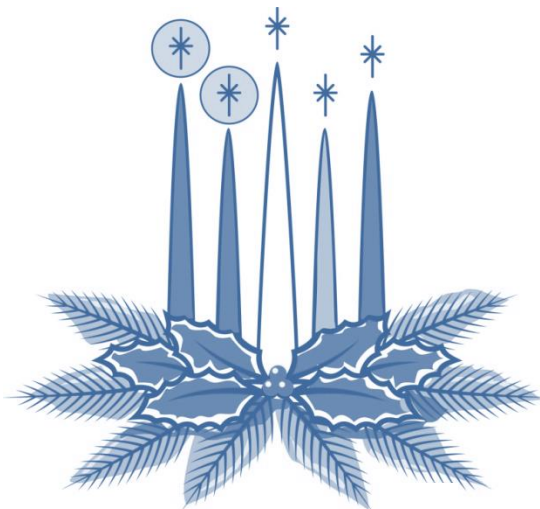


EDWARDS CHURCH

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

“Every angel is terrifying.”

— Rainer Maria Rilke

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.)

INTROIT

“HE COME FROM THE GLORY”

ARR. LLOYD LARSON

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come with our questions:

People: **Where did he come from? Who is that singing? What do they call him?**

Leader: We come with our yearnings:

People: **We yearn for peace, for hope, for a sense of the holy in our midst.**

Leader: We come with our voices:

People: **We sing glory in the highest! Glory and peace on earth!**

Leader: Let us honor our questions and our yearnings; let us lift up our voices.

People: **Let us worship God!**

* **HYMN OF PRAISE**

“O COME, O COME EMMANUEL”

C-5

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND SUNG LORD’S PRAYER

FINLANDIA

(Please join in singing the “Finlandia” version of the Lord’s Prayer printed on the prayer card in your pew rack.)

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

Leader: I will give thanks to God with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds!

People: **I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O most high!**

* **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)

“O come, O come, Emmanuel.” We sing our yearning for you, O God, to be Emmanuel, God-with-us. We sing our yearning for you to come and free us from our captivity, our loneliness, our exile. In the midst of our song, we pause to acknowledge that you are here, God-with-us, even when we cannot feel you among us. We confess that we look for you in grand signs and miss your presence in ordinary moments. We confess that we are easily trapped by our narrow vision.

Forgive us, we pray. Broaden our vision. Awaken us to your presence, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

RESPONSE

FROM NCH 122

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.

GOD MEETS US IN THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

THE PHELPS EXTENDED FAMILY

SONG

"ADVENT INCANTATION"

C-2

LITANY

Leader: Peace...

People: We sing about it.

Leader: We dream of it.

People: We pray for it.

Leader: Singing and dreaming and praying are great, but how're we gonna make it real?

People: By listening deeper than the surface.

Leader: By honoring difference.

People: By seeking opportunity for everyone.

Leader: As we light this candle,

People: We trust our small acts toward peace matter.

WORDS WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

* **HYMN OF PREPARATION** "TODA LA TIERRA" (v. 1-4 in English, v. 1 in Spanish) C-6
(Children may go to Sunday School during the hymn.)

THE GOSPEL LESSON—PART I LUKE 1:5-20 (Pew Bible, p. 831)

THE ANTHEM "THE ANGEL GABRIEL" TRADITIONAL

THE GOSPEL LESSON—PART II LUKE 1:26-38 (Pew Bible, p. 831)

SERMON "THE ANGEL OF DISRUPTION"

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** “COME, O LONG EXPECTED JESUS”

C-7

* **CHARGE**

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

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED...

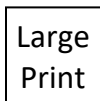
LET OUR SERVICE BEGIN!

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
ORGANIST	CHERYL ELKINS
PIANIST	SUSAN MINOR
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	NICOLA SEAHOLM
SEXTON	LORI WILSON
LITURGIST	PAUL BLOW
DEACON-IN-CHARGE	CLAIR BALL
GREETER	NORMA HART
COMPOST CAPTAIN	RONDA YEOMANS
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. Please 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. In the entryway to the sanctuary, you will find some quiet activity boxes; please take one and have fun! Following the anthem, we invite all children to attend a Christian Explorers class downstairs in the Susan P. Dickerman Education Building. We have a loving, trained nursery staff available for our youngest children.

