

# 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)

**A thought for reflection**

God made yeast, as well as dough, and loves fermentation just as dearly as...vegetation.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

*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** "ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL"

**NCH 7**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*(from Psalm 100)*

Leader: Let us gather to sing our faith with cheerful voice.

People: **We delight in God whose presence calls us to rejoice.**

Leader: Let us enter the sacred gates with praise.

People: **We extol and bless our God always.**

Leader: Let us proclaim again that God is good.

People: **We trust in God whose mercy is forever sure.**

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. There is a prayer card in your pew rack.)*

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

Leader: Sing praises to God, you faithful, give thanks to God's holy name!

People: **Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning.**

Leader: You turn our weeping to dancing, God; you remove the garments of mourning and clothe us in gladness.

People: **May we praise you and not be silent! We will give thanks to you, O God, forever!**

\* **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.

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\* *Stand as you are able.*

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.

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

### **RESPONSE**

**FROM NCH 286**

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,  
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

## *GOD MEETS US IN THE WORD*

### **WORDS WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE**

DAWN SORENSEN

### **THE ANTHEM**

"PASS IT ON"

KURT KAISER

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

### **THE HEBREW BIBLE LESSON**

I KINGS 17:7-16

*(Pew Bible, p. 282)*

### \* **HYMN OF PREPARATION**

"LET US HOPE WHEN HOPE SEEMS HOPELESS"

**NCH 461**

### **THE GOSPEL LESSON**

MATTHEW 13:33

*(Pew Bible, p. 795)*

### **THE SERMON**

"STARTER"

REV. LIZ GARRIGAN-BYERLY

### **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**

"LEAD ON, ETERNAL SOVEREIGN"

**NCH 573**

### \* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

*(Please feel free to remain and listen, or to greet one another in the narthex and at coffee hour.)*

*We are grateful to the Rev. Liz Garrigan-Byerly for leading worship this morning.  
Liz is the associate director of the Metrowest Worker Center. Learn more about her work at [mwc-casa.org](http://mwc-casa.org).*

## OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED...

## LET OUR SERVICE BEGIN!

MINISTERS	ALL THE PEOPLE OF EDWARDS CHURCH
PASTOR	REV. DR. DEBORAH CLARK
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR FAITH FORMATION & OUTREACH	REV. DR. KAREN NELL SMITH
COMMISSIONED MINISTER OF MUSIC	RICK SEAHOLM
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	DAWN SORENSEN
ORGANIST	CHERYL ELKINS
PIANIST	SUSAN MINOR
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	NICOLA SEAHOLM
SEXTON	LORI WILSON
LITURGIST	CHRIS LEIGH-MANUELL
DEACON-IN-CHARGE	LEEANN FRIEDMAN
GREETER	SANDY THOMPSON
COMPOST CAPTAIN	JOANIE WHITE
JANIS STEIGMAN OF MOTHER'S HELPERS IS IN CHARGE OF THE NURSERY THIS MORNING.	

### **A Father's Lullaby Art Installation:** *Daily from 3:00-7:00pm in our labyrinth (through October)*

Artist Rashin Fehandej has installed her outdoor multi-media art work, "A Father's Lullaby," in and around the labyrinth on our campus. The work offers an opportunity to reflect on the harm of mass incarceration to families. As you walk the labyrinth or sit on a bench, you will hear fathers singing lullabies and telling stories of their experiences with parenting and incarceration. Supported by the Framingham Cultural Council.

**Welcome!** No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, we are glad you are here. Please join us for coffee following the service. We hope you will sign our guestbook or fill out a welcome card.

**We extend a special welcome to children** and their families. The sound of children's voices is the sound of a living church! We want children to learn and question alongside adults, and we welcome whispers, wiggles, and joyful noises of all kinds.

Next Sunday, our fall Christian Explorers classes begin, following our Words with the Young People. Today we worship as an intergenerational congregation, with a special art project for children. Always, we have a loving, trained nursery staff available for our youngest children. In the entryway to the sanctuary, you will find some quiet activity boxes; please take one and have fun!

