

# 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. 3

March 2023

## 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](http://www.edgcombchurch.org)

## THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Editor: Marjorie DiVece

**News for the April edition is due by 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, at [edgcomb.church@gmail.com](mailto:edgcomb.church@gmail.com)**

**If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please send your Email address to: [edgcomb.church@gmail.com](mailto:edgcomb.church@gmail.com)**

Greetings Neighbors and Friends,

Welcome to the month of March! As you know, the season of Lent is upon us, lasting 40 days and ending on Easter Sunday. The main purpose of Lent is to remember the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time of reflection, prayer, fasting, abstinence, charity giving, repentance of sins and denial of ego. During these forty days many Christians prepare a spiritual discipline such as praying a daily devotional to bring themselves closer to God. Another spiritual discipline is to give something up for Lent such as chocolate. The idea is that each time you remember not to have chocolate, you are to take the time to think of God and say a prayer of thanks for Christ's sacrifice for us.

Giving up something is one way to take part in Lent. But sometimes giving up something can seem overwhelming. Another way to participate is to take up something new. This way can also lead to spiritual development and growth. So how do we choose what to give up or take up for Lent?

Here are just a few ideas to consider:

### To give up:

Indulgences: Facebook. Or Snapchat. Or whatever social media platform sucks up the most in terms of your time and attention. Caffeine. Or sugar. Snacking between meals or at least unhealthy snacking.

Limit to one hour of television per day

Limit shopping, video games, salt, your favorite unhealthy food.

Give up habits that can interfere with your relationships with other: gossip, complaining and whining, withholding your forgiveness, nagging, sarcasm, judging, lying, yelling, interrupting people, being late.

Be kinder to yourself too. You are a precious child of God.

Cherish yourself. Keep telling yourself that you are one of God's precious creatures. Maybe even write it on Post-It notes and place them all over the house as a constant reminder. Show yourself some love, grace, and understanding each and every day.

Drinking more water. Remember, water is a gift from God.

Not getting enough sleep. Establish a bedtime and follow it.

Stress. Refuse to be rattled by anything. When you feel stress building, talk to God. Ask for His strength. Ask Him to send you peace. Then handle what needs to be done with a sense of calm.

### To Take Up:

Instead of giving up something, perform a random act of kindness each day during Lent – even just making a point to smile at strangers as you run errands or sending an "I'm thinking of you" message to one person each day

*Continued on page 2*

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can make a difference.

When on your daily walk, take a plastic bag and pair of gloves along so you can pick up any trash you see. Stewardship of the earth is so important.

Do one household chore (one that someone else is supposed to do) each day. Make someone else's bed, do the dishes when it's not your turn, fold another family member's laundry for them, for example.

Spend 10 minutes praying for a different family member or friend each day. You may add them into your prayers as one of many but on these days, really focus on that one person for the whole 10 minutes.

Mail a greeting card to a family member or friend each day. Simply sign it – I prayed for you today. Offer up a quick prayer for them as you address it and put it in the mailbox.

Find a way to care for God's creatures every day. Put out bird feeders, set up bat boxes, plant bee and butterfly friendly flowers (or plan your garden if it's too cold out right now), walk dogs at the shelter, make mats for in the cat's cages, donate money or items to charities that assist wildlife causes.

#### **More ideas of things to give up:**

Swearing. Put 25 cents in the swear jar every time you slip up. Donate the money to charity or use it to treat your family to something special.

Hiding your faith. No, you don't have to corner everyone you know and tell them about God. Wear a crucifix or rosary bracelet or other religious object. This is a quiet way of witnessing to others if you're not quite ready to speak up. Share a favorite Bible verse each day on social media.

The word "hate".

An idol that you've created – the Internet? Television? Food? Movies? Social Media?

Online shopping, smoking, procrastination, breaking promises.

Taking your significant other for granted. Take time each day to appreciate them.

Rushing. Build margin into your schedule so that you can take your time.

Wasting resources. Look for ways to save energy, water, and make other earth-friendly changes every day.

#### **More ideas of things to take up:**

With your family, use it to say a blessing over each other before starting your day. This could be as simple as saying "Samantha, I love \_\_\_\_\_ (name something you love about them). God bless you through your day."

Beginning your day with such beautiful messages of love can be powerful.

Let your significant other choose – the movie you are going to watch, the restaurant you're going to eat at, the way you're going to spend Saturday afternoon.

Take on an attitude of joy. Share that joy with everyone you encounter each day.

Keep a daily list of the blessings in your life.

Spend 20 minutes each day giving your dog a belly rub or petting your cat or somehow showing love to your pet. You will both benefit from the attention.

