

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 2

No. 3

March, 2022

EDGECOMB COMMUNITY CHURCH

P.O. Box 113 15 Cross Point Road
Edgcomb, ME 04556
207-882-4060

Rev. Katherine Pinkham, Pastor

edgcomb.church@gmail.com
207-882-4060

Church Coordinator

Marjorie DiVece
207-882-6338
marjoriedivece@gmail.com
edgcomb.church@gmail.com

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.

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 April edition is due by 5 p.m. Monday, March 28, 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 & Friends!

As we make our way to the month of March, we find ourselves at the bottom of what I've heard called, "The March Hill", just beginning the climb up the final hill of the last gasp of winter. As the old proverb says, March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Yet even though it can be challenging as far as weather is concerned, March is also the month when the bright yellow daffodils arrive reminding us that spring is on its way.



This year the season of Lent officially begins this month, on March 2, Ash Wednesday. As you know, Lent is the Christian season of spiritual preparation before Easter. During Lent, many Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial, and spiritual discipline. The purpose of the Lenten season is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ—to consider his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection.

Beginning on Sunday, March 6th, during worship, we'll begin a six-week series focusing on Holy Friday with the aid of the book, *Witness at the Cross* by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. We'll experience the Crucifixion through the eyes and ears of those who watched it happen and heard what was said by Jesus and those around him. Using descriptions from the four New Testament Gospels, we'll consider witnesses such as: Mary, Jesus' mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.

We'll also be able to watch together, a 10–12-minute length video featuring Dr. Levine that will be shown after coffee hour in Fellowship Hall each Sunday during the 6 weeks. Below is a list of some of the witnesses at the Cross we'll learn further about:

Sunday, March 6 – Bystanders and Scoffers – This Sunday we'll "listen in" on the scorn those standing by the cross, including some of Jerusalem's political leaders, the chief priests, and scribes, hurled at Jesus as he died.

Sunday, March 13 – The Other Victims – This Sunday we'll get closer to the closest witnesses of Jesus's death: the two men crucified alongside him.

Sunday, March 20 – The Soldiers – This Sunday we'll consider the Roman soldiers at the cross and the centurion who commanded them.

Sunday, March 27 – The Beloved Disciple – On this Sunday we'll consider the role of the Beloved Disciple in John's Gospel story of Jesus's ministry and death.

Sunday, April 3 – The Women – This Sunday we'll examine the place of the women who followed Jesus, served as his patrons, and supported him at his cross.

Palm Sunday, April 10 – Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus – This Sunday we'll consider how Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus related to Jesus before he died and why their actions in burying his body provide a model for modern "sympathizers" of Jesus.

I look forward to joining you in experiencing Good Friday through the lens of the witnesses to the Cross.

Blessings and peace,

Rev. Kate Pinkham

Pastor, Edgcomb Community Church, UCC

Church Calendar

- March 2—Ash Wednesday
- March 6—First Sunday in Lent
Traditional Worship at 9:30 AM
- March 13—Second Sunday in Lent
Celtic Prayer Service at 9:30 AM
- March 20—Third Sunday in Lent
Traditional Worship at 9:30 AM
- March 27—Fourth Sunday in Lent
Celtic Prayer Service at 9:30 AM
- March 27—Annual Meeting, 11 AM
- Coffee Hours resume this month after the services downstairs in the parish hall.



March Birthdays

Ruth Bryant	17
Marie Cooper	18
Fran Mague	28

April Birthdays

Tom Boudin	2
Gary Spurgat	2
Joanne O'Connor	11
Pat Greene	12
Abigail Boudin	16
Karen Potter	25
Carol Colby	28



Church Re-opening

At its January 27 Edgecomb Community Church Council meeting it was agreed that in-person services will resume Sunday, February 6. Live-streaming will continue as usual. No singing, no communion, and no Celtic Prayer breakfasts will be offered at this time. Social distancing practices will continue and masks are to be upgraded to N95 masks, which will be made available at the services.

Hand sanitizer at the door and signing in will also remain in practice for maintaining a safe environment for all members and guests. Vaccinations are still strongly encouraged.

Coffee Hours will resume as of Sunday, March 6. Celtic breakfasts may resume in the future but not at this time.

Celtic Prayer Services

Edgecomb Community Church will resume offering a Celtic Prayer Service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. The breakfasts will be put on hold until such time as it is safe to share a meal together. 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!

Edgecomb Community Church

Annual Meeting

In the church downstairs vestry

Sunday, March 27, 2022

11:00 AM

ECC Mission News

The Edgecomb Community Church Mission Committee would like to shout out a huge THANK YOU to all its friends and neighbors who have been dropping off their returnable bottles at the church's recycling shed on Cross Point Road.

The monies are being used to help out in many ways throughout the Edgecomb Community and beyond. This past month Valentine donuts were purchased and dropped off at the Edgecomb Eddy School for their staff, to the Edgecomb Green for its residents to enjoy, and to the employees at Ames True Value in Wiscasset for all their local support.

Last year the bottles returned raised over \$1100. Thank



you all so much and keep them coming in! This is such an easy way to help out your friends and neighbors while supporting a precious local historical landmark.



St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17, the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

St. Patrick Aleroy4/Getty Images

Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people.

In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well-known legend of St. Patrick is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.

Since around the ninth or 10th century, people in Ireland have been observing the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick on March 17. The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland but in America. Records show that a St. Patrick's Day parade was held on March 17, 1601 in a Spanish colony in what is now St. Augustine, Florida. The parade, and a St. Patrick's Day celebration a year earlier were organized by the Spanish Colony's Irish vicar Ricardo Artur.

More than a century later, homesick Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched in New York City on March 17, 1772 to honor the Irish patron saint. Enthusiasm for the St. Patrick's Day parades in New York City, Boston and other early American cities only grew from there.

Over the next 35 years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

In 1848, several New York Irish Aid societies decided to unite their parades to form one official New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Today, that parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants. Each year, nearly 3 million people line the 1.5-mile parade route to watch the procession, which takes more than five hours. Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and Savannah also celebrate the day with parades involving between 10,000 and 20,000 participants each. In 2020, the New York City parade was one of the first major city events to be cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; it was again cancelled in 2021.

One icon of the Irish holiday is the Leprechaun. The original Irish name for these figures of folklore is "lobaircin," meaning "small-bodied fellow." Belief in leprechauns probably stems from Celtic belief in fairies, tiny men and women who could use their magical powers to serve good or evil. In Celtic folktales, leprechauns were cranky souls, responsible for mending the shoes of the other fairies.



Though only minor figures in Celtic folklore, leprechauns were known for their trickery, which they often used to protect their much-fabled treasure. Leprechauns have their own holiday on May 13, but are also celebrated on St. Patrick's, with many dressing up as the wily fairies.

The shamrock, a three-leaf clover, has been associated with Ireland for centuries. It was called the "seamroy" by the Celts and was considered a sacred plant that symbolized the arrival of spring. According to legend, St. Patrick used the plant as a visual guide when explaining the Holy Trinity. By the 17th century, the shamrock had become a symbol of emerging Irish nationalism.



SOURCE: <https://www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day/history-of-st-patricks-day>

Edgecomb Community Church 140 years strong

The following is a reprinting of an article by Ruth Bryant written back in 1994 summarizing a history of our beautiful Edgecomb church.

In Ages Past by Ruth J. Bryant, December 21, 1994

It was a cold day in December 1881, and work on the new Congregational Church in Edgecomb was nearly done. The only thing remaining for the carpenters to do was to add the finishing boards on the inside of the windows.

Since 1860, the Church had been holding services upstairs at the Eddy School. They hoped to be able to celebrate their centennial in 1883 in the new building. Land had been donated, and the foundation for the church was laid in 1877. The building was erected, and all the outside work was completed at this time. For lack of funds, work did not resume until November of 1881.

Rev. Charles Holyoke ministered to a small congregation which had to struggle to raise the \$3,500 needed for the new building. Contributions had been received from churches and pastors around the state, and from friends here, and former residents. Much of the labor was donated.

William Henry Decker, local builder, had been working with a group of carpenters who came from Lisbon Falls. Seeing that the work was nearly done, he left to notify the Parish Assessors. At that point, one of the men began to sign his name to the underside of the last finish board for the front window. In bold and generous letters, the other workers' names were added: E.E. White, F. Day, Chas Reid, E. Philbrook, Fred Philbrook, Nat Williams, and Joseph Jeriman. They carefully dated their work, December 7, 1881, and hammered the board in place.

