



EDWARDS CHURCH
An Open and Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
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Ministers: All the People of Edwards Church

THE STEEPLE

October 2019

No. 9

“My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation...
Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?”

from “How Can I Keep from Singing,”
Anon, in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School (1869)

Dear friends,

Author of *Composing a Life*, Mary Catherine Bateson describes each of our lives as a piece of music. Paraphrasing her words, “We look ahead planning and choosing a variety of tunes—interests and activities what we weave together to create a perfectly balanced, beautiful harmony. And we look back and sing, again and again, to ourselves and others the songs—the stories—of our lifetime—the songs we compose as we interpret the meaning of the things we did and the things that happened to us.” That metaphor strikes a chord in me!

And though “my life flows on in endless song,” sometimes, in the midst of the melody of our lives, we hear a new tune. We stop and listen to hear how the music will change and how our song will fit in. Happily, I heard the strains of a new melody that led me here to Edwards Church. You heard it, too, and invited me to join this community of faith as its associate pastor of faith formation and outreach. I'm thankful for such grace-filled pastoral leadership and the faithful work of the search committee that orchestrated the search process. Thank you all for your

warm welcome and the opportunity to join my song with yours.

Each of us sings our own song. I want to hear yours and how you have composed your life. Catch me on a Sunday morning, visit me in my office in Jonathan House on a Tuesday or Wednesday, call me for a cup of coffee, or send me an email. Let's find a time to sit down and “sing” a bit together!

Because God is in the music, too, if we listen carefully. In the giggles of the children, the voices of our youth, the chorus of old friends and the sounds of new ones, in the cacophony of the world around us, God is calling us to take note of new tunes and harmonies so that we can blend all those melodies together in this place. I look forward to hearing your song and listening together for God's call to us to make beautiful music and ministry together.

Gratefully,
Karen Nell

Composing a Life by Mary Catherine Bateson (New York: Grove Press, 1989)

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY **Seeking Bakers!**

Sunday, October 6 during worship

Join us on the first Sunday of October for our annual World Communion Sunday service, honoring our connection with Christians all over the world. We will share breads from around the world as we celebrate communion. This intergenerational service will engage people of all ages. If you have a favorite international bread to share, please sign up to bring a loaf!

WORSHIP

October 6, 10:00am Holy Communion; Intergenerational Worship

Rev. Dr. Karen Nell Smith preaching
John 6:25-36

You are invited to bring your favorite international bread (or a bread from your own family heritage) to fill our table for communion.

October 13, 10:00am

Rev. Dr. Deborah L. Clark preaching
Luke 19:1-10
“What? My house?”

October 20, 10:00am

Rev. Dr. Deborah L. Clark preaching
Luke 15:11-23
“Feasting on Grace”

Special music featuring Jane Ezbicki, Susan Minor and Marian Levinstein

October 20, 5:30pm Seeds of Grace Worship

Rev. Dr. Karen Nell Smith and members of the Seeds of Grace worship team will lead us in a creative, participatory worship service.

October 27, 10:00am

Rev. Dr. Deborah L. Clark preaching
Matthew 22:1-11
“A Place at the Table”
Featuring special music by On the Fence

Diaper Collection for A Place to Turn

Sunday, September 29 during worship

Many Metrowest families have to decide between food, medicine, and clean babies. A family needs up to \$80 a month per child for diapers, and without them, babies cannot attend daycare or early childhood programs. Let's help provide Metrowest families in financial distress with diapers for their infants and toddlers to keep them clean, dry, and healthy. Please bring a package of diapers to church; **sizes five and six are in high need.** Opened packages your child has outgrown are fine.

Lunch Bunch Goes to Vietnam

Wednesday, October 30 at 12 noon

Well, okay, we aren't really going to Vietnam. Instead, we will enjoy Vietnamese food from a local restaurant. Join us whether or not you are a Lunch Bunch regular. Sign up in church or by calling the office. Suggested donation of \$7, more if you can, less if you can't.

