

# 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**

*"The thing about light is that it really isn't yours; it's what you gather and shine back. And it gets more power from reflectiveness; if you sit still and take it in, it fills your cup, and then you can give it off yourself."*

Anne Lamott, *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*

**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** "YOU ARE SALT FOR THE EARTH, O PEOPLE"

**NCH 181**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: You, O people, are salt for the earth.

People: **May we share the flavor of our lives, coming together with zest.**

Leader: You, O people, are light on a hill.

People: **May we shine bright, a beacon of welcome in a lonely world.**

Leader: You, O people, are a seed of the word.

People: **May we grow as we offer mercy and seek justice.**

Leader: We, O people, are on a blessed journey together.

People: **May our worship strengthen us for the road ahead.**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

*(Please pray the Lord's Prayer using the words you find most meaningful. There is a prayer card in your pew rack.)*

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

Leader: O come, let us sing to God;

People: **Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

\* **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)*

Wise and powerful God, you have given us your light and truth to guide us through confusion, yet we have relied instead on our human wisdom, and have lost our way. You offer to share our burdens and give us your strength, yet we trust in our own efforts and find ourselves exhausted. Bring us back into your presence, O God; overcome our separation from one another and from you.

By your Word and Spirit, fill us with the gifts that equip us to meet life's demands, that we may be your people in the world and live in the confidence and joy of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

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\* *Stand as you are able.*

**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**

"YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"  
*(Children may go to church school after the anthem.)*

ROGER C. WILSON

**THE HEBREW BIBLE LESSON**

ISAIAH 58:1-12

*(Pew Bible, p. 660)*

**HYMN**

"YOU ARE THE SEED (SOIS LA SEMILLA)"

**NCH 528**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON**

MATTHEW 5:13-16

*(Pew Bible, p. 786)*

**THE SERMON**

"ABSORB, REFLECT, REFRACT"

**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.)*

**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	RUTH CARNEY
DEACON-IN-CHARGE	LEE ANN FRIEDMAN
GREETER	KAREN ALBEE
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**



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

February 9-15, 2020

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Adult Bible Study</b> .....	<b>Youth Room</b>
	<b>9:00am</b>	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>Annual Meeting</b> .....	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	<b>1:00pm</b>	Rental .....	Sanctuary
	<b>4:00pm</b>	Rental .....	Open Spirit Library
	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Tu B'Shvat Seder</b> .....	<b>Temple Beth Shalom</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Strength Without a Gym</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Nourishing Teachers</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>6:15pm</b>	Rental .....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Wider Mission</b> .....	<b>Jonathan House</b>
	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Guided Meditation</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>8:50am</b>	<b>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>10:05am</b>	<b>Gentle Yoga</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	Rental .....	Choir Room
	<b>11:15am</b>	<b>OS Steering Committee</b> .....	<b>Jonathan House</b>
	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Hatha Yoga</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Buddhist Meditation</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>4:30pm</b>	<b>Soup and Bible Study</b> .....	<b>Jonathan House</b>
	<b>6:00pm</b>	Rental .....	Sanctuary
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Veterans Yoga</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>7:30pm</b>	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>4:00pm</b>	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Cancer Support Group</b> .....	<b>Youth Room</b>
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Kripalu Yoga</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>7:15pm</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>AA Meeting</b> .....	Edwards Hall
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>Valentine's Day</b>		
	<b>8:00am</b>	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Rental .....	Edwards Hall Classrooms
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Chair/Mat Yoga</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>3:00pm</b>	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	<b>4:30pm</b>	Rental .....	Sanctuary

# Important Announcements

## **Special Offering: Koala Hospital in New South Wales, Australia**

*TODAY during the offering (envelope provided in your bulletin)*

The Board of Wider Mission is sponsoring a special collection to support the rescue and care of animals in Australia injured and displaced by devastating bushfires. Donations will help care for burn victims, set up drinking stations for animals in dire need of water and promote habitat restoration efforts. In addition, the hospital works collaboratively with a Sydney correctional center and teaches selected inmates to work with sick and injured wildlife in a correctional rehab program. Thank you for your caring and support!

## **Annual Congregational Meeting**

*TODAY after worship in the Sanctuary*

Please join us for this important gathering where we will approve our budget and annual report. Childcare. Coffee and tea will be available. Don't miss it!

## **New Year of the Trees: "Tu B'Shvat Seder"**

*TODAY at 5:00pm at Temple Beth Shalom*

We are invited to join Temple Beth Shalom 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. Speak to Karen Nell Smith today if you would like to attend.

## **Seeds of Grace Worship**

*Sunday, February 16 at 5:00pm for soup, 5:30pm worship in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

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!

## **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

*Tuesday, February 25 from 5:30-7:00pm in Edwards Hall*

Please join us for an all-you-can-eat pancake supper for all ages! Bring your favorite fruit topping, bacon, or sausage to share. We hope to see you there!

## **Ash Wednesday Services**

*Wednesday, February 26 at noon in the Sanctuary; 7:30pm at Plymouth Church*

All are welcome to attend either of our community Ash Wednesday services marking the beginning of Lent. At noon, we will gather in the sanctuary for a meaningful service where we will offer one another ashes. There will also be a service at 7:30 in the evening at Plymouth.

## **Lenten Devotional**

We will offer a daily devotional during the season of Lent on our theme, "A Grove of Trees." We welcome you to share a story or send a photo of a special tree in your life, or of a way you have treasured the roots you have shared with others. If you are interested in doing one (or more), please contact Debbie.