

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 31, 2019

10:00 AM

A thought for reflection

“Music fills the infinite between two souls.”
—Rabindranath Tagore

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**

“I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD”

NCH 12

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us sing the mighty power of God—

People: **We sing of mountains rising, seas flowing and lofty skies.**

Leader: Come, let us sing the goodness of our God—

People: **We sing of creation’s wonders.**

Leader: Come, let us sing the glory of God—

People: **We sing of plants and flowers, clouds and showers.**

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: O sing to God a new song!

People: **Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.**

* **GLORIA**

FROM “HOW GREAT THOU ART”

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;

How great Thou art, 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)

Our souls yearn to sing, O God—to soar with the melody of creation, to vibrate with the harmony of community, to rejoice in wonder. Even as we gather in this place filled with music, we pause to confess the ways we constrain our souls from singing. When we fear we are not good enough, when we hide from our own passion, when we ignore the music around us, forgive us, we pray. Bless us with deep breaths, with sensitive ears, with courageous voices. Amen.

* *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

A TIME OF CELEBRATION

WORDS WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

DAWN SORENSEN

THE ANTHEM

"I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT"
(Young people may go to classes after the anthem.)

ARR. MARK HAYES

HEBREW BIBLE READING

PSALM 63:1-8

(Pew Bible, p. 458)

* HYMN OF PREPARATION

"COLORFUL CREATOR"

NCH 30

EPISTLE READING

COLOSSIANS 3:12-16

(Pew Bible, p. 958)

THE SERMON

"DEEPER THAN WORDS"

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

* 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

"MY LIFE FLOWS ON IN ENDLESS SONG"

NCH 476

* CHARGE & BENEDECTION

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
KELVIN PHELPS & BRANDON JONES
BRANDON JONES
JUDY SEBASTIAN & EVIE MCGUIRK

Music Note

This morning we welcome Chris Heater, who has played with us every spring since 2010! Chris is director of fine and performing arts at the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School.

Special Collection: One Great Hour of Sharing

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.

Holy Week at Edwards Church

- *Palm Sunday*, April 14 at 10:00am: Worship service followed by a parade with a pony and lunch
- *Maundy Thursday*, April 18 at 7:00pm: Worship service with a meal, Communion and Tenebrae
- *Good Friday*, April 19 at noon: Ecumenical healing service here at Edwards Church
- *Easter Sunday*, April 21 at 5:45am: Sunrise service; 10:00am, Festival Worship with special music

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 31-April 6, 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
	5:00pm	Lord's Prayer Experience	Edwards Hall
MONDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	3:45pm	FPS Teacher Training	Edwards Hall
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classroom
	7:30pm	Board of Trustees	Jonathan House
	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
	12:00pm	Rental	Youth Room
	5:30pm	Hatha Yoga	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	Interfaith Book Group	Jonathan House
WEDNESDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	12:00pm	Lunch Bunch	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:15pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	6:00pm	Veterans Yoga	Edwards Hall
	7:15pm	Diaconate	Jonathan House
	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
	4:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Kripalu Yoga	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Cancer Support Group	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	8:00am	Men's Group	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	9:00am	Chair/Mat Yoga	Edwards Hall
	10:00am	Garden Work Day	Gardens
	3:00pm	Intergenerational Trivia Game	Edwards Hall
	4:30pm	Rental	Sanctuary

EDWARDS CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Men’s Group: *Saturday, April 6 at 8:00am in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

All men of the church (and your friends whatever their church background) are invited to gather for coffee and great conversation on the first Saturday of every month.

Intergenerational Trivia Game: *Saturday, April 6 at 3:00pm in Edwards Hall*

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.

Congregational Meeting: *Sunday, April 28 after worship in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

The Edwards Church community is invited to attend our upcoming Congregational Meeting. We will vote our next slate of boards and committees and learn about new projects.

OPEN SPIRIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Interfaith Lord’s Prayer Experience: *TODAY at 5:00pm; Chorus will gather at 3:45pm*

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. 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 and lead an experience of chanting, meditation and their sacred space. **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.

Be Brave: Make Art! Airbrushing: *Thursday, April 11 at 6:00pm downstairs in Edwards Hall*

Come learn the art of air brushing. There will be a one hour instructive period, followed by an hour to use your new skill by airbrushing your own item. Get familiar with set up to break down and all the fun in between! Attendees will airbrush a canvas and then be able to choose from airbrushing a pillowcase or a t-shirt. Led by Roger Cupertino. The cost is \$25, materials are included. Register at openspiritcenter.org.