

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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 13, 2019

10:00 AM

A thought for reflection

“The river itself portrays humanity precisely, with its tortuous windings, its accumulation of driftwood, its unsuspected depths, and its crystalline shallows, singing in the Summer sun.”

— Myrtle Reed

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**

“ARISE, YOUR LIGHT IS COME”

NCH 164

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice, for God has sent the Messiah

People: **To bind up the brokenhearted,**

Leader: To proclaim liberty to the captives,

People: **To grant those who mourn a garland instead of ashes,**

Leader: The mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

People: **Arise, shine, for our light has come.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND SUNG LORD’S PRAYER

FINLANDIA

(You can find the FINLANDIA version 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: Awake, my soul!

People: **Awake, O harp and trumpet!**

Leader: We will give thanks to you, O God, among the peoples.

People: **We will sing praises to you among the nations.**

Leader: For your compassion is greater than the heavens.

People: **Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

All: **Let your glory cover the earth, O God!**

* **GLORIA**

(Angels We Have Heard on High)

NCH 125

Glo- -ria in excelsis Deo!

Glo- -ria in excelsis Deo!

* Stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Author of life, we humbly confess that too often we fall short of your intentions for us and of our expectations of ourselves. We would touch the world with goodness, but often we withdraw in anxiety and self-concern. We would live with integrity and stand for truth, but we are torn with uncertainties. We would warm the lives of others with our love, but we hesitate, wondering if they will love us in return. We would go about our daily tasks with confidence and joy, but find ourselves struggling with self-doubt.

We need your presence, O God, if we are to be what we could be and want to be. Let our worship heal us, renew us, strengthen us, that we may go out in joy and be led forth in peace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

RESPONSE

FROM NCH 159

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

GOD MEETS US IN THE WORD

WORDS WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

DAWN SORENSEN

- * **HYMN OF PREPARATION** "WHAT RULER WADES THROUGH MURKY STREAMS" **NCH 169**
(Young people may go to Church School during the hymn.)

THE HEBREW BIBLE LESSON ISAIAH 43:1-2 *(Pew Bible, p. 585)*

THE ANTHEM "AT THE RIVER" AARON COPLAND

THE GOSPEL LESSON LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22 *(Pew Bible, p. 834)*

THE SERMON "BELOVED" 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**

“BE NOW MY VISION”

NCH 451

* **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...

LET OUR SERVICE BEGIN!

MINISTERS

PASTOR

COMMISSIONED MINISTER OF MUSIC

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ORGANIST

PIANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

SEXTON

LITURGIST

GREETER

DEACON-IN-CHARGE

JANIS STEIGMAN OF MOTHER’S HELPERS IS IN CHARGE OF THE NURSERY THIS MORNING.

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

RIC CARL

LEEANN FRIEDMAN

Music Note

“At the River” is the result of American composer Aaron Copland’s visit to the music library of Brown University in 1950, seeking folk songs to score for solo voice in new arrangements for a debut in Ipswich, Massachusetts. Our setting, in turn was adapted for choir by Raymond Wilding-White.

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

January 13-19, 2019

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	Board of Christian Ed	Education Building
	11:00am	Coffee Hour	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	4:30pm	<i>Restorative Yoga</i>	<i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i>
	MONDAY	9:30am	Chairobics
7:00pm		Wider Mission	Jonathan House
7:30pm		<i>Guided Meditation</i>	<i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i>
TUESDAY	9:00am	<i>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</i>	<i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i>
	10:00am	<i>Gentle Yoga</i>	<i>Edwards Hall</i>
	5:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	5:30pm	<i>Hatha Yoga</i>	<i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i>
WEDNESDAY	9:00am	Steeple Articles Due	nicola@edwardschurch.org
	9:30am	<i>Move with Ease</i>	<i>Edwards Hall</i>
	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	12:00pm	Lunch Bunch	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	4:45pm	Soup & Bible Study	Jonathan House
	6:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	6:00pm	<i>Veterans Yoga</i>	<i>Edwards Hall</i>
THURSDAY	9:00am	<i>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</i>	<i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i>
	9:30am	<i>Not-Your-Ordinary Yoga Class</i>	<i>Edwards Hall</i>
	6:00pm	<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>	<i>Edwards Hall</i>
	6:00pm	<i>Cancer Support Group</i>	<i>Youth Room</i>
	7:15pm	Choir Rehearsal	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	AA Meeting	Edwards Hall
FRIDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	6:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Parking Lot
	7:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classrooms
SATURDAY	8:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall & Parking Lot
	9:00am	<i>Chair/Mat Yoga</i>	<i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i>
	4:30pm	Rental	Sanctuary

Debbie will be away from January 18-February 2. If you have a pastoral concern during that time, please contact deacon Shelly Cichowlas at 508-904-6123.

Coming Up at Edwards Church

Seeds of Grace

Sunday, January 20 at 5:30pm in Susan P. Dickerman Hall

On the eve of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, join us for a multi-sensory, participatory worship service, lifting up themes of racial justice and equality.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 10 after worship

Please join us for this important gathering where we will approve our budget and annual report. The Associate Pastor Search Committee will present an update on their progress. Dawn Sorensen and Debbie Clark will lead a brief discussion on trends in faith formation and how they may influence the evolution of our Christian education programming. Childcare has been arranged and “enhanced coffee hour refreshments” will be provided to tide you over until lunch. Don’t miss it!

Coming Up at Open Spirit

World Religions Day Celebration

Sunday, January 20 at 5:00pm in Edwards Hall

World Religions Day is a celebration begun by the Baha’i community around the world to honor the beauty, richness and truths in the diverse religions of the world. Open Spirit invites you to join in an open-spirited, open-hearted dinner and open mic celebration. Bring food to share that speaks to the joy of your spiritual tradition. Bring a song or a dance, a poem or a reading—or just bring yourself! The event will be in Edwards Hall.

Wild Herbal Tea Making

Sunday, January 27 at 4:00pm in Susan P. Dickerman Hall

Make your own signature blend of tea! Ages 12 and up are welcome to join Rachel Goclawski (Mrs. G) and Rabbi Katy Allen in an herbal tea making class and lecture. Learn how to identify and prepare local wild medicinal herbs and make some into a personalized and healthful, herbal tea blend! Mrs. G will also share preparation and preservation techniques and the medicinal properties of the herbs during an interactive lecture. The cost is \$25 (senior discount available). Space is limited, please email Rabbi Katy (oneearth@openspiritcenter.org) to register.

Framingham Interfaith Book Club

Tuesday, February 5 at 7:30pm in the church office (first Tuesday of every month)

Open Spirit and the Framingham Interfaith Clergy Association invite you to attend our monthly Interfaith Book Club right here on our campus. Our mission is to foster greater understanding and respect among people of all faiths and traditions. Reading the book is not a requirement to join the discussion. The current selection is *My Neighbor's Faith*, by Jennifer H. Peace, Or N. Rose, and Gregory Mobley. For more information, please contact bookclub@icbwayland.org.