

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

A thought for reflection

Faith is not belief. Belief is passive. Faith is active.

—Edith Hamilton

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**

“AT THE FONT WE START OUR JOURNEY”

NCH 308

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Based on the Board of Christian Education Mission Statement)

Leader: “At Edwards Church, faith is a journey, not a destination.”

People: We choose to travel together.

Leader: “Our Christian Education program is based on the belief that each person is gifted by God.”

People: We treasure the gifts each person brings.

Leader: “All are welcomed with open hearts and open minds into a safe and judgment-free environment.”

People: We pray for open heart and minds.

Leader: “Faith is developed through relationships (peer to peer and intergenerational), biblical stories and mission-oriented experiences in the church, local and global community.”

People: We are here to share the stories of our faith and the stories of our lives together.

Leader: “Our goal: we each develop a faith that will carry us through life.”

People: May our journey of faith equip us for a life of service and joy.

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 of the Lord’s Prayer on the prayer card in your pew rack.)

* **SENTENCES OF PRAISE**

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

(From Psalm 25)

Leader: Make me to know your ways, O God; teach me your paths.

People: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation.

* **GLORIA**

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!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We say that faith is a journey. We confess, though, that we can become too focused on the destination. We long for clarity, for certainty, for easy answers. We are in too much of a rush to notice beauty along the way. We are reluctant to leave space for our doubt and questions. We don't always listen to the wisdom of the people walking with us.

Forgive us, O God. Inspire us to treasure the journey as a gift. Bless us with courage to ask questions, trusting they will lead us to deeper faith. Open us to wisdom in our midst. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

RESPONSE

(in unison)

NCH 286

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

GOD MEETS US IN THE WORD

WORDS WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

DAWN SORENSEN

*** HYMN OF PREPARATION** "MY FAITH, IT IS AN OAKEN STAFF"

NCH 418

(Young people may go to Church School during the hymn.)

THE HEBREW BIBLE LESSON

PSALM 86:1-13

(Pew Bible, p. 473)

MUSICAL OFFERING

"WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS"

BY LOWELL MASON

THE GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 2:41-52

(Pew Bible, p. 833)

THE SERMON

"FORMING FAITH"

REV. DR. DEBORAH CLARK

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**

(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** "LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN"

NCH 454

*** CHARGE & BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

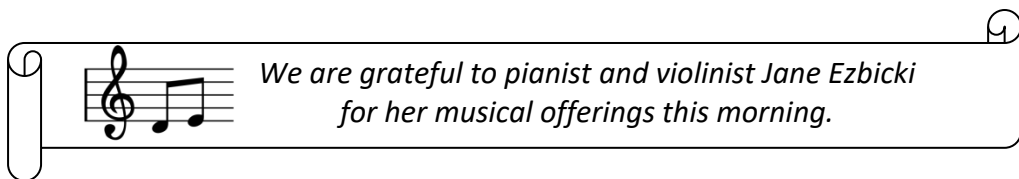
(Please feel free to remain and listen, or to greet one another in the narthex and at coffee hour.)

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED...

MINISTERS
PASTOR
COMMISSIONED MINISTER OF MUSIC
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORGANIST
PIANIST
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
SEXTON
LITURGIST
DEACON-IN-CHARGE
JANIS STEIGMAN OF MOTHER'S HELPERS IS IN CHARGE OF THE NURSERY THIS MORNING.

LET OUR SERVICE BEGIN!

ALL THE PEOPLE OF EDWARDS CHURCH
THE REV. DR. DEBORAH CLARK
RICK SEAHOLM
DAWN SORENSEN
CHERYL ELKINS
SUSAN MINOR
NICOLA SEAHOLM
LORI WILSON
RUTH CARNEY
BRANDON JONES



Join the Compost Crew this Fall!

Edwards Church composts our coffee grounds and other bio-degradable waste each week. You can sign up to take out the compost on the sign-up sheet on the glass-topped counter on the way to coffee hour. Don't know where the compost can be found? See any member of the Green Team: Frank Carney, Karen Dolliver, Jenny Allen, Ginnie Hatch, Peggy Harrison, Mary Memmott, or Pastor Debbie.

