

# 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](http://www.edwardschurch.org)

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 17, 2019

10:00 AM

**A thought for reflection**

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

– African Proverb

*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**

“REJOICE, YOU PURE IN HEART”

**NCH 55**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Rejoice! Rejoice, Rejoice! Give thanks and sing!

People: **We lift praises to the sky!**

Leader: Rejoice! Rejoice, Rejoice! Give thanks and sing!

People: **We raise high our free, exulting song!**

Leader: Rejoice! Rejoice, Rejoice! Give thanks and sing!

People: **We speak God’s wondrous praises!**

All: **Let us worship God!**

**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 on the prayer card in your pew rack.)*

\* **SENTENCES OF PRAISE**

Leader: This is the day God has made!

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Leader: Praise God!

People: **All that is within me praise God’s holy name!**

\* **GLORIA**

*(Sing twice.)*

FROM “HOW GREAT THOU ART”

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(in unison)*

Sometimes this journey of faith feels like a race, pushing us to go faster and further than we think we can. Forgive us for the times we give up too soon. Forgive us for the times we become too focused on winning the trophy.

Open us, we pray, to the strength you give us. Awaken us, we pray, to the beauty of the journey. Amen.

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\* *Stand as you are able.*

## 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

### STORIES FROM ALL AGES FOR ALL AGES

#### THE ANTHEM

"A GAELIC BLESSING"  
*(Young people may go to classes after the anthem.)*

JOHN RUTTER

#### THE HEBREW BIBLE LESSON

ISAIAH 40:28-31

*(Pew Bible, p. 583)*

#### \* HYMN OF PREPARATION

"GUIDE MY FEET"

NCH 497

#### THE EPISTLE LESSON

HEBREWS 12:1-2

*(Pew Bible, p. 978)*

#### THE SERMON

"HELD BY THE CLOUD"

REV. DR. DEBORAH L. 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

"ADORATION"

FELIX BOROWSKI

\* 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

"AWAKE, MY SOUL, STRETCH EVERY NERVE"

NCH 491

\* 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  
LITURGISTS  
DEACON-IN-CHARGE  
GREETER  
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  
CONOR TAYLOR & CARL BUCK  
LEEANN FRIEDMAN  
MATT WALKER

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Music Note

We are very grateful to Jane Ezbicki for leading the choir and playing violin for us this morning!

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

Join Rev. Isaac Everett and members of the Seeds of Grace Worship Team for a service honoring the legacy of St. Patrick.

#### Steeple Articles Due: *Wednesday, March 20 at 9:00am*

Please send your *Steeple* articles to [nicola@edwardschurch.org](mailto:nicola@edwardschurch.org) by 9:00am on March 20. If everyone sends their articles on time, it makes my job so much easier and helps us keep the office running smoothly. There is a lot going on during lent, so please do share your news and events! If you receive a paper copy of the *Steeple* but would like to switch to electronic delivery, please let me know.

**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

March 17-23, 2019

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Adult Bible Study</b> .....	<b>Youth Room</b>
	9:00am	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Worship</b> .....	<b>Sanctuary</b>
	<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Sunday School</b> .....	<b>Education Building</b>
	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>11:30am</b>	<b>CE Meeting</b> .....	<b>Education Building</b>
	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Confirmation Class</b> .....	<b>Youth Room</b>
	1:00pm	Rental .....	Sanctuary
	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Seeds of Grace</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	6:30pm	Rental .....	Sanctuary
7:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall Classroom	
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>3:45pm</b>	<b>FPS Teacher Training</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	6:15pm	Rental .....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall Classroom
	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Guided Meditation</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Gentle Yoga</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	1:30pm	Rental .....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	5:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Hatha Yoga</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Church Council</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Steeple Articles Due</b> .....	<b>Edwards Church</b>
	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Chairobics</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	9:30am	Sprinkler Testing .....	Education Building
	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch Bunch</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	6:00pm	Rental .....	Sanctuary
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Veterans Yoga</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	7:30pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Not-Your-Ordinary Yoga Class</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Kripalu Yoga</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Cancer Support Group</b> .....	<b>Youth Room</b>
	<b>7:15pm</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	7:30pm	AA Meeting .....	Edwards Hall
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Chairobics</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	7:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall Classrooms
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Chair/Mat Yoga</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	2:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	4:30pm	Rental .....	Sanctuary

## OBSERVING LENT AT EDWARDS CHURCH

**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.

**Special Collection: One Great Hour of Sharing: Sunday, March 31** (*Envelope will be included in your bulletin.*) The Board of Wider Mission will be taking a special collection to support the refugee, disaster relief, and community development efforts of the United Church of Christ. Checks can be written out to Edwards Church, with OGHS in the memo line. Please give generously as you are able.

**Intergenerational Mission Project — Backpacks for Syrian Refugees:** *Donate supplies throughout March* During the month of March, you are invited to take a tag from our mission board and bring in requested school supplies by March 24. On March 31 during coffee hour, we will form intergenerational teams to pack the supplies into backpacks. The backpacks will go to Syrian refugees who are displaced in their own nation. This project is sponsored by Jewish Family Service and the Multi-Faith Alliance.

**Save the Date! Intergenerational Trivia Game: Saturday, April 6 at 3:00pm**

Rick Seaholm, our commissioned minister of music and trivia specialist, will host our game, which will feature intergenerational teams competing for a grand prize! Rick is preparing questions that will draw upon the wisdom of people from every age group—so your team needs you! Watch for a sign-up sheet.

## OPEN SPIRIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Spring Celebrations: Common Themes & Rituals in Passover & Easter**

*Sunday, March 24 at 1:00pm at the McAuliffe Branch of the Framingham Public Library*

We invite families to learn about the common roots of Judaism and Christianity’s spring festivals. This workshop is especially designed to support people in interfaith families who will be celebrating the holidays with members of both faiths. Led by Rabbi Leonard Gordon and co-sponsored with Temple Beth Sholom.

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

In its original context, the Lord’s Prayer was a Jewish prayer, taught by a rabbi (Jesus) who was steeped in the prayer traditions of his faith community. Josef Kottler 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. Suggested donation of \$10.

**Campus-Wide Gardening Day: Saturday, April 6, from 10:00am-3:00pm**

Join us for a day of work on our campus including the Framingham Community Farm plots. For more information on the farm, please email FraminghamCommunityFarm@gmail.com.

**A Journey of the Spirit – A New Multi-Faith Collaborative Project: Sunday, April 7 from 2:00-4:00pm**

*New England Buddhist and Meditation Center, 162 Old Upton Road in Grafton*

Join us on journey of discovery to gain greater understanding and appreciation of faith and traditions of our neighbors, deepen relationships among fellow travelers, and strengthen our shared commitment to this community. On this visit we’ll be welcomed by Bhante Pannasiri and others who will:

- Share about the history of this community, faith and traditions;
- Lead an experience of chanting, meditation and their sacred space; and
- Invite curiosity and conversation among us.

Register at [openspiritcenter.org](http://openspiritcenter.org) by April 1. For more information contact please contact our program coordinator, Karen Nell Smith at [choresis@comcast.net](mailto:choresis@comcast.net). Suggested donation of \$15