

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

“As a dinner guest I gratefully eat just about anything that’s set before me,
because graciousness among friends is dearer to me than any other agenda.”

— Barbara Kingsolver, *Small Wonder*

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** “GOD IS HERE! AS WE YOUR PEOPLE MEET”

NCH 70

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As we meet to offer praise and prayer,

People: **God is here!**

Leader: As we lift up our lifelong need of grace,

People: **God is here!**

Leader: As we find a welcome in the Shepherd’s flock and fold,

People: **God is here!**

Leader: As we explore what our faith means to our daily living,

People: **God is here!**

All: **Let us worship God!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD’S PRAYER

(Please pray using the words you find most meaningful. There is a prayer card in your pew bible.)

* **SENTENCES OF PRAISE** *(Please stand for the Sentences of Praise and Gloria.)*

Leader: Rejoice in our God always!

People: **Again I say rejoice!**

* **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 *(in unison)*

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.

* *Stand as you are able.*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

RESPONSE

(in unison)

NCH 492, v.3

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

GOD MEETS US IN THE WORD

HONORING OF OUR GRADUATES

WORDS WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

DAWN SORENSEN

THE ANTHEM

"COME, HOLY SPIRIT"

PHILLIP KERN

(Children may go to church school after the anthem.)

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

ACTS 11:1-18

(Pew Bible, p. 895)

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION** "WHERE CHARITY AND LOVE PREVAIL"

NCH 396

THE GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 13:31-35

(Pew Bible, p. 877)

THE SERMON

"A MEAL THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING"

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** "O PRAISE THE GRACIOUS POWER"

NCH 54

* **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
GREETER
DEACON-IN-CHARGE
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
JOE HUDOCK
NORMA HART
ELLIE KELL



Music Note: Philip Kern is a composer and professor of music in the Indianapolis area. This piece has been sung, fittingly, on Pentecost several times here at Edwards Church, yet ties in beautifully to this morning's Acts reading.

Directory Updates: We are working on the latest edition of the Edwards Church Directory. If your contact information has changed in the last year, or if you are new to our community and would like to be added to the directory, please fill out the form located on the glass table on the way to coffee hour. There are several copies of the 2018 directory available to review. Please check for any errors or updates. If you prefer, you can email any updates to nicola@edwardschurch.org.

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

May 19-25, 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
	11:30am	BOCE Meeting	Education Building
	1:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	2:00pm	<i>Journey of the Spirit</i>	<i>Congregation Beth El</i>
	5:30pm	Seeds of Grace	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:00pm	Transition Framingham	Edwards Hall
MONDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	6:15pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	6:45pm	Search Committee	Jonathan House
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classroom
	7:30pm	<i>Guided Meditation</i>	<i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i>
TUESDAY	9:00am	<i>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</i>	<i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i>
	10:00am	<i>Gentle Yoga</i>	<i>Edwards Hall</i>
	12:00pm	Rental	Youth Room
	5:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	5:30pm	<i>Hatha Yoga</i>	<i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i>
	7:30pm	Church Council	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
WEDNESDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:30am	Steeple Mailing	Jonathan House
	4:45pm	Soup and Bible Study	Jonathan House
	6:00pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	6:00pm	<i>Veterans Yoga</i>	<i>Edwards Hall</i>
	6:45pm	Search Committee	Jonathan House
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
THURSDAY	9:00am	Gardening Drop-In Hours	Throughout Campus
	9:00am	<i>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</i>	<i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i>
	9:30am	<i>Not-Your-Ordinary Yoga Class</i>	<i>Edwards Hall</i>
	1:45pm	Hemenway Staff PD	Throughout Campus
	6:00pm	<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>	<i>Edwards Hall</i>
	6:00pm	<i>Cancer Support Group</i>	<i>Youth Room</i>
	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 RentalSanctuary

Edwards Church Announcements

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

Join us for a relaxed, engaging, participatory service inspired by the Prayer of St. Francis. Join us for beautiful music, time for reflection, and meditative prayer.

Transition Framingham Open House: *TODAY at 7:00pm in Edwards Hall*

Transition Framingham's mission is to support our city's transition from fossil fuel dependence to local resilience through community solutions. We are hosting our third annual Open House to share how our active group of volunteers works together with the community to achieve this mission. Refreshments will be provided.

Special Lunch Bunch from Our Local Café: *Wednesday, May 29 at noon in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

Please join us for a special take-out lunch bunch. Saxonville Mill Café and Roastery will provide us with empanadas, coffee, and other Colombian treats. Sign up on the way to coffee hour!

Ordination of Nena Radtke: *Sunday, June 2 at 3:00pm at the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church*

You are joyfully invited to celebrate the ordination of Nena Davis Radtke, our most recent student pastor and mentored minister. A reception will follow. Wellesley Hills Congregational Church is located at 207 Washington Street in Wellesley. Speak to Debbie if you want to carpool.

Gardening Drop-In Hours: *Every Thursday from 9:00-11:00am*

Please join us for our regular gardening hours on Thursday mornings. We also need volunteers to sign up to gently hand-water newly seeded beds each day as they germinate. Email Diane Bassett at dlbassett46@gmail.com with any questions or to sign up.

Seeds of Grace Mission Fund Grant Program: *Applications due June 15*

The Board of Wider Mission announces its second round of grant-making. This fund was created as part of our merger to support partner organizations that are actively working to make the world a more just, loving, welcoming, and sustainable place. Please spread the word to organizations that you believe are living out our values. You can download an application at edwardschurch.org.

Open Spirit Announcements

Inspiring Courage – Stories of Passion and Compassion: Diego Low

Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 3:00pm in Edwards Hall

Diego is the director of the Metrowest Worker Center, an advocate of worker and immigrant rights, and a member of the Framingham Friend Meeting (Quaker). He will share his story of compassion, community, and justice-seeking. Suggested donation of \$15.

Mushroom Hunt & Workshop: *Thursday, June 13 at 6:00pm in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

Have you ever wanted to learn more about fungi and whether you could safely forage and eat your own local, wild mushrooms? Here's your chance! Ryan Bouchard and Emily Schmidt, co-creators of The Mushroom Hunting Foundation, will join One Earth Collaborative once again for this informative

workshop. It's great for beginners and enthusiasts alike! Register at openspiritcenter.org. The cost is \$25 per person.

2019 DIRECTORY UPDATES

We are working on the latest edition of the Edwards Church Directory.

If your contact information has changed in the last year, or if you are new to our community and would like to be added to the directory, please fill out this form and leave it in the offering plate or send it to the church office by Sunday, May 26.

There are several copies of the 2018 directory available to review on the table on the way to coffee hour. Please check for any errors or updates. If you prefer, you can email any updates to nicola@edwardschurch.org.

If there are no changes in your directory entry, please do not submit a form.

Your Name(s):

Children in Your Household:

Address:

Town:

Zip Code:

Home Phone:

Other Phone:

Cell:

Cell:

Email:

Email:

Email:

Notes or other information: