

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

“The glory of God is not splendor; it’s compassion.
As Jesus opens his heart to the brokenness of the world, God’s compassion shines in him.”
—Steve Garnaas-Holmes

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** “WE HAVE COME AT CHRIST’S OWN BIDDING”

NCH 182

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our God who waits on the mountain of holiness—

People: **Our God calls us.**

Leader: Our God who shines in cloud and fire—

People: **Our God stirs us.**

Leader: Our God who is honored for honesty, love, and justice—

People: **Our God offers us guidance.**

Leader: Our God who abides in compassion and forgiveness—

People: **Our God receives us into the heights of worship, so that we may return to our covenant with new life.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND 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: We lift up our eyes to the hills; from where will our help come?

People: **Our help comes from You, O God, Creator of heaven and earth.**

Leader: You neither slumber nor sleep.

People: **You are our shade in the heat of the desert.**

Leader: You keep our going out and our coming in.

People: **We praise you, O God, our Creator, our Keeper and our Shade!**

* **GLORIA** *(Sing twice.)*

NCH 756

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Wise and powerful God, you have given us your light and truth to guide us through confusion, yet we have relied instead on our human wisdom, and have lost our way. You offer to share our burdens and give us your strength, yet we trust in our own efforts and find ourselves exhausted. Bring us back into your presence, O God; overcome our separation from one another and from you.

* *Stand as you are able.*

By your Word and Spirit, fill us with the gifts that equip us to meet life's demands, that we may be your people in the world and live in the confidence and joy of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.
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;
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

GOD MEETS US IN THE WORD

THE GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 9:28-43A

(Pew Bible, p. 843)

THE ANTHEM

"WE WILL WALK IN THE LIGHT!" NANCY PRICE & DON BESIG

THE SERMON

"STEPPING CLOSER"

FRAN GRAVESON

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 CALLS US TO THE TABLE

THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN OF COMMUNION "DRAW US IN THE SPIRIT'S TETHER"

NCH 337

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP AT THE TABLE

THE THANKSGIVING

(in unison)

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

* **HYMN OF DEDICATION** "LET US TALENTS AND TONGUES EMPLOY"

NCH 347

* **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
COMMUNION SERVERS
GREETER
JANIS STEIGMAN OF MOTHER'S HELPERS IS IN CHARGE OF THE NURSERY THIS MORNING.

LET OUR SERVICE BEGIN!

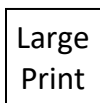
ALL THE PEOPLE OF EDWARDS CHURCH
THE REV. DR. DEBORAH CLARK
RICK SEAHOLM
DAWN SORENSEN
CHERYL ELKINS
SUSAN MINOR
NICOLA SEAHOLM
LORI WILSON
DEBBIE CLARK
SHELLY CICHOWLAS
DAWN SORENSEN & RUTH CARNEY
JOANIE WHITE

Communion Note: You are invited to come to the communion table to partake of the Lord's Feast. Come forward row by row from the back to be served. Dip the bread in the **grape juice** in the chalice on your **left** or in the **wine** in the chalice on your **right**. Proceed back to your seats by the side aisles. If you prefer to be served at your seat, we will come to you.

The **Communion Offering** is used for confidential emergency needs. If you or someone you know has a need, bring this to the attention of the minister or a member of the Diaconate. The offering envelopes are in the pew racks. Put your name on the envelope for tax credit purposes. Please consider this offering thoughtfully.

