



EDWARDS CHURCH
An Open and Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Deborah Clark
Ministers: All the People of Edwards Church

THE STEEPLE

June 2019

No. 6

Dear friends,

At our congregational meeting last month, we spent a few minutes reflecting on our Lenten theme, "Connecting Generations." Many folks talked about the gifts we received during that season:

- Moving stories told in our daily devotional;
- Pew Partnerships that helped adults and children get to know each other;
- our Confirmands sharing in worship leadership with their mentors;
- Moving the anthem so our young people can hear it before going to Church School;
- New cubbies in the narthex with activity boxes;
- Fun intergenerational meals and trivia game.

We also talked about how to include our young people more fully in worship. We acknowledged the challenge of creating intergenerational worship experiences that are engaging and meaningful for people of all ages. We talked about how hard it can be for parents who worry their children are making too much noise. We recognized the need to find the right balance: a relaxed atmosphere where children feel at home balanced with enough structure and guidance that they can participate in meaningful ways.

From our conversation, one of our parents, also a member of the Board of Christian Education, wrote some words of welcome for families with children. The board talked about using these words in a variety of ways. Some of them might be included in Welcome and Announcements, some might be in the bulletin or on pew cards or in a tri-fold given to families as they come in, and all of

them could be posted on the wall by the cubbies in the narthex. We will experiment with how to best use them.

Here are the words she wrote:

The sound of children's voices is the sound of a living church! We want children to learn and question alongside adults, and we welcome whispers, wiggles, and joyful noises of all kinds.

Parents, we know that all children have different needs, so if you need to step out, please know that we want you to return. Feel free to have your children sit with you for as much of the service as you would like. We have a loving and trained nursery staff for our youngest children available at any time. We invite children to use the quiet activity boxes in the back, participate in the Words with the Young People, and attend Sunday School. One of our helpful ushers can direct you to any of these resources.

I look forward to our on-going efforts to strengthen our intergenerational connections and worship together.

Peace, Debbie

ORDINATION OF NENA RADTKE

Sunday, June 2 at 3:00pm

The Wellesley Hills Congregational Church

You are joyfully invited to celebrate the ordination of Nena Davis Radkte, our most recent student pastor and mentored minister. A reception will follow. Wellesley Hills Congregational Church is located at 207 Washington Street in Wellesley. Speak to Debbie if you want to carpool.

WORSHIP

June 2 Holy Communion

Acts 16:16-34; John 17:20-26

“Shaken”

June 9 Pentecost and Confirmation;

Honoring the Choir

Acts 2:1-21

“Spirited”

June 16 Father’s Day

Psalms 8; Romans 5:1-5

“And Character Produces Hope”

5:30 pm Seeds of Grace Worship

June 23

Deacon Chris Leigh-Manuell preaching

June 30

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

“For Freedom”

BIBLE STUDY—LUKE

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study class has completed our study of Luke’s Gospel. In the fall we will continue Luke’s writings as we study the Acts of the Apostles. For our final gathering on June 12, we will welcome biblical scholar Father Don Pachuta, who will talk with us about the impact of translation on our understanding of scripture. We will meet on June 12 at 4:45 p.m. for soup, 5:15 p.m. for Bible Study.

COLOMBIAN TAKE-OUT LUNCH BUNCH

Wed., May 29 at 12:00pm in Sue Dickerman Hall

We’ve had Chinese, Thai, Italian, Mexican, Turkish, and Brazilian take-out; and now it’s time for Colombian food! Our new neighbors at Saxonville Mills Cafe will prepare a mix of tasty treats with Colombian roots—empanadas, pastries, coffee, and more. Please sign up in church or by calling the church office! Suggested donation: \$7, more if you can, less if you can’t.

SEEDS OF GRACE WORSHIP

Sunday, June 16, 5:30 pm, Sue Dickerman Hall

Join us for an engaging, participatory worship service, led by Rev. Isaac Everett. This is the final service he will lead for us.

CELEBRATE PRIDE

Friday, June 7 at 6:30 pm in Edwards Hall

June is Pride month, a season to celebrate the pride that comes in claiming all of who we are, a season to celebrate individuals and families of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions. It is a season to claim and reclaim our commitment to be Open and Affirming.

This year, Open Spirit invites you to join in our second Annual Pride Shabbat dinner for people of all spiritual traditions. We will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the courageous folks who stood up for themselves and each other at Stonewall, marking a key moment in the movement for rights for LGBTQ folks. We will hear stories of what gives people courage today. We will sing, pray, and eat delicious food. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share.

FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR

As we round out another year, I extend my sincere appreciation to all who contributed to the Edwards Church music program this year, including our regular choristers, as well as guest holiday musicians, those who participated in and attended our organ rededication concert (and those contributors who made the restorative work possible!). I’m grateful to Susan and Cheryl for their work and fine music making, and especially to Pastor Debbie for her support and interest in our success. Our final Sunday is Pentecost, June 9, which will feature three great choral pieces. The choir will return this fall. Maybe you’ll be in it! (Let me know if you’re interested.)

Rick Seaholm

Commissioned Minister of Music

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

The Youth of Edwards Church would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Dessert Auction. We made over \$700 and we could not have done it without you! Thanks so much for your support of our youth.

