

# EDWARDS CHURCH

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



**In the name of God and Jesus Christ,** Edwards Church, a congregation of the United Church of Christ, welcomes all who seek to know and worship God. We invite everyone to join in our faith journey and participate in our congregational life.

**As a community of faith** we take seriously the Biblical call to love God and our neighbors as ourselves, and recognize that although we are many members we are one. We celebrate the uniqueness of everyone. We rejoice in our diversity of views and understanding of our shared faith. We commit ourselves to work diligently to help end oppression and discrimination. We affirm all relationships founded on the principle of God's love and justice.

**We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation.**

Seeking to be the Body of Christ, we welcome into full fellowship and membership all persons of every race, language, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical or cognitive ability, and economic status.

39 Edwards Street  
Framingham, MA 01701  
508-877-2050  
[www.edwardschurch.org](http://www.edwardschurch.org)

**A thought for reflection**

“For grace is given not because we have done good works, but in order that we may be able to do them.”  
— *St. Augustine*

*GOD GATHERS US*

**PRELUDE**

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*(We invite you to turn to your neighbors and greet them.)*

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE** “LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING”

**NCH 43**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Gather us in,  
the lost and the lonely,  
the broken and the breaking,  
the tired and the aching  
who long for the nourishment  
found at your feast.

People: **Gather us in,**

Leader: the done and the doubting,  
the wishing and wondering,  
the puzzled and pondering  
who long for the company  
found at your feast.

People: **Gather us in,**

Leader: the bright and the bustling,  
the stirrers, the shakers,  
the kind laughter makers  
who long for the deeper joys  
found at your feast.

All: **Gather us in!**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD’S PRAYER**

*(Please pray the Lord’s Prayer using the words you find most meaningful.  
You can find several printed versions on the prayer card in your pew rack.)*

\* **SENTENCES OF PRAISE** *(Please stand for the Sentences of Praise and Gloria.)* *(from Psalm 147)*

Leader: O come, let us sing to God; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

People: **Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!**

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\* *Stand as you are able.*

\* **GLORIA** (Sing twice.) **NCH 756**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

**SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION** "IF I HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF PAIN, O GOD" **NCH 544**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**RESPONSE**

**FROM NCH 286**

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,

Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

### *GOD MEETS US IN THE WORD*

**WORDS WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE**

Zacchaeus was a wee little man,  
And a wee little man was he.  
He climbed up in a sycamore tree  
For the Lord he wanted to see.

And as the Savior passed that way  
He looked up in the tree.

And He said,

"Zacchaeus, you come down!

For I'm going to your house today,

Yes I'm going to your house today."(repeat v.1)

Zacchaeus was a wee little man,  
But a happy man was he,  
Zacchaeus saw the Lord that day  
And a happy man was he;

'Cause as the Savior passed that way  
He looked up in the tree,

And He said,

"Zacchaeus, you come down!"

And a happy little man was he.

Yes a happy little man was he.

**THE ANTHEM**

"GRACE ALONE" BROWN-NELSON, ARR. MOLLY IJAMES

(Children may go to church school after the anthem.)

**THE GOSPEL LESSON—PART I** LUKE 15:11-24

(Pew Bible, p. 850)

\* **HYMN OF PREPARATION** "THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY"

**NCH 23**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON—PART II** LUKE 15:25-32

(Pew Bible, p. 850)

**THE SERMON**

"FEASTING ON GRACE"

**CALL TO PRAYER**

**CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION AND PETITION**

### *GOD CALLS FOR OUR GIFTS*

**OUR OFFERING TO GOD**

OFFERTORY

\* **DOXOLOGY** (Lasst uns erfreuen)

**NCH 17**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

# GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

\* **HYMN OF DEDICATION**

“AMAZING GRACE”

**NCH 547**

\* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*(Please feel free to remain and listen, or to greet one another in the narthex and at coffee hour.)*

**OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED...**

**LET OUR SERVICE BEGIN!**

MINISTERS

ALL THE PEOPLE OF EDWARDS CHURCH

PASTOR

REV. DR. DEBORAH CLARK

ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR FAITH FORMATION & OUTREACH

REV. DR. KAREN NELL SMITH

COMMISSIONED MINISTER OF MUSIC

RICK SEAHOLM

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

DAWN SORENSEN

ORGANIST

CHERYL ELKINS

PIANIST

SUSAN MINOR

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

NICOLA SEAHOLM

SEXTON

LORI WILSON

LITURGIST

SHELLY CICHOWLAS

DEACON-IN-CHARGE

BRANDON JONES

GREETER

MATT WALKER

COMPOST CAPTAIN

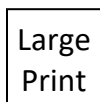
MARY MEMMOTT

JANIS STEIGMAN OF MOTHER'S HELPERS IS IN CHARGE OF THE NURSERY THIS MORNING.

**Welcome!** No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, we are glad you are here. Please join us for coffee following the service. Please sign our guestbook or fill out a welcome card.

**We extend a special welcome to children** and their families. 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. In the entryway to the sanctuary, you will find some quiet activity boxes; please take one and have fun! Following the anthem, we invite all children to attend a Christian Explorers class downstairs in the Susan P. Dickerman Education Building. We have a loving, trained nursery staff available for our youngest children.