BIBLE STUDY

DIVES INTO THE EARLY CHURCH

Wednesdays, October 9 and 23

The Acts of the Apostles is a continuation of the Gospel According to Luke. It tells the story of the development of the early church. The book is filled with courageous people, life-changing moments, and wild adventures. It's a lively, fascinating book that triggers questions about our lives and our communities today.

We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month in the church office from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Join us at 4:45 for soup!

VETERANS APPRECIATION DINNER

Sunday, Nov. 10 at 5:00pm at Plymouth Church

Edwards and Plymouth Churches will offer a dinner for area veterans in appreciation of their service on Sunday, November 10. If you are a veteran, we hope you will sign up to attend. If you are not a veteran, we hope you will prepare a homemade dessert or sign up to help out that day. Watch for more details.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Sunday, October 6 during worship

Neighbors in Need is the UCC's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries, justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. Two thirds of the offering will go to fund a wide array of issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties and environmental justice. One third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are twenty UCC congregations on a variety of tribal reservations and one urban, multi-tribal congregation in Minneapolis. These churches and their ministers are supported by CAIM. Please give as generously as you are able.

Thank you from the Board of Wider Mission

KERMIT'S KORNER

Willie and I were among the 10,000 people (maybe more) who took part in the Global Climate Strike protest on Friday, September 20 in Boston. An estimated 4 million participated world wide. All this was inspired by a schoolgirl, Greta Thunberg, who, at age fifteen, was so frustrated that grown-ups weren't

doing enough to combat climate change, that she sat down in front of the Swedish Parliament with her now famous sign, School Strike for Climate, and started a global student movement, Fridays for Future.

We almost didn't mind the three Green Line trains, packed to the gills, that didn't even stop at Brookline Village where we had left the car. It was exhilarating to be on the platform with a crowd of middle and high-schoolers all headed to City Hall Plaza proudly carrying their hand-made signs. One girl asked me if she could take a picture of my sign to show her Latin teacher (on it I had explained the Latin origin and meaning of the word "Science").

If listening to speeches (one by a former student of mine), and marching in huge numbers to the State House isn't your thing, there are other ways to make your voice heard if you feel passionately that we need to be doing more to slow down climate change. Consider a contribution to such organizations as 350.org (that's 350 parts per million of carbon in the atmosphere, deemed a "safe" level; we are currently over 400 parts per million), the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund or Interfaith Power and Light, to name just a few. Or you could check out Transition Framingham or the MetroWest "Node" of 350.org which meets monthly in Framingham and surrounding communities.

Jenny Allen for the Green Team

FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR

The choir gets to celebrate a few special collaborations this month. We will sing (for only its second time) the beautiful anthem "Grace Alone" which features guest cello and our own Jane Ezbicki on violin, each of whom will join Susan for some of the other pieces at the service. We will also collaborate with On the Fence, the Edwards Church Bluegrass band one Sunday. On World Communion Sunday we will sing with percussion the joyful "Hlohonolofatsa," ever a favorite here. Please check the weekly email for more information about each service.

Rick Seaholm
Commissioned Minister of Music

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

This fall has been full of many happy events. We welcomed Rev. Karen Nell, blessed backpacks, and brought our pets to church for an outdoor service complete with a picnic.

Coming up, there are more fun things on the calendar. We will continue to cook, explore, and taste test yummy food as we continue with our theme Jesus The Foodie. Upcoming stories include the Wedding at Cana, Zacchaeus, and the Great Banquet. We will also have youth servers to help with World Communion Sunday; there will be so many breads to share! For your calendar, make sure you add October 20 as the day of the Christian Explorers Open House. The rooms downstairs are filled with exciting decorations that encourage exploration and questions. Come and take a look!

Blessings,
Dawn

OUR LITTLE WOODEN BANKS

In September we had two donations to our fund for a total of \$22.70. I will report any expenditures to you. This fund is used for the 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. Many thanks to our faithful contributors! Say a little prayer with each penny you add to your bank.

