



EDWARDS CHURCH

An Open and Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
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THE STEEPLE

April 2019

No. 4

Dear friends,

Each year, during Lent, we offer a Daily Devotional, with reflections written by church members and friends. This year's reflections, based on the theme "Connecting Generations," seem exceptionally profound. They reveal the power of intergenerational relationships to enrich and transform our lives. Here are a few excerpts:

"During my adolescent years, dad and I would take long historic walks (we didn't own a car) around Boston and Cambridge. Not much was being said about feelings but I could feel them in his presence. Those experiences help me to appreciate a smile and the affirmations of others."—*Frank Carney*

"Ruth has taught me to live each day with gratitude, courage and faith."—*Bette Norton*

"Something helpful and holy lies like a fragrant spell/ Twixt the cover of Grandmother's Bible, whose pages she loved so well."—*a poem found by Ginnie Hatch*

"Of course, thinking one has one's act together is the surest sign that one doesn't, and parenting brought home to me the fact that all of those things I thought I had dealt with were still there, dormant, awaiting the stimulus to come out of hiding and make me face them once again."—*Willie Sordillo*

"One of my fondest memories of my Nana was when she took me with her to the polls in November of '44 so she could vote. I can still see her in her dark longish dress and coat, stylish hat and high button shoes. She told me she had marched in the city when she was young to push for the women's right to vote."—*Norma Hart*

"He exuded passion both off-stage and on—the consummate example of a human who became something beyond himself anytime a podium was

underfoot. ...he wore his heart on his tuxedo sleeve and taught us to turn that passion during performance into an openness of soul that would accompany us in all our future adventures."—*Rick Seaholm*

"I asked Jacob when he first figured out that he and Ellie were buddies. 'It seems like it's always been that way,' he said. I guess he's probably right about that, who am I to say anything different?"—*Dawn Sorensen*

"Grampa Landro gently hugs and sh-sh-sh's me and says, 'See what I can do!' He opens his mouth and I see all his top false teeth fall to the bottom of his mouth! I am amazed. Wonder replaces horror. Wasn't that marvelous?"—*Pat Martin*

I loved Gramps so much and he never left me any doubt as to how much he loved me."—*Ruth Carney*

This is only a taste of the many powerful stories we have told one another this Lenten season. May we be inspired by these stories to keep reaching out to strengthen our connections across generations. May our lives be enriched and transformed as we come to know one another more deeply.

Peace, Debbie

COMPOST HAPPENS!

For several years, we have hosted a community compost pile in the corner of the playground, enabling us to compost yard waste and plant-based foods. This spring, we are taking our composting to a new level, working with a company called Black Earth Composting, which will pick up a 14-gallon bin from us weekly. This new arrangement will enable us to use compostable paper products for coffee hour and meals, and will help us become more ecologically sound!

APRIL WORSHIP

April 7 at 10:00am

Holy Communion; Intergenerational Worship

We will continue our intergenerational theme with a focus on faith lessons from cooking. Our young people will make communion bread before our very eyes!

April 14 at 10:00am Palm Sunday

We will celebrate Palm Sunday with a lively worship service, including a dramatic re-enactment of Palm Sunday events, followed by an outdoor Palm Sunday parade, together with the three other churches that worship on our campus. This year again, instead of Joey the Donkey, we will have a pony, so Jesus (and other small children) can actually ride! Then we will share lunch.

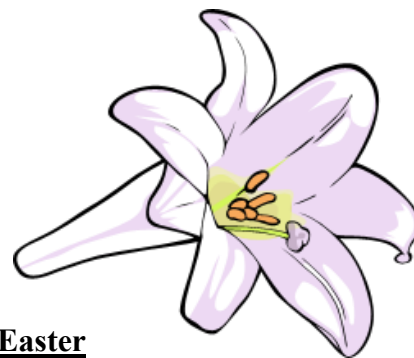
April 18 at 7:00pm Maundy Thursday

We will gather in Susan P. Dickerman Hall for this service reflecting on Jesus' last supper with his disciples, his betrayal and arrest. The service will include a shared meal, Communion, and Tenebrae. Our confirmands will help lead the service. Please bring a plate of pre-cut bread, cheese, or fruit to share.

