



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

February 2019

No. 2

Dear friends,

Over the next four months, you will periodically see a few youth from Plymouth (along with Rev. Will Tanner) rushing into our church after worship, or a few youth from Edwards (along with me) rushing out. That's because we are beginning a shared Confirmation Class. Two young men from Plymouth will join with four young men from Edwards to explore two questions: "Who is Jesus?" and "What does it mean to be a Christian?"

Our four participants—Noah Cichowlas, Sam Marcincavage, Kelvin Phelps and Conor Taylor—will each be matched with an adult mentor from the congregation, someone whose faith they admire and respect. The mentors will join us on some of our activities.

The six young people will meet with Will and me five times for after-church conversations. We will participate in a mission project, in an Ash Wednesday service at Plymouth Church and a Maundy Thursday service at Edwards Church. We will attend a Shabbat service at an area synagogue. Each of the confirmands, with support from their mentors, will prepare a statement or expression of faith and create a stole. They will be confirmed in early June.

As we have been talking with these youth and their parents, Will and I realized that several of them enjoy video games, graphic novels and movies like *Star Wars*, *Harry Potter* and superhero series. We will begin our confirmation process by inviting them to bring in "artifacts" of their favorite fictional (or real-life) heroes or superheroes. We will talk

about what they admire in those characters. The list of qualities we develop will provide a framework for our conversations about Jesus. What qualities does he share with the characters we imagine and admire? How are his "powers" different from the powers of the superheroes? How does he challenge us to redefine the meaning of "super" and "power" and "hero?"

I confess to knowing very little about modern-day superheroes, but I am intrigued to learn more from our young people. I suspect that, as I learn from our Confirmation class, some of their wisdom will make its way into my sermons. I hope you will enjoy learning from them as well.

Peace, Debbie

A NEW PERIODIC SERMON SERIES

The other day, I was having lunch with a parishioner. As she told me about her new job, I found myself thinking, "Wow! That would make a great sermon." Her work, in addition to making a difference in the world, offers what I would call spiritual lessons that enrich her life. And so, together, we concocted a new sermon series: "Spiritual Lessons from Work and Play." About every month (actually twice in February) I will interview a member of the church about their work, and offer a sermon based on the insights that work offers into how to live a good life. In some cases, the member might share in creating or leading the sermon. Let me know if you'd like to participate!

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

February 3 Holy Communion

Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11

“Called”

February 10 Spiritual Lessons from Work and Play: Part 1

The first in a periodic sermon series focusing on the work and play our church members do, and the spiritual lessons that emerge. We will hear inspiration from Jenny Baylor’s work as a teacher at Beverly School for the Deaf.

February 17

10:00am Psalm 1; Luke 6:17-26

“Blessed”

5:30pm Seeds of Grace

February 24 Spiritual Lessons from Work and Play: Part 2

This second in our series will offer inspiration from Chris Hendrick’s journey along the Appalachian Trail. Chris will share in worship leadership. Be sure to stay after worship for his slide show!

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 10 following worship

Bring your ideas and your care for our church to our Annual Congregational Meeting. Following worship, we will gather to discuss and vote on the budget for 2019 and receive reports from our boards, committees and teams. We will hear updates from the Associate Pastor Search Committee and join in a conversation about new visions for faith formation.

Please plan to come to this very important meeting. Together, we are the church, and we need your voice. Child care will be provided.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL SLIDE SHOW AND TALK

Sun. Feb. 24 at 11:30am in Sue Dickerman Hall

Join us following worship for a slide show offered by Chris Hendrick, who grew up at Edwards Church and was our church sSchool superintendent and youth leader for many years. Chris walked part of the Appalachian Trail last year, and will share photos and stories.

BIBLE STUDY—LUKE

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study class continues our study of the Gospel According to Luke. We will meet on February 13+27 at 4:45 for soup, 5:15 pm for Bible Study.