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



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

March 3-9, 2019

SUNDAY	9:00am	Adult Bible Study	Youth Room
	9:00am	Rental	Edwards Hall
	10:00am	Worship	Sanctuary
	10:00am	Sunday School	Education Building
	11:00am	Coffee Hour	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	3:00pm	<i>Inspiring Courage: Rashin Fahandej</i>	Edwards Hall
MONDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classroom
	7:30pm	Board of Trustees	Jonathan House
	7:30pm	<i>Guided Meditation</i>	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
TUESDAY	9:00am	<i>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</i>	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:00am	<i>Gentle Yoga</i>	Edwards Hall
	1:00pm	Nursing Home Services	Heritage & Oak Knoll
	5:30pm	Pancake Supper	Edwards Hall
	5:30pm	<i>Hatha Yoga</i>	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	<i>Interfaith Book Group</i>	Jonathan House
WEDNESDAY	Ash Wednesday		
	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	11:00am	Ash Wednesday Service	Sanctuary
	12:00pm	Lunch Bunch	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:15pm	<i>Prayer Shawl Knitters</i>	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	6:00pm	Veterans Yoga	Edwards Hall
	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Plymouth Church
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
THURSDAY	9:00am	<i>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</i>	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	9:30am	<i>Not-Your-Ordinary Yoga Class</i>	Edwards Hall
	1:30pm	Rental	Education Building
	6:00pm	<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	<i>Cancer Support Group</i>	Youth Room
	7:00pm	Board of Finance	Jonathan House
	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	<i>Chair/Mat Yoga</i>	Edwards Hall
	10:30am	Rental	Edwards Hall
	4:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	4:30pm	Rental	Sanctuary

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music Note: Our anthem for this Transfiguration Sunday, imagines the joy that was in the hearts of James, John, and Peter after walking up the mountain with Jesus before he was turned a blinding white light in front of their eyes.

Easter Flowers: *Place your order TODAY and March 10*

There will be a signup sheet for Easter flowers on the glass case on the way to coffee hour. You can order Easter lilies, daffodils, hyacinths, or tulips at \$7.00 per plant. You can dedicate them in honor or in memory of someone. The flowers will be displayed on Easter Sunday April 21.

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!

Ash Wednesday Services: *Wednesday, March 6 at Edwards and Plymouth Churches*

11:00am at Edwards Church: Join us in the sanctuary for a simple, reflective service led by Willie Sordillo and Debbie Clark as we enter into the season of Lent. A simple, joyous soup lunch will follow.

7:00pm at Plymouth Church: Our confirmands and mentors will share in leading an evening Ash Wednesday service at Plymouth Church involving prayer stations.

Lenten Devotional: We will offer a daily devotional during the season of Lent on our theme, "Connecting Generations: Nurturing a Spirituality of Intergenerational Relationships." We welcome you to share a story or send a photo of a moment of connection with someone who is older or younger than you. If you are interested in doing one (or more), please contact Debbie.

Inspiring Courage—Rashin Fahandej, Artist and Film Maker: *TODAY at 3:00pm in Edwards Hall*

Rashin Fahandej is a member of the Baha'i community in Framingham, an immigrant from Iran, and an artist and film maker. Her 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 lower-income families. Suggested donation of \$15.

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

Learn how to make maple syrup from maple sap. Help boil down the sap, feed the fire, roast marshmallows, and enjoy a slice of pizza. Drop in for fifteen minutes or stay the whole afternoon!. The cost is \$5 if you stay for pizza. Co-sponsored by AMC Outdoor Rx. **The Open Spirit Community Sugar Bush** is up and running. Everyone is invited to collect the sap. The sap will run on days when the temperatures are above freezing, especially if it is sunny, and especially when the nights are below freezing. Registration is required to collect sap; visit the "Upcoming Events" page at openspiritcenter.org to reserve a spot.

The Interfaith Lord's Prayer Experience: *Sunday, March 31 at 5:00 pm*

Each Sunday in worship, we join together in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples, commonly called the Lord's Prayer. It has become a Christian prayer; in its original context, it was a Jewish prayer, taught by a rabbi (Jesus) who was steeped in the prayer traditions of his faith community. Josef Koettler, a member of Congregation Beth El in Sudbury, has created a joyous, meditative musical experience based on the words of this ancient prayer. If you would like to sing in the choir, please speak to Debbie. Everyone is encouraged to come and share in this moving experience of a familiar, holy prayer. Suggested donation of \$10.