

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 3

No. 2

February

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.

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 March edition is due by
5 p.m. Friday, February 24,
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 Friends and Neighbors,

February in Maine can be a bit challenging as we get through what seems like one snowstorm after another. And, even as the days get longer, darkness continues to hover over the land as we slowly make our way through the snowfalls of winter to the greening of the earth in spring. One of the ways we can celebrate this winter season is by considering the ancient Festival of Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple and the Purification of Mary, celebrated forty days after the birth of Jesus Christ on 2nd February.

The Festival of Candlemas is associated with the triumph of light over darkness. In early church history, it was the day set aside for the blessing of all lighting tapers and candles to be used during the coming church year. Candles were blessed at church services and then carried around the parish, their light symbolizing Christ lighting the way for his followers, and going back to Simeon's words, when he blessed the Christ child and his parents in the temple. The Gospel of Luke says that when Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon, the prophet held the baby Jesus and called him a Light to the World.

Yet, Candlemas, celebrated by the lighting and extinguishing of candles, is a bittersweet feast. It observes the day Simeon also warns Mary of the pain and suffering she is to face because of her Son. So, Candlemas looks backwards to the birth of Jesus Christ and the joy of Christmas, but also forward to his suffering and death on the cross.

All of this draws us to consider how we, like Jesus, can be a light in the world. So, each evening, during the month of February, let's light a candle or even a small electric light to remind ourselves that we too, as Christians, carry Christ's light into the world. Let's remember, from ancient times, the lighted candle has been seen as a symbol of the light of Christ and God's triumph over the darkness. We are called to be God's light bearers.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page one

One final thing. There is a tradition associated with Candlemas. Since February 2 is the mid-way point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, the weather on Candlemas Day is a predictor of whether winter is nearly over.

*If Candlemas be fair and bright, Come winter, have another flight;
If Candlemas bring clouds and rain, Go winter, and come not again.*

These days, a groundhog known as "Punxsutawney Phil" predicts the weather every 2nd February. According to legend, if Phil sees his shadow on that date, he'll return to his burrow, and we'll have six more weeks of winter. But, if he doesn't see his shadow, we can expect warmer temperatures and an early spring. I wonder what Phil will predict this year.

Whatever comes, Christ lights the way for his followers.

Blessings and peace,

Kate

Pastor, Edgecomb Community Church, UCC

Looking ahead to March - Lenten Bible Study

Lent - Christian Reflection: A series in Faith and Ethics *Baylor University*

This 4 week study will help us examine the history of Lent, the season which begins the Church's second cycle of preparation, celebration, and rejoicing. The study will be held on Thursdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30 from 10:30 am to Noon. Please let Rev. Kate know if you are interested in participating. Reading material will be available for each week.

As part of the study, the following topics will be addressed:

*** March 9 - Preparing for Joy**

Lent is an invitation to honesty and clarity. It can be our preparation for joy because it is the concentrated and disciplined time when we together work to root out the blindness and deception that prevent us from receiving each other as gracious gifts from God.

*** March 16 - The Early History of Lent**

The season of Lent appears after the Council of Nicea. With so many biblical precedents, did it really take the Church more than 300 years to seize upon the idea of fasting for forty days? The early history of Lent is interesting and complex; it is something of a "choose your own adventure" story.

*** March 23 - Walking the Walk**

Walking the stations of the cross – a devotional path of reflection and repentance based on events in the passion and resurrection of Christ – is being adapted in creative ways today. How did this form of spiritual pilgrimage originate and why is it important for our discipleship.

*** March 30 - Keeping Vigil**

The season of Lent, and especially Holy Week, are traditional times for keeping vigil – an attentive openness to the work of God in our lives and in our world. But what does it mean to keep vigil today, when most of us no longer adhere to the strict discipline of late-night prayer?

Church Calendar

February 5 — Fifth Sunday after Epiphany — Communion Sunday.
All services will be held down stairs in the church Fellowship Hall for the months of February & March. Worship Service at 9:30 AM.