April 19 at 12:00pm Good Friday

Ecumenical service at Edwards Church

This year our Good Friday service will center on the story of the crucifixion and how it awakens us to our need for healing. The service will include an opportunity to come forward for anointing and healing prayers.



April 21 Easter

5:45am Sunrise Service

Join us outdoors, beside the sanctuary, around the fire pit, as we celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection while watching the sunrise. Stay for a continental breakfast afterwards.

10:00am Family Worship

Our festival worship will include guest musicians, a flowering cross, a mini-Easter Egg hunt, Holy Communion, and reflections on the meaning of the Resurrection. Come a few minutes early to help create the flowering cross.

April 28

10:00am Walk, Bike or Carpool to Church Day!

Along with Rabbi Matia Rania Angelou, a member of Open Spirit's Multi-Faith Collaborative, we will offer an interfaith baby blessing to Memphis Applebaum, son of Gretchen and Todd Applebaum.

5:30pm Seeds of Grace Worship

The Just Peace Players will offer their play, "Extra! Extra!" as our Seeds of Grace worship.

BIBLE STUDY—LUKE

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study will continue our study of Luke's Gospel. We will meet on April 10 and 24 at 4:45 for soup, 5:15 pm for Bible Study.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, April 28 after Worship

The Edwards Church community is invited to attend our upcoming Congregational Meeting. We will vote our next slate of boards and committees and learn about new projects.

FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR

The period leading up to and through Easter is such an enjoyable time to be a church musician. This year we will have brand new anthems on both Palm Sunday and Easter. The weeks following

include several of our favorites. I will offer solo unaccompanied pieces to complement the powerful readings at our Maundy Thursday service. More details on all these services can be found elsewhere in the *Steeple*. Peace be with you all this spring.

Rick Seaholm

CHRISTIAN EXPLORERS NEWS

Pew Partners: What is it?

You may have heard some people talking during church or church meetings about the idea of Pew Partners. But what is this and what does it mean? During Lent, we've begun an experiment where we have connected families with young children to an adult mentor. These mentors are invited to sit with the families, to talk and teach

about different parts of the worship service, to answer questions and to discover the creativity of our kids. Kids have been given the opportunity to experience worship with someone other than their parents, to share their wisdom, love, and joy with these special members of the church community. We hope that this partnership idea can teach us about intergenerational interactions in worship and beyond.

Upcoming Events in Christian Education

Intergenerational Mission Project—Backpacks for Syrian Refugees: On March 31 during coffee hour, we will form intergenerational teams to pack supplies for into backpacks. The backpacks will go to Syrian refugees who are displaced in their own nation. This project is sponsored by Jewish Family Service and the Multi-Faith Alliance.

Intergenerational Trivia Game: Saturday, April 6 at 3:00pm in Edwards Hall. Rick Seaholm, our commissioned minister of music and trivia specialist, will host our game, which will feature intergenerational teams competing for a grand prize! Rick is preparing questions that will draw upon the wisdom of people from every age group—so your team needs you! We will have snacks and lots of laughs!

Profiles in Young Christian Explorers

Today's Explorer: Jacob Muhs-Corbiser. Jacob is the grandson of Shelly and Bruce Cichowlas. He is ten years old. He enjoys building with Legos, and playing video games like Minecraft and Roadblocks. Jacob has been very flexible with us in the Christian Explorers classrooms, often sitting in with the younger class at times when teachers have been away or sick. Jacob likes talking and learning about the stories of Jesus in church with his teacher Stephany. Next time you see Jacob, make sure you ask him about some of his favorite things!

Connecting with our Youth:

Here's a fun exercise to do as a family or with a group of youth who have cell phones:

1. Take out your phone and open your texting app. Say a prayer for the last five people that you sent a text to.
2. Next, open a news app—say a prayer for the people involved in the first headline you see.

3. Open a social media app—say a prayer for the first five people in your feed.

This activity can open up discussions about the people closest to us and about the events happening in the world. It could become a unique spiritual practice for you and your family!

