

# 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**

"Jesus called ordinary people right in the middle of their ordinary lives to do extraordinary things  
... and he still does."

~ David Lose

*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**

"JESUS CALLS US, O'ER THE TUMULT"

**NCH 172**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light!

**All: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has drawn near!"**

One: Jesus called out to the first disciples,

**All: "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."**

One: Jesus told the ones who said, "Go away,"

**All: "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."**

One: We have no excuse: Jesus has come, Jesus has called us,

**All: And we are sent into the world: "Repent! Follow! Go!"**

One: May we enter this time of worship,

**All: Listening for God's call and ready to follow into the world for love's sake.**

**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**

*(from Psalm 27)*

One: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**All: I will offer in God's tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

One: Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

**All: Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.**

One: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

**All: Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

\* **GLORIA**

*(from Angels We Have Heard on High)*

**NCH 125**

Glo- -ria in excelsis Deo!

Glo- -ria in excelsis Deo!

\* *Stand as you are able.*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(in unison)*

Loving God, we confess that we have been afraid. We don't listen, because we don't want to hear where you challenge us to change. We don't follow, because we are afraid of where you will lead us. We have not gone where you have sent us, because we are afraid of encountering people different from us, because they may cause us to change. Forgive us for being afraid to listen to You, to follow You, and to go where You have sent us. Grant us the courage to step out in faith, to listen to Your voice, and to be changed by Your love through others and through Your creation. In Your name we pray. 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**

#### **THE ANTHEM**

"JOYS LIKE A RIVER"

DOUGLAS E. WAGNER

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

#### **THE HEBREW BIBLE LESSON**

ISAIAH 9:1-4

*(Pew Bible, p. 555)*

#### \* **HYMN OF PREPARATION** "TEACH ME, O LORD, YOUR HOLY WAY"

**NCH 465**

#### **THE GOSPEL LESSON**

MATTHEW 4:12-23

*(Pew Bible, p. 785)*

#### **THE SERMON**

"FOLLOWING"

#### **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 & 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!

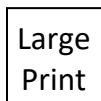
MINISTERS	ALL THE PEOPLE OF EDWARDS CHURCH
PASTOR	REV. DR. DEBORAH CLARK
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR FAITH FORMATION & OUTREACH	REV. DR. KAREN NELL SMITH
COMMISSIONED MINISTER OF MUSIC	RICK SEAHOLM
ORGANIST	CHERYL ELKINS
PIANIST	SUSAN MINOR
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	NICOLA SEAHOLM
SEXTON	LORI WILSON
LITURGIST	SHELLY CICHOWLAS
DEACON-IN-CHARGE	CLAIR BALL
GREETER	JOANIE WHITE
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



#### 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 26-February 1, 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
	1:30pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	2:00pm	Rental .....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b><i>Strength Without a Gym</i></b> .....	<b><i>Edwards Hall</i></b>
	6:15pm	Rental .....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Green Team</b> .....	<b>Jonathan House</b>
	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b><i>Guided Meditation</i></b> .....	<b><i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i></b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b><i>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</i></b> .....	<b><i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i></b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b><i>Gentle Yoga</i></b> .....	<b><i>Edwards Hall</i></b>
	10:30am	Rental .....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b><i>Hatha Yoga</i></b> .....	<b><i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i></b>
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b><i>Buddhist Meditation</i></b> .....	<b><i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i></b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b><i>Veterans Yoga</i></b> .....	<b><i>Edwards Hall</i></b>
	6:00pm	Rental .....	Sanctuary
	7:30pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b><i>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</i></b> .....	<b><i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i></b>
	4:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b><i>Kripalu Yoga</i></b> .....	<b><i>Edwards Hall</i></b>
	<b>7:15pm</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	7:30pm	AA Meeting .....	Edwards Hall
<b>FRIDAY</b>	7:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall Classrooms
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Men's Group</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>9:00am</b>	<b><i>Chair/Mat Yoga</i></b> .....	<b><i>Edwards Hall</i></b>
	10:00am	Rental .....	Youth Room
	<b>1:00pm</b>	<b><i>Taste of Compassion</i></b> .....	<b><i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i></b>
	3:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	4:30pm	Rental .....	Sanctuary

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

# Important Announcements

## **A Taste of Compassion: A Vegan Luncheon**

*Saturday, February 1 at 1:00pm in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

There is a 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 will be available. Suggested donation of \$5 per person.

## **Lenten Planning Pizza Party**

*Sunday, February 2 after church in the office lounge*

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!

## **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 World Interfaith Harmony 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!

## **Transition Framingham Repair Café**

*Saturday, 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 Café event. Our goal is to repair items and prevent them from being tossed into landfills. There is no charge and all are welcome. If you would like to volunteer, please visit [tinyurl.com/FramFixVolunteer](http://tinyurl.com/FramFixVolunteer) or speak to Frank Carney. More info at [transitionframingham.org](http://transitionframingham.org).

## **Annual Congregational 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!

## **New Year of the Trees: “Tu B’Shvat Seder”**

*Monday, February 9 at 5:00pm at Temple Beth Sholom*

We are invited to join Temple Beth Sholom for their observance of Tu B’Shvat, a holiday which centers around trees, fruits and nuts traditionally found in Israel. With deep roots in ancient agrarian culture, today Tu B’Shvat has become a day for ecological awareness. Please join us to learn more and experience this lovely celebration! Sign up on the way to coffee hour or speak to Karen Nell Smith for more information.

## **Seeds of Grace Worship**

*Sunday, February 16 at 5:00pm for a simple soup supper, 5:30pm worship in Susan P. Dickerman Hal.*

The Seeds of Grace worship team will lead a time of warm community and creative worship. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cup of soup and a time of sharing stories and song, conversation and prayer. We hope to see you there!