February 7 — Food Pantry open 10 to noon

February 11 — Sub Sale — pick up by noon

February 12 — Sixth Sunday after Epiphany — Celtic Prayer Service at 9:30 AM.

February 14 — Valentine's Day
Food Pantry open 10-noon

February 19 — Transfiguration Sunday
Worship Service at 9:30 AM

February 20 — Presidents' Day

February 21 — Food Pantry open 10 to noon

February 22 — Ash Wednesday
Busy Hands 1-3 p.m.

February 26 — First Sunday in Lent
Breakfast at 8:30 AM Celtic Prayer Service at 9:30 AM

February Birthdays

Gail Boudin	12
Madeline Olney	13
Kate Pinkham	18
Marsha Potter	22
George Chase	26



March Birthdays

Joline Allen	12
Ruth Bryant	17
Marie Cooper	18
Fran Mague	28



EDGECOMB SCHOOL AWARDED AN EDUCATIONAL ORCHARD

(From the EES Web Page)

Thank you to all who helped spread the word, vote, and raise funds to support an Orchard at the Edgecomb School. We have been awarded one of the spots for the 2023 educational school orchard project! Edgecomb Eddy School had the 2nd most votes and the most funds raised during the seed money campaign.

The organization ReTreeUs will be working with the school in the Spring and Fall of 2023 to install and care for the orchard. We are very excited about this project!

Worship Services

In Fellowship Hall

Due to the price of fuel oil, the Edgecomb Community Church will be holding its Sunday worship services downstairs in the church vestry (or Parish Hall) for the months of January, February and March. Please plan on worshipping with us this winter in this warm and inviting space each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Edgecomb Mission

Food Pantry Winter Schedule

Beginning January 3, 2023, the Edgecomb Community Church will be open from 10 a.m. to noon in Fellowship Hall for the purpose of providing access to the church's Little Corner Food Pantry. Coffee and fellowship will also be available for any who would like to stay and chat. The dates the church will be open are: February 7 & 21; and March 7 & 21. The Tuesday Lunch program will resume in April.

Lunches will be available these winter months at two sites in Boothbay Harbor. Brady Restaurant on Union Street will offer lunch each Monday at 11:30 a.m. The Boothbay Harbor Congregational Church on Townsend Ave. will offer lunch the 1st Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Shaws of Wiscasset also delivers groceries to your home. Check their website for details.

Several people dropped by this past Tuesday, January 17, to visit while availing themselves of the Little Corner Pantry. Below are pictures showing the well-stocked pantry as well as a few of the visitors who did stop by including Amy Poole and her friend Joe.



Sandra Adams
(L) and Ruth
Bryant (R)



Gail Boudin and Marjorie DiVece, soup and food pantry coordinators.



Ruth Bryant knit 12 pair of mittens for Edgecomb Eddy School students.

Can you guess where these Maine pictures were taken?

Photographs submitted by Sue Sikes



Look for answers on page 5

February—the month of Love, Caring and just plain Fun!

We always think of February as the month of Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day, but did you know there are so many other celebrations that occur in this month of love and caring? While searching online for some tidbits of fun information I found these interesting and somewhat whimsical holiday observances:

- February 2—National Tater Tot Day
- February 4—National Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day
- February 9—National Read in the Bathtub Day
- February 11—National Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day
- February 14—National Ferris Wheel Day
- February 16—National Do a Grouch a Favor Day
- February 20—National Clear Out Your Bookcase Day
- February 25—National Rubber Ducky Day
- February 28—National Vegan Lipstick Day
- And for the month—National Goat Yoga Month



Sources: Today.com and GoodHousekeeping.com

Hodge Podge

A quote sent by Silas Willenius (the O'Connor's grandson)

"You don't lose when you fall down, you lose when you don't get back up." - Muhammed Ali



Answers to where the three pictures were taken on page 4 -

Left—Bronze acorn associated with one of the gnome sculptures in Botanical Gardens in Boothbay

Middle— Chimney Pond with Mt. Katahdin in background (is that Sue Sikes in foreground?)

