

The Edgewood Exchange

JUNE 2018



Volume 22, Issue 6

This past month I was the guest speaker at Edgewood's monthly luncheon. I spoke about church vitality, in the wider United Church of Christ and home at Edgewood. Often we rely on numbers of members or attendees and resources (buildings, money in the bank) to determine church vitality. I pointed us to other signs of vitality that are relevant whether you are a church with 30 or 3,000 people, and whether you are a congregation blessed with an abundance of resources or if you are worshipping in a borrowed space without a budget. One of the major signs of vitality that I lifted up is community engagement: does the neighborhood know the church is there? Does the church partner with local interfaith allies or have strong connections in their community? How often does the church leave their building and what does that look like?



June is a big month for community engagement at Edgewood. First we have Pride weekend where all Edgewood friends and members are encouraged to march in the Michigan Pride parade and then come to Pride Worship on Sunday morning. This year we are rejoicing for our 20th anniversary of being Open and Affirming and pledging 20 more years of a radical, faithful welcome for all people. This is a major opportunity to connect with and celebrate our LGBTQ community at Edgewood and in the greater Lansing area. Next Edgewood is embarking on a week of service. We are partnering with local service organizations in our area to learn more about their mission and lend a helping hand. This is a way to get to know our neighbors better and to live out our call to discipleship right in our own backyard. You'll find much more information in these pages – explore the Exchange and then join us in the community in June!

Peace,

Pastor Liz

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WORSHIP

10:00 am Sunday

June 3rd – Jim Detjen, lay preacher

Jim and the Green Team will connect our worship (and coffee hour) to the beauty of God's Creation. Even as we meet in the sanctuary, our hearts will be transported outside to places that evoke majesty and inspire care for the world.

June 10th – 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

What happens after we die? Is there a heaven? Is it okay for a rational skeptic to believe in something greater for our souls after our bodies perish? Death and dying is not always fun to think about, but questions of mortality and eternity are an important part of our faith story. Through Scripture and song we will begin to break open our understanding of these topics.

June 17th – Pride Worship

It's pride weekend! We're celebrating with all of our trans, gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, questioning, a-sexual, and ally friends at Edgewood. Join us as we honor 20 years of being Open and Affirming and look to where we are being called next.

June 24th – Service Week Kickoff

Edgewood is embarking on a week of service. Our worship service will bless our volunteers and prepare us to do good, hard work in our wider community.

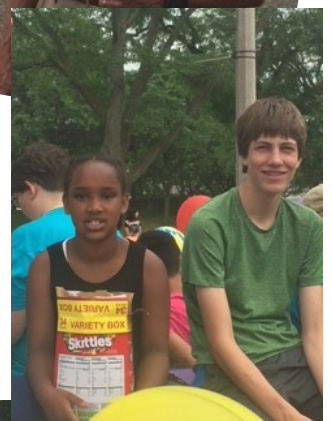
The Pride Parade Has Expanded!

This year we are including some youth outreach to our participation in the Pride Parade on **Saturday, June 16**. We will have Gay Straight Alliance student groups from Okemos, Holt, and Haslett marching along with us. These students and their families appreciate being able to participate in the parade through the safe and welcoming environment of Edgewood United Church.

For anyone who is interested in helping to get ready for the parade, we are meeting on **Friday, June 8 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.** in the social hall to make signs and fill goody bags. If you want to participate but do not feel you are able to walk the parade, there may still be room for you in the truck that will be leading us.

We will meet Saturday, June 16 at 11:30 a.m. across from Adado Riverfront Park - near the LCC ramp, the parade steps off at 12:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you on June 8th and June 16th!

For more information, contact Evan at lewis.percussion@gmail.com



Edgewood Community Service Week: Sun., June 24 – Sat. June 30

The Outreach Mission Team has identified community organizations that allow for volunteer opportunities that engage in service with our local community. **Participants can sign up for a day with an organization or choose multiple days or organizations!**

We have partnered with:

Family Village Farm which provides a loving community and education for children and elders in Kasam, India.

Project: Join a Skype call with a classroom and/or create cards for the children.

Greater Lansing Food Bank which helps to collect, sort and distribute food to the community.

Project: Help sort and package food.

Southside Community Kitchen which prepares free meals to community members.

Project: Help deep clean and organize the kitchen.