### **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

September 15-21, 2019

<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:00am	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Bible Study</b> .....	<b>Youth Room</b>
	<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>
	1:00pm	Rental .....	Sanctuary
	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Seeds of Grace</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	7:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall Classroom
	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Chairobics</b> .....
<b>10:30am</b>		<b>Strength Without a Gym</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>
	10:30am	Rental .....	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	12:00pm	UCC Clergy Group .....	Jonathan House
	12:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards 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>nicola@edwardschurch.org</b>
	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Chairobics</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<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>Gardening Hours</b> .....	<b>Community Farm</b>
	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	4:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	<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>	8:00am	Rental .....	Edwards Hall
	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Chairobics</b> .....	<b>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</b>
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Yoga of 12-Step Recovery</b> .....	<b>Edwards Hall</b>
	7:00pm	Rental .....	Edwards Hall Classrooms

**SATURDAY**    **9:00am**    **Chair/Mat Yoga .....***Edwards Hall*  
4:30pm    Rental .....

# Edwards Church Announcements

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

Join us for a creative, interactive, multi-sensory worship service led by Rev. Isaac Everett and Ruth Carney. We will reflect on the question, “Where is God?”

**Church Council Meeting:** *Tuesday, September 17 at 7:30pm in Susan P. Dickerman Hall*

Join us as we welcome our new associate pastor for faith formation and outreach, the Rev. Dr. Karen Nell Smith. We will discuss several ongoing campus projects including the solar panel expansion and proposals for a new fire alarm and suppression monitoring and maintenance plan.

**Blessing of the Animals:** *Sunday, September 22 at 10:00am outside Edwards Hall*

Join us for our annual outdoor service and Blessing of the Animals featuring bluegrass music from On the Fence. As part of our fall “Jesus the Foodie” theme, the service will center on Luke 12:22-31, in which Jesus evokes the lilies of the fields to challenge our inclination to worry about what we eat and drink. Bring your beloved animal companions for the service. Stay after worship for a “Picnic with our Pets.” Bring a pet; bring a friend; bring a chair to sit on! *Our offering will go to help the Tri-Conference Youth create hygiene kits for survivors of Hurricane Dorian.*

**Seeking Compost Captains | Green Team Meeting:** *Monday, Sept. 23 at 7:00pm in the church office*

All are welcome to join the Green Team at our next meeting. Please RSVP to Mary Memmott (email [mymmottm@gmail.com](mailto:mymmottm@gmail.com) or call 508-788-1826) if you plan to attend. We welcome anyone to sign up to be a “compost captain” and take out the compost after coffee hour each Sunday for a month. Contact Mary to claim your month!

**Diaper Collection for A Place to Turn:** *Sunday, September 29 during worship*

Many Metrowest families have to decide between food, medicine, and clean babies. A family needs up to \$80 a month per child for diapers—an average of fifty diaper changes per week over three years. Without diapers, babies cannot attend daycare or early childhood programs. Let’s help provide Metrowest families in financial distress with diapers for their infants and toddlers to keep them clean, dry and healthy. Please bring a package of diapers to church; **sizes five and six are in high need**. Opened packages your child has outgrown are fine.

# Open Spirit Announcements

**NEW YOGA CLASS—Strength Without a Gym:** *Mondays at 10:30am in Edwards Hall*

Do you want to build muscle but don’t want to go to the gym? Do you enjoy a light-hearted group with lots of laughter? Then our new “Strength Without a Gym” yoga class is for you! Whatever your age, whatever your physical abilities, whether or not you’ve ever done yoga, this class will offer you an

opportunity to build on your strengths as you build strength! Taught by Donna Warren, long-time Open Spirit yoga teacher and unofficial comedian. Suggested donation. Suggested donation of \$15-20.

**Yoga of 12 Step Recovery:** *Monthly on Fridays from 7:00-8:45pm in Edwards Hall (9/20, 10/18)*

Y12SR is a 12-step based discussion and yoga practice open to anyone dealing with their own addictive behavior or affected by the addictive behavior of others. This is an open and inclusive group. All levels are welcome. No yoga experience is necessary. Led by Chere Jalali. Suggested donation of \$15.