## Accessibility



### Available in the Narthex (front entrance hallway):

- Sound-enhancing assistive listening devices
- Large print edition of the church bulletin



- **Accessible parking** spots are marked and located near the Education Building entrance.
- **Accessible entrance** is located on the lower level of the Education Building (to the left of the Church main entrance).
- **Elevator** is located in the Education Building next to the stairs.
- **Accessible restroom** is located on the upper level of the Education Building.

# THIS WEEK AT EDWARDS CHURCH

October 20-26, 2019

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Adult Bible Study</b> .....	<b>Youth Room</b>
	9:00am	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Worship</b> .....	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Sunday School</b> .....	<b>Education Building</b>
	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>Christian Explorers Open House</b> .....	<b>Education Building</b>
	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>BOCE Meeting</b> .....	<b>Education Building</b>
	1:00pm	Rental .....	Sanctuary
	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Soup</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Seeds of Grace</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	7:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall Classroom
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Chairobics</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Strength Without a Gym</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	4:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	6:15pm	Rental .....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall Classroom
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Wider Mission</b> .....	<b>Jonathan House</b>
	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Guided Meditation</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Gentle Yoga</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	10:30am	Rental .....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Hatha Yoga</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Buddhist Meditation</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Chairobics</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Steeple Mailing</b> .....	<b>Jonathan House</b>
	<b>4:45pm</b>	<b>Soup and Bible Study</b> .....	<b>Jonathan House</b>
	6:00pm	Rental .....	Sanctuary
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Veterans Yoga</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	7:30pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	4:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Kripalu Yoga</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Cancer Support Group</b> .....	<b>Youth Room</b>
	<b>7:15pm</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	7:30pm	AA Meeting .....	Edwards Hall
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Chairobics</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Weekend of Spirit Concert</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Weekend of Spirit</b> .....	<b>Throughout Campus</b>
	4:30pm	Rental .....	Sanctuary
	6:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall

## EDWARDS CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Music Note:** This morning, we are pleased to welcome back cellist **Marian Levinstein**. Marian currently plays with the Concord Orchestra. She is an avid chamber music player, and performs with the Wayside Quartet for adult communities in the Metrowest area, as well as local opera and theater orchestras. We are also grateful to violinist **Jane Ezbicki**, who—in addition to her career as conductor, musician, and music educator—is a long serving member of the Edwards Church Choir and our former choir director.

**Christian Explorers Open House:** *TODAY, October 20 after worship*

Join us and 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!

**Seeds of Grace Worship:** *TODAY at 5:00pm for a simple soup supper, 5:30pm worship in Sue Dickerman Hall*  
Rev. Dr. Karen Nell Smith and members of the Seeds of Grace worship team will lead us in a time of warm community and creative worship with the theme “How are you fed?” Come as we gather for a cup of soup followed by a time of sharing scripture and song, conversation and prayer. We hope to see you there!

**Vietnamese Takeout Lunch Bunch:** *Wednesday, October 30 at noon in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

We will continue our tradition of trying international cuisine prepared at local restaurants with a trip to Vietnam. Please join us whether or not you are a Lunch Bunch regular. Sign up on the way to coffee hour or email [nicola@edwardschurch.org](mailto:nicola@edwardschurch.org). Suggested donation of \$7, more if you can, less if you can't.

**New Edwards Church Photo Directory: Sign Up at Coffee Hour!**

*Photography Sessions on Monday and Tuesday, November 4 and 5, 2:00-9:00pm in Edwards Hall*

We will be publishing a new photo directory! Sign up at coffee hour or visit [edwardschurch.org](http://edwardschurch.org) to select a time slot for an individual or family portrait. While you're there, you can also sign up to volunteer to greet people and help give directions during the shoot photo. The more people who participate, the more helpful it will be!

**Veterans Appreciation Dinner:** *Sunday, November 10 at 5:00pm at Plymouth Church*

Edwards and Plymouth Churches will offer a dinner for area veterans in appreciation of their service. 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 on that day. RSVP to 508-875-1364.

## OPEN SPIRIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Weekend of Spirit—“Deepening Connections”:** *Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26*

Weekend of Spirit begins on Friday evening with a concert by our own Willie Sordillo, along with his colleagues and friends Doug Rich, Zoë Krohne and Erez Dissel. On Saturday morning, the program opens with a keynote presentation centering on deep-rooted connections in the plant world. We will have morning and afternoon workshops, a Healing Spa, a delicious vegetarian/vegan lunch, and much more. A free-will offering will be received on Friday evening; the cost for Saturday is \$35.

**Repairing the World: A Conversation with Tom Krattenmaker:** *Sun., November 3 at 3:00pm in Edwards Hall*

One of the “walls” in our culture today is suspicion between people who identify as religious and those who name themselves as spiritual but not religious, or secular humanist, or atheist. Join us as we hear from Tom Krattenmaker, secular humanist and *USA Today* contributing columnist, who is author of *Confessions of a Secular Jesus Follower: Finding Answers in Jesus for Those Who Don't Believe*. He will be sharing with us his take on “horizontal transcendence,” or “secular transcendence.” He will also be sharing the common ground he shares with “horizontal” aspects of religion. Suggested donation of \$15