

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
edwardschurch.org

Thoughts for reflection

*“What does he plant who plants a tree?
He plants cool shade and tender rain, and seed and bud of days to be...”*
—Henry Cuyler Bunner (1855-1896)

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**

“LIKE A TREE BESIDE THE WATERS”

NCH 313

CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Jeremiah 17:7-8)

One: “Blessed are those who trust in God, whose trust is in God. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.”

All: May we be like a grove of trees, nurtured in the soil of God’s love, drawing life from holy streams.

One: “It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green.”

All: May our trust in God be stronger than our fear.

One: “In the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.”

All: May we bear fruit, nourished in dry times, sustained through the storms of life.

One: We gather to deepen our roots, to drink from the living waters, to reach for the heavens.

All: Let us worship God.

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**

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

(from Psalm 96)

One: O sing to our God a new song;

All: Sing to God, all the earth.

One: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

All: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it.

One: Then all the trees of the forest sing for joy before God.

All: Let us join the trees as we sing for joy.

* **GLORIA**

(from “How Great Thou Art”)

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

* *Stand as you are able.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: For the times we fool ourselves that we can do it all on our own,

All: **Forgive us.**

One: For the times we despair that we have to do it all on our own,

All: **Forgive us.**

One: Awaken us, we pray, to the deep roots that connect us with each other.

All: **Open us, we pray, to receive your nourishment from soil and sun, rain and stream.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

RESPONSE

FROM NCH 492, v.3

I would be prayerful through each busy moment;

I would be constantly in touch with God;

I would be tuned to sense God’s slightest whisper;

I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod;

I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

GOD MEETS US IN THE WORD

WORDS WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

THE ANTHEM

“TREE SONG”

KEN MEDEMA

I’ve got roots growing down to the water.

I’ve got leaves reaching up to the sunshine.

And, the fruit that I bear is the sign of the life in me.

I am shade from the hot summer sundown.

I am nest for the birds of the heaven.

I'm becoming what the maker of trees

Has meant me to be: a strong, young, tree.

EPISTLE READING

ROMANS 12:9-18

(Pew Bible p. 922)

REFLECTIONS

“FORTY THOUSAND QUAKING ASPEN”

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

(“Old Hundredth”)

NCH 778

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOD CALLS US TO THE TABLE

THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP AT THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMNS *During communion, please join in singing:*
"JESUS TOOK THE BREAD"

NCH 343

THE THANKSGIVING

(in unison)

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

* **HYMN OF DEDICATION** "GOD, WE THANK YOU FOR OUR PEOPLE"

NCH 376

* **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
DEACON-IN-CHARGE	SHELLY CICHOWLAS
COMMUNION SERVERS	RUTH CARNEY, KELVIN PHELPS & NOAH CICHOWLAS
GREETERS	ELLIE KELL & JACOB SORENSEN
COMPOST CAPTAIN	RONDA YEOMANS

JANIS STEIGMAN OF MOTHER'S HELPERS IS IN CHARGE OF THE NURSERY THIS MORNING.

Communion Note: You are invited to come to the communion table to partake of the Lord's Feast. Come forward row by row from the back to be served. Dip the bread in the **grape juice** in the chalice on your **left** or in the **wine** in the chalice on your **right**. Proceed back to your seats by the side aisles. If you prefer to be served at your seat, we will come to you.

The **Communion Offering** is used for confidential emergency needs. If you or someone you know has a need, bring this to the attention of the minister or a member of the Diaconate. The offering envelopes are in the pew racks. Put your name on the envelope for tax credit purposes. Please consider this offering thoughtfully.

Important Announcements

Lenten Devotional on the theme, “A Grove of Trees”: Throughout the season of Lent, we will offer a daily devotional, which you can access through email, Facebook, our website or by picking up a paper copy at church. Please contact Debbie if you would like to submit a reflection.

Maple Sugaring Demo: *TODAY from 2:00-4:00pm in the playground and Edwards Hall*

Bring your family to celebrate nature and learn how to make maple syrup over an outdoor fireplace. There will be craft activities for kids and tree yoga for everyone. All are welcome.

Service of Installation for Rev. Nena Radtke: *Sunday, March 8 at 3:00pm at Christian Union Church*

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

Family Fun Night: *Friday March 13 at 6:00pm in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

Join us for pizza and fellowship. In keeping with our Lenten theme, “A Grove of Trees,” we will learn to play a new game, “Forest Fire!” about trees and how to protect them.

Seeds of Grace Worship: *Sun., March 15 at 5:00pm for soup, 5:30 for worship in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

“Trees as Spiritual Teachers” will be the theme of Seeds of Grace worship this coming month. Come for a warm cup of soup and a time of community and song, conversation and prayer.

Join the Strummers’ Chorus: *Sunday, March 15, rehearsal at 8:45am in the Sanctuary*

If you have a strumming instrument and can play three simple chords, join the band to learn the song, “My Roots Go Down.” Check your weekly email for a link to the music and a recording of the song.

Pizza Lunch Bunch from Neko’s of New York: *Wednesday, March 18 at noon in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

Join us for a special take-out Lunch Bunch. We will order gourmet pizza from our new neighbor in McGrath Square, Neko’s of New York. Sign up on the way to coffee hour or contact the office to reserve your spot. Suggested donation of \$6, more if you can, less if you can’t.

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! 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

March 1-7, 2020

SUNDAY	9:00am	Adult Bible Study	Youth Room
	9:00am	Rental	Edwards Hall
	10:00am	Intergenerational Worship	Sanctuary
	11:00am	Coffee Hour	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	2:00pm	Maple Syrup Demo	Edwards Hall
	4:00pm	Transition Framingham Movie	Edwards Hall
MONDAY	10:30am	Strength Without a Gym	Edwards Hall
	6:15pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classroom
	7:30pm	Board of Trustees	Jonathan House
TUESDAY	8:00am	Rental	Edwards Hall
	9:00am	Qi Gong / Tai Chi	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:00am	Gentle Yoga	Edwards Hall
	10:30am	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:00pm	Nursing Home Services	Heritage and Oak Knoll
	7:30pm	Interfaith Book Group	Jonathan House
WEDNESDAY	12:00pm	Lunch Bunch	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:15pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	6:00pm	Veterans Yoga	Edwards Hall
	7:15pm	Diaconate	Jonathan House
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
THURSDAY	9:00am	Qi Gong / Tai Chi	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	4:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Cancer Support Group	Youth Room
	6:00pm	Kripalu Yoga	Edwards Hall
	7:00pm	Board of Finance	Jonathan House
	7:15pm	Choir Rehearsal	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	AA Meeting	Edwards Hall
FRIDAY	7:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classrooms
SATURDAY	8:00am	Men's Group	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	9:00am	Chair/Mat Yoga	Edwards Hall
	10:00am	Rental	Youth Room
	10:30am	Rental	Choir Room
	11:00am	Rental	Edwards Hall
	4:30pm	Rental	Sanctuary