



OCTOBER

The Communicator

EAGLE HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Dee Eisenhauer, Pastor



The Communicator is a publication of Eagle Harbor Congregational Church.
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From Pastor Dee



I'm going to turn my attention away from my/our church season of change and say a word this month about our nation's time of rapid—and to me, worrisome—change.

I don't think I need to review everything going on that is cause for concern, because you are aware of change as much as I am. Just a few things that are top of mind for me: the presence of masked strongmen who may work for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (or may be masquerading as ICE) rounding up people who speak Spanish or look Hispanic without warrants or cause; shipping them off to hastily-constructed camps where they are kept in inhumane conditions, often without the ability to contact family members or lawyers (they look like concentration camps to me!); the crackdown on free speech while local journalism dies on the vine;...I could go on. I don't like this version of America. I don't want a fascist government.

Are we on a one-way street toward a mean authoritarianism that camouflages itself as a “Christian” nation, with no exits or offramps? By no means, not yet. But it is important for all of us to do what we can to veer away from tyranny, if that's where we're headed.

My little book group has been reading *On Tyranny* by historian Timothy Snyder. I have found it a helpful framing resource for the current season, and recommend you take a look at it. There were a couple of directives that are very much in tune with what a sturdy small church like ours can do as a way to pump the brakes on tyranny.

Snyder's #10 is “Believe in truth.” The chapter outlines the death of truth in totalitarian regimes, with the first step being “open hostility to verifiable reality, which takes the form of presenting inventions and lies as if they were facts.” Without repeating all the stages, the last step is “misplaced faith.” The author warns against putting faith in folks who claim they alone can fix what ails the nation.

The beauty of being part of a faith community is that we have a more profound source to draw on: that we have faith in a faithful God, a liberating, loving, Truth-telling God. Any faith we put in any human—no matter how inspiring they might be—is a lesser faith than the faith we put in the steadfast love and justice of Yahweh, the Holy One. We can resist “misplaced faith” and turn to deeper sources of Truth.

Snyder's #12 is “Make eye contact and small talk.” It's part of our responsibility as citizens to stay in touch with others, break down social barriers, engage with the real world, learn who you can trust. Of course, a church like ours has this particular habit sewn into our DNA. We can make eye contact and small talk; we can even handshake, hug and make Big Talk with ease. Don't underestimate the power of community.



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Prayers, Gratitude & Good Wishes



WE SEND OUR PRAYERS TO

Marlys Burnett, Grant Clowery, Teresa Curts, Don Fox, Anne Hopkins, Lexi Lovejoy, Leona MacKay, Christine Perkins, Geri Parker, Teita Reveley, Cathy Tusler, Mary Waterson, Sherri, Ailish & Mei Wilson, and all those suffering loneliness, starvation, addiction, war, oppression and genocide.

In need of prayer? Contact the prayer team: prayers@eagleharborchurch.org

WE SEND OUR GRATITUDE TO

Roy Wallace, who has gone above and beyond in his care of the EHCC building. From finding contractors, managing contracts, coordinating insurance requests, and making sure this historic building stays safe and well maintained. Thank you Roy!

Pastor Dee, Frances Atherton, and everyone who helped make sure Everybody Eats! week was a success. With Pastor Dee's stewardship over the years, CropWalk has evolved into something truly interfaith and joyful.

Pastor Dee cont...

Snyder's #13 is "Practice corporeal politics." Snyder writes, "Power wants your body softening in your chair and your emotions dissipating on the screen. Get outside...Make new friends and march with them." I love seeing EHCCers at public events like marches and concerts and interfaith events. We can encourage one another to join us on the public events we care about, and by so doing we strengthen our communal bonds.

#15 is "Contribute to good causes." I'll pass that along with my gratitude for your steady support of Eagle Harbor Church, and recently, for your splendid generosity supporting the CROP Dance and the other "Everybody Eats!" week events. I am grateful to be part of such a generous community.

It's easy to get discouraged nowadays about the shape of national politics. But we will keep the faith, stay in touch with one another, commit to treating all people with dignity, and do what we can to overcome hate with love. I'm so glad to be in this community with you.

Peace be with you! Dee

Hungry Readers

Wednesday, October 15

11:30 A.M. at EHCC

We'll meet to discuss *Surprised by Oxford: A Memoir* by Carolyn Weber. From a book blurb: "When Carolyn Weber set out to study Romantic literature at Oxford University, she didn't give much thought to God or spiritual matters—but over the course of her studies she encountered the Jesus of the Bible and her world turned upside down. *Surprised by Oxford* chronicles her conversion experience with wit, humor, and insight into how becoming a Christian changed her." Our enjoyment of a spiritual memoir recently led us to try another one. Join us!



