



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

## THE STEEPLE

February 2018

No. 2

Dear Friends

On a Sunday evening in early January, ten folks from Edwards Church gathered at Nikos Pizzeria to plan our Lenten theme for 2018. Over Greek and veggie pizzas, we talked about clutter. What, we asked ourselves, clutters up our lives, so that we don't have the time or space or energy for the things that matter most.

What we discovered in our conversation is that, for each of us, it is something different that gets in the way. For some, the clutter is actual "stuff"—things that entice us away from what can truly satisfy, things we have accumulated that literally take up too much space. For others, our clutter is in our calendars—too many obligations, too many ambitious projects that keep us from spending time with the people we love or that keep us from quiet that can deepen our relationship with God. For still others, the clutter is in our minds and our hearts—too many thoughts spinning around, too many negative voices, too much to worry about.

Whatever our different experience of clutter, we all agreed that we yearn for space—space for the people we love, space so we can listen for God's voice in our lives, space in which a sense of peace can settle. And so we chose our theme, Making Space...

Once we selected our theme, ideas began to flow. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Suppers evolved as a way to clear out kitchen cupboards before Lent. For us, it is a way to prioritize family and friends and community during a busy week. We will have a special collection of gently used clothes and

household items for Home2Homes, a local organization that helps families in transition. Rick Seaholm offered to lead a workshop based on an approach to organizing that has helped him, called *Getting Things Done*. Shelly Cichowlas shared the theme with her family, and her daughter Jordan Muhs volunteered to come up from Connecticut to lead an after-church program introducing Bullet Journaling. We decided to have an all-church Making Space Party—a Saturday to gather for fellowship and also to thoughtfully "make space" in our buildings.

We will reflect on the theme in our worship service, with inspiring messages offered by church members and staff. We'll begin Lent with a noontime Ash Wednesday service, inviting people to make space in the middle of the day to pause and reflect. We are partnering with Plymouth Church, which will offer a 7:00pm service as well. On one Sunday, Joe Hudock will share his story of making space for God's call as part of a sermon. Rick Seaholm, our commissioned minister of music, will preach. We hope to have at least one more sermon by a church member during the season.

As has become our custom, we will also have an Edwards Church Lenten Daily Devotional, with reflections from church members and friends for each day of the season.

It will be a rich, reflective and inspiring Lent. I invite you to make space for Making Space...

Peace, Debbie

## **FEBRUARY WORSHIP**

### **February 4 – Holy Communion**

Isaiah 43:1-2; Luke 8:22-30  
“Do Not Fear”

### **February 11 – Transfiguration Sunday**

2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Luke 9:28-36  
“Dazzling”

### **February 14 – Ash Wednesday, 12 noon, Edwards Church Sanctuary**

Join us for a noontime service at Edwards Church, with an opportunity to receive ashes.

### **February 14 – Ash Wednesday, 7 pm, Plymouth Church**

If you prefer an evening Ash Wednesday service, we are invited to join with our kin at Plymouth Church.

### **February 18 – First Sunday in Lent**

Making Space: Part I-- “Sparking Joy” Rev. Debbie Clark preaching

### **February 25 – Second Sunday in Lent**

Making Space: Part II-- “Redeemed” Joe Hudock and Debbie Clark preaching

## **STEEPLE DATES: EARLY THIS MONTH**

Articles for the March, 2018 Steeple are due by 9:00am on **Wednesday, February 14**. Please send your articles to [office@edwardschurch.org](mailto:office@edwardschurch.org).

The Steeple will be mailed on Wednesday, February 21 at 10:30am. If you would like to help, please contact Jeannette Loughman of the Publicity committee.

## **ANNUAL MEETING: COOKIES AND COCOA!**

*Sun., Feb. 11 after worship in Sue Dickerman Hall*

Bring your ideas, your care for our church, and your sweet tooth to our Annual Congregational Meeting. Following worship, we will gather to discuss and vote on the budget for 2018 and receive reports from our boards, committees and teams. We will have an opportunity to complete a Wider Missions survey and to hear from our Gardening Team. Our young people will offer cookies and cocoa. There will be child care available.

