, decided that as of Sunday, November 14, everyone must wear a mask when indoors and during worship, regardless of your vaccination status as recommended by the US CDC for our county at this current time. We want to help keep each other safe.

Edgecomb Community
Church Council



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!

History of the Christmas Tree

Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. Just as people today decorate their homes during the festive season with pine, spruce, and fir trees, ancient peoples hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness.

In the Northern hemisphere, the shortest day and longest night of the year falls on December 21 or December 22 and is called the winter solstice. Many ancient people believed that the sun was a god and that winter came every year because the sun god had become sick and weak. They celebrated the solstice because it meant that at last the sun god would begin to get well. Evergreen boughs reminded them of all the green plants that would grow again when the sun god was strong and summer would return.

The ancient Egyptians worshipped a god called Ra, who had the head of a hawk and wore the sun as a blazing disk in his crown. At the solstice, when Ra began to recover from his illness, the Egyptians filled their homes with green palm rushes, which symbolized for them the triumph of life over death.

Early Romans marked the solstice with a feast called Saturnalia in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture. The Romans knew that the solstice meant that soon, farms and orchards would be green and fruitful. To mark the occasion, they decorated their homes and temples with evergreen boughs.

In Northern Europe the mysterious Druids, the priests of the ancient Celts, also decorated their temples with evergreen boughs as a symbol of everlasting life. The fierce Vikings in Scandinavia thought that evergreens were the special plant of the sun god, Balder.

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens

and candles if wood was scarce. It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther, the 16th-century Protestant reformer, first added lighted candles to a tree. Walking toward his home one winter evening, composing a sermon, he was awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles.

Most 19th-century Americans found Christmas trees an oddity. The first record of one being on display was in the 1830s by the German settlers of Pennsylvania, although trees had been a tradition in many German homes much earlier. The Pennsylvania German settlements had community trees as early as 1747. But, as late as the 1840s Christmas trees were seen as pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans.

(continued on next page)



It is not surprising that, like many other festive Christmas customs, the tree was adopted so late in America. To the New England Puritans, Christmas was sacred. The pilgrims' second governor, William Bradford, wrote that he tried hard to stamp out "pagan mockery" of the observance, penalizing any frivolity. The influential Oliver Cromwell preached against "the heathen traditions" of Christmas carols, decorated trees, and any joyful expression that desecrated "that sacred event." In 1659, the General Court of Massachusetts enacted a law making any observance of December 25 (other than a church service) a penal offense; people were fined for hanging decorations. That stern solemnity continued until the 19th century, when the influx of German and Irish immigrants undermined the Puritan legacy.

In 1846, the popular royals, Queen Victoria and her German Prince, Albert, were sketched in the Illustrated London News standing with their children around a Christmas tree. Unlike the previous royal family, Victoria was very popular with her subjects, and what was done at court immediately became fashionable—not only in Britain, but with fashion-conscious East Coast American Society. The Christmas tree had arrived.

By the 1890s Christmas ornaments were arriving from Germany and Christmas tree popularity was on the rise around the U.S. It was noted that Europeans used small trees about four feet in height, while Americans liked their Christmas trees to reach from floor to ceiling.

The early 20th century saw Americans decorating their trees mainly with homemade ornaments, while the German-American set continued to use apples, nuts, and marzipan cookies. Popcorn joined in after being dyed bright colors and interlaced with berries and nuts. Electricity brought about Christmas lights, making it possible for Christmas trees to glow for days on end. With this, Christmas trees began to appear in town squares across the country and having a Christmas tree in the home became an American tradition.

The first tree at Rockefeller Center was placed in 1931. It was a small undorned tree placed by construction workers at the center of the construction site. Two years later, another tree was placed there, this time with lights. These days, the giant Rockefeller Center tree is laden with over 25,000 Christmas lights.

Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas-trees>



An illustration from a December 1848 edition of the Illustrated London News shows Queen Victoria and her family surrounding a Christmas tree. Bettmann Archive/Getty Images

Winter Solstice Candlelight Labyrinth Walk on December 21

You are cordially invited to celebrate the Winter Solstice on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm by walking our special evergreen spiral labyrinth to be created especially for this event.

The spiral labyrinth will be made with fragrant evergreen branches and lighted with sparkling candles. It will be located in the lower parking area next to the side entrance of the Edgecomb Community Church building. Parking for the evening will be at the upper parking lot located to the left of the front of the church building. Please look for the entrance signs in order to walk to the evergreen labyrinth

Hot cocoa will be available.

Come and join us on this special evening to celebrate the beginning of the season of Winter. It is a wonderful way to be outdoors, walk in quiet meditation while enjoying the evening in the beauty and wonder of God's amazing creation.

In case of inclement weather, please see the church's Facebook page for cancelation notice.

Edgecomb Community Church is located at 15 Cross Point Road, Edgecomb, Maine. For further information please contact the church at edgecomb.church@gmail.com or call the office at 882-4060. The event is free to all. Due to the darkness and time of year, *The Labyrinth in the Field* will NOT be available to walk this evening.

December Tuesday Lunch

This will be our last Tuesday lunch of the season. We will resume the lunches in April when the Thrift Store also reopens. Have a restful and healthy winter.

This months menu:

December 7 – Italian Wedding Meatball Soup, Homemade Bread, Salad, Assorted Homemade Pies

ECC Mission News

The Edgecomb Community Church Mission Outreach Committee gave out gift baskets to the residents of Edgecomb Green just before Thanksgiving. They are always so excited to receive these small gifts of love from their neighbors at the church.