From Pastor Mark



Holy Cow! I am so excited to be writing these words as your next pastor. I am humbled with your trust, your faith and your hope in my leadership, my pastoral presence and in my ability to minister to each of you and to this community that God has called me to serve. If you have not had a chance, I invite you to look through the book of Proverbs. One of the verses reads “In their hearts humans plan for their course, but the Lord establishes their steps” 16:9. Every morning when I wake up, I pause to seek God’s guidance for the day. Every church plan, project, endeavor, sermon, worship theme, outreach, meeting, I always seek God’s guidance in the planning and executing of my ideas. There is another verse in Proverbs, “plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed” 15:22. This is our ministry. Any visions and projects I have brewing in my heart and mind are ones that I will share to be discussed, vetted, explored with church committees, council collaboration and by you the congregation. I do not officially start my work with you until Monday October 27th, but I wanted to share a few things before I start (I will be away for most of the month of October and will not be able to submit an article until I get back).

I want to thank Pastor Jessica Star Rockers for her work, ministry and service to this church. You were more than an office manager; you provided a pastoral presence that touched many lives here at Eagle Harbor. I am going to miss getting into some mischief with you and we, as a congregation, will miss you. We wish you all the joy that life can provide you and your family in your next adventure.

November will be a time of remembrance and celebration for the 27 years of Pastor Dee’s dedicated and faithful ministry of laughter, hugs, sermons, outreach, comfort, and church leadership. We will hold Pastor Dee and John in our hearts as we begin to say good bye to their physical presence amongst us, but not to the memories that you will always cherish in your hearts and minds. On my end, I have a tradition when I take on a new ministry. I vacuum, steam clean and then paint the pastor’s office and explore new placement of the furniture, if space allows. Then I begin getting acquainted with church administration issues, scheduling pastoral visits and introducing myself to community leaders. I will also schedule an exploration meeting with the youth for a possible Jr and Sr high youth group experience. Pastor Dee and I have divided up the Sundays of November culminating with her final Sunday, a big celebration on November 23rd. Please make sure you have marked that day to celebrate and give thanks for all that Pastor Dee has been and has done for this congregation of souls.

I know there are and will be mixed feelings with Pastor Dee’s departure. We will work through them together as we collectively embrace the “now” of ministry and plan for tomorrow through Christ’s love and presence here at Eagle Harbor Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.

From Pastor Mark, cont....



Speaking of future needs, November will also be the month we kick off our stewardship program on November 2nd “Dreaming God’s Dream” with the culmination on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30th as our Stewardship Sunday. We will soon be reaching out for 4 volunteers to share what stewardship means to them and how they like to explore stewardship as a spiritual practice.



Peace to you all,
Pastor Mark

November 2nd service will be led by Pastor Mark

November 9th service will be led by Pastor Dee

November 16th service will be led by both Pastor Mark and Pastor Dee

November 23rd is our celebration service for Pastor Dee

November 30th First Sunday of Advent, Stewardship Sunday

Save the Date

Let's Celebrate Pastor Dee!

Saturday, November 22, 5-8 p.m.

The Mission Council will be hosting a retirement party for Pastor Dee
in the EHCC Fellowship Hall.

Our celebration will include music, speeches, and a potluck supper.
You'll receive more information from the Mission Council in October.

Mary Cliver, Council Vice Chair



Gathering in Community



Save the Date

Sunday November 16 after worship, join us for a special Coffee Hour to honor Jessica Star Rockers as she prepares to move on after serving as our Minister of Administration and Communications.

Women's Weekly Coffee & Tea

Every Tuesday, 1pm, Social Hall
Bring your snack, your handwork,
or pictures of the grandkids.

Drop in for a moment or stay for a while!
We also meet monthly on the last Friday, 10am,
at the Coffee Oasis in Poulsbo.
All who identify as women are welcome.

Men's Coffee & Tea

Every Monday, 10am, Social Hall
Join Bill Comfort and others.
All who identify as men are welcome!

Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pastor Dee 9:30am via Zoom.

Wednesday Bible Study

Meets 7pm on Wednesday over Zoom.
Please email Jessica or Dee for the Zoom links.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monthly on the second Monday
10am, in the Dovetail Room
Can't knit? We'll teach you!



