



EDWARDS CHURCH
An Open and Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Deborah Clark
Ministers: All the People of Edwards Church

THE STEEPLE

October 2018

No. 9

Dear friends,

Sunday, September 23 was a very full day! In worship, we rededicated our newly restored historic organ. Cheryl Elkins, our organist, played glorious prelude, postlude and offertory, choosing music that could not have been played on our organ a few months ago! Our young people joined us in a re-dedication litany, and the congregation joined the choir in an inspiring setting of "For All the Saints."

After the re-dedication, our young people, along with their Christian Exploration teachers and some folks from Wider Missions, put together sixty-four lunches, using sandwiches, fruit, and snacks donated by congregation members. After worship, a team of Edwards Church folks drove out to Worcester to share in lunch and worship with our friends from Worcester Fellowship, a UCC church whose members include many people who do not have housing.

A few hours later, more than fifty people gathered in Edwards Hall for an Open Spirit event (co-sponsored by Edwards Church) called *Facing Fear and Claiming Courage: A Conversation about Gender Identity and Community*. After a welcome by State Senate President Karen Spilka, we heard from four people, who shared their stories of fear and courage. Two talked about their own spiritual, physical and emotional transitions as they began to live the gender with which they identify. Two talked about their spiritual and emotional growth as they came to support a loved one in their transition. The stories prompted powerful conversation and challenged all of us to have the courage to talk about gender identity with friends and neighbors.

There happened to be a number of long-time Edwards Church friends in church that day, so I had

some great conversations catching up with them at coffee hour. All of them commented on how vital this congregation is. As we talked, I realized how the events of that Sunday point to who we are and what we value. Here are a few examples from that day:

- We trust that when we work together, we can accomplish so much more than we imagine. More than sixty people donated to our organ restoration. Many people contributed food for Worcester Fellowship.
- We love to make a joyful noise, and we believe we are called to be part of bringing beauty to our world.
- We reach out to neighbors who may be in need, and we seek to do so in a way that builds relationships and values each person's dignity.
- We seek out ways to worship, work and play together across generations.
- We are an Open and Affirming church, honoring and celebrating the diversity of sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.
- We experience the presence of God in the hearing and telling of stories.
- We believe that, when we share those sacred stories, our own hearts are changed.
- We believe that, when our hearts are changed, we become part of a movement that can change our society and our world.

Truly, it was a wonderful Sunday. I look forward to many more wonderful Sundays, as we worship and share stories and reach out together.

Peace, Debbie

WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 30, 10 a.m. A Healing Hymn Sing

Make a Joyful Noise—Part 4: “Healing Body, Mind and Spirit”

Rev. Debbie Clark preaching

We will sing new and familiar hymns of healing as we pray for healing for ourselves, one another and our world.

OCTOBER 7, 10 a.m. World Communion

Sunday

Make a Joyful Noise—Part 5: “Building Bridges of Understanding”

Rev. Debbie Clark preaching

We will share breads from around the world as we celebrate communion. If you have a favorite international bread to share, please sign up to bring a loaf! We welcome Jenny Baylor accompanying our choir on flute!

OCTOBER 14, 10 a.m.

Make a Joyful Noise—Part 6: “Seeking a Just Peace”

Rev. Debbie Clark preaching

We will sing music from the “Convergence Music Project,” a collaboration of musicians who create lively, inspiring church music that appeals to all generations.

OCTOBER 21, 10 a.m.

Make a Joyful Noise—Part 7: “Inspiring Courage”

Rick Seaholm sharing in worship leadership

Rick Seaholm, our Commissioned Minister of Music, will lead a service centered on music that inspires us to courage.

OCTOBER 21, 5:30 p.m. Seeds of Grace

Linda Dunbrack and Rev. Isaac Everett will lead a dramatic exploration of the story of Jonah and the whale.

OCTOBER 28, 10 a.m.

Make a Joyful Noise—Part 8: “Forming our Faith”

Rev. Debbie Clark preaching

Our young people will sing a version of the Lord’s Prayer, as a culmination of their fall focus on this prayer that is central to our faith.

PARKING FOR EVERYONE!

As we continue our busy fall season, we are reminded of our parking challenges. *If you are able to walk up from the lower lot or (better yet!)*

the Stapleton School lot, please make a practice of parking in one of those two lots on Sunday mornings! You’ll get a little Sunday morning exercise, and you will help us be a welcoming congregation. Thanks!

NEW MEMBERS JOINING THIS MONTH!

On Sunday, October 21, we will welcome new members during our worship service. If you have been considering joining, please speak with Debbie.

SEEDS OF GRACE WORSHIP

Sunday, October 21 at 5:30pm

Our Seeds of Grace evening worship services continue, with a new schedule and a new leadership model. On the third Sunday of each month, we will gather in Sue Dickerman Hall for a relaxed, creative, participatory worship service, led by Rev. Isaac Everett and members of the Seeds of Grace Worship Team. It’s a great opportunity to invite a friend, or to come to church if you have sports commitments in the morning.

In October, we will use drama to delve into the fascinating story of Jonah and the whale. Please join us!

BIBLE STUDIES CONTINUES GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

Weds., Oct. 10 and 24, 4:30pm soup; 5:00pm study

Last year, the Wednesday evening Bible Study group began an in-depth study of Luke’s gospel. We asked questions, pondered paradoxes and imagined how we would have responded if we had been there. This year, we continue our focus on Luke. Luke’s gospel brings special attention to Jesus’ concern for the poorest and most vulnerable in society. Luke is sometimes thought to have been a physician, because of his strong emphasis on healing.

We generally meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month in the church office from 5:00-6:00pm. Join us at 4:30 for soup!

VETERANS APPRECIATION DINNER

This year our annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner, co-sponsored with Plymouth Church, will be held on Sunday, November 11 at 5:00pm in the Plymouth Church Fellowship Hall. If you would like to volunteer to help in advance or at the event, please speak with Debbie.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Sunday, October 7 during worship

Neighbors in Need is the UCC's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries, justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. Two thirds of the offering will go to fund a wide array of issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties and environmental justice. One third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are twenty UCC congregations on a variety of tribal reservations and one urban, multi-tribal congregation in Minneapolis. These churches and their ministers are supported by CAIM. Please give as generously as you are able.

Thank you from the Board of Wider Mission

THE ORDINATION OF HEATHER LUCAS

Sunday, September 30 at 3:00pm

Plymouth Congregational Church

582 Pleasant Street, Belmont

I am thankful for my ministry with the Edwards Church community—you were such a beautiful part of my growth as a minister. I am delighted to share that I will be ordained on September 30 and you are invited to attend the ordination service. A reception will follow the service.

Heather Lucas, former student pastor

GREEK TAKE-OUT EXTRAVAGANZA!

Wednesday, October 31 at noon

We will continue our new tradition of periodic special lunches, trying foods from around the world from restaurants in our neighborhood. This month, join us for Greek take-out in Susan P. Dickerman Hall. Sign up in church or contact the office. Suggested donation of \$7.

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Thank you for the many kindnesses that you have shown me since my mother, Carlotta Messina, died. I am grateful to feel held in the loving embrace of the Edwards Church community during this time of sadness for my family.

Peace, Bettina Messina

FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR

Come Celebrate Music with Us!

The Music Committee met in September and has determined many elements to share with you about our concert on November 3 at 6:00 p.m. Please start to spread the word outside of Edwards Church! This is being organized to celebrate the musical gifts here in observance of the recent restoration of our beloved pipe organ, now in its second century of service to our community.

This concert will include music for organ and piano, and choir, as you might see on a Sunday morning. But to that we add On the Fence, our house bluegrass band, Willie Sordillo and Doug Rich (sax and bass duo), and some less expected pairings of these ensembles. It will truly be a night to remember!

Rick Seaholm

Commissioned Minister of Music

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

Our Christian Explorers are off to a great start! We had many children and youth at the Blessing of the Animals service. We were excited to have two new families visit us during this month. We packed sandwiches for Worcester Fellowship. Our Sunday Morning leaders have decorated their rooms and begun working on the Lord's Prayer with the kids. We will have our Open House on Sunday September 30 after church. Please make sure to stop by and check out the classrooms and talk with the leaders to see what great things are happening! Adult Faith Formation meets at 9:00am on Sundays. Please join us; it may just expand your already amazing Sunday morning.

