

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

Bread for myself is a material question. Bread for my neighbor is a spiritual one.

—*Nikolai Berdyaev*

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**

“DE COLORES”

NCH 402

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come from the East! Come from the West! Come from the North! Come from the South!

People: **We come from places of joy and places of sorrow, from places of struggle and places of peace.**

Leader: Come because you are hungry!

People: **We come to be fed at the table of life.**

Leader: Come because you are lonely!

People: **We come to share a meal with our siblings in faith.**

Leader: Come, join together with Christians all over the world in this meal of blessing.

People: **We come to celebrate our diversity and to seek understanding.**

All: **May we be One in the Spirit. Amen**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND SUNG LORD’S PRAYER

FINLANDIA

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

* **SENTENCES OF PRAISE**

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

Leader: The world belongs to God,

People: **The earth and all its people.**

Leader: How good and lovely it is

People: **To live together in unity.**

Leader: Love and faith come together;

People: **Justice and peace join hands.**

Leader: God, open our lips,

People: **And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

* **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)

Jesus prayed that we might be one—in Spirit, in mission, in communion with each other and with you. Today, O God, we confess fumbblings and failures in accomplishing unity. On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your reflection in the eyes of people everywhere. Give us a mind to accept and celebrate our differences. Give us a heart big enough to love your children everywhere. We thank you for setting a table with space enough for us all! Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

RESPONSE

(in unison)

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

BRINGING FORWARD THE BREAD FOR COMMUNION

MANNA IN THE WILDERNESS—A DRAMATIC TELLING

(From Exodus 15)

THE ANTHEM

“HLOHONOLOFATSA”
(Children may return to their seats after the anthem.)

ARR. ANDREW ST. HILAIRE

THE GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 6:25-33

(Pew Bible, p. 867)

REFLECTION

“THE BREAD OF HEAVEN”

REV. DR. KAREN NELL SMITH

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 CALLS US TO THE TABLE

THE LORD’S SUPPER

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Leader: Valkommen! Ayubowan! Yo koso! Benvenuto! Swaagam! Karibu! Welcome!

People: We are hungry!

Leader: Come and taste the bread of life! You are welcome!

People: We are thirsty!

Leader: Come and drink from the cup of blessing! You are welcome!

People: We are lonely!

Leader: Come and share a meal with friends! You are welcome!

People: We are broken!

Leader: Come and be healed by Christ's love! You are welcome!

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP AT THE TABLE

During communion, please join in singing:

“LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER”

NCH 330

“DRAW US IN THE SPIRIT'S TETHER”

NCH 337

“COME, GATHER IN THIS SPECIAL PLACE”

NCH 335

THE THANKSGIVING

(in unison)

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

* **HYMN OF DEDICATION** “LET US TALENTS AND TONGUES EMPLOY”

NCH 347

* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

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

COMMUNION NOTE

You are invited to come to the communion table to partake of the Lord's Feast. Come forward row by row from the back to be served. Dip the bread in the **grape juice** in the chalice on your **left** or in the **wine** in the chalice on your **right**. Proceed back to your seats by the side aisles. If you prefer to be served at your seat, we will come to you.

The **Communion Offering** is used for confidential emergency needs. If you or someone you know has a need, bring this to the attention of the minister or a member of the Diaconate. The offering envelopes are in the pew racks. Put your name on the envelope for tax credit purposes. Please consider this offering thoughtfully.

TODAY'S SPECIAL OFFERING

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. These funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) and the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. Please give generously as you are able.

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	DAWN SORENSEN & DEBBIE CLARK
DEACON-IN-CHARGE	CLAIR BALL
COMMUNION SERVERS	BRANDON JONES, SHELLY CICHOWLAS, & YOUTH
GREETER	JUDY SEBASTIAN & YOUTH
COMPOST CAPTAIN	MARY MEMMOTT
JANIS STEIGMAN OF MOTHER'S HELPERS IS IN CHARGE OF THE NURSERY THIS MORNING.	

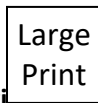
Welcome! No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, we are glad you are here. Please join us for coffee following the service. We hope you will sign our guestbook or fill out a welcome card.

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

October 6-12, 2019

SUNDAY	9:00am	Adult Bible Study	Youth Room
	9:00am	Rental	Edwards Hall
	10:00am	World Communion Sunday	Sanctuary
	11:00am	Photo Directory Sign-Ups	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	11:00am	Coffee Hour	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	2:00pm	<i>Journey of the Spirit</i>	<i>ICB Wayland</i>
MONDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:30am	<i>Strength Without a Gym</i>	<i>Edwards Hall</i>
	4:00pm	<i>Nourishing Teachers</i>	<i>Edwards Hall</i>
	6:15pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classroom
	7:30pm	Board of Trustees	Jonathan House
	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>
	11:15am	Steering Committee	Jonathan House
	5:30pm	<i>Hatha Yoga</i>	<i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i>
	7:00pm	<i>Buddhist Meditation</i>	<i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i>
WEDNESDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	3:30pm	Rental	Youth Room
	4:45pm	Soup and Bible Study	Jonathan House
	6:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	6:00pm	<i>Veterans Yoga</i>	<i>Edwards Hall</i>
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
THURSDAY	9:00am	<i>Qi Gong / Tai Chi</i>	<i>Susan P. Dickerman Hall</i>
	6:00pm	<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>	<i>Edwards Hall</i>
	6:00pm	<i>Cancer Support Group</i>	<i>Youth Room</i>
	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	9:00am	<i>Chair/Mat Yoga</i>	<i>Edwards Hall</i>
	4:30pm	Rental	Sanctuary

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.

