

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. 4

April 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

THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Editor: Marjorie DiVece

News for the May edition is due by 5 p.m. Monday, April 27, 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,

One knows spring is here when you begin to hear the happy bird song early in the morning. Yesterday I listened to the quacking of the neighborhood ducks as they made their return to the waters of a pond behind my home. Although winter has not lost its grip on mother earth yet, there is a sense of relief, excitement, and expectation in the air.

Acknowledging these emotions makes me wonder if relief, excitement, and expectation are what the disciples feel when they understand and realize their beloved teacher, Jesus Christ is Risen from the dead.

Although it is fun at this time of year to see store displays filled with assorted chocolate bunnies, marshmallow peeps and jellybeans, as Christians we know there is a deeper reality to our celebration of Easter. It is the remembrance of leaving our old life, dying with Christ, and sharing new life as followers of Jesus, all the while knowing that when it comes to God, the worst thing is never the last thing. As the Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthian Church in his second letter, "17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!"

Beloved friends, we hope you'll join us on Easter Sunday either at 5:45 am for the Easter Sunrise Service at Fort Edgcomb, or for the 9:30 am Easter Sunday Service at the Edgcomb Community Church building.

Let us all enjoy this special time of year that brings forth new life!

Blessings and peace,

Rev. Kate Pinkham, Pastor



Church Calendar

April 2—Palm/Passion Sunday—Sixth Sunday in Lent—Beginning of Holy Week

April 4—Thrift Store Reopen. Tuesday Lunches resume.

April 7—Good Friday

April 9 — Easter Sunrise Service at 5:45 a.m. at Fort Edgecomb— Easter Morning Worship at 9:30 AM

April 16—Second Sunday of Easter—Worship at 9:30 AM

April 22—Earth Day

April 23—Third Sunday of Easter— Breakfast at 8:30 AM—Celtic Prayer Service at 9:30 AM

April 30—Fourth Sunday of Easter—Worship at 9:30 AM

April Birthdays

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

May Birthdays

Sue Sikes	15
Beth Soule	21
Silas Wellenius	21
Carolyn Potter	27



Worship Services

Return to Sanctuary

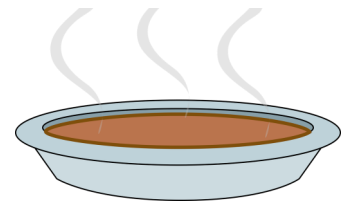
Sunday morning Services will resume upstairs in the church sanctuary beginning Sunday, April 2. Now that the cold winter months are over, we can return to the normal Sunday morning rituals in the beauty of the Edgecomb Community Church sanctuary where seating abounds for many more guests.

Tuesday Lunch Program to Resume

The Edgecomb Community Church's Tuesday Lunch program will begin Tuesday, April 4, at noon. Lunch is free of charge. Lunch is served the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

April 4—Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread, Apple Crisp a la mode.

April 18—Split Pea Soup, Open-faced Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Potato Chips, Oat-meal Scotchies.

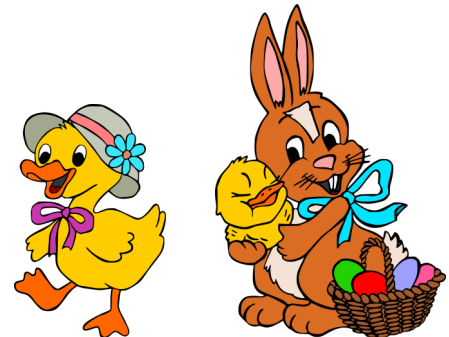


Thrift Store Reopening Tuesday, April 4

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).

A **Reopening Sale** is set to kick off the season with a **50% off** sale of cold weather clothing to make room for spring and summer clothing. Several items have been coming in so visitors will have many new items to choose from.

The Little Corner Food pantry is also available to customers during the Thrift Store's regular hours.



A Blessing for the Seekers

By Rev. Sarah Speed

Blessed are you who turn your face up to the sky,

Who open your arms to feel the wind,

Who notice all the things that we should notice.