Dawn Sorensen

Interim Director of Christian Education

OUR LITTLE WOODEN BANKS

An overpayment of \$33.96 for the pizza Lunch Bunch luncheon in August was deposited in this fund to be used at a later date. We had one donation in September for \$12.32, which gives us a total now of \$1147.34. As you know, this fund will be used for needs of our church which are not included in our annual budget. Please share with me or Fran Bogle any ideas you may have for putting this money to good use. See me if you would like to have one of our new little church banks. Contributions may be placed in the

model wooden church on the table in the hallway between the sanctuary and Susan P. Dickerman Hall. Many thanks to our very faithful contributors. Say a little prayer with each penny you add to your bank.

God bless you all,
Norma Hart

A MESSAGE FROM FLORIDA

To my Edwards Church family,

I am feeling well and getting settled in my new home in Florida. Although I miss everyone, I am very happy to be here. Thank you all so much for your support during my recent illness and throughout my time at Edwards Church. I will never forget the friends I have there and will always be grateful that you were part of my life. Please keep in touch!

Fondly and with gratitude,
Gloria

SEEDS OF GRACE HERB BOX

Come cut herbs before the frost! The Seeds of Grace herb box in front of the church office building still has basil, thyme, sage, and rosemary. There is a handy pair of scissors attached to the box; come snip some herbs anytime for your own use or to share with friends. If you just take tops, we'll continue to have herbs until frost.

VETERANS DAY SLIDE SHOW

Send photos by Monday, November 5

If you would like to share a picture of yourself in uniform or honor a loved one who has served in the military, please send a photo and caption to nicola@edwardschurch.org. If you only have a hard copy, Nicola will be happy to scan it for you and will take great care of your photo. You can hand it to her at church or stop by the office. The slide show will be on display during coffee hour on Sunday, November 11.

SUPER SATURDAY

Saturday, October 20 at Keefe Tech

The Massachusetts Conference, in partnership with Connecticut and Rhode Island Conferences, is offering a day of workshops, forums, networking and worship on Saturday, October 20, at Keefe Tech High School in Framingham. The featured speaker will be Dr. David M. Csinos, who writes and speaks widely about faith formation, children's ministry, youth ministry, and culture.

EDWARDS CHURCH DIRECTORY

In mid-September, we released the latest edition of the Edwards Church Directory. You can pick up your copy from the glass display case on the way to coffee hour. If you would like an electronic file, please email nicola@edwardschurch.org. Some copies were missing an important entry. Please make the following addition if yours is erroneous:

ROBINSON, Rick
416 Water Street
Framingham, 01701
Phone: 508-877-7859
Email: cfrbjr@verizon.net

KERMIT'S KORNER

Walk, Bike, Carpool to Church Day & Bike Rack Dedication

Sunday, October 14

Join the Green Team as we invite you to walk, bike, or carpool to church. Grease up those bike gears, find a new or old friend to share a ride with, or put on your walking shoes. Who knows, maybe you'll enjoy your new path to church so much you will try it again!

And if you ride your bike, or are thinking about biking, you will want to be there as we dedicate our new bike rack. You may have seen it already just outside Open Spirit. On this special Sunday it will make a appearance at worship to receive the blessings of the congregation as we look forward to encouraging more cycling in our neighborhood.

Mary Memmott for the Green Team

COMING UP AT OPEN SPIRIT

Weekend of Spirit: "Inspiring Courage"

Friday and Saturday, October 19 and 20

Join us for our sixth annual Weekend of Spirit. Through shared meals, music, conversation, art projects and experiential workshops, we will delve into our theme: "Inspiring Courage." We will hear from people who inspire us about what inspires them. We will reflect on the different meanings courage has for each of us. We will find courage to laugh, courage to let go, courage to make a difference. Come explore this rich theme in a relaxed and relaxing environment.

This mini-retreat takes place right here, on the campus of Edwards Church, in the heart of Saxonville. It is affordable—with an early bird registration (due October 4) of \$30 for the entire event. You can come to the whole event or just to part of it!

Weekend of Spirit begins on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. with a Shabbat supper that is welcoming to people from all spiritual perspectives.

On Saturday morning, the program opens with a keynote presentation by Robyn Bernstein from Peaceful Tomorrows, an organization of survivors of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack who work to promote healing and peace. Following that, you will be able to choose among six experiential workshops, including: “Laugh your Way through Fear,” “Reducing Stress in Body and Mind,” “Engaging Courage through Enneagram,” “Facing and Fighting Racism,” “Music of Courage and Protest,” and “Courage: the Master of Fear in Yourself and Others.”

