

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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 17, 2019

10:00 AM

A thought for reflection

Hope is not what we find in evidence, it's what we become in action.
— Frances Moore Lappé

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**

“GOD REIGNS O’ER ALL THE EARTH”

NCH 21

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In green hills and valleys low, in farms and towns in golds and browns,

People: **We see God’s creative hand at work.**

Leader: In our youth and aging years, in all our hopes and fears,

People: **We sense God’s compassionate hand at work.**

Leader: In time and space, in the heavenly music of the cosmos,

People: **We wonder at God’s awesome hand at work.**

Leader: In all our past and to the last, our comfort and our stay,

People: **We trust God is with us, Emmanuel.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND SUNG LORD’S PRAYER

FINLANDIA

(Please join in singing the Finlandia version of the Lord’s Prayer, found in the prayer card in your hymnal rack.)

* **SENTENCES OF PRAISE**

(Based on conversation at our congregational meeting.)

Leader: Praise God, the source of all that gives us hope!

People: **Praise God for friends who stay with us in tough times!**

Leader: Praise God for people who help us discover our musical gifts!

People: **Praise God for those who stand for justice!**

Leader: Praise God for the optimism of children!

People: **As we praise God, let us open ourselves to possibility!**

Leader: Let us rejoice in the promise that God is always with us!

* **GLORIA**

NCH 756

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

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

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

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

* *Stand as you are able.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

You, O God, have blessed us with hope, revealed through Jesus, made known to us through friends, musicians, justice-seekers, children. Forgive us when we stop noticing signs of hope.

You, O God, have called us to be bearers of hope, holding hope for a despairing friend, working together to ease suffering, creating beauty, nurturing children. Forgive us when we forget that what we do matters.

Awaken us to your gift of hope. Inspire us that we might be your gift of hope. Amen.

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

CLAIR BALL

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Congregational Welcome: We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. God grant that together we may continue to grow in knowledge and love and be witnesses of our Risen Savior.

WORDS WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

THE ANTHEM

“BLESSINGS ABOUND”

PEPPER CHOPLIN

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

THE EPISTLE LESSON

EPHESIANS 1:15-19

(Pew Bible, p. 949)

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION**

“LIKE A TREE BESIDE THE WATERS”

NCH 313

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

ACTS 4:23-31

(Pew Bible, p. 888)

THE SERMON

“BOLD HOPE”

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**

“RENEW YOUR CHURCH”

NCH 311

* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

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

Today, with joy, we welcome our new members:
Karen Nell Smith, Pat Martin, Doris Mackum, Linda Yates, Karen Albee,
Liz and Danny Garrigan-Byerly, with their daughter Ruth.

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED...

MINISTERS

PASTOR

ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR FAITH FORMATION & OUTREACH

COMMISSIONED MINISTER OF MUSIC

ORGANIST

PIANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

SEXTON

LITURGIST

DEACON-IN-CHARGE

GREETER

COMPOST CAPTAIN

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

LET OUR SERVICE BEGIN!

ALL THE PEOPLE OF EDWARDS CHURCH

REV. DR. DEBORAH CLARK

REV. DR. KAREN NELL SMITH

RICK SEAHOLM

CHERYL ELKINS

SUSAN MINOR

NICOLA SEAHOLM

LORI WILSON

REV. DR. FRAN BOGLE

LEE ANN FRIEDMAN

SANDY THOMPSON

PEGGY HARRISON

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

November 17-23, 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
	11:30am	BOCE Meeting	Education Building
	1:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	3:00pm	Yoga for Grief	Edwards Hall
	4:00pm	Singing in Solidarity	Greater Fram. Comm. Church
	5:30pm	Seeds of Grace	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classroom
MONDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:30am	Strength Without a Gym	Edwards Hall
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classroom
	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
	5:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	5:30pm	Hatha Yoga	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
WEDNESDAY	7:00am	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	9:00am	Steeple Articles Due	nicola@edwardschurch.org
	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	11:30am	Trauma-Sensitive Yoga	Edwards Hall
	12:00pm	Lunch Bunch	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	6:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	6:00pm	Veterans Yoga	Edwards Hall
7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall	
THURSDAY	9:00am	Qi Gong / Tai Chi	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	4:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Kripalu Yoga	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Cancer Support Group	Youth Room
	7:15pm	Choir Rehearsal	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	Multifaith Collaborative	Jonathan House
	7:30pm	AA Meeting	Edwards Hall
FRIDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
SATURDAY	9:00am	Chair/Mat Yoga	Edwards Hall
	11:30am	Rental	Sanctuary
	4:30pm	Rental	Sanctuary

EDWARDS CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seeds of Grace Worship

TODAY in Susan P. Dickerman Hall, 5:00pm for supper, 5:30pm for worship

Come join the Seeds of Grace worship team on an autumn evening for a warm meal, deep reflection and creative worship as we are spiritually fed through song and prayer, sharing and silence. November's theme is "How do we give thanks?" We hope to see you there!