God bless you all,
Norma Hart

COMING UP AT OPEN SPIRIT

Journey of the Spirit:

Learning about the Faith of Our Neighbors

Sunday, October 6 at 2:00pm

Islamic Center of Boston in Wayland

Join us as we continue our journey of discovery to gain greater understanding and appreciation of faith and traditions of our neighbors, deepen relationships among fellow travelers, and strengthen our shared commitment to this community. The Islamic Center of Boston, Wayland is located at 126 Boston Post Road in Wayland. Led by Karen Nell Smith. Please sign up at openspiritcenter.org by Monday, September. 30.

National Coming Out Weekend:

Celebrating Our Stories

Sunday, October 13 at 3:00pm in Edwards Hall

National Coming Out Day, Friday, Oct. 11, is a day to celebrate the courage of LGBTQ folks who have chosen to be open about who they are. It is also a day to acknowledge that there are many people for whom it is not safe to be themselves.

Open Spirit's event will be a few days later, on Sunday, October 13. Our event will feature the Just Peace Players, who will perform scenes from several of their plays, lifting up true stories of courageous LGBTQ people of spirit. The performance will be followed by conversation and refreshments. There is no charge for the event; donations are greatly appreciated.

Weekend of Spirit: "Deepening Connections"

Friday and Saturday, October 25+26

Through shared meals, music, conversation, and experiential workshops, we will delve into our theme: "Deepening Connections." Come explore this rich theme in a relaxed and relaxing environment. This mini-retreat takes place right here, on the campus of Edwards Church. It is affordable—with an early bird registration (due October 11) of \$30 for the entire event. You can come to the whole event or just to part of it!

Weekend of Spirit begins on Friday evening with a concert by The Ballad Project, featuring our own Willie Sordillo, along with his colleagues and friends Doug Rich, Zoë Krohne and Erez Dissel. The concert itself is free; we will receive a free-will offering to support the work of our Nourishing Teachers / Strengthening Classrooms project in the Framingham Public Schools.

On Saturday morning, the program opens with a keynote presentation by botanist Neela DeZoyso and Wellesley professor Layli Maparyan. They will bring

their different perspectives as a Buddhist scientist and a Baha'i teacher of African Studies as they explore "Trees, Roots, and Hidden Connections: Insights from the Natural World." Expect an inspiring and lively conversation.

Following our opening conversation, we will have morning workshops, including Yoga of 12-Step Recovery; Telling our Sacred Stories; Musical Connections; Connecting to the Divine within You and All Creation; and How to Stand FOR without Fighting AGAINST. The lunch hour will offer opportunities for Qi Gong, Drumming, and a Healing Spa, along with a delicious vegetarian/vegan lunch. The afternoon workshops include: Humbling the Discourse; Our Golden Inner Light of Spirit Guided Meditation; Going Deeper with Yoga and Movement, and Radical Empowerment.

Register at openspiritcenter.org or by calling the church office.

NEW YOGA CLASS: Strength Without a Gym

Mondays at 10:30am in Edwards Hall

Do you want to build muscle but don't want to go to the gym? Do you enjoy a light-hearted group with lots of laughter? Then our new "Strength Without a Gym" yoga class is for you! Whatever your age, whatever your physical abilities, whether or not you've ever done yoga, this class will offer you an opportunity to build on your strengths as you build strength! Led by Donna Warren.

Edwards Church, U.C.C.
39 Edwards St
Framingham, MA 01701

Christian Explorers Open House

PLEASE JOIN THE CHRISTIAN EXPLORERS TEAM DOWNSTAIRS ON **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20**. TAKE SOME TIME TO SEE ALL OF THE GREAT THINGS THAT OUR LEADERS AND KIDS ARE DOING. TOUR THE CLASSROOMS, HEAR ABOUT THE PROJECTS, INTERACT WITH THE BOARD MEMBERS, AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!