The dedication of the new church was held that next February. At the 1882 Parish Meeting it was voted to sell pews to raise the remainder of the money needed. The pews were to be sold in installments – one fifth down, and the balance in yearly payments with the interest added. The prices ranged from \$25 to \$60. (The expensive pews being just in front of the furnace register) Stoking a wood-burning furnace did not ensure a warm church. In 1888, the Assessors were authorized to “box up the furnace under the church in some manner, that the heat may be sent up into the house.”

That window board, autographed in 1881, was disturbed – probably for the first time – this December (1994) as the windows got much needed puttying, sanding, scraping and washing. May it serve as a reminder of that long, continuous line of dedicated men and women who came before us, making sacrifices of time and money, so that our generation, and the ones to follow, might have a special place in which to gather for worship.



NOTICE to EDGECOMB RESIDENTS

Nomination papers for candidates for town offices to be voted on May 21, 2022 are available from February 9, 2022 to March 21, 2022 at the Town Clerk's Office, Tuesdays 1:00–5:00 PM and Thursdays 1:00-7:00 PM.

Offices to be voted for are:

One Selectman, Assessor of Taxes, Overseer of the Poor for 3 years

Town Clerk for 1 year

Treasurer for 1 year

Tax Collector for 1 year

Road Commissioner for 1 year

One Member of the School Committee for 3 years

Two Members of the Planning Board for 3 years

Edgecomb Community Church Thrift Store reopening Tuesday, April 5th.

With winter hopefully winding down in March, and our volunteers having returned from their winter retreats, we are happy to announce the reopening of our church Thrift Store for your shopping pleasure. The donation box will be open again as well beginning the week of March 13, so the staff will have time to reorganize and set up the shop for the spring opening.

Tuesday Lunches also resume April 5th

The Tuesday Lunch program will follow suit by resuming meals on Tuesday, April 5, and April 19 at noon. The menus will be posted in the April newsletter. So please mark your calendars and tell your friends and neighbors to visit the ECC Thrift Store and attend the Tuesday Lunch program this coming April.

Boost your defense against COVID-19



While 75 percent of Mainers have been vaccinated, only 37 percent have received a booster shot.

Why get your booster?

- Decreases the chances of adults being hospitalized
- Reduces ED and urgent care visits due to COVID by 82 percent
- Lowers rate of infection with Omicron by five times

Available COVID-19 Booster Vaccines

- Moderna booster 18 & older (5 months after primary series)
- Pfizer booster 12 & older (5 months after primary series)

Where Can You Get Your Booster?

LincolnHealth's Watson Health Center in Damariscotta
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Walk in or schedule an appointment at:
Vaccine.MaineHealth.org or 877-780-7545

SAINT PATRICK'S BREAKFAST BUFFET WEARIN' OF THE GREEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH
8 - 10 A.M.

SPONSORED BY AMERICAN LEGION WOMEN'S AUXILIARY



Donation: \$10.00. Adults. \$5.00 children under 12
Take Out Available

GIFT BASKET RAFFLE TABLE/FINAL DAY - DRAWING STARTS AT 9 A.M.

COME JOIN US FOR GREAT FOOD AND HELP SUPPORT THE WORK OF
THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

AMERICAN LEGION HALL - POST 36
INDUSTRIAL PARK RD.
BOOTHBAY

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 EES PTC Meeting 6-7 p.m via zoom	2 Ash Wednesday	3 Edgecomb Planning Board Meeting 6:30 pm Soup & Bread delivery	4	5
6 First Sunday in Lent—Worship at 9:30 AM	7 Edgecomb Select Board Meeting 6 p.m. at Town Hall Edgecomb Eddy School Committee Meeting 5:30-6:30 p.m	8	9	10	11	12 Edgecomb Meet & Greet at Town Hall 8:30-11 a.m.
13 Second Sunday in Lent—Celtic Prayer Service at 9:30 AM Daylight Saving Time Begins	14	15	16 Schmid Advisory Committee 7 p.m. at town hall	 17 Edgecomb Planning Board 6:30 pm Soup & Bread delivery St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20 Third Sunday in Lent—Worship at 9:30 AM	21 Edgecomb Select Board Meeting 6 p.m. at Town Hall	22	23	24	25	26
27 Fourth Sunday in Lent—Celtic Prayer Service at 9:30 AM	28	29	30	31 Soup & Bread delivery	