Right— View of Wiscasset Harbor across the Sheepscot River from Edgecomb



Paint Party Fundraiser

To benefit
**Feed Our Scholars &
Set for Success**

**Friday, Feb 10th
6:00-8:30pm**

St. Philip's Church
12 Hodge St. Wiscasset

Suggested Donation: \$30; \$20 (kids)

includes instruction by Sue of Cre8tive Events, all supplies, fancy desserts & beverages (no alcohol)

Tickets: Please call St. Philip's 882-7184 or email: pakngo@comcast.net by **Feb 2nd**. Seating is limited; Covid masks optional.

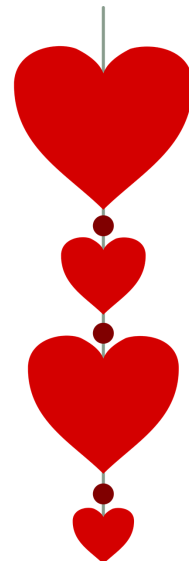
Join us for a fun family **pre-Valentine's Day** Event! Create this 'sweet ride' as you unwind with friends or family. All proceeds benefit WES backpack & school supply programs.



@WiscassetFeedOurScholars



Happy Valentine's Day



Edgecomb Community Church

Sub Sale



Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023

8 inch sub with ham, cheese, sliced vegies, small bag of chips, soda or water, and cookie

Call Marjorie DiVece at 882-6338 to order and arrange for pick up or delivery.

Order deadline Wednesday, Feb. 8.

All for \$10.00

All proceeds benefit the church's local mission efforts.

Edgecomb Community Church

Sub Sale Order Form

Saturday, February 11, 2023

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

Please check off which kind of sub you would like along with any and all the fixings you would like on it. A small bag of potato chips, a small soda or water, and a cookie will come with each sub.

8" sub ☐ Ham ☐ Sliced Tomatoes ☐ Shredded Lettuce

☐ American Cheese ☐ Sliced Onion ☐ Sliced Dill Pickles

☐ Provolone Cheese ☐ Sliced Green Peppers ☐ Oil & Vinegar

☐ Banana Pepper Rings ☐ Sliced Black Olives ☐ Mayonnaise

Drink: ☐ Coke ☐ Diet Coke ☐ Root beer ☐ Moxie ☐ Water

Subs can be picked up at the church or delivered (check one): ☐ Pick up (11-1 p.m.) ☐ Delivered (Call Marge DiVece at 882-6338 to place order and arrange pick up or delivery)

Please fill out one order form per sub. Total price \$10.00. ☐ Paid ☐ Unpaid

Proceeds will be used by the Edgecomb Community Church for local mission work.

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Edgecomb Budget Committee at Town Hall 6 p.m.	2 Edgecomb Pl Board 6:30 pm	3	4
5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Communion Service at 9:30 AM	6	7 ECC Food Pantry open 10-noon Edgecomb Selectboard Meeting 6 p.m PTC Meeting 6-6:45 p.m.	8	9 Edgecomb Budget Committee at Town Hall 6 p.m.	10 EES Valen-time to-Dance 5:30-7:30 p.m. 	11 ECC Sub Sale Pick up by noon
12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Celtic Prayer Service at 9:30 AM	13 EES Committee Meeting 5-6 p.m.	14  Valentine's Day	15 Schmid Advisory Committee 7 p.m. at town hall	16 Edgecomb Pl Board 6:30 pm Edgecomb Budget Committee at Town Hall 6 p.m.	17	18
19 Transfiguration Sunday Service at 9:30 AM	20  Presidents' Day	21 ECC Food Pantry open 10-noon Edgecomb Selectboard Meeting 6 p.m	22 Busy Hands 1-3 p.m. Ash Wednesday	23	24	25
26 First Sunday in Lent Celtic Prayer Service at 9:30 AM Breakfast at 8:30 AM	27	28				