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

December 8-14, 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
	2:30pm	Yoga for Teachers	Edwards Hall
	3:00pm	Journey of the Spirit	Fatima Shrine
MONDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:30am	Strength Without a Gym	Edwards Hall
	6:15pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	5:30pm	Board of Trustees	Jonathan House
	7:00pm	Wider Mission	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
	10:30am	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	11:15am	OS Steering Committee	Jonathan House
	5:30pm	Hatha Yoga	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:00pm	Buddhist Meditation	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
WEDNESDAY	9:00am	Steeple Articles Due	nicola@edwardschurch.org
	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	4:30pm	Soup and Bible Study	Jonathan House
	6:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	6:00pm	Veterans Yoga	Edwards Hall
	7:30pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
THURSDAY	9:00am	Qi Gong / Tai Chi	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	4:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	6:00pm	Cancer Support Group	Youth Room
	6:00pm	Kripalu Yoga	Edwards Hall
	7:00pm	Board of Finance	Jonathan House
	7:15pm	Choir Rehearsal	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	AA Meeting	Edwards Hall
FRIDAY	8:00am	Rental	Edwards Hall
	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:00pm	Y12SR	Edwards Hall
	7:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classrooms
SATURDAY	9:00am	Chair/Mat Yoga	Edwards Hall

4:30pm Rental Sanctuary
5:30pm Rental Susan P. Dickerman Hall

Important Announcements

Steeple Articles Due Early This Month!

Email articles to nicola@edwardschurch.org by Wednesday, December 11 at 9:00am

Mailing will take place Thursday, December 19 at 10:30am in the office

We have many special events in December, so we will be creating and mailing the January *Steeple* one week early this month. Start thinking of your article ideas and send them to Nicola as soon as possible. Thanks to everyone who contributes to our newsletter throughout the year!

Presents for Pathways

The Wider Mission Christmas gift drive for residents of Pathways Family Shelter is well underway. All the gift tags have been taken and we ask that you please return your unwrapped gift, with the tag, as soon as possible and no later than Sunday, December 15! Thank you again for your very generous support!

Seeds of Grace

Sunday, December 15 at 5:00pm for a simple soup supper, 5:30pm worship in Susan P. Dickerman Hall

The Seeds of Grace worship team will lead us in a time of warm community and creative worship with the Advent theme, "What are we waiting for?" Come gather for a cup of soup and a time of sharing stories and song, conversation and prayer. We hope to see you there!

Lunch Bunch Christmas Gathering

Wednesday, December 18 at noon in Edwards Hall

Everyone is welcome to join us for a Christmas lunch featuring turkey, stuffing, and all your favorite dishes. Fran and Debbie will provide turkey and stuffing; everyone is invited to bring a favorite holiday dish. Please sign up on the way to coffee hour or RSVP to the church office.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 22 following worship and a light lunch (around noon)

'Tis the season to celebrate with Christmas music and bring joy to our friends who aren't able to make it to Edwards each week! Join us as we visit several members of our church in their individual homes and assisted living settings. We will have a brief lunch after worship before heading out to sing. No musical experience or talent is necessary! Music and lyrics will be provided. Please contact Debbie (pastor@edwardschurch.org) if you would like to participate. Also, please let Debbie know if you need a ride or if you are able to drive people.

Interfaith Multi-Narrative Listening Tour to Israel/Palestine

Summer, 2020 (Register by December, 2019)

Travel with a group of Jews, Christians and Muslims on an eight-day journey to the Holy Land and its people that will engage your mind, body and spirit. At the heart of this trip is listening with an open heart and mind to many different perspectives and experiences, led by Israeli and Palestinian Mejdi Tour™ guides. Visit openspiritcenter.org/interfaith-multinarrative-tour for more information.