

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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 17, 2019

10:00 AM

A thought for reflection

“The myth of self-sufficiency demands optimism without end, downplays life’s challenges,
and shames us when, inevitably, we fall short.”

— Ashton Applewhite, *This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism*

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**

“ENTER, REJOICE, AND COME IN”

NCH 73

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, open yourself to the songs of life!

People: **Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in!**

Leader: Come, open your hearts, everyone!

People: **Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in!**

Leader: Come to be surprised; don’t be afraid of some change!

People: **Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in!**

Leader: Come and worship God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION LORD’S PRAYER

(Please pray the Lord’s Prayer using the words you find most meaningful. There is a prayer card in your pew rack.)

* **SENTENCES OF PRAISE**

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

Leader: It is good to give thanks to you, O God,

People: **To sing praises to your name, O Most High,**

Leader: To declare your steadfast love in the morning,

People: **And your faithfulness by night,**

Leader: To the music of the lute and the harp,

People: **To the melody of the lyre.**

* **GLORIA**

(Sing twice.)

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!

* *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

NCH 492, v.3

I would be prayerful through each busy moment;
I would be constantly in touch with God;
I would be tuned to sense God's slightest whisper;
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod;

GOD MEETS US IN THE WORD

WORDS WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

DAWN SORENSEN

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION** "O PRAISE THE GRACIOUS POWER"

NCH 54

(Children may go to church school during the hymn.)

THE HEBREW BIBLE LESSON JEREMIAH 7:5-10

(Pew Bible, p. 617)

THE ANTHEM "COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING" ARR. HUGH S. LIVINGSTON, JR.

THE GOSPEL LESSON LUKE 6:7-26

(Pew Bible, p. 837)

THE SERMON "BLESSED" 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...

LET OUR SERVICE BEGIN!

MINISTERS	ALL THE PEOPLE OF EDWARDS CHURCH
PASTOR	THE REV. DR. DEBORAH CLARK
COMMISSIONED MINISTER OF MUSIC	RICK SEAHOLM
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	DAWN SORENSEN
ORGANIST	CHERYL ELKINS
PIANIST	SUSAN MINOR
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	NICOLA SEAHOLM
SEXTON	LORI WILSON
LITURGIST	CINDY SWEENEY
GREETERS	JUDI SEBASTIAN & EVIE MCGUIRK
DEACON-IN-CHARGE	BRANDON JONES
JANIS STEIGMAN OF MOTHER'S HELPERS IS IN CHARGE OF THE NURSERY THIS MORNING.	

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

February 17-23, 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	Coffee Hour	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	5:30pm	Seeds of Grace	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classroom
MONDAY	OFFICE CLOSED: Presidents Day		
	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	5:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	6:15pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classroom
	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
	5:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	5:30pm	Hatha Yoga	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
WEDNESDAY	9:00am	Steeple Articles Due	nicola@edwardschurch.org
	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	12:00pm	Lunch Bunch	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
	6:00pm	Kripalu Yoga	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Cancer Support Group	Youth Room
	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	9:00am	Chair/Mat Yoga	Edwards Hall
	4:30pm	Rental	Sanctuary

6:00pm Rental Edwards Hall

Edwards Church

Announcements

Music Note: We will hear back-to-back adaptations of the familiar American folk tune named for Connecticut theologian Asahel Nettleton in the services for the next two weeks. Today's arranger, Hugh Livingston was a lifelong church composer from Tennessee.

Legos Needed! The Christian Explorers would like some more building blocks (aka Legos) in their classroom. Currently, they have enough to make one small !Spaceship!, but we have more than one child who wants to use them. If anyone has some extra at home, please drop them off in Ms. Myrna's classroom.

Seeds of Grace Worship: *TODAY at 5:30pm in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

Rev. Isaac Everett and the Seeds of Grace Worship Team will honor the message of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through scripture, song, readings and reflections. Come and join us as we are reminded of Dr. King's powerful legacy.

Appalachian Trail Slide Show and Talk: *Sunday February 24 at 11:30am in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

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

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: *Tuesday, March 5 from 5:30-7:00pm in Edwards Hall*

Please join us for an all-you-can-eat pancake supper for all ages! Bring your favorite fruit topping, bacon, or sausage to share. We hope to see you there!

Coming up at Open Spirit

Inspiring Courage: Rashin Fahandej, Artist and Film Maker: *Sun., March 3 at 3:00pm in Edwards Hall*

Join us for an afternoon of art and discussion. Rashin's work centers on personal histories, marginalized voices, and the role of media, technology and public collaboration in generating social change. *A Father's Lullaby* considers the absence of fathers in communities of color as a direct result of mass incarceration, its life-long impact on children and its weight on women and families.

Tapping the Maple Trees: Rabbi Katy will be tapping maple our Open Spirit community sugar bush again this year. If you would like to help, please email her at oneearth@openspiritcenter.org to arrange a time. It will take about 35-40 minutes.

Maple Syrup Making: *Monday March 11, 3:30-7:00pm in the playground*

Help make maple syrup! Come to the playground, Open Spirit's "sugar bush," and learn how to make maple syrup from maple sap. Help boil down the sap, share tree stories, feed the fire, roast marshmallows, and at dinner time enjoy a slice of pizza. All ages are welcome to drop in for fifteen

minutes or stay the whole afternoon. Please visit openspiritcenter.org to register. The cost is \$5 if you stay for pizza. Co-sponsored by AMC Outdoor Rx.