Habitat for Humanity which helps to build affordable housing.

Project: Help with home repair.

Loaves & Fishes which gives emergency shelter and support services to women, men & children.

Project: Help refinish the shelter's deck.

Fenner Nature Center which provides environmental education and green space within the city of Lansing.

Project: Work with removal of invasive species.

The Outreach Mission Team has strived to make Edgewood Community Service Week accessible to all abilities and ages. **Volunteer sign-ups have begun! Check out the table in the social hall today!** We will kick off Service Week with a potluck after worship on **Sunday, June 24.**

Edgewood Camp 2018

Just a reminder for campers that registration forms for camp are due on **Sunday, June 3.** There are some hard copies in the camp mailbox across from the church office. Jackie will be available after worship on June 3 to help with forms and fees. Make sure you plan to attend the all-camp meeting of adults and youth after worship on **June 10.** Please contact Jackie if you have any questions or need help with the forms. Jackie Himelright-Smith (jhimelrightmft@gmail.com).

What? Edgewood Camp

Where? Crystal Springs in Dowagiac.

When? **Saturday, June 30 through Tuesday, July 3.**

Church Camp registration has begun! The details and the registration forms are at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PrAdq1mt8GTr79bjte-940KRzph6NYaX5k0lqPvXv78/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1VP3HWnfKp4EDQ5TZht5VLndqpC7EftMT>

Shantana Goerge Simmon, Director & Jackie Himelright-Smith, Registrar

CORAL GABLES BREAKFAST

A group from Edgewood meets for breakfast at Coral Gables on the 4th Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The group is different each time and has no organized structure—just an opportunity to get together for congeniality and friendship . . . and breakfast! **Join us on Thurs., June 28!**

Book Group

The Book Group meets the FOURTH Monday of the month from NOON—1:30 p.m. in the Community Room for brown bag lunch and book discussion. If you like to read and enjoy lively discussions of an interesting variety of books—novels, biographies, memoirs, essays—come join us. Newcomers always welcome!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>
June 25	The Handmaid's Tale	Margaret Atwood	Nancy Muhlbach
July 23	The Grass is Singing	Doris Lessing	Carol Ezell

Get Outside this summer and participate in Edgewood Outdoors!

The June 3 outing, which was mentioned in the May Exchange, has been cancelled.

The Green Team is launching a new program this summer designed to get people outside to enjoy nature. The program, known as Edgewood Outdoors, will give people of all ages a chance to hike, bike, fish, kayak, canoe, swim and enjoy the outdoors. Please dress for the event and bring along water and sunscreen. In the event of bad weather, an event may be postponed or cancelled. Additional events are expected. If you are willing to lead an outdoor trip, please contact Jim Detjen at 517-349-7360 or jamesdetjen@gmail.com.

Here are some of the programs being planned:

Sunday, June 24: Fishing at Lake Lansing South. Ben Pineda is organizing a fishing outing at Lake Lansing. Meet at Edgewood at 11:30 a.m. with a picnic lunch. Ben will provide fishing gear, bait and instruction. Children up to 15 can fish without a fishing license. Folks 16 and older will need a fishing license. The group will go to the Lake Lansing South park and fish off a dock. Ben has caught panfish, bass and pike at Lake Lansing. The event will be over by about 3 p.m. For more information, contact Ben at 517-862-8073.

Sunday, July 29: Pastor Liz Miller will lead a 25-mile "ice cream" bike ride, probably in the direction of Mason. Meet at Edgewood at 4 p.m. with your bike and a bottle of water. More details to come.

Sunday, August 19: Paddle the Grand River and enjoy the outdoors at Burchfield Park. All-church celebration! Wear play clothes to worship that day and bring lunch in a cooler. At 11:30 a.m., Jim and Connie Detjen will lead a carpool trip to Burchfield Park in Holt, crown jewel of the Ingham County Parks. <http://pk.ingham.org/Parks/BurchfieldPark.aspx> We'll enjoy a meal together followed by your choice of activities including swimming, fishing, paddle boat rental, 18-hole disc golf, hiking, trail biking (bring your own bike) and there will be a chance to kayak or canoe on the Grand River. The rental fee per boat is \$16. Entrance fee to the park is \$3 per car for Ingham County residents; \$5 per car for non-residents. For more information, contact Jim or Connie at 517-349-7360.