The youth trip to Synod is getting close, just one month away! Olivia, Kelvin, Noah and Robert will join Pastor Debbie, as well as kids from Old South Church in Boston, and Plymouth Church. The youth and chaperones met each other for the first time this past Saturday, watched a video about Synod and how

United Church of Christ governance works. They also sang grace at lunchtime for the 47 Massachusetts delegates who met the same day. The youth created a skit to explain the rules for going to Synod, and created drawings about how they shine light on our world. The theme of this year's Synod is "Shine."

The last Sunday of our program year will be June 9. We will celebrate confirmation in an intergenerational service, and share cake and ice cream at coffee hour. We have lots of great things planned for the summer, including working in the herb garden, baking cookies, a youth-led service, and a repeat of pretzel-making.

The Board of Christian Education has taken into consideration all of the information that was gathered at the last Congregational Meeting, and we are in the process of implementing your suggestions. Keep your eye out for little additions here and there that should help all of us live into being a growing, vibrant church that welcomes all. Thanks for all of your thoughtful suggestions.

Dawn Sorensen
Interim Director of Christian Education

OUR LITTLE WOODEN BANKS

We had two donations in May totaling \$20.00, one from an anonymous contributor. There is over \$600.00 now in the fund. This fund is used for needs of our church which are not included in our annual budget. See me if you would like to have one of our new little church banks. Contributions may be placed in the model wooden church on the table in the hallway between the sanctuary and the Susan Dickerman Hall. Many thanks to our faithful contributors! Say a little prayer with each penny you add to your bank.

God bless you all,
Norma Hart

KERMIT'S KORNER

Many of us share environmental values and are already participating in the recycling of items used in our daily lives. It's an easy and satisfying way to keep non-degradable waste out of our landfills. But are you sure that all items you put into the city's weekly recycling containers can be recycled? A few years back when Framingham started picking up our recycle items, it was a "no brainer." The pick-up and process volume of waste was reduced and money was received for recyclable goods.

Things have changed since then. Our major buyer (China) has greatly reduced what it is willing to take which increases the city's processing cost. We don't have much control over this. We can, however, help reduce the sorting cost of what is and is not recyclable by being more selective of what goes into our recycle containers. Unacceptable items are often tossed into these containers, causing more sorting time for city workers.

Below is a City of Framingham DPW list of what can and cannot be put into weekly recycle containers.

Stay tuned to learn more after church on June 9 about how to reduce plastic.

Frank Carney for the Green Team

The following items are recyclable:

- Aluminum and Steel Cans
- Glass Bottles and Jars (empty and rinsed)
- Plastic Containers (empty and rinsed)
- Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, and Cardboard

The following items *should not* go in your bin:

- Plastic bags, or plastic wraps
- Food or liquids
- Clothing or linens
- Hoses, wires, chains, electronics

Please do not place your recyclables in a bag inside your bin. This makes the sorting process more difficult and the bags are not recyclable in the municipal system. Plastic bags can be returned to most grocery stores for recycling. Textiles can not be recycled in the single-stream system, but if you Google "Framingham textile recycling" you can find information about the city's program that collects used clothing and other textiles for recycling.

FRAMINGHAM COMMUNITY FARM

Despite the never ending cold rain and clouds, seeds are sprouting, ever so slowly, and seedlings are taking hold. Soon our new pollinator flower bed will be planted and we will welcome summer in earnest. The work of preparing the garden for the season will give way to the regular weekly tasks of weeding, monitoring the irrigation, and applying natural fertilizer to be sure that our crops are thriving. Our weekly drop-in volunteer hours will continue on Thursday mornings from 9:00-11:00, providing a chance to take stock of how quickly things can grow and change over the course of just one week.

We expect that June will start our early deliveries of fresh produce to the food pantry at a Place to Turn in Natick. Stop by if you can! Share in the joy of growing healthy food for people in need. If you have questions, please contact Diane Bassett at framinghamcommunityfarm@gmail.com.

OPEN SPIRIT HIGHLIGHTS

Inspiring Courage: Stories of Passion & Compassion A Conversation with Diego Low

Sunday, June 9 at 3:00pm in Edwards Hall

Over the last year, Open Spirit has hosted a series of conversations with people who live and act with courage. In our first one, Sylvia Gutmann, author and child survivor of the Holocaust, talked with us about how she found courage to survive and ultimately to thrive. For our second gathering, artist Rashin Fahandej described her art installation, which seeks to awaken us to the injustices in our prison system, and spoke about the ways her Baha'i faith and its history of persecution in Iran has inspired her art. In our third gathering, Buddhist renunciant Joti Royster led us in meditation and then conversation about how we respond to injustice in our world.

For our final event in this series, we will hear from Diego Low. Diego is director of the Metrowest Worker Center in Framingham. As an advocate for worker and immigrant rights, he has been a guiding force behind the efforts of Metrowest Immigrant Solidarity Network to support local immigrants and asylum seekers, including families who were separated at the border. Diego is a member of the Framingham Friends Meeting (Quaker), and he will reflect on how his faith practices inspire his work.

NEW CLASS: Yoga of 12 Step Recovery

Tuesdays, 7:30pm-8:45pm in Edwards Hall

(No classes on the third Tuesdays of the month)

Y12SR is a 12-step based discussion and yoga practice open to anyone dealing with their own addictive behavior or affected by the addictive behavior of others. This is an open and inclusive group. All levels are welcome. No yoga experience is necessary. Suggested donation of \$15. More if you can, less if you can't. Taught by Chere Jalali.



Edwards Church UCC
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Colombian Lunch Bunch

from

Saxonville Mills Café

Wednesday, May 29 at noon

Email nicola@edwardschurch.org

or call the office to sign up

