

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.

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Framingham, MA 01701
508-877-2050
www.edwardschurch.org

A thought for reflection

People of our time are losing the power of celebration. Instead of celebrating we seek to be amused or entertained. Celebration is an active state, an act of expressing reverence or appreciation.

-Abraham Joshua Heschel

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**

“JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE YOU”

NCH 4

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: With joy, let us praise our God of glory and love.

People: **May our hearts unfold like flowers; may we open to the sun's light.**

Leader: With joy, let us join the stars and angels in a song of unbroken praise.

People: **May we learn from the chanting birds and the flowing fountain.**

Leader: With joy, let us drink from the wellspring of life and love.

People: **May our spirits be renewed as we love one another.**

Leader: With joy, let us sing with the mighty chorus of creation.

People: **May we move forward in faith and joy as we 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**

(Please stand for the Sentences of Praise and Gloria.)

(from Psalm 92:1-4)

Leader: It is good to give thanks to God,

People: **To sing praises to your name, O Most High,**

Leader: To declare your steadfast love in the morning,

People: **And your faithfulness by night,**

Leader: To the music of the lute and the harp,

People: **To the melody of the lyre.**

Leader: For you, O God, have made me glad by your work;

People: **At the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

*** GLORIA**

NCH 756

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

O God, our God, we celebrate the new life which you have given us. We have experienced broken lives made whole; old wounds of alienation healed over; and tired spirits rejuvenated with new vision. Gracious God, we are so grateful for the purpose and possibilities you have placed before us. Yet there are times when doubt has overcome hope, cynicism has replaced dedication, the world's values have captured us more than yours. Forgive us those times, we pray. Help us let go of the past that we might move joyfully into a new future that points to your love and justice. 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

THE ANTHEM

"O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED"
(Children may go to church school after the anthem.)

AUSTIN LOVELACE

THE GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 2:1-11

(Pew Bible, p. 863)

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION**

"REJOICE, YOU PURE IN HEART"

NCH 55

THE SERMON

"POPSICLES AND HARMONICAS"

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**

"THANK OUR GOD FOR SISTERS, BROTHERS"

NCH 397

* **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	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	REV. PAT MARTIN
DEACON-IN-CHARGE	ELLIE KELL
GREETER	JOANIE WHITE
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 29-October 5, 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	Gathering of Friends	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	3:00pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
MONDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:30am	Strength Without a Gym	Edwards Hall
	6:15pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	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
	10:30am	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:00pm	Nursing Home Services	Heritage and Oak Knoll
	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
	2:30pm	Stewardship Meeting	Jonathan House
	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	Super Saturday		
	8:00am	Men's Group	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	9:00am	Chair/Mat Yoga	Edwards Hall
	10:00am	Rental	Youth Room
	4:30pm	Rental	Sanctuary

EDWARDS CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering of Friends Brunch and Information Session: *TODAY after coffee hour in Sue Dickerman Hall*

Join us for an after-church brunch for folks who are new and would like to learn more about Edwards Church, folks who have been active here and are considering membership, and everyone in between!

Youth Mission Opportunity: *Saturday, October 5 at Super Saturday (Keefe Tech)*

Our middle school and high school youth are invited (and encouraged) to join with youth from around Southern New England for a special mission project at Super Saturday, which will be held at Keefe Tech in Framingham. We will collect items for hygiene kits and organize them, in order to provide support to people who have survived natural disasters. Sign up by contacting Karen Nell at choresis@comcast.net.

World Communion Sunday: Seeking Bakers! / Neighbors in Need Special Offering: *Sunday, October 6*

We will share breads from around the world as we celebrate communion. If you have a favorite international bread to share, please sign up to bring a loaf! Neighbors in Need is the UCC's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries. Please give generously as you are able.

OPEN SPIRIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Journey of the Spirit: *Sunday, October 6 at 2:00pm, Islamic Center of Boston in Wayland*

Join us as we continue our journey of discovery to gain greater understanding and appreciation of the faith and traditions of our neighbors, deepen relationships among fellow travelers, and strengthen our shared commitment to this community. The Islamic Center of Boston, Wayland is located at 126 Boston Post Road in Wayland. Please register at openspiritcenter.org by September 30. Suggested donation of \$15. For more information or questions, please contact Karen Nell Smith at choresis@comcast.net.

National Coming Out Weekend: Celebrating Our Stories: *Sunday, October 13 at 3:00pm in Edwards Hall*

Please join us as the Just Peace Players perform true stories of courageous LGBTQ people of spirit. The performance will be followed by conversation and refreshments.

Particles of Light Energy Infusion & Meditation: *Tues., Oct. 15 from 7:00-9:00pm in Sue Dickerman Hall*

The evening will begin with a forty-five minute guided meditation, infusing "Particles of Light" into the energy body of each person. As you relax in a chair, you will be infused with Healing Energy, and feel deep peace and stress relief. You may experience healing relief—emotional, mental or physical. This meditation will be followed by a brief time for sharing. After the meditation and reflection, there will be time for four individual fifteen-minute healing sessions for those people who are interested. Led by Maria Dios, certified yoga instructor, Reiki master and meditation teacher. Suggested donation: \$15-20.

Weekend of Spirit—"Deepening Connections": *Friday and Saturday, October 25 & 26*

Join us as we share meals, music, conversation, art projects and experiential workshops. Come explore this rich theme in a relaxed and relaxing environment. Weekend of Spirit begins on Friday evening with a concert by our own Willie Sordillo, along with his colleagues and friends Doug Rich, Zoë Krohne and Erez Dissel. We will receive a free-will offering to support the Nourishing Teachers / Strengthening Classrooms project. On Saturday morning, the program opens with a keynote presentation centering on deep-rooted connections in the plant world. Following our opening conversation, we will have morning and afternoon workshops, a Healing Spa, a delicious vegetarian/vegan lunch, lunch-time Qi Gong and drumming, and much more. Early-bird rate is \$30 (register at openspiritcenter.org by October 10). Watch for more information!