Blessed are you who are fluent in wonder

and familiar with awe.

Blessed are you who, even now, dream dreams,

Who have not lost hope, who swear the glass is still half-full.

Blessed are you who plant trees and sing harmony,

Who tell the children how this world can be magic.

Blessed are you who walk and seek and turn over every stone,

Pointing out all the corners and colors that God lives in.

Blessed are you.

Amen.

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.*



Easter Symbols and Their Meanings



By Mary Gormandy White, M.A. Source: <https://examples.yourdictionary.com/15-easter-symbols-their-unique-meanings>

Easter Eggs - Originally a pagan symbol of fertility and rebirth, the Christian tradition of Easter eggs came to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus on Easter. The eggshell symbolizes the tomb in which Jesus's body was placed; opening the egg represents his rising from the dead.

The Easter Bunny - So if eggs are such an important part of Easter, why do children get presents from the Easter bunny instead of the Easter chicken? One theory for the origin of the Easter bunny comes from the pagan festival of Eostre, as the goddess was traditionally represented by a rabbit (another symbol of fertility due to how quickly they reproduce). In 18th-century German folklore, the rabbit (*Osterhase* or "Easter Hare") laid eggs for children to discover on Easter morning. The tradition followed German immigrants to America, where the Easter bunny became a mainstay of American Easter mornings — religious and nonreligious alike.

Jellybeans on Easter symbolize the holiday with their egg-like shape and their sweet flavor, signaling the end of Lent. In an egg shortage during World War I, jellybeans proved to be a delicious substitute in all those Easter baskets.

Easter Lilies are often the centerpiece of Easter celebrations. Legend has it that white lilies sprung from the ground around Jesus as he spent his final hours on the cross. It is said that when his perspiration hit the ground, a lily grew in that spot. As a result, Easter lilies are symbolic of new life as well as purity. For Easter, they symbolize Jesus' resurrection and the promise of everlasting life.

Baby Chicks are a common symbol of Easter, as illustrated by the popularity of Peeps marshmallow candy. Because baby chicks are born by hatching from an egg, they symbolize new life and fertility, which is strongly associated both with Easter and the spring season overall.

The Lamb symbolizes Jesus himself. According to Christian tradition, Jesus was sent to Earth to provide for the forgiveness of the sins of all mankind. On Good Friday, the day he was crucified, he was led "as a lamb to the slaughter." Additionally, like baby chicks and other newborn animals, the baby lamb symbolizes rebirth and new life in the spring season.

New Easter Outfits and Bonnets for Easter are symbolic of rebirth and new life. Additionally, thanks to a long-standing superstition, many people believed that wearing new clothes to church on Easter Sunday would bring good luck for the coming year.

Palm Branches - During Christian church services on Palm Sunday, the week before Easter, parishioners are provided with palm fronds that are used to ceremonially recreate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem prior to the crucifixion. This represents the biblical story of townspeople honoring Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey by tossing small branches (likely including palms) and other items ahead of his path. Palms are said to symbolize victory and peace.

The Cross is among the most powerful and important religious symbols of Easter. While religious crosses can be made of different materials, a plain wooden cross is the version most symbolic of Easter.

Soft Pretzels - Did you know that soft pretzels are technically an Easter food? Legend has it that soft pretzels were created during the 7th century by a monk as food to eat during Lent. At this time, Catholics weren't allowed to eat eggs, fat, or milk during the 40-day. Pretzels require only flour, salt, and water. Their shape is said to represent a common prayer position of the time (arms crossed in front with hands placed on shoulders). They are a traditional Lent food in many parts of the world, even though the fast rules have now been significantly relaxed.

Dogwood Trees - It is said that the wood of a dogwood tree was used to build the cross upon which Jesus was crucified. Even though Easter isn't at the same time every year, these trees typically bloom on or very close to Easter.

Hot Cross Buns - In many parts of the world, hot cross buns are a traditional food for Good Friday, which is the day Jesus was crucified on a cross. This day falls on the Friday immediately before Easter Sunday. Each bun features a cross on top, which symbolizes the cross on which Jesus died. The spices included in the buns are said to be representative of the ones that were used to prepare Jesus' body for the tomb.