Please plan to come to this very important meeting. Together, we are the church, and we need your voice.

## **BIBLE STUDY—LUKE**

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study classes continues our study of the Gospel According to Luke. We will meet on February 14 & 28 at 4:30pm for soup, 5:00pm for Bible Study.

## **MAKING SPACE**

### **Special Lenten Programs**

- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Feb. 13 at 5:30pm
- Ash Wednesday Service: Feb. 14, at noon
- Home2Homes clothing and household items collection: Feb. 18 at church
- Bullet Journaling Workshop: Feb. 18 after church
- Making Space Party: March 10, 10am-2pm, with lunch

## **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER**

*Tues., Feb. 13 from 5:30-7:00pm in Edwards Hall*

Please join us for an all-you-can-eat pancake supper for all ages! Bring your favorite fruit topping, bacon, or sausage to share. Please RSVP to [shelly.cichowlas@gmail.com](mailto:shelly.cichowlas@gmail.com) to help us plan. We hope to see you there!

## **HOME2HOMES SPECIAL COLLECTION**

*Sunday, February 18*

You can “make space” in your own home while also helping to make someone else’s new space more beautiful! Home2Homes collects gently used items and offers them to families in transition, especially those who have been homeless and are finally finding a home. All items need to be clean and in good condition. Think about what you would give to a family member! Please bring items to the Shrove Tuesday supper or to church on Sunday, February 18.

### **Needed items include:**

- High chairs
- Clothing, especially winter clothing for all sizes and genders.
- Baby clothes
- Sheets and towels ...always

## **MAKING SPACE: BULLET JOURNALING 101**

*Sunday, February 18 following worship*

Nestled in the space where your to-do list, your planner, and your diary all meet there is the emergence of a popular new trend called bullet journaling. The bullet journal is completely customizable, and it is a forgiving organization system that will teach you to do

more with less. This Lenten season join us for a Making Space – Bullet Journaling 101 Workshop. No matter if you are a minimalist that would like to spend just ten minutes a day in your bullet journal or someone who enjoys artwork and creative expression, bullet journaling offers a unique individual experience built to be the most beneficial to you. We would love to have you join our workshop where you will have a chance to experience a guided introduction on what a bullet journal is and all the different benefits bullet journaling has to offer. Supplies will be provided to jump right in on the fun. The workshop is only the start to Making Space as there will also be support during the entire Lenten season via our YouTube channel. Join us for our workshop on February 18 following worship as we all continue on our journey of Making Space.

### **FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR**

Of frequent discussion in the musical world is the term “Historically Informed Performance (HIP).” This practice encourages us to view a piece of music through the eyes of its original audience using whatever means are available at the time of performance. It is entirely because of HIP that the last third of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw a dramatic rise in orchestras which use “period instruments,” smaller forces, swifter tempi, and instrumental tuning systems less familiar to our modern ears. In the choral world, HIP manifests itself in a few additional ways. Many choirs employ the use of male altos and soloists, effectively leading their personnel to be three-quarters male (a practice which disappoints me in our justice-seeking world). Text becomes paramount in this journey, sending some choirs to sing Latin, for instance, not with the typical “Ecclesiastical Latin” pronunciation that has been handed down from Rome, but rather with inflections of the regions the pieces were written for. You might hear Faure’s *Requiem*, then, performed with French-inflected Latin, or a Mozart mass that has been Germanized in its pronunciations. It’s a very intriguing phenomenon.

Here at Edwards Church, I try to respect changing norms of inclusive language whenever possible. I adapt our lyrics if it makes sense and if it can be done seamlessly without degrading the artful nature of the original poet’s intentions. This is not always possible, and I make exceptions now and then. Our Transfiguration anthem is one of those exceptions. “Shine Jesus Shine” is a praise song

written in 1987 for churches that use more Contemporary Christian Music. CCM typically employs a very different style of music and lyrics than you hear in the pulpit and readings here. In a way then, preserving the original words “father,” “king,” and “Lord” is a type of Historically or Culturally Informed Performance.