An extended lunch break will include opportunities to make courage bracelets, painted rocks, rally banners, and a chance to receive a short “healing spa” treatment, such as reiki or sound healing.

Afternoon workshops include: “Meditation: Cultivating Inner Strength and Courage,” “Ole! Namaste! The Courage to Dance: Mindful Movement for Every/Body,” “Everything You have Wanted to Know About Essential Oils but were afraid to ask,” “Be Brave: Make Art,” and “Expanding Our Hearts with Courage on the Path.”

Early-bird registration is available until October 4 for a discounted rate of \$30 for the entire weekend.

One Cellist, One Planet...

A Benefit Recital by Cellist Judith Glixon

Sunday, October 14 at 3:00pm in Edwards Hall

One Cellist, One Planet... is one woman’s response to climate change and environmental destruction. This one hour concert will plunge you into the beginnings of life on Earth, carry you through centuries of progress, and drop you off in the present state of affairs. The program includes the music of J.S. Bach (*Unaccompanied Suites 1 & 3*), Benjamin Britten (final movement of *Suite for Cello*, Op.72), and Ravel. Glixon has assigned each piece on the program—and every movement of each piece—a subtitle intended to draw you into a story of humanity’s relationship with the land, inviting you to answer the question, “Where do we go from here?” Eighty percent of the proceeds will be donated to the Jewish Climate Action Network and the gardens on our campus. Suggested donation of \$25 or more.

Soup-Making Party

Friday, Oct. 19 at 10 am

It’s a wild, soup-making party—you don’t want to miss it! Join us in the Sue Dickerman Kitchen at 10 am on Friday, Oct. 19 to make two plant-based soups for Weekend of Spirit. Chop to your heart’s content! Enjoy lively conversation! Savor delicious smells! Contact Debbie to sign up.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Kevin and Donna Boucher
- 2 Rick and Nicola Seaholm
- 11 Kim Wronski and Brandon Jones
- 21 Robert and Nancy Smoko
Melissa and Tim Perla

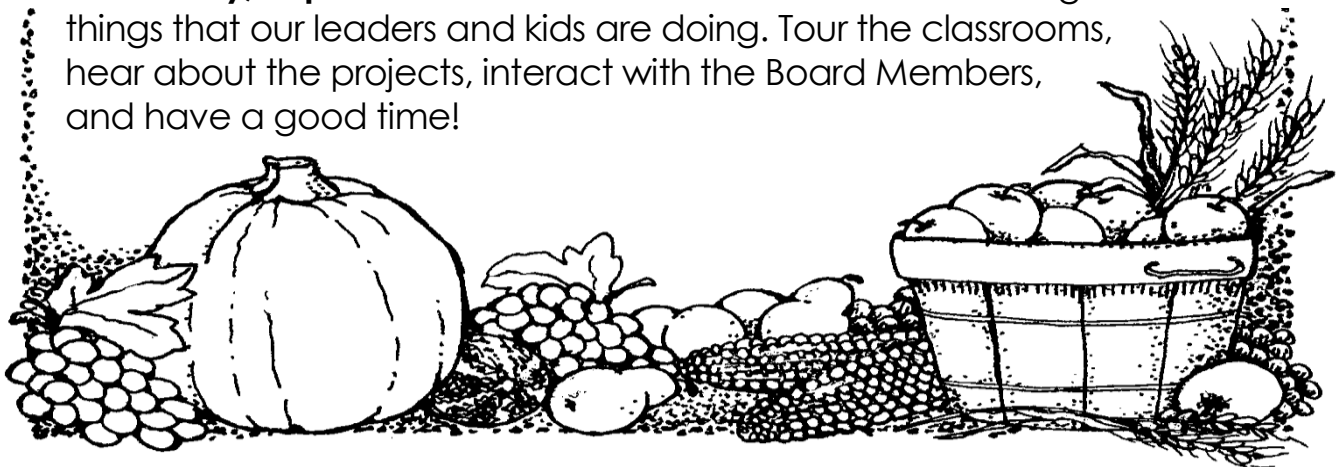
OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 David Stewart-Morales
- 4 Laura Litman
Dylan Aufman
- 5 Patti Tocci
- 6 Christian Gagen
Laura Greenslit
Kaija Hendrickson
- 7 Winnifred Herwick
Daisy Rozier
Divine Genesis Mukisa
Greg Phelps
- 9 Katie Jo Muhs
- 10 Amanda Furman
- 11 Jordan Muhs
Cody O’Brien
Eleanor Kell
- 12 Nils Arnheim
Gabriella Mukisa
- 13 Stephany DuPlessis
- 14 Deborah Greenslit
- 15 Peter Dickerman
- 16 Joe Griffis
- 17 Kris LoFrumento
Amy Plackowski
- 20 Kimberly Dexter
- 22 Dina Montalbano
- 23 Shirley Forrester
Joseph Murphy
- 25 Norma Hart
Elizabeth McGrann
- 28 Matt Walker