Make your bed every day. Use that brief time to offer up a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God

#### **Ways to bring God more into your life this Lent**

Reading a chapter of the Bible each day too much? Just read a verse (only one!) from the Bible and pray about that verse for 15 minutes.

Pray "Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." (The Jesus Prayer) every time you stop at a red light. If you don't drive, pray it every time you wash your hands.

Have a "mini" sacrament of reconciliation each evening before bed. Think about your day and choose one downfall to share with God, asking for God's forgiveness and God's help in overcoming it.

Choose a word such as Love. Faith. Humility. Grace. There are so many to choose from! Each day focus on that word. Search for quotes about that word. Find songs about it. Look for articles and blog posts about it. Each day try to find one more use of the word and reflect on it.

Sit down for a cup of coffee or tea just as you would with a treasured friend – but this time your friend is God.

Chat with God (out loud!) about what's going on in your life, what's on your mind. Take a daily coffee/tea break like this each day of Lent.

Look up Christian themed artwork on the internet each day. Take a few moments to think about it and appreciate it. Offer up a prayer of thanks and praise to God if the artwork inspires you to do so.

Blessings and peace on your Lenten journey, Kate

Source: <https://creativecynchronicity.com/99-creative-ideas-for-what-to-give-up-or-take-up-for-lent> by Cyn Gagen

# Letter from the ECC Search Committee

March 1, 2023

Dear Members and family of the Edgecomb Community Church, UCC,

By now you are all aware of Rev. Pinkham's decision to retire at the end of May. We all share your concern to see her leave after 10 years of being a vital asset to our church family. While you may have concerns as to what this means for us as a church, the council has approved a search committee composed of the following members:

Jeff Sewall, co-chair

Madeline Olney, co-chair

Jean Krause

Gail Boudin

Dick O'Connor

Sue Sikes

Marjorie DiVece

The Search Committee has already been in touch with Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola, Ph.D, who is the Maine Conference Minister who works with small churches. We have also been in touch with her assistant, Rev. Alexis Fuller-Wright, our Associate Conference Minister.

The search committee has already begun to work to ensure that the pulpit will indeed be filled each Sunday until the time it is recommended that a pastor be called to lead our church. And with the assistance of the Council and other committees that support the workings of this church, your needs and concerns will be addressed.

We ask that during this time, you pray for Rev. Pinkham as she embarks on a new adventure, pray for the search committee for discernment, and pray for our members and friends of the ECC as we move forward.

Blessings,

The Search Committee

# 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 Survey

The Edgecomb Community Church Search Committee is interested in your input as we move forward to find someone to lead our church in the years ahead. Would you please identify the areas you believe are the most important that a pastor should spend his/her time. You may email your responses, mail your responses or speak to any search committee member. We would appreciate having your thoughts soon so that we might have a clearer picture of the needs and desires of the members of this church. - Thank you.

**\*Sunday sermons    \*Visiting people at home, hospitals, etc**

**\*Performing marriages, funerals, baptisms for**

**Members only**

**Members and non-members**

**\*Attendance at church functions/events-**

**Yard sale**

**Food sales, flower/bake sales**

**Tuesday lunches**

**\*Increasing church attendance/membership**

**\*Developing a Sunday School program**

**\*Bible Study**

**\*Community events**

**\*Other**

*Search Committee members: Co-Chairmen Madeline Olney and Jeff Sewall, Gail Boudin, Marjorie DiVece, Dick O'Connor, Jean Krause, and Sue Sikes.*



# Remember Ukraine



On this, the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the United Church of Christ calls on our clergy, our lay leaders, our churches, and all people of faith to pray for peace, to pray for an end to the hostilities that are ravaging the people and land of Ukraine, and to pray for a de-escalation of rhetoric that threatens nuclear options. The war has caused the displacement of 16 million people – Ukrainians and others living or working there; put additional strain on communities in Ukraine and in neighboring countries which have graciously welcomed those who have fled their homes; and severely reduced the ability of people in countries farther away to access daily needs such as food and fuel – effects which are less obvious. All the while, more weapons are infused, and the threat of greater devastation increases. The UCC has supported people and partners affected by the invasion from the beginning, and a UCC delegation recently visited the region to express solidarity with and encouragement to partners, and to witness the work we have supported.

We offer this prayer and invite you to join us in sharing it as a part of your personal prayer time this weekend, or in an act of public worship when you gather with your community of faith.

