

# 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**

“Give what you have. To someone, it may be better than you dare to think.”  
— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

*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**

“O SING A SONG OF BETHLEHEM”

**NCH 51**

**CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Rev. Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson

One: This morning we remember dreams and dreamers. Joseph, Jesus’ father, dreamt about uncertainty.

**All: We, too, know the uncertainty of dreaming. May we, like Joseph, respond in faith.**

One: Mary, Jesus’ mother, dreamt about a child, a new beginning.

**Two: We, too, dream of new beginnings. May we, like Mary, respond in hope.**

One: The Magi dreamt about going home by a different way.

**All: We, too, know how dreams can alter our plans. May we, like the Magi, respond with our feet.**

One: There have been many dreams, many dreamers. Today we remember Martin Luther King Jr. who dreamed of justice rolling down like the waters, of a beloved community where all people find kinship, belonging, dignity and love.

**All: We, too, dream of justice and your beloved community. May we, like Dr. King, respond with our voices, with our lives and in your love.**

One: Awaken us to our dreams, Holy God — and to your voice speaking from within them.

**All: Awaken us to your world, Holy God — and to the places where our greatest joy can meet the world’s greatest need.**

**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**

One: Praise be to the source of dreams.

**All: Praise be to the source of justice and beloved community!**

One: Praise be to the One who awakens us to the world.

**All: Praise be to our Holy God!**

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\* *Stand as you are able.*

\* **GLORIA** (from Angels We Have Heard on High) **NCH 125**  
Glo- -ria in excelsis Deo!  
Glo- -ria in excelsis Deo!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (in unison)  
Holy One, we confess that it can be hard to dream these days. We are weary from the trials of life; we are discouraged with ourselves and others; we are cynical that transformation is possible. Breathe your Spirit into us as we pray silently, that our hearts may be lifted, our eyes opened and our imaginations ignited. (silent prayer) Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**RESPONSE** **FROM NCH 159**  
As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

*GOD MEETS US IN THE WORD*

**WORDS WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE** REV. DR. KAREN NELL SMITH

**THE ANTHEM** “DEEP RIVER” ARR. ADRIANO SECCO  
(Children may go to church school after the anthem.)

**THE HEBREW BIBLE LESSON** ISAIAH 49:1-7 (Pew Bible, p. 592)

**HYMN** “GUIDE MY FEET”, VERSES 1 & 2 **NCH 497**

**THE EPISTLE LESSON** I CORINTHIANS 1:1-9 (Pew Bible, p. 926)

**HYMN** “GUIDE MY FEET”, VERSES 3 & 4 **NCH 497**

**THE SERMON** “CHOSEN” REV. LIZ GARRIGAN-BYERLY

**HYMN** “GUIDE MY FEET”, VERSE 1 **NCH 497**

**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** "CHRISTIAN, RISE AND ACT YOUR CREED"

**NCH 537**

\* **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

ORGANIST

CHERYL ELKINS

PIANIST

SUSAN MINOR

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

NICOLA SEAHOLM

SEXTON

LORI WILSON

LITURGIST

DAWN SORENSEN

DEACON-IN-CHARGE

BRANDON JONES

GREETER

SANDY THOMPSON

COMPOST CAPTAIN

JOANIE WHITE

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



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

January 19-25, 2020

<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>Coffee Hour</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	1:00pm	Rental .....	Sanctuary
	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Seeds of Grace: Community Prayers</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	7:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall Classroom
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day: OFFICE CLOSED</b>		
	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>MLK Breakfast</b> .....	<b>See announcement</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Strength Without a Gym</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>Youth Service Event</b> .....	<b>JFS Children's Clothing Closet</b>
	6:15pm	Rental .....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	7:30pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall Classroom
	<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
	5:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Hatha Yoga</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Steeple Mailing</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>7:00pm</b>	<b>Multifaith Collaborative</b> .....	<b>Jonathan House</b>
7:30pm	AA Meeting .....	Edwards Hall	
<b>FRIDAY</b>	6:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	7:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall Classrooms
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Chair/Mat Yoga</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	11:00am	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	4:30pm	Rental .....	Sanctuary
	6:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall

**Debbie will be away** from January 16-February 1. If you have a pastoral concern during that time, please contact Rev. Dr. Karen Nell Smith at 508-331-3081.