KERMIT'S KORNER

Earth Day this year is Monday, April 22. But there's no reason to celebrate the earth on just one day this month— here are three things you can do for "Earth Month":

1.) The Framingham Community Farm is a local non-profit that aims to fight hunger with fresh produce. They also provide meaningful service opportunities for youth and underserved community members. You may have seen their sixteen raised bed garden behind the office building here at Edwards Church. They are hosting a community work day to help kick-start the season on Saturday, April 6 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. If you have a couple of hours to spread some compost and help with other early season tasks please contact the office to let us know that you are interested. Or just come on that date. There will be plenty of gardening to do around the campus.

2.) The ninth annual Framingham Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 27, on the Framingham Center Common, is in need of volunteers for set-up, clean-up, and everything in-between. You can visit framinghamearthday.org to sign up. Or attend the festival that day from 11:00am to 3:00pm, and bring items for recycling including batteries, eyeglasses, and packing peanuts (see their website for more info on recyclables).

3.) Finally, on the Sunday after Easter, April 28, we invite you to celebrate spring and walk, bike, or carpool to church to save energy with community and less emissions. Maybe you can make your new way to church part of your regular plans. Happy Earth Month!

Mary Memmott for the Green Team

OUR LITTLE WOODEN BANKS

We had two donations in March totaling \$16.00. There is over \$600.00 now in the fund. This fund is used for needs of our church which are not included in our annual budget. 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 the 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

SPECIAL COLLECTION

One Great Hour of Sharing, Sunday, March 31

The Board of Wider Mission will be taking a special collection for One Great Hour of Sharing. When you participate in the offering you become a partner in the refugee, disaster relief, and community development efforts of the United Church of Christ. Envelopes will be included in the March 31 bulletin and checks can be written out to Edwards Church, with OGHS in the memo line. Please give generously as you are able, and thank you in advance for your donations.

MAY STEEPLE

Send articles to nicola@edwardschurch.org by Wednesday, April 17. The *Steeple* will be mailed on Wednesday, April 24 at 10:30am.

OPEN SPIRIT HIGHLIGHTS

The Interfaith Lord's Prayer Experience

Sunday, March 31 at 5:00pm in Edwards Hall

In its original context, the Lord's Prayer was a Jewish prayer, taught by a rabbi (Jesus) who was steeped in the prayer traditions of his faith community. Josef Kottler has created a joyous, meditative musical experience based on the words of this ancient prayer. Everyone is encouraged to come and share this moving experience. Suggested donation of \$10.

A Day in the Dirt on our Campus!

Saturday, April 6 from 10:00am - 3:00pm

Spring is in the air! Please join us to jumpstart the season with the Framingham Community Farm and the Trustees at Edwards Church. We will remove the brush pile in the backyard of the parsonage, spruce up our campus, and prepare the Framingham Community Farm beds for a bountiful growing season to benefit the food pantry at A Place to Turn. For more information, or to let us know you are coming, please contact the office.

A Journey of the Spirit

A New Multi-Faith Collaborative Project

Sunday, April 7 from 2:00-4:00pm

*New England Buddhist Vihara in Grafton**

Join us on journey of discovery to gain greater understanding and appreciation of faith and traditions of our neighbors, deepen relationships among fellow travelers, and strengthen our shared commitment to this community. Monk-in-residence Bhante Pannasiri will share about the history of this community, faith and traditions and lead an experience of chanting, meditation and their sacred space.

Register at openspiritcenter.org by April 1. Donations of \$15 per person are welcome. *Please let us know if you have difficulty with stairs.

Inspiring Courage

A Conversation with Joti Royster

Sunday, April 28 at 3:00pm in Edwards Hall

Join us for an afternoon of conversation, the third in our Multi-Faith Collaborative's *Inspiring Courage* series. Joti Royster visits us from Temple Forest Monastery, a Buddhist monastery in the Thai forest tradition of Ajahn Chah and Ajahn Sumedho. Our conversation will focus on peace and balance in a world of conflict and injustice.

Edwards Church UCC

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Holy Week at Edwards Church

Palm Sunday, April 14

- 10:00am Worship Service
- 11:00am Palm Sunday Parade with a Pony followed by Lunch

Maundy Thursday, April 18

- 7:00pm Worship Service with Communion & Tenebrae

Good Friday, April 19

- 12:00pm Ecumenical Service at Edwards Church

Easter Sunday, April 21

- 5:45am Sunrise Service around the Fire Pit
- 10:00am Festival Worship with Special Music