EDWARDS CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Walk, Bike, Carpool to Church

Sunday, October 13

Next Sunday, the Green Team encourages you to walk, bike, or carpool to church to save energy and reduce emissions. Maybe you can make your new way to get to church part of your regular plans.

Christian Explorers Open House

Sunday, October 20 after worship

Join us and see all of the great things that our leaders and kids are doing. Tour the classrooms, hear about the projects, interact with the board members, and have a good time!

Seeds of Grace Worship

Sunday, October 20 at 5:00pm for a simple soup supper, 5:30pm worship in Susan P. Dickerman Hall.

Rev. Dr. Karen Nell Smith and members of the Seeds of Grace worship team will lead us in time of warm community and creative worship with the theme "How are you fed?" Come as we gather for a cup of soup followed by a time of sharing scripture and song, conversation and prayer. We hope to see you there!

Vietnamese Takeout Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, October 30 at noon in Susan P. Dickerman Hall

We will continue our tradition of trying international cuisine prepared at local restaurants with a trip to Vietnam. Please join us whether or not you are a Lunch Bunch regular. Sign up on the way to coffee hour or email nicola@edwardschurch.org. Suggested donation of \$7, more if you can, less if you can't.

Veterans Appreciation Dinner

Sunday, November 10 at 5:00pm at Plymouth Church

Edwards and Plymouth Churches will offer a dinner for area veterans in appreciation of their service. If you are a veteran, we hope you will sign up to attend. If you are not a veteran, we hope you will prepare a homemade dessert or sign up to help out on that day. More information to come.

New Edwards Church Photo Directory

Photography Sessions on Monday and Tuesday, November 4 and 5, 2:00-9:00pm in Edwards Hall

Do you ever look at someone in church and think, "I know that person, but I can't think of their name." Soon you will be able to sneak a peek on your phone or in a booklet and find the person's picture and name! Sign up at coffee hour or visit edwardschurch.org to select a time slot for an individual or family portrait. The more people who participate, the more helpful our directory will be!

OPEN SPIRIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Journey of the Spirit

TODAY at 2:00pm, Islamic Center of Boston in Wayland (126 Boston Post Road)

Join us as we continue our journey of discovery to gain greater understanding and appreciation of the faith and traditions of our neighbors. There are still spots available. Please speak to Karen Nell Smith after worship if you would like to attend. Suggested donation of \$15.

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.

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. Early-bird rate is \$30 (vegetarian lunch included) if registered by October 10.

Deep Calls Out to Deep—A Ballad Project Concert

Friday, October 25 at 7:00pm in Edwards Hall

The Ballad Project is a collaboration between bassist Doug Rich, alto saxophonist Willie Sordillo and vocalist Zoë Krohne. The trio will be joined by pianist Erez Dessel. Doug and Willie have been playing together in jazz ensembles, gospel groups, R&B and funk bands for over twenty years, and with Zoe for the past five. The Ballad Project provides a spare, spacious setting in which to explore reflective, often meditative moods. Their repertoire draws from original works, some works by other composers, and wholly improvised material created in front of the audience. Sponsored by Middlesex Savings Bank. Admission is free, donations to support our Nourishing Teachers / Strengthening Classrooms project are greatly appreciated.

Experiential Workshops

Saturday, October 26, registration opens at 9:00am

Opening Presentation

- *Trees, Roots, and Hidden Connections—Insights from the Natural World*, Neela de Zoysa & Layli Maparyan.

Morning Workshops

- *Yoga of 12-Step Recovery: Exploratory Session*, Chere Jalali
- *Telling Our Sacred Stories*, Rev. Dr. Fran Bogle
- *Just Music & Listening: Practices for Dignity & Well-Being in Relationships*, Sofia Wolman, Ben Freeman, Alexa Klein-Mayer and Azmera Hammouri-Davis
- *Connecting to the Divine Within You and All Creation*, Father Don Pachuta
- *How to Stand FOR without Fighting AGAINST*, Anne LeFleur

Lunchtime Activities

- *Qi Gong/ Tai Chi*, Kathleen Sakovitz
- *Within the Rhythm Percussion Circle*, Shira Moss
- *Healing Spa Treatments: Reiki, Christian Science Treatments, Nurturing Hands Energy Healing, Craniosacral Therapy, Chakra Balancing, and Particles of Light Energy Infusion*

Afternoon Workshops

- *Radical Empowerment*, Danielle Rousseau
- *Humbling the Discourse*, Father Carl Chudy
- *Our Golden Inner Light of Spirit: Guided Meditation*, Katherine McClean
- *Going Deeper with Yoga and Movement*, Donna Warren
- *Multi-Faith Devotional on the Spiritual Significance of Imprisonment*, Layli Maparyan

Visit openspiritcenter.org to read full workshop descriptions, facilitator biographies, and to register.