

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
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A thought for reflection

“This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.”

–Martin Luther

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**

“PRAISE TO THE LIVING GOD”

NCH 8

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us praise the living God, the God of love and light.

People: **We praise the One from whom all things derive.**

Leader: Come, let us praise the living God, who knows our joy and pain.

People: **We praise the One who toils wherever we toil, who resides deep in our heart.**

Leader: Come, let us praise the living God, around, within, above.

People: **We praise the one we know as love.**

Leader: Come, 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 printed on the prayer card in your pew rack.)

*** SENTENCES OF PRAISE**

(Please stand for the Sentences of Praise and Gloria.)

Leader: It is good to give thanks to you, O God,

People: **To sing praises to your name, O Most High,**

Leader: To declare your steadfast love in the morning,

People: **And your faithfulness by night,**

Leader: To the music of the lute and the harp,

People: **To the melody of the lyre.**

*** GLORIA**

(in unison)

NCH 756

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

Glorify to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

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

Glorify to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Author of life, we humbly confess that too often we fall short of your intentions for us and of our expectations of ourselves. We would touch the world with goodness, but often we withdraw in anxiety and self-concern. We would live with integrity and stand for truth, but we are torn with uncertainties. We would warm the lives of others with our love, but we hesitate, wondering if they will love us in return. We would go about our daily tasks with confidence and joy, but find ourselves struggling with self-doubt. We need your presence, O God, if we are to be what we could be and want to be. Let our worship heal us, renew us, strengthen us, that we may go out in joy and be led forth in peace. 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

"LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING"

ARR. ALLEN POTE

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

THE HEBREW BIBLE LESSON

DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20

(Pew Bible, p. 163)

HYMN

"CHRIST IS THE MOUNTAIN OF HOREB"

NCH 45

THE GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 5:21-26, 43-48

(Pew Bible, p. 786)

THE SERMON

"REDEFINING PERFECTION"

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** "LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN"

NCH 454

* **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

PAUL BLOW

DEACONS-IN-CHARGE

ELLIE KELL & BRANDON JONES

GREETER

NORMA HART

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 16-22, 2020

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	Safety Assessment	Jonathan House
	1:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	5:30pm	Seeds of Grace	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
7:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classroom	
MONDAY	OFFICE CLOSED: Presidents Day		
	10:30am	Strength Without a Gym	Edwards Hall
	6:15pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman 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
	10:30am	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	5:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	5:30pm	Hatha Yoga	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
WEDNESDAY	9:00am	Steeple Articles Due	nicola@edwardschurch.org
	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	AA Meeting	Edwards Hall
FRIDAY	7:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	7:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classrooms
SATURDAY	9:00am	Chair/Mat Yoga	Edwards Hall
	2:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	4:30pm	Rental	Sanctuary

Important Announcements

Music Note: As a poem, our anthem was first recited as a tribute to President Lincoln on his birthday, making it suitable for this holiday weekend. It achieved greater notoriety and long-lasting significance when it was married to this tune and casually dubbed the “African American national anthem,” making it doubly suitable for Black History Month.

Seeds of Grace Worship—Broken Shells: Claiming the beauty of our imperfect lives

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

Broken shells with their hard edges softened by waves give us the chance to see patterns of colors we wouldn't otherwise notice. They reveal an inner beauty we wouldn't see if they weren't broken pieces. Join us for a cup of soup followed by a time for community and conversation, singing and silence, as we rethink our own understanding of perfection.

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; a soup lunch will follow. There will also be a service at 7:30 p.m. 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.

Maple Sugaring Demo and Transition Framingham Documentary Screening

Sunday March 1 from 2:00-4:00pm in the playground and Edwards Hall (movie at 4:00pm)

Bring your family to celebrate nature and learn how to make maple syrup over an outdoor fireplace! All ages are welcome and there will be craft activities for kids and tree yoga for everyone. Learn tips and tricks about how to harvest and boil down maple sap, and take home an instruction sheet for making your own at home. If you don't have your own maple trees you can sign up to collect sap from the community sugar bush at Open Spirit to boil down at home with your family. At 4:00 p.m. in Edwards Hall, Transition Framingham will screen the film “In Transition 2.0” with a discussion following the film. All are welcome and encouraged to attend both events.

Service of Installation for Rev. Nena Radtke

Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 3:00pm at Christian Union Church in West Groton

Our former student pastor and mentored minister, Nena Radke, has been called as pastor to Christian Union Church. All are welcome to attend her installation. Christian Union Church is located at 37 West Main Street in West Groton.