Rick Seaholm, Commissioned Minister of Music

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER**

Exciting times ahead for our Christian Education and Sunday School program! In February, we’re going to be immersing ourselves in the Biblical story of Esther, told in the book of the same name. This story is about finding the courage to stand up and speak out when we are called to—an important theme in these times!

Esther is the basis for the Jewish holiday of Purim, celebrated this year on February 28, which includes dressing up in costume, a reading of the story, and making noise with noisemakers, bells, and hisses whenever the name of the dastardly Haman is mentioned. I am in the midst of planning a “field trip” for our children and youth to one of the local synagogues to celebrate this story together with our Jewish neighbors and kin.

Shane Montoya for the Board of Christian Education

### **SEEDS OF GRACE**

Seeds of Grace is trying something new! In October and November, our worship services were centered around the theme of “Grace”, approaching it from a number of different angles; in December, we focused thematically around Advent. In January and February, given our concern for social justice as a community and congregation, we will be focusing on dismantling racism, starting with ourselves.

Church provides a valuable opportunity for vulnerability and emotional and spiritual growth absent in most places in our society. I hope that these services, titled “Strengthening our Spirits”, will assist us. I hope you can join us on February 4 and 25 at 5:30pm in Sue Dickerman Hall.

### **MEN’S GROUP**

*Sat., Feb. 3 at 8:00am in Sue Dickerman Hall*

All men of the church (and your friends whatever their church background) are invited to gather for coffee and great conversation on the first Saturday of the month.

## **KERMIT'S KORNER**

### **Your mother was right, clean your plate!**

*Movie Screening Sat. Feb. 17 at 4:00pm  
in Edwards Hall*

Did you know that, according to *National Geographic* (2015), the energy that goes into the production, processing, and transportation of the world's wasted food generates more than 3.3 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide? In fact, if food waste were a country, it would be the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gases, just behind the U.S. and China.

Join Transition Framingham and the Edwards Church Green Team for a screening of the movie *Just Eat It* to find out more about the food waste issue and what you can do about it. Snacks and discussion will follow the 75-minute film. Feel free to bring a snack to share (especially if it might otherwise go to waste)! Suggested donation of \$5. Learn more at [foodwastemovie.com](http://foodwastemovie.com).

### **Pitch in at coffee hour and win green prizes!**

The Green Team is working to reduce waste at coffee hour by setting up and washing mugs instead of paper cups, and composting our food waste, every first Sunday of the month. But if more folks would sign up to take on one of these tasks on any Sunday, we could reduce waste at Edwards even more. Everyone who signs up for a date to help with these tasks in the next three months will be automatically entered into a raffle for some fabulous green prizes: a "Yeti" mug, glass watering globes, and a solar-powered light are just a few of the items that have been donated. Pick your date soon, because the drawing will happen at Annual Meeting on February 11, and spaces on the sign-up sheet are limited! Look for the sign-up sheet on the hallway table. Please contact Mary Memmott ([memmottm@gmail.com](mailto:memmottm@gmail.com)) with any questions.

## **LITTLE WOODEN BANKS**

Over the years our Wooden Banks Fund has been used for needs not covered by our budget and for church school projects. Please 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. Be sure to include your name with your contribution. We received four donations in January for \$11.35, for a total now of \$751.17. Many thanks to our faithful contributors. Say a little prayer with each penny you add to your bank.

God bless you all.

Norma Hart for Little Wooden Banks

## **VISIT THE NEW OPEN SPIRIT WEBSITE!**

Dara Berry, Open Spirit's director of operations, has been hard at work for the last several months on an all-new Open Spirit website. Please check out [openspiritcenter.org](http://openspiritcenter.org) when you can. You will find easier navigation and quick access to upcoming special events. Check back often for blog posts, announcements, and to learn about our programs.

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# EDWARDS CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

*Sunday, February 11 after worship  
in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*