A Christmas Gift Basket Raffle is underway at the church's Thrift Store for \$1 a ticket to raise monies for the church's mission efforts. The drawing will be held on December 11, the last day the Thrift Store will be open before a winter break.

Other fundraisers for mission are several mini bake sales until December 11 during Thrift Store hours (see poster later in this newsletter), and Grab Bags for local fuel assistance—a minimum \$3 donation allows donors to pick a wrapped gift of their choosing.

So please visit the Thrift Store each Tuesday and Saturday until December 11 to do a little shopping while helping out your neighbors in need.



Photo by KaLisa Veer on Unsplash

Advent Study on Zoom

Join us for a 4-week Advent study as we prepare for the Coming of the Lord.

Time: 10:00 to 11:00 AM

Dates: Thursdays, Dec. 2, Dec. 9, Dec. 16, and Dec. 23

We'll be meeting on Zoom

Please let Rev. Kate know you are interested in attending by emailing the church at: edgecomb.church@gmail.com

WWW.WISCASSETHOLIDAYMARKETFEST.COM



WISCASSET HOLIDAY MARKETFEST 2021

FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY
DECEMBER 3-4-5 2021



A WISCASSET AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND WISCASSET CREATIVE ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIP.

Shop local and have some fun with horse-drawn wagon shuttle, artisan shop, caroling, Wreaths Around the Holidays display, free raffles for local dining, historic house tour . . . bring on the holiday cheer!

The Holiday Gift Shop, a curated collection of artisan creations, holiday greens, and specialty items will be located in the Nickels-Sortwell House barn on Federal St. (directly behind the house). Find exceptional and unique items for family, friends, and hard-to-please!

Happy to report that FIREWORKS over the Sheepscot River return during Marketfest! Friday, Dec. 3, 2021, around 6pm. But come early for a chat with Santa, hot cocoa and candy canes, and a DJ playing holiday tunes! More activities here: www.wiscassetholidaymarketfest.com

Edgecomb Community Church

Thrift Store Holiday Happenings

Beginning Saturday, November 20 until December 11, the Thrift Store will be featuring seasonal and holiday clothing and décor. Rather than holding one major event, this year's Magic of Christmas sale will be spread out over several weeks until December 11, the last day the thrift shop will be open until April, 2022.

Two raffles will be drawn on December 11 — one for a handmade reversible holiday quilt, the other for a Christmas Basket. An ongoing Christmas Grab Bag sale will continue until December 11, with all donations going toward the Boothbay Harbor Fuel Assistance Fund.

Also for sale during these weeks will be homemade baked items, and crafts by the church's Busy Hands group. Proceeds from these additional sales will benefit the church's Mission Fund. Shop local and shop often!



BAKE SALE FEATURED ITEMS

Saturday, 12/4—Fudge or *We Love Chocolate*

Tuesday, 12/7—Cakes

Saturday, 12/11—Christmas Cookies and
Breads

Of course, more than these featured items will be available for sale each day. Come and let us do your holiday baking!



BUSY HANDS CRAFTS FOR SALE

The women of the Busy Hands group have been busy all through the pandemic preparing beautiful homemade items to sell during the holidays. Inventory will be swapped out and added to each week. Some items available will be:

Baby Sweaters and Blankets, Hats, Mittens, Scarves and Christmas Ornaments

More ECC Fundraising Events

The Thanksgiving Basket Raffle winner is Poppy (Laurel) Truchon of Damariscotta. Pastor Kate Pinkham drew her name on Saturday, November 20. The next two raffles, a Christmas basket, will be drawn on December 11. Visit the Thrift Store to purchase your tickets soon.

The Thanksgiving Pie Sale was also a huge success. Over 75 pies were made and sold with 36 pies being pre-ordered. Thank you to all who made, sold and bought pies. This yearly event helps sustain the mission committee's efforts to aid local residents in need.



Bake Sales


Come on in and see what homemade baked goods have been put up for sale each Tuesday and Saturday until December 11. Fudge, Christmas cookies, breads, etc. are ready for your holiday celebrations and gift giving.

Fuel Assistance Fund Grab Bag Sale



From now until December 11, a table with gift wrapped items will be available at the church parish hall/Thrift Store for a minimum \$3.00 donation. All proceeds will be given to the Boothbay Harbor Fuel Assistance Fund. A fun way to support our neighbors in need! Please be generous.

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Edgecomb Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm	3	4 ECC Thrift Store 9-1 Bake Sale
5 2nd Sunday of Advent— Worship at 9:30 AM Decorating for Advent after worship	6 AOS 98 Meet- ing 5:30-7 p.m.	7 Last ECC Lunch at noon- Resumes in April EES PTC Meet- ing 6-7 p.m.	8	9	10	11 ECC Thrift Store 9-1 Raffles and Bake Sale Closing after today until April
12 3rd Sunday of Advent—Celtic Prayer Service 9:30 AM Breakfast at 8:30 AM	13 Edgecomb Ed- dy School Com- mittee Meeting 6-7 p.m. Edgecomb Select Board Meeting 6 p.m. at Town Hall	14	15 Schmid Advi- sory Committee 7 p.m. at town hall	16 Edgecomb Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm	17	18
19 4th Sunday of Advent— Worship at 9:30 AM	20	21 Candlelight Winter Solstice Labyrinth Walk 6-7 p.m. in low- er parking lot	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5 p.m.	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> 
26 1st Sunday af- ter Christmas— Celtic Prayer Service at 9:30 AM <i>No Breakfast this Sunday</i>	27	28 Edgecomb Select Board Meeting 6 p.m. at Town Hall	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 	