

# 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)

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

10:00 AM

**A thought for reflection**

*"The glory of God is not splendor; it's compassion.  
As Jesus opens his heart to the brokenness of the world, God's compassion shines in him."  
—Steve Garnaas-Holmes*

*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**

"TO YOU, O GOD, ALL CREATURES SING"

**NCH 17**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Our God who waits on the mountain of holiness—

People: **Our God calls us.**

Leader: Our God who shines in cloud and fire—

People: **Our God stirs us.**

Leader: Our God who is honored for honesty, love, and justice—

People: **Our God offers us guidance.**

Leader: Our God who abides in compassion and forgiveness—

People: **Our God receives us into the heights of worship, so that we may return  
to our covenant with new life.**

**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: We lift up our eyes to the hills; from where will our help come?

People: **Our help comes from You, O God, Creator of heaven and earth.**

Leader: You neither slumber nor sleep.

People: **You are our shade in the heat of the desert.**

Leader: You keep our going out and our coming in.

People: **We praise you, O God, our Creator, our Keeper and our Shade!**

\* **GLORIA**

*(in unison)*

**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!

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\* Stand as you are able.

## **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.

## **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**

"I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT"

ARR. MARK HAYES

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

#### **THE GOSPEL LESSON—PART I**

MATTHEW 17:1-9

*(Pew Bible, p. 798)*

#### \* **HYMN**

"WE HAVE COME AT CHRIST'S OWN BIDDING"

**NCH 182**

#### **THE GOSPEL LESSON—PART II**

MATTHEW 17:10-20

*(Pew Bible, p. 798)*

#### **THE SERMON**

"SHINING"

#### **CALL TO PRAYER**

#### **CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS**

#### **SILENT PRAYER**

#### **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION AND PETITION**

## *GOD CALLS FOR OUR GIFTS*

### **OUR OFFERING TO GOD**

#### OFFERTORY

"THE SWAN"

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS

#### \* **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**

“O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED”

**NCH 493**

\* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

“JUPITER”

GUSTAV HOLST

*(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

REV. DR. FRAN BOGLE

DEACON-IN-CHARGE

DAWN SORENSEN

GREETER

JUDY SEBASTIAN

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 23-29, 2020

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Adult Bible Study</b> .....	<b>Youth Room</b>
	<b>9:00am</b>	Rental .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<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>
	<b>1:00pm</b>	Rental .....	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>Nancy Brown Memorial</b> .....	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Memorial Reception</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Strength Without a Gym</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>6:15pm</b>	Rental .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<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>
	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Pancake Supper</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Hatha Yoga</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Buddhist Meditation</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Steeple Mailing</b> .....	<b>Jonathan House</b>
	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> .....	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	<b>4:30pm</b>	<b>Soup and Bible Study</b> .....	<b>Jonathan House</b>
	<b>6:00pm</b>	Rental .....	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Veterans Yoga</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>7:30pm</b>	Rental .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> .....	<b>Plymouth Church</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>4:00pm</b>	Rental .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Cancer Support Group</b> .....	<b>Youth Room</b>
	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>AA Meeting</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	Rental .....	<b>Edwards Hall Classrooms</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Community Interfaith Discussion</b> .....	<b>ICB Wayland</b>
	<b>3:00pm</b>	Rental .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>4:30pm</b>	Rental .....	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	<b>6:00pm</b>	Rental .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>

**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.



SHROVE TUESDAY

## Edwards Church Pancake Supper

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

**You are invited! Pancakes will be provided; please bring a breakfast meat or meat substitute, and/or your favorite fruit topping to share.**



### Music Note

This morning we welcome Chris Heater, who has played with us every spring since 2010! Chris is director of fine and performing arts at the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School in Franklin.

# Important Announcements

### Memorial Service for Nancy Brown

*Today at 4:00pm in the sanctuary*

Please join us this afternoon for a celebration of the life of longtime member Nancy Brown. Following the service, there will be a reception in Susan P. Dickerman Hall.

### 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.

### 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.