The Butterfly is a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus. Just as butterflies emerge from a chrysalis in which they are hidden away, Jesus emerges from the tomb three days after being laid to rest in it. They also represent the transformation the Christian faith can lead to, through the grace of God.

Sheepscot Valley Chorus *Spring Concert 2023*

Linda Blanchard, Director

*Sean Fleming Assistant Director and
Accompanist*

Requiem for the Living

By Dan Forrest

Saturday, April 29, 3:00 PM

Sunday, April 30, 3:00 PM

Damariscotta Baptist Church

Tickets \$15

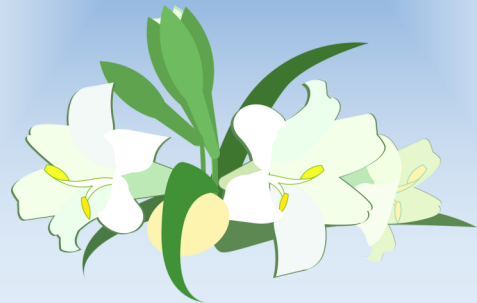
Students Free

Available at Sherman's Book Stores and Treats

Flowers Wanted

*For Easter Sunday Service
at Edgecomb Community Church*

Easter Lilies, Daffodils, Tulips—
any spring flowers would be a beautiful
addition to the church sanctuary for this
upcoming Easter season. They may be
dropped off anytime the week before
Easter or on Easter morning before the
9:30 a.m. worship service.



Happy Easter





CRITICAL HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

Habitat volunteer teams help eligible homeowners with critical repairs and improvements that make their homes more affordable and safer. Income-eligible homeowners receive much-needed repairs and modifications to improve their mobility and independence. These changes make it possible for our midcoast neighbors in need to continue to live where they want to be, at home.



New exterior stairs



Volunteers hard at work!



2022 IN REVIEW

In 2022, we completed 65 projects for 98 homeowners with an average project cost of \$922. We took "historic" building materials cost increases seriously and kept expenses down by using donated items and leftover materials from one job to the next. Our volunteers contributed 3,554 hours worth over \$200,000!

BEFORE



AFTER



Office Phone: 207-504-9332 • ReStore Phone: 207-504-9340 • Fax: 207-504-9346
126 Main Street, Suite #1, Topsham, ME 04086 • www.habitat7rivers.org



SAVE THE DATE MAY 7

We're walking in Bath this year! The walk route takes us from GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, to the first home we ever built, to CORLISS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, and back again.

Contact Debbie Atwood to get involved:
debbie@habitat7rivers.org or 207-504-9334



Habitat
for Humanity®
7 Rivers Maine

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
2 Palm Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM	3 EES Com- mittee Meet- ing 5-6 p.m.	4 Thrift Store Reopens 9-2 Tuesday Lunch at noon Edgecomb Selectboard meeting 6 PM PTC 6-6:45	5 Passover be- gins at sun- down	6 Edgecomb Pl Board 6:30 pm	7 Good Friday	1 8 Thrift Store open 9-1
9 Easter Sun- day Sunrise Service 5:45 AM at Fort Edgecomb 9:30 AM ser- vice at ECC	10	11 Thrift Store open 9-2	12 EES Family Pizza & Game Night 5-7 p.m.	13	14	15 Thrift Store open 9-1
16 2nd Sunday of Easter, Wor- ship at 9:30 AM	17	18 Thrift Store open 9-2 Tuesday Lunch at noon Edgecomb Selectboard meeting 6 PM	19 Schmid Advi- sory Com- mittee 7 PM at town hall	20 Edgecomb Pl Board 6:30 pm	21	22 Thrift Store open 9-1 Earth Day 
23 3rd Sunday of Easter—Celtic Prayer Service 9:30 AM Breakfast at 8:30 AM	24	25 Thrift Store open 9-2	26 Busy Hands 1-3 PM	27	28	29 Thrift Store open 9-1
30 4th Sunday of Easter Worship at 9:30 AM						