Welcome Visitors! We are glad you are here. Please join us for coffee and fellowship, following the service. Sign our guestbook too! In the Education Building (out the side door follow hallway) are the restrooms and where coffee hour is held. The nursery and Sunday school classes are on the lower level. If you have questions, or suggestions, feel free to talk with the greeter or Deacon-in-Charge.

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

October 28-November 3, 2018

SUNDAY	9:00am	Adult Bible Study	Youth Room
	9:00am	Rental	Edwards Hall
	10:00am	Worship	Sanctuary
	10:15am	Sunday School	Education Building
	11:00am	Coffee Hour	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	4:30pm	Common Ground	Edwards Hall Classroom
	5:00pm	Question 1 Forum	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	MONDAY	9:30am	Chairobics
6:15pm		Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
7:30pm		Guided Meditation	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
TUESDAY	9:00am	Qi Gong / Tai Chi	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:00am	Gentle Yoga	Edwards Hall
	1:30pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	5:30pm	Hatha Yoga	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
WEDNESDAY	9:30am	Move with Ease	Edwards Hall
	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	12:00pm	Special Greek Lunch	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	6:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	6:00pm	Veterans Yoga	Edwards Hall
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
THURSDAY	9:00am	Qi Gong / Tai Chi	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	9:30am	Not-Your-Ordinary Yoga Class	Edwards Hall
	12:00pm	Stewardship Team	Jonathan House
	6:00pm	Kripalu Yoga	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Cancer Support Group	Youth Room
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	AA Meeting	Edwards Hall
FRIDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	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
	12:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Organ Celebration Concert	Sanctuary

8:00pm Concert Reception Susan P. Dickerman Hall

Edwards Church Announcements

Greek Lunch—Beyond Baklava SIGN UP TODAY!

Wednesday, October 31 at noon in Susan P. Dickerman Hall

When most people think of Greek food, they think of lamb and baklava. However, we won't be eating lamb or baklava at our next special lunch bunch. Our meal will be similar to what many Greek-Americans eat in their homes. Some of the food will be vegetarian, and the only meat will be ground beef in a pasta dish. So come sample dolmas imported from Greece, Tiropita (it's a pie) and Kataifi (it's pretty sweet)! Today is the last day to sign up. Suggested donation of \$7.

A Celebration of Music at Edwards Church

Saturday, November 3 at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary

Please join us as we celebrate the restoration of our historic organ with a concert highlighting a joyous diversity of musical gifts. Of course, this concert will feature organist Cheryl Elkins, as she gives our beautiful instrument the star treatment. You will also hear special selections from the Edwards Church Choir, On the Fence (our own favorite bluegrass band), pianist Susan Minor, and the Ballad Project featuring Willie Sordillo and Doug Rich. We'd love to see everyone there, so please let us know if you need a ride or can offer a ride. The concert is free and open to the public; donations accepted.

A "Taste of Compassion" for the Holidays: A Vegan Luncheon and Recipe Sharing

Saturday, November 10 at 1:00pm in Susan P Dickerman Hall

With the growing awareness of the value of plant-based eating, we invite you to come taste an exciting array of creative and delicious vegan dishes. Perhaps your holiday table needs some fresh ideas—come talk to the chefs and get some new recipes to add to your repertoire. If you want to volunteer at the event or bring a vegan dish to share, email Mary Memmott (memmottm@gmail.com). Suggested donation of \$5 per person.

Open Spirit Announcements

CANCELLED: ¡Olé Namaste! Expressive Movement for Every/Body

The workshop scheduled for this afternoon has been postponed until the spring. If you were planning to attend, please email info@openspiritcenter.org so that we can make sure to let you know when it is rescheduled.

Beyond the Ads and the Arguments: A Conversation about Question 1

TODAY! October 28 at 5:00pm

Join us in Susan P. Dickerman Hall where we will hear from nurses with differing perspectives on Question 1. This is not a debate but a respectful discussion among people who care about patients and nurses. We will ask questions and learn from each other. Soup and dessert will be provided.

Stories of Passion & Compassion—Sylvia Ruth Gutmann

Sunday, November 4 at 3:00pm in Edwards Hall

As part of our speaker series, Sylvia will share her courageous story of overcoming the tragedy of her childhood and finding an identity that was lost, leading to a life of advocacy and educating. Sylvia is the author of *A Life Rebuilt: The Remarkable Transformation of a War Orphan*. Donations appreciated.