Presents for Pathways

Today is the start of the Wider Mission Christmas gift drive for residents of Pathways Family Shelter. This year, we will be providing a pair of slippers for each child, as well as a set of dishes (basic service for four) for each of the fourteen families to have when they move to more permanent housing. Walmart gift cards (\$10) are also appreciated. Pick up a gift tag at coffee hour. Please return your unwrapped gift no later than Sunday, December 15. Extra gift wrap and boxes are also always appreciated. Thank-you very much for your generous support!

Singing in Solidarity with our Immigrant Neighbors

TODAY at 4:00pm at Greater Framingham Community Church (44 Franklin Street)

Edwards Church's Board of Wider Mission is a co-sponsor of this multi-faith, multi-cultural concert featuring groups from area churches and synagogues. There is no entry fee; come make a donation to the Neighbor's Fund, which helps immigrant neighbors in crisis.

ALICE Training

Tuesday, November 26 at 2:00pm in Susan P. Dickerman Hall

Recently, a Framingham police officer met with several church council members to talk about how we can best balance security and openness. He suggested we hold an "ALICE training." The acronym (ALICE) lifts up ways to respond in the extremely unlikely event someone comes into our buildings with the intent of doing harm. The goal is simply to have some folks in our community who can take leadership to help us all be safe. If you would like to attend, please email pastor@edwardschurch.org or speak to Debbie.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 26 at 7:00pm at First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church

This year our Interfaith, Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service will be held at First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, located at 24 Vernon Street.

Family Fun Friday

Friday, December 6 at 6:00pm in Susan P. Dickerman Hall

We hope that everyone, especially families and youth, will join us for a special evening gathering. We will work on holiday crafts and share pizza, salad, dessert, and hot chocolate. Look for the sign-up sheet at church or RSVP to Karen Nell. Be there or be square!

Save the Date! Gifts that Give Fair

Saturday, December 7, 1:00-4:00pm in Edwards Hall

Our Board of Wider Mission invites you to start your holiday shopping at church. You can purchase fair-trade gifts to support many causes that are important in our community and our world. Stay tuned for more details!



Trauma-Sensitive Yoga for Women

Wednesday, November 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, beginners welcome. Led by Sue Stevens, E-RYT 500, TCTSY-F, YACEP. For more information, please visit openspiritcenter.org. Cost: \$15 drop-in.

Journey of the Spirit: Learning about the Faith of Our Neighbors

Sunday, December 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. After our tour and discussion, stay to view the beautiful Christmas Lights. 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.

Interfaith Multi-Narrative Listening Tour to Israel/Palestine

Summer, 2020 (Register by December, 2019)

Travel with a group of Jews, Christians and Muslims on an eight-day journey to the Holy Land and its people that will engage your mind, body and spirit. At the heart of this trip is listening with an open heart and mind to the life stories representing many different perspectives and experiences, lead by Israeli and Palestinian Mejdi Tour™ guides who will model respectful dialogue and disagreement as they offer their respective points of view. Visit openspiritcenter.org/interfaith-multinarrative-tour for more information.

Christmas Wreath Fundraiser



Save time! Avoid the stores! Help our church youth!

Pick up your wreaths right here.

Order two or more for your friends and family.

These 12-inch wreaths come with a classic red or cranberry bow.

The donation is \$15 per wreath.

Proceeds benefit Edwards Church and Plymouth Church youth programs.

Order your wreaths on Sundays, November 10, 17, 24
You can pick-up your wreath following worship on December 1.

The Christmas Wreath Sale is sponsored by the youth of Edwards and Plymouth Churches.

Christmas Wreath Order Form

Name:
Email or Phone:
Number of Wreaths:
Bow Color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Cranberry
Amount Enclosed:

Checks should be made out to Edwards Church with "Wreath Sale" on the memo line