

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

MUSIC WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

- * **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)*

ANTHEM "WHEN WE ALL GET TOGETHER WITH THE LORD" MOE JAFFE & BIX REICHNER

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 & 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...

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
CHUCK GREENSLIT
LEEANN FRIEDMAN

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music Note: This morning's anthem, which features our low voices in a southern gospel style with excellent barbershop harmonies, came to recent popularity with the great male quartet, the Gaither Vocal Band in many of their recordings.

Beautifying our Campus: *TODAY after church*

Come work off your Thanksgiving dinner with a few hours of yard work and/or indoor cleaning! We will spruce up our campus, indoors and out, and then we will celebrate with pizza!

Gifts that Give: A Holiday Fair Of Hope—With Santa on a Fire Truck!

Saturday, December 8, 1:00-4:00pm in Edwards Hall

Want to make a positive difference in the world? Want to give gifts that bring joy? Then come to the Gifts that Give Holiday Fair. Gifts that help make the world a better place: a blanket for Church World Service; fair trade chocolate and coffee; handicrafts from artists around the world; bees for Heifer Project; scarves to support A Place to Turn; homemade cards to support a local LGBTQ group; and more! Take a photo with Santa on an antique fire truck!

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

November 25-December 1, 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
	11:15am	Beautifying our Campus	Throughout Campus
	1:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	3:00pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	4:30pm	Common Ground	Edwards Hall Classroom
MONDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	6:15pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	Green Team	Jonathan House
	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
	10:30am	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:30pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	5:30pm	Hatha Yoga	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:00pm	Buddhist Meditation	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
WEDNESDAY	9:30am	Move with Ease	Edwards Hall
	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:30am	Steeple Mailing	Jonathan House
	4:45pm	Soup and Bible Study	Jonathan House
	6:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	6:00pm	Veterans Yoga	Edwards Hall
	6:45pm	Associate Pastor Search Committee	Jonathan House
	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
	6:00pm	Kripalu Yoga	Edwards Hall
	7:15pm	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
	4:30pm	Rental	Sanctuary

Christmas Wreath Fundraiser



**Save time! Avoid the stores! Help our church youth!
Pick up your wreaths right here.
Order two or more for your friends and family.**

These 12-inch wreaths come with a classic red or cranberry bow.

The donation is \$15 per wreath.

Proceeds benefit the Edwards Church and Plymouth Church Youth trip to Milwaukee General Synod.

Orders will be taken during on Sundays, November 11, 18, and 25.

You can pick-up your wreath following worship on December 2.

The Christmas Wreath Sale is sponsored by the youth of Edwards and Plymouth Churches.

Christmas Wreath Order Form

Name:
Email or Phone:
Number of Wreaths:
Bow Color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Cranberry
Amount Enclosed:

Checks should be made out to Edwards Church with "Wreath Sale" on the memo line