It's almost time for the annual Halloween Unicef Fund Raiser.
Unicef is a wonderful organization who help people worldwide.

This event is in coordination with the Downtown Association and merchants who generously offer treats to the kids and their parents. We will again be serving Hot Dogs and Chili to anyone who wants to come join us from 4:30 to 6:30. Last year we fed 400 people, most of them in costumes. Everyone seems to have a fun time. Let me know if you want to volunteer again this year.

Gerri Harrington 206-375- 6609 (text is best) or Gerrilou@gmail.com

October Caring Coins



It's an annual tradition; our October Caring Coins collection goes UNICEF. Not surprisingly, the need is great! As the UNICEF web site says: "The humanitarian situation remains catastrophic in the Gaza Strip. Most children have lost access to quality health care, education, water and other vital services. UNICEF provides essential services to Palestinian children in the West Bank and Gaza Strip while continuing to help kids most in need worldwide. With your support, UNICEF can reach even more children whenever and wherever they need help."



For every dollar UNICEF receives: 86 cents goes directly toward helping children; 12 cents is spent on fundraising costs; and just under 2 cents is spent on administration.

★ Your Caring Coin donations can be made via check or cash (marked  UNICEF on the check or envelope) or by putting your loose change in the basket on Sunday. You can also donate via the QR code!



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



*Happy
Birthday!*



10/2 Chris Smellow
10/7 Dick Wolgamott
10/13 Laetitia Delfino

10/18 Sherri Wilson
10/21 Heather Burke
10/25 Charlie Kratzer
10/26 Jennifer Merrill

Choir Notes



THE EHCC CHOIR IS BACK AND HAS STARTED ITS 2025-26 SEASON WITH GUSTO!



We are so grateful to be moving into the fall and the advent season, with lots of familiar old chestnuts on the horizon. They bring us so much joy and we get to sing from the top of our lungs. We're also looking forward to Pastor Mark sharing some new songs with us (and an entirely new hymnal!) to learn and to expand our repertoire. Want to join us? (Especially as we head toward Christmas?) There is nothing quite like making music to chase the existential blues away. All are welcome! We meet Thursdays at 7pm in the sanctuary and Sunday mornings at 8:30am before service. We hope to see you!



With Love from Jessica

When I began my job here at EHCC as office manager I was thrilled to be with you all again. Following in Jen Merrill's immense footsteps, trying to learn all the details she knew by heart, was still a daunting task. I had just barely recovered from ministry burnout. How would it feel to serve a congregation again? If I hadn't had such a good experience as your ministerial intern in 2017, I never would've attempted it.

But I trusted you all. I trusted Dee. And I brought my full self to this position. Almost immediately I realized what a blessing this community is to my life.

The role of "office minister" has been more than a job to me. It gave me meaningful purpose at a time when I needed it. It gave me an opportunity to make deep connections with this congregation, and the larger Bainbridge community. And it reminded me why I first felt called to become a minister over a decade ago. In so many ways, big and small, this little niche in this loving community helped me find myself again.

There was always the risk that I might outgrow this position. When I first interviewed for the job I remember Stephen Wilson asking me, as an ordained minister myself, how would I handle being a minister's assistant? But this wasn't just any minister. This was Pastor Dee, my mentor and one of my dearest friends. I assured him that as long as Dee was here, I would be here.

What a joy it has been to work with Dee. My esteem for our beloved pastor and friend has only grown in the last few years. She is one of the truest souls on this planet, who loves and cares and gives from a deep well of compassion. Together with Alice, another true and loving soul, we have had the best time.

As I watched Dee minister to this congregation I learned so much. And as I grew more comfortable, she welcomed me to minister alongside her. And you all welcomed me as well, into your hearts and homes. I can't tell you what a gift this has been. It gave me the courage to pursue recognition as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and this July I was granted that privilege.

Since I had fallen in love with this congregation, I tried to figure out how I might stay the "office pastor". I prayed and worried and talked at length to Pastors Mark & Dee, as well as members of the search committee and the mission council. But when all was said and done, my discernment process came to a clear conclusion. I feel called to move beyond office pastor and be a senior pastor again.

For a congregation to "grow" a minister (not once, but twice) is an incredible testament to your deep faith and commitment and love. I will carry that blessing along with me to whatever comes next. Thank you. I am so deeply grateful for all you have given me. And my goodness, I am sure gonna miss you.