Edwards Church, U.C.C.
39 Edwards St
Framingham, MA 01701

Christian Explorers Open House

Please join the Christian Explorers Team downstairs after church on **Sunday, September 30**. Take some time to see all of the great things that our leaders and kids are doing. Tour the classrooms, hear about the projects, interact with the Board Members, and have a good time!



EDWARDS CHURCH ACTIVITIES

October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:30am Chairobics 7:30pm Guided Meditation 7:30pm Board of Trustees	2 9:00am Qi Gong / Tai Chi 10:00am Gentle Yoga 1:00pm Nursing Home Services 5:30pm Hatha Yoga	3 9:30am Move with Ease 9:30am Chairobics 11:00am Nursing Home Services 12:00pm Lunch Bunch 1:15pm Prayer Shawl Knitters 6:00pm Veterans Yoga 7:15pm Diaconate Meeting	4 9:00am Qi Gong / Tai Chi 9:30am Yoga 6:00pm Cancer Support Group 6:00pm Kripalu Yoga 7:00pm Board of Finance 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm AA Meeting	5 9:30am Chairobics	6 8:00am Men's Group 9:00am Chair/Mat Yoga
7 Neighbors in Need Offering 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship: World Communion Sun. 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour	8 Columbus Day: OFFICE CLOSED 9:30am Chairobics 11:00am Mushroom Hunting 7:30pm Guided Meditation	9 9:00am Qi Gong / Tai Chi 10:00am Gentle Yoga 5:30pm Hatha Yoga 7:00pm Buddhist Meditation	10 9:30am Move with Ease 9:30am Chairobics 4:30pm Soup and Bible Study 6:00pm Veterans Yoga	11 9:30am Yoga 6:00pm Cancer Support Group 6:00pm Kripalu Yoga 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm AA Meeting	12 9:30am Chairobics	13 9:00am Chair/Mat Yoga
14 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour 3:00pm One Cellist, One Planet	15 9:30am Chairobics 12:00pm Stewardship Team 7:00pm Wider Mission Meeting 7:30pm Guided Meditation	16 9:00am Qi Gong / Tai Chi 10:00am Gentle Yoga 5:30pm Hatha Yoga 7:30pm Church Council	17 9:00am Steeple Articles Due 9:30am Move with Ease 9:30am Chairobics 12:00pm Lunch Bunch 6:00pm Veterans Yoga	18 9:00am Qi Gong / Tai Chi 9:30am Yoga 6:00pm Cancer Support Group 6:00pm Kripalu Yoga 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm AA Meeting	19 9:30am Chairobics 10:00am Soup Making (Weekend of Spirit) 6:00pm Shabbat Dinner (Weekend of Spirit)	20 9:00am Weekend of Spirit
21 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Seeds of Grace	22 9:30am Chairobics 7:30pm Guided Meditation	23 9:00am Qi Gong / Tai Chi 10:00am Gentle Yoga 5:30pm Hatha Yoga 7:00pm Buddhist Meditation	24 9:30am Move with Ease 9:30am Chairobics 10:30am Steeple Mailing 4:30pm Soup and Bible Study 6:00pm Veterans Yoga	25 9:00am Qi Gong / Tai Chi 9:30am Yoga 6:00pm Cancer Support Group 6:00pm Kripalu Yoga 7:30pm AA Meeting	26 9:30am Chairobics	27 9:00am Chair/Mat Yoga
28 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour 2:00pm Flamenco Workshop 4:30pm Common Ground	29 9:30am Chairobics 7:30pm Guided Meditation	30 9:00am Qi Gong / Tai Chi 10:00am Gentle Yoga 5:30pm Hatha Yoga	31 Halloween 9:30am Move with Ease 9:30am Chairobics 12:00pm Greek Lunch Bunch 6:00pm Veterans Yoga			