MARCH STEEPLE

Articles for the March, 2019 *Steeple* are due by 9:00am on Wednesday, February 20. Please send your articles to nicola@edwardschurch.org.

The *Steeple* mailing will be assembled on Wednesday, February 21 at 10:30am. If you would like to help, please contact Jeannette Loughman of the Publicity Committee.

LENTEN PLANNING PIZZA PARTY

Sunday, February 10 at 5:30pm at Nikos

Like pizza? Like hanging out with creative people? Like strengthening intergenerational connections? Then join us for pizza at Nikos! We will plan our Lenten theme, “Connections: Strengthening Intergenerational Relationships.” Musicians, educators, writers, deacons, folks who like pizza—all are welcome!

MEN’S GROUP

Sat. Feb. 2 at 8:00am in Sue Dickerman Hall

All men of the church (and your friends whatever their church background) are invited to gather for coffee and great conversation on the first Saturday of the month.

FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR

In Different Hands

Sharp ears may be thrown on February 24 when the choir sings the hymn tune “Nettleton” for the second week in a row. We often sing service music on a repeat basis, even for a full season, but to my recollection we’ve never repeated an anthem tune in such proximity. The two settings use different lyrics and different harmonies to adapt this, one of the most beloved entries from John Wyeth’s *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second* from 1813. The two texts are “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” and “Let Us Walk This Road Together” which served as our anthem the day we first convened with Grace as the new Edwards Church. Lots of good memories.

Rick Seaholm,
Commissioned Minister of Music

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

Christian Education has lots of happy things planned for February! The early elementary class will be exploring the story of Jesus' baptism throughout February. On February 8 at 5:30pm, we will gather in Susan Dickerman Hall for an intergenerational game night, complete with board games and Chinese food! Bring your favorite board game and come play with us! This family-friendly event is open to all, and there will be a suggested donation of \$5 per adult. On February 24, the Christian Explorers will have a pajama party during church! We will learn about what it means to come just as you are, and how God welcomes each of us no matter what! There will be more fun things coming up in March. Watch this space....

Dawn Sorensen, Interim Director of Christian Ed

KERMIT'S KORNER

Living the Change:

Inspiring Stories For a Sustainable Future

Saturday, February 2 at 2:00pm in Edwards Hall

Transition Framingham invites you to a documentary screening. The film, directed by Jordan Osmond and Antoinette Wilson, explores solutions to the global crises we face today – solutions any one of us can be part of – through the inspiring stories of people pioneering change in their own lives and in their communities. Suggested donation of \$5. This event is part of Transition Framingham's annual positive progress film series. Food and beverages will be served. A collaborative discussion will follow the film.

LITTLE WOODEN BANKS

We had a donation of \$10.00 in January, giving us a total now of \$1209.24 in our Wooden Banks Fund. 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 faithful contributors! Say a little prayer with each penny you add to your bank.