*Creator God, maker of all that is good.*

*Comforter God, restorer of peace between all peoples.*

*Redeemer God, healer of wounds that inflict trauma and chaos:*

*We turn to you this day crying out for an end to a war that rages across the land of Ukraine, threatens the lives of its inhabitants, and displaces millions of children no longer able to sleep in their beds, attend their schools, or play with their friends.*

*May your Spirit of peace soften the hearts of the politicians who rattle their sabers and threaten nuclear annihilation.*

*May your vision of a just world thwart the ambitions of dictators who are thirsty for conquer and lusting for lands over which to rule.*

*May your hope of shalom engender within our own hearts the call to let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with us.*

*Help us find the pathway to peace, a Just Peace, built on human rights and equity not just in Ukraine but in every land where bombs and guns are the sounds to which children fall asleep and from which families flee.*

*You are the source of our peace.*

*You are the horizon of our hope.*

*You are the author of our love.*

*May the promise of your enduring peace, your abiding hope, and your everlasting love sustain us all and bring the promise of a new and better day to the people of Ukraine.*

*Amen*

## **The Elected Officers of the United Church of Christ**

**The Rev. John C. Dorhauer**, General Minister and President

**The Rev. Traci Blackmon**, Associate General Minister and Vice President

**The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson**, Associate General Minister and Vice President

AND

**The Council of Conference Ministers**, United Church of Christ



# Church Calendar

March 3—World Day of Prayer

March 5 — Second Sunday in Lent—Communion Sunday—Worship at 9:30 AM

March 7—Food Pantry open 10 to noon

March 12—Third Sunday in Lent—Celtic Prayer Service at 9:30 AM

March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day

March 19 — Fourth Sunday in Lent—Worship Service at 9:30 AM

March 20—First Day of Spring

March 21—Food Pantry open 10 to noon

March 26—Fifth Sunday in Lent—Breakfast at 8:30 AM—Celtic Prayer Service at 9:30 AM

Reminder: Please see Pastor Kate if you are interested in joining the Lenten Study to be held Thursdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30 from 10:30 am to Noon. Each week we’ll focus on one of the following: Week 1: Preparing for Joy, Week 2: The Early History of Lent, Week 3: Walking the Walk, Week 4: Keeping Vigil *from Lent - Christian Reflection: A series in Faith and Ethics*

## March Birthdays

|              |    |
|--------------|----|
| Joline Allen | 12 |
| 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 |



## 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 worshiping with us this winter in this warm and inviting space each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

## Monthly Quote from Silas Wellenius

“When things are falling apart, they might be falling into place.”

-Nnedi Okorafor

# Edgecomb Mission

Mission Outreach has been busy during the month of February. We made Valentine's gift bags for our friends at the Edgecomb Green. They were delivered on this special day. The annual February Sub sandwich event was held on Saturday February 11th. Margie made a total of 93 Subs! These tasty creations were enjoyed by many in the community. A fast working crew wrapped and assembled the meal kits. They consisted of Valentine cookies, a bag of chips and a beverage. The Subs were picked up or delivered to hungry customers ready for lunch! Someone made the comment, "Best sandwich yet. Delicious!"

Coffee, Donuts and Conversation has been held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 10-12 noon. This is the same day of Tuesday Lunch To Go. People can have a cup of coffee, a sweet treat and enjoy visiting with their friends and neighbors. They can also access the Little Corner Pantry. These days have been well attended and the weather has been good. Bags of grocery supplies have been delivered also. The Mission Outreach group is donating \$1,000 to the church to help with the winter expenses.

Thank you to all those who support the work of the church's Mission Outreach.

Peace and harmony,

Gail Boudin MOC



## Thrift Store Reopening Tuesday, April 4

The Thrift Store will reopen on Tuesday, April 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The donation bin at the church for the Thrift Store will be open again beginning Sunday, March 19, for anyone wishing to drop off any items they've put aside (no electronics please).

The **Tuesday Lunch** program is also set to resume Tuesday, April 4, at noon. Lunch is free of charge. So plan on returning to the Edgecomb Community Church on Tuesday, April 4, to visit old friends and neighbors as you enjoy lunch and shop in the beautiful thrift shop. The Little Corner Food Pantry is also available for anyone who needs food or wishes to donate.

# French Conversation Group Gathers at Edgecomb Community Church

Le Café Francais, a French conversation group, has been meeting at the Edgecomb Community Church on Monday mornings from 10-11:30 a.m. for the last few months. This is their fourth year meeting for a “mini French immersion” experience once a week. French speakers of all levels are welcome to attend these gatherings. Conversation topics include French language, songs, culture, and other topics of mutual interest.

Margot Stiasni, an experienced French teacher from Edgecomb, organizes the sessions and assists in leading the group. These meetings are free of charge and drop-in participants are welcome. Zoom is also an available venue on which to participate. For more information please contact Margot Stiasni at 380-6336.