## COMING UP AT EDWARDS CHURCH

### **Community Prayers for Healing and Peace:** *TODAY at 5:30pm in Edwards Hall (soup at 5:00pm)*

This month, Seeds of Grace is partnering with Open Spirit to host a time of music, prayer, silence and sharing for people of all faith traditions, responding to the collective fear, uncertainty and suffering of these past weeks. Join us at 5 pm for a cup of soup and conversation. The prayer time begins at 5:30 pm.

### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast:** *Monday, January 20 at 8:00am*

Especially after this year's hateful actions targeting African Americans, Wider Missions is eager to support our neighbors in celebrating MLK's birthday. If you have not already signed up and would like to attend this breakfast, please purchase a ticket at <https://www.gfccnet.org/store/>, and let Heather Gonzalez know at [heatherbgonzo@gmail.com](mailto:heatherbgonzo@gmail.com). Friends from El Toque del Maestro will join us at our tables. Come share a meal and make new friends!

### **Lenten Planning Pizza Party:** *Sunday, February 2 after church in the office*

Like pizza? Like hanging out with creative people? Like trees? Then join us for pizza and planning! We will order pizza and plan our Lenten theme, "A Grove of Trees." Musicians, educators, writers, deacons, folks who like pizza—all are welcome!

### **Annual Meeting:** *Sunday, February 9 after worship in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

Please join us for this important gathering where we will approve our budget and annual report. Childcare has been arranged and "enhanced coffee hour refreshments" will be provided to tide you over until lunch. Don't miss it!

## COMING UP AT OPEN SPIRIT

### **MLK Youth Service Project:** *Monday, January 20, 1:00-4:00pm*

Open Spirit's Multi-Faith Collaborative is starting a Multi-Faith Youth Service Initiative, designed to bring together youth from many different faith traditions to engage in service and work for social justice. Our kick-off event is a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Service Project. We will gather at 1:00 p.m. at the Children's Clothing Closet run by Jewish Family Service and located in the Saxonville Mills. We'll play a few games, help sort clothes, and then end with pizza and conversation about the next steps. Youth aged fourteen and older are invited. Speak with Karen Nell TODAY if you would like to attend.

### **A Taste of Compassion: A Vegan Luncheon:** *Saturday, February 1, at 1:00pm in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

With the growing awareness of the value of plant-based eating, come taste an exciting array of creative and delicious vegan dishes. Perhaps you need some fresh ideas—come talk to the chef and get new recipes. Simply come or bring a dish if you are inspired! Gluten-free options available. Suggested donation \$5.

### **World Interfaith Harmony Week Dinner Celebration:** *Sunday, February 2 at 5:00pm in Edwards Hall*

Open Spirit invites you to join in an open-spirited, open-hearted dinner and open mic celebration to mark the beginning of this week. Bring food to share that speaks to the joy of your spiritual tradition. Bring a song or a dance, a poem or a reading—or just bring yourself! The event will be in Edwards Hall.

### **Transition Framingham Repair Café:** *February 8, 10:00am-1:00pm, Scott Hall at First Parish, 24 Vernon Street.*

Transition Framingham, with support from the Framingham Rotary Club and First Parish Climate Action Team, will hold its third Repair Cafe event. Our goal is to repair items and prevent them from being tossed into landfills. There is no charge and all are welcome. We depend on volunteers. If you wish to volunteer, please visit [tinyurl.com/FramFixVolunteer](http://tinyurl.com/FramFixVolunteer) or email [marybeth.croci@gmail.com](mailto:marybeth.croci@gmail.com), (774) 279-3691. For more information, see our website: [TransitionFramingham.org/repair-cafe/](http://TransitionFramingham.org/repair-cafe/).