Saturday, August 25: Hike with Pastor Liz. Meet at Edgewood at 9 a.m. This will be an easy hike of three miles or less.

In addition, Ben Pineda is offering to lead a guided fishing expedition by kayak for parents and children. Ben can provide the necessary gear. Contact Ben at 517-862-8073.

Racial Justice Task Force News

The Racial Justice Task Force is once more picking up a campaign in Ingham County that people at Edgewood started on some 40 years ago. In the mid-1970s, Frank Dennis, Robert Amundson, and Wendy Morrison helped to create and were office-holders of the Lansing Committee for Equal Justice, which was created to "establish a pre-trial release program, assisting the courts in pre-trial processing of criminal matters, and assure equal treatment under the law."

Frank has interesting stories to tell about progress that was made in the 1970s to divert people from jail if they could not afford to pay cash bail. There are some diversion courts that are keeping some people with substance abuse problems or who are veterans out of jail in Ingham County. But low-income people are still disproportionately being jailed when their richer neighbors would not be, simply because they don't have the money to put up bail.

Today, new tactics are being used to bring attention to this problem. In Lansing and in other cities across the country, a group called National Bail Out is supporting local groups to pay bail to help people get out of jail, rejoining the community before their court date.

Edgewood's Racial Justice Task Force held a quickly-organized fundraiser on May 6 when we learned that Black Lives Matter Lansing was planning a "Black Mamas Bail Out" for Mother's Day weekend. Edgewood folks and others gave generously, bringing in \$3,000. Many thanks!

The first woman was bailed out on May 10, with plans for a second one to get out of jail and come home the following week. Task Force members Judy Martin, Julia Grant, Heidi Thornley, or Chris Root can tell you more about it.

Many of us saw the movie "13th" last year at Edgewood. It documents powerfully the enormous increase in incarceration in our country and the long history of Black people being disproportionately locked up.

Bailing out a few individuals is an act of kindness, but we are also trying, once again, to figure out how to try to change the system of unfair cash bail. We've learned that Truman Morrison III, Truman and Eleanor Morrison's son, has been a national leader in this effort, having helped to do away with most cash bail in the court system in Washington, D.C.

Judy Martin has begun research about the Ingham County jailed and learned that 58% of the people who are there have not gone to trial – these people are locked up even though they are presumed innocent. And 48% of the people in that jail are Africa-Americans, although they are only 10% of the overall population in the county. Several of us are meeting to develop a research agenda and work with others in the area, including the Black Mamas Bail Out group, to develop a strategy to stop people from being put in jail simply because they can't afford bail. Contact Judy Martin (judymartin10@gmail.com) or Chris Root (rootc@msu.edu) if you are interested.

A concert will be held at Edgewood!

Sunday, June 10 at 3 PM - 5 PM

Join Emily Bieber (daughter of our choir director Monty Bieber and Nancy Bieber), and pianist Elizabeth Clarke for "Musicians not Politicians," a fundraising concert to benefit Voters Not Politicians. Suggested donation is \$15. All are welcome. For more information: https://www.votersnotpoliticians.com/donations_not_pols.

Audio of Sermons on the Website

Did you know you can now listen to sermons from Edgewood's webpage? Visit our website at edgewooducc.org, click the "Media" tab, scroll down to "Audio of Sermons," and start listening away! If you would like assistance, please feel free to contact Emily Barr, emily@edgewooducc.org.

Congratulations Graduates!



Sam Ives: Son of Ellen Ives and Colleen Johnson graduates from East Lansing High School and from the Wilson Talent Center Law Enforcement Program. Sam enjoys playing flute, playing with his Burmese Mountain Dogs - Bella and Thor - and has run tech for Edgewood Who Dun Its. He plans to attend Lansing Community College in the fall, studying law enforcement.

Tae Won Kimball: Son of Steven and Linda Kimball graduates from East Lansing High School and plans to attend LCC in the fall. Tae Won is an active member of the Edgewood Youth group, always ready to pitch in to help. He is looking forward to being a returning counselor at Camp in Community during our work trip to Morgan Scott Project in Tennessee this summer, and last year worked at Pine Ridge.

Calder Lewis, son of Evan and Annette Lewis graduated from Okemos High School. He will be studying cello performance at the University of Michigan. His Senior Recital is June 2 at 3 p.m. at Edgewood.