## Historical Edgecomb Photograph

In going through some old church records kept by Ruth Bryant, this wonderful old photograph taken by John Chase in 1952 of a shower for Betty Chase Fowler in the Edgecomb church vestry appeared. Do you remember any of these people?

Front Row (L-R): Annie Chase, Maud Raiden, Alice Boardway, Sarah Chase, Betty Chase Fowler, Katherine Owen. 2nd Row (L-R): Anna Cate, Dessie Boudin, Nellie Clifford, Barbara Haggett. Standing (L-R): Esther Huff, Lucy Pels, Mellie Giles, Mary Jane Webb, Mrs. Rensel Colby, Ruth Larson, Beulah Lamson, Elizabeth Caswell, Mary Elizabeth Roe, Thelma Clark, Betty Colby, Leila Hutchins, Rev. Rensel Colby.

Back Row (L-R): Edith Bryant, Peg Hammond, Rose Moore, Audrey Chase, Katherine Bowden.





## **Nomination Papers for Select Board Members**

**NOTICE to EDGECOMB RESIDENTS**

**SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION**

Nomination papers for candidates for town office on April 15, 2023, are available from January 26, 2023 to March 6, 2023 at the Town Clerk's Office, Tuesdays 1:00 –7:00 PM and Thursdays 1:00-5:00 PM.

Offices to be voted for are:

One Select Board Member, Assessor of Taxes and Overseer of the Poor from April 17, 2023 to May 20, 2023

One Select Board Member, Assessor of Taxes and Overseer of the Poor from April 15, 2023 to the Annual Town Election 2025

## **Nomination Papers for Town Offices**

**NOTICE to EDGECOMB RESIDENTS**

Nomination papers for candidates for town office to be voted on May 20, 2023, are available from February 8, 2023 to March 20, 2023, at the Town Clerk's Office, Tuesdays 1:00-7:00 PM and Thursdays 1:00-5:00 PM.

Offices to be voted for are:

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

One Member of the Planning Board for 3 years

## **Knitting as a lifetime passion/mission**

Carol Johnsen of Edgcomb has been a long-time member of the Edgcomb Community Church. She is most well known for her knitting. She loves to knit baby blankets and matching hats. As of last count, since 2009 she has donated over 1700 baby blankets to Midcoast Hospital in Brunswick. Besides donating knit items, she gives matching blankets and hats to all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.




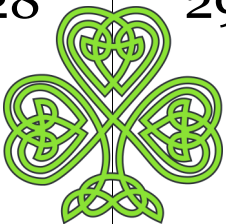

Carol began knitting as a young woman. When she moved to Edgcomb in the 90's

she saw an ad in the newspaper for volunteer knitters at the Naval Base in Brunswick. She answered the call and knit many baby hats and blankets for Navy families. After the base closed she moved onto knitting these same baby hats and blankets for Midcoast Hospital.

Carol also knits for the church's Busy Hands group where her handiwork is donated for various causes helping people around the world.



# March 2023

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue   | Wed   | Thu  | Fri   | Sat   |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
|    |  |   | 1<br>Edgecomb Budget Committee at Town Hall 6 p.m.  | 2<br>Edgecomb Pl Board 6:30 pm   | 3<br>  | 4   |
|   |  |   |   |  |   |   |
| 5<br>2nd Sunday in Lent - Communion Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM                       | 6  | 7<br>Food Pantry Open 10-noon<br>Edgecomb Selectboard meeting 6 p.m.<br>PTC Meeting 6-6:45 p.m. | 8   | 9<br>Edgecomb Budget Committee at Town Hall 6 p.m.                               | 10  | 11  |
| 12<br>3rd Sunday in Lent Celtic Prayer Service 9:30 AM                              | 13<br>EES Committee Meeting 5-6 p.m.                                   | 14  | 15<br>Schmid Advisory Committee 7 p.m. at town hall | 16<br>Edgecomb Budget Committee at Town Hall 6 p.m.<br>Edgecomb Pl Board 6:30 pm | 17<br>St. Patrick's Day<br>EES Teacher Inservice Day—no school<br> | 18  |
| 19<br>4th Sunday in Lent - Worship at 9:30 AM                                       | 20<br>First Day of Spring<br>Thrift Store donation bin open for season | 21<br>Food Pantry Open 10-noon<br>Edgecomb Budget Committee at Town Hall 6 p.m.                 | 22<br>Busy Hands 1-3 p.m.                           | 23   | 24  | 25  |
| 26<br>Fifth Sunday in Lent Celtic Prayer Service at 9:30 AM<br>Breakfast at 8:30 AM | 27   | 28<br>       | 29  | 30   | 31  |  |