

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 24, 2019

10:00 AM

A thought for reflection

“Greet the stranger as if you are greeting God.”
—Lonni Collins Pratt

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**

“PRAISE TO THE LIVING GOD”

NCH 8

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to praise the living God,

People: **The God of love and light.**

Leader: We gather to praise the living God,

People: **Who knows our joy and pain.**

Leader: We gather to praise the living God,

People: **Around, within, above.**

Leader: May we know God as love;

People: **May our worship inspire us to love.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND SUNG LORD’S PRAYER

FINLANDIA

(Please join us in singing the Lord’s Prayer using the Finlandia version on the prayer card in your pew rack.)

* **SENTENCES OF PRAISE**

Leader: Sing for joy to God, all the earth;

People: **Worship with songs and shouts of joy!**

* **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)

FROM THE CHURCH IN KENYA

From the cowardice that does not face new truths,

From the laziness that is content with half truths,

From the arrogance that thinks it knows all the truth,

Deliver us today, O God.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

* *Stand as you are able.*

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

DEDICATION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES

DAWN SORENSEN

THE ANTHEM

"YOU RAISE ME UP"

ARR. TOM FETTKE

(Young people may go to classes after the anthem.)

READINGS FROM THE TORAH

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION**

"SHADOW AND SUBSTANCE"

NCH 398

THE SERMON

LINO COVARRUBIAS

"OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF THE STRANGER WITH HUMILITY"

CALL TO PRAYER

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

A SUNG PRAYER FOR SUSTENANCE

1. May we know our bread comes from you. You are the Source of life and Spirit too...
2. You give us our daily bread, you give us our daily bread...

A SPOKEN PRAYER FOR SUSTENANCE

GOD CALLS FOR OUR GIFTS

OUR OFFERING TO GOD

OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

NCH 778

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

* **HYMN OF DEDICATION**

"FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS"

NCH 576

* **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
LITURGISTS
DEACON-IN-CHARGE
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
NOAH CICHOWLAS & ROB DELOSSA
ELLIE KELL
NORMA HART

 **Music Note**
This morning’s anthem will be familiar to most of you, having been a staple of many cross-over albums and concerts in the last ten years. Tom Fettke’s arrangement juxtaposes the main tune very effectively with the Finlandia tune.

Welcome!
We warmly welcome Lino Covarrubias, chief operating officer of Jewish Family Services, to our pulpit 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

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 24-30, 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
	1:00pm	Spring Celebrations	McAuliffe Branch Library
	4:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	4:30pm	Common Ground	Edwards Hall Classroom
	6:30pm	Rental	Sanctuary
MONDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	3:45pm	FPS Teacher Training	Edwards Hall
	6:45pm	Search Committee	Jonathan House
	7:30pm	Lord's Prayer Rehearsal	Edwards Hall
	7:30pm	Green Team	Edwards Hall Classroom
	7:30pm	Guided Meditation	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	TUESDAY	9:00am	Qi Gong / Tai Chi
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	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:30am	Steeple Mailing	Jonathan House
	4:45pm	Soup & Bible Study	Jonathan House
	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
	4:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Kripalu Yoga	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Cancer Support Group	Youth Room
	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

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 during worship*

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.

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

TODAY 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. Co-sponsored with Temple Beth Shalom.

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. There will be a chorus rehearsal Monday, March 25 at 7:30 pm in Edwards Hall. Everyone is encouraged to come and share 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 Vihara 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 monk in residence Bhante Pannasiri 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 by April 1. Suggested donation of \$15. *If you have difficulty with stairs, please contact Karen Nell Smith at choresis@comcast.net; the meditation space at New England Buddhist Vihara is only accessible by a spiral staircase.