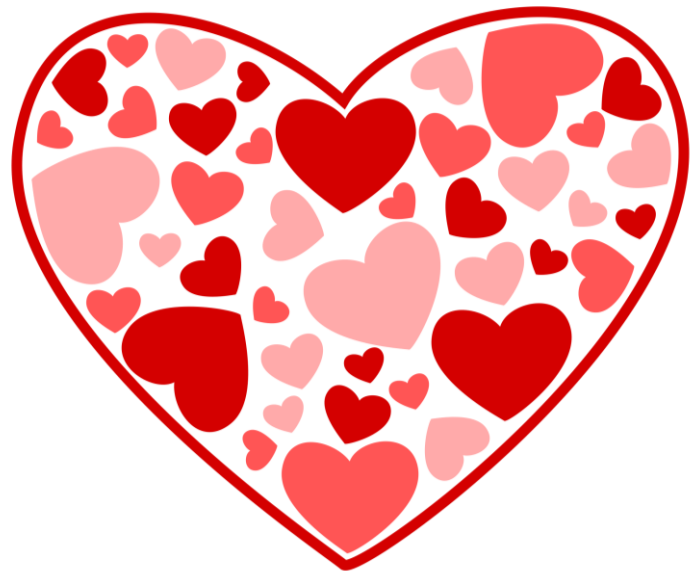
God bless you all,
Norma Hart

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Cari Cornish
4	Anita Kalamu Rachel Mitchell
5	Paul Blow Scott Cleveland
7	Jim Tanner
10	George Marcincavage
12	Danielle Rousseau
13	Gary Litman Matt Aufman
14	Rev. Merrie Allen
17	Ava Marie Winer Jen Sidlo Henley
19	Dena Veysey
20	Alison Cichowlas
22	Marissa Norton
23	Elaine Weber
24	Bryan Douros
25	Susan Cleveland
27	Kenneth Olney, Jr.
28	Cynthia Sweeney Nicholas McGrann

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

4	James and Joan Goddard
7	Ed and Bernita Gillham



Edwards Church
39 Edwards St
Framingham, MA 01701-3433



EDWARDS CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

*Sunday, February 10 after worship
in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

EDWARDS CHURCH ACTIVITIES

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:30am Chairobics	2 8:00am Men's Group 9:00am Chair/Mat Yoga 2:00pm Film: Living the Change
3 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour	4 9:30am Chairobics 7:30pm Guided Meditation 7:30pm Board of Trustees	5 9:00am Qi Gong / Tai Chi 10:00am Gentle Yoga 1:00pm Nursing Home Services 5:30pm Hatha Yoga 7:30pm Interfaith Book Group	6 9:30am Chairobics 12:00pm Lunch Bunch 1:15pm Prayer Shawl Knitters 6:00pm Veterans Yoga 7:15pm Diaconate	7 9:00am Qi Gong / Tai Chi 9:30am Yoga 6:00pm Cancer Support Group 7:00pm Board of Finance 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm AA Meeting	8 9:30am Chairobics 5:30pm Board Game Night	9
10 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Annual Meeting 5:30pm Lent Planning Meeting	11 9:30am Chairobics 7:00pm Wider Mission 7:30pm Guided Meditation	12 9:00am Qi Gong / Tai Chi 10:00am Gentle Yoga 5:30pm Hatha Yoga 7:00pm Buddhist Meditation	13 9:30am Chairobics 4:45pm Soup and Bible Study 6:00pm Veterans Yoga	14 Valentines Day 9:00am Qi Gong / Tai Chi 9:30am Yoga 6:00pm Be Brave: Make Art 6:00pm Cancer Support Group 6:00pm Kripalu Yoga 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm AA Meeting	15 9:30am Chairobics	16 9:00am Chair/Mat Yoga
17 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Seeds of Grace	18 OFFICE CLOSED Presidents' Day 9:30am Chairobics 7:30pm Guided Meditation	19 9:00am Qi Gong / Tai Chi 10:00am Gentle Yoga 5:30pm Hatha Yoga	20 9:00am Steeple Articles Due 9:30am Chairobics 12:00pm Lunch Bunch 6:00pm Veterans Yoga	21 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	22 9:30am Chairobics	23 9:00am Chair/Mat Yoga
24 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour 4:30pm Common Ground	25 9:30am Chairobics 7:30pm Guided Meditation	26 9:00am Qi Gong / Tai Chi 10:00am Gentle Yoga 5:30pm Hatha Yoga 7:00pm Buddhist Meditation	27 9:30am Chairobics 10:30am Steeple Mailing 4:45pm Soup and Bible Study 6:00pm Veterans Yoga	28 9:00am Qi Gong / Tai Chi 9:30am Yoga 6:00pm Cancer Support Group 6:00pm Kripalu Yoga 7:30pm AA Meeting	Debbie will be away through February 2. If you have a pastoral concern during that time, please contact deacon Shelly Cichowlas at 508-904-6123.	