Andy Ballard: Son of Carolyn Ojala will receive his PhD from Duke University in June.

Evan Goodman: Son of Ginny Sterling graduated with a PhD in Clinical Psychology from Gallaudet University last August.



Congratulations to our graduating seniors: Sam Ives, Tae Won Kimball, and Calder Lewis.

MSP Trip-July 8 - 14, 2018

On July 8, a group of 4 youth and 3 adults will travel to Deer Lodge, Tennessee to lend a hand at the Morgan Scott Project. We will serve in two ways: older youth will serve as day camp counselors for the children of Morgan

County and others will help build ramps, make home repairs, serve at the food bank and thrift shop. Participants are Si Yun and Tae Won Kimball, Isaac Anderson, and Emily Miller-Purrenhage. Chaperones are Harold and Marcia Beer and Carolyn Ojala. A brief send-off will be held at 7:30 am on Sunday morning, July 8.

Youth Program Evaluation and Planning Meeting-June 10

Youth entering grades 6 through 12 and their parents and other adults interested in being a part of our youth program are urged to attend a 45-minute meeting following worship at 11:20 am in the Community Room to evaluate our past program year and plan for the future. Marcia Beer will lead this important planning meeting.

Summer Church School Schedule

June 3 Sarah Fryer visits to talk about Edgewood's "Bending Toward Justice"

June 10 - Last Day of Youth Church School (6th -12th)for the Summer

Church school will resume in September - enjoy your summer and participate in worship.

Calling All Thespians (ADULTS TOO!!) - June 11 from 4-7 pm

Casting Call for *Stow Away*, a new one-act play by Edgewood's very own, Harold and Marcia Beer. No need to prepare. Auditions will be cold readings of the script. There are parts for 5 men and 4 women. Bring your calendars! Summary: Experience a day of work with Bob Stowe, owner and operator of Stow it All. Over the last 20 years in the business, Bob has heard it all. Spend a day with Bob, meet some of his customers, and discover a variety of attitudes and relationships with their stuff. Performance(s) to be announced - Mid August. Directed by Marcia Beer. If technical theater is your thing we'll need help with lighting and set construction. Time Commitment of six two-hour rehearsals and memorization of lines.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Sunday school for K through 5th grade continues each Sunday morning during the summer months after the church program year ends. This summer the group will celebrate with a nature focus filled with giving thanks to God's abundant diversity found outside!



Bystander Intervention Training

Thursday, June 14, 2018

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Shaarey Zedek Congregation

1924 Coolidge Rd , East Lansing

Bystander intervention training teaches nonviolent communication intervention strategies and methods to de-escalate a variety of situations. The experiential learning process gives participants increased confidence to intervene effectively in a variety of situations — from verbal interventions with people we know to street interventions where we witness harassment or physical violence.

Cost: \$20/person

Register at: lansingbystandertraining.eventbrite.com

Email info@icpj.org for scholarship information

Hosted by Interfaith Clergy Association of Greater Lansing

Training presented by Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice and Meta Peace Team

Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice | 1414 Hill St, Ann Arbor, MI, 48104 | 734.663.1870 | icpj.org

Edgewood United Church Staff

A Just Peace Church ~ An Open & Affirming Church

Ministers: Every Member

Pastor: Liz Miller (pastorliz@edgewooducc.org)

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Christian Education Coordinator &

Web Communication Assistant: Emily Barr (emily@edgewooducc.org)

Social Media Intern: Jay Hull (hulljay@msu.edu)

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Marcia Beer (marcia@edgewooducc.org)

Adult Choir Director: Monty Bieber

Ringin', Singin' & Jammin' Directors: Marcia Beer & JoAnn Hubbard

Youth Ensemble Director: Marcia Beer

Bell Choir Directors: JoAnn Hubbard & Kayla Cicola

Organists: Mary Ann Baumgartner & Elizabeth Clarke

Bookkeeper: Nancy Lynn (accountant@edgewooducc.org)

Facilities Manager: (facilitiesmanager@edgewooducc.org)

Edgewood United Church Mission Covenant

Edgewood United Church, United Church of Christ, affirms that a loving and sustaining God is still speaking and creating. Following the life, spirit and teaching of Jesus, we welcome all as we commit to do justice and love kindness and walk humbly with God.

***No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.***