

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

A thought for reflection

Too many sit at the banquet table of the gospel of Jesus Christ and merely nibble
at the feast placed before them.

—Joseph B. Wirthlin

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**

“ENTER, REJOICE AND COME IN”

NCH 73

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, open yourself to the songs of life!

People: **Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in!**

Leader: Come, open your hearts, everyone!

People: **Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in!**

Leader: Come to be surprised; don't be afraid of some change!

People: **Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in!**

Leader: Come and worship God!

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: Rejoice in our God always!

People: **Again I say rejoice!**

* **GLORIA**

(Sing twice.)

NCH 756

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

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Jesus, we have received your invitation to the great banquet, to the Kin-dom of God breaking in. We struggle with our response. We have so many excuses—some of them lame, some of them reasonable. There is so much that gets in the way—busyness, exhaustion, distractions, despair, disbelief that the invitation is really for us.

Free us, we pray, from the power of our excuses. Free us to come to the banquet, to rejoice that we can be part of the Realm of God's Love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

* *Stand as you are able.*

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

THE ANTHEM

“I CANNOT COME TO THE BANQUET”
(Children may go to church school after the anthem.)

THE GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 14:15-24

(Pew Bible, p. 849)

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION**

“ENTER IN THE REALM OF GOD”

NCH 615

THE SERMON

“A PLACE AT THE TABLE”

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**

“SENT FORTH BY GOD’S BLESSING”

NCH 76

* **CHARGE & BLESSING**

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	PAUL BLOW
DEACON-IN-CHARGE	ELLIE KELL
GREETER	JOANIE WHITE
COMPOST CAPTAIN	MARY MEMMOTT
JANIS STEIGMAN OF MOTHER'S HELPERS IS IN CHARGE OF THE NURSERY THIS MORNING.	

A Father's Lullaby Art Installation: *Daily from 3:00-7:00pm in our labyrinth (through October)*

Artist Rashin Fehandej has installed her outdoor multi-media art work, "A Father's Lullaby," in and around the labyrinth on our campus. The work offers an opportunity to reflect on the harm of mass incarceration to families. As you walk the labyrinth or sit on a bench, you will hear fathers singing lullabies and telling stories of their experiences with parenting and incarceration. Supported by the Framingham Cultural Council.

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



Large
Print

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 27-November 2, 2019

SUNDAY	9:00am	Adult Bible Study	Youth Room
	9:00am	Rental	Edwards Hall
	10:00am	Worship	Sanctuary
	10:15am	Sunday School	Education Building
	11:00am	Coffee Hour	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
MONDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:30am	Strength Without a Gym	Edwards Hall
	6:15pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:00pm	Wider Mission	Jonathan House
	7:30pm	Guided Meditation	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
TUESDAY	9:00am	Qi Gong / Tai Chi	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:00am	Gentle Yoga	Edwards Hall
	10:30am	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	5:30pm	Hatha Yoga	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
WEDNESDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	12:00pm	Vietnamese Lunch Bunch	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	6:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	6:00pm	Veterans Yoga	Edwards Hall
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
THURSDAY	Halloween		
	9:00am	Qi Gong / Tai Chi	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	4:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Kripalu Yoga	Edwards Hall
	7:30pm	AA Meeting	Edwards Hall
FRIDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	2:30pm	MACUCC Annual Meeting	DCU Center
	7:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classrooms
	7:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classrooms
SATURDAY	8:00am	Men's Group	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	8:30am	MACUCC Annual Meeting	DCU Center
	9:00am	Chair/Mat Yoga	Edwards Hall
	10:00am	Rental	Youth Room
	4:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall

4:30pm Rental Sanctuary

Edwards Church

Announcements

Music Note

We are grateful to our resident bluegrass band, On the Fence, for leading our music this morning. With great joy we thank Jane Ezbicki, Len Ezbicki, Kelly Lopez, George Marcincavage, and Ric Carl.

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. 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, registration required

We will be publishing a new photo directory! Sign up at coffee hour or visit 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

Repairing the World: A Conversation with Tom Krattenmaker: Sunday, Nov. 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.

Three-Class Series: Trauma-Sensitive Yoga for Women: November 6, 13, and 20 at 11:30am in Edwards Hall

This healing Trauma Center Trauma-Sensitive Yoga (TCTSY) class series is for any woman who has experienced trauma, PTSD symptoms, or grief. We will safely experiment with breathing, moving, stretching, and resting. Students may opt in or out of any portion of the class at any time. There will be no physical hands-on adjustments. TCTSY complements and supports a person's work in therapy. No yoga experience necessary. Led by Sue Stevens, E-RYT 500, TCTSY-F, YACEP. For more information or to register, please visit openspiritcenter.org. Cost: \$40 for 3 week session / \$15 drop-in.

Journey of the Spirit: Learning about the Faith of Our Neighbors: Sunday, Dec. 1 at 2:00pm at Fatima Shrine

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. Our Lady of Fatima Shrine is located at 101 Summer Street in Holliston.

Register by November 25 at openspiritcenter.org. For more information or questions, please contact Karen Nell Smith at choresis@comcast.net. Suggested donation of \$15.