



THE SPIRE

EDWARDS CHURCH *of* NORTHAMPTON
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Vol. 35 No. 4

April 2025

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13, 2025

We will begin at Pulaski park at 9:40 along with St. Johns' Episcopal and First Churches and then parade to our sanctuary – waving palm branches as we go.

Welcoming New Members

Maundy Thursday

Service of Communion and Tenebrae

Thursday, April 16, 2025

Remember together Jesus' last days through a service of communion and shadows.

Tenebrae is the extinguishing of light. We will read 12 scripture passages telling of Jesus' passion, extinguishing one of our wall candles after each reading.

Would you like to be a reader?

Contact Rev. Geary

Good Friday

The Way of the Cross

A dramatic presentation

Friday, April 17, 2025

7:00 PM

Experience the sights and sounds of the Passion of Christ through this interactive service of devotion.

Would you like to help?

Needed: 2 – 3 stage hands to move props. A variety of readers. Set designers. Ushers

Celebrate Resurrection!

Easter worship celebration 10:00 AM
in the sanctuary

Easter Egg Hunt

for ages 10 and under

15 mins after the conclusion of worship.

Bring your basket!

Sunday Worship in April

April 6 – Lent 5, Communion

Psalm 126; John 12:1-8

Fast from Selfishness; Feast on Service

April 13 – Palm Sunday, New members joining

Meet at Pulaski Park at 9:40 AM for the parade

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-44

Fast from Criticism; Feast on Praise

April 20 – Easter with Special Music

John 20:1-18; Acts 10:34-43

April 27 – Easter 2

John 20:19-31; Acts 5:27-32

Navigating a choppy sea of change

This congregation has been experiencing quite a bit of change and the forecast appears to be for more of the same.

During the month of April, I and the Personnel Team will search for and hire a new Administrative Assistant. Kyla has graciously offered to continue to work remotely until then and to help train the new person.

Our treasurer, Sabra, will also be working remotely for the month of April. Please see the related article about how to submit reimbursement and check requests.

The ECM is creating a Transition Team who will work with me to pilot the congregation through a time of discernment and profile writing. While some might be feeling sea-sick with all this change and are ready to just land anywhere, we need to listen for God's guidance and choose together where we will make port. This is an opportunity for this faith community to take a realistic view of who it is today and to vision where it wants to be in the future before hiring the staff that will help make that vision happen.

Hopefully, the wind will calm down and we can sail to that destination without quite so much disruption to daily life. Continue to hold each other and the process in prayer. Continue to trust God no matter the weather. Pause to appreciate the moments of beauty amidst the choppy seas. — Rev. Jennifer Geary

New System for check requests

New check request forms have been created and are available in the office or digitally by request from the office or Sabra. Please use this form for all reimbursement and check requests. While Sabra is away, all hard copy requests will go through the office and checks will be mailed; so please be sure to include the appropriate address.

Time-with-Friends Adult Volunteers needed.

Our Sunday Time with Friends (Sunday School) is in need of adult volunteers to be present. Our Activity Coordinators plan and run the lesson and we need another adult in the room. If you are willing to be on a rotating schedule to be that second person or to be a substitute, please let the office know. All volunteers who work with children need to have a current CORI check on record in the office - we can help with this if you haven't had one done recently.

Scholarship Thank You Letters

To the Edwards Church Scholarship Committee, thank you so much for your generous Scholarship! This money will go towards my tuition and books, and will help a lot.

Thank
you,
Nikolai
Kurza

Dear Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for awarding me the Edwards Church scholarship, I am so grateful to accept this award and use it towards my education. In my time at Connecticut College thus far I have become a part of their swim team, become a member of the Peggotty Investment Club, and a successful student. With the help of this scholarship I am grateful to have the chance to continue these things. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Jack

Gratitude Corner

If you see someone doing something nice, share a gratitude here.

I am so grateful for all the help and support Kyla has given and is still giving me during my first two months. – Jennifer

Thanks to Leon & Susan and Grace & Debbie for running the kitchen for the Pancake Supper. And to Violet for organizing the event.

Thank you Laura and everyone who helped with the reception following the memorial service on 3/23.

Thank you to everyone who helped, if even in a small way, to get the church smoothly through a busy and challenging month.

Sunday Morning Volunteers

	Greeter	Usher	Liturgist	Reader	Fellowship
6-Apr	Diane R	Jon D	Kristin R	Kathy K	Sue A, Ella S, Michele W
13-Apr	Kristine B	Carolyn D	Hazel W	Kristin R	Emmy C, Michele W
20-Apr	Marc W Ha- zel W	Mark D	Melissa M	Ella S	Grace D, Debbie Da, Michele W
27-Apr	Sandi CG Gaston G	Marc W		Floyd C	Michele W

From the Scholarship Team

Edwards Scholarship Team is currently accepting applications for scholarships and we are reviewing on a quarterly basis. Our last deadline was March 31st. Our next deadline is June 30th. A reminder, an award could be for professional development, community development, summer camp, etc. and not just college tuition. Contact the church office to receive instructions on how to apply.

Proctors Needed

We are in need of more proctors so that we can continue to host. Proctoring is a stipend position. If you are interested in proctoring please contact the office at info@edwardschurchnorthampton.org

A Successful Pancake Supper



TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS

Lilies and other Easter flowers will decorate our chancel on Easter Sunday, April 20. If you wish to place an order, please fill out the form below and return it with your payment to the church office by **Tuesday, April 1, 2025.**

Make checks payable to Edwards Church and write "lilies" on the memo line.



Edwards Church
297 Main Street
Northampton, MA 01060



Ordered by: _____ Phone: _____

Number of lilies (\$15): ____ Number of daffodils (\$14.50): ____ Total cost : _____

Number of tulips (\$13.50): ____ Number of hyacinths (\$13.50): ____ Total cost: ____

Please include payment with your order

In Memory Of:

OR

In Honor Of:

Given by (*if different from "ordered by" name*): _____

Please check one:

____ I will remove the plant(s) after worship on Easter Sunday.

____ Please deliver plant(s) to an "at home" member or friend.

ECM Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2025

Attendees: Jennifer, Leon, Mark, Adam, Ron, Jeff, Sandi

Moderator: Leon

Opening Devotional: Ron

Approval of previous minutes: First, Jeff, Second, Ron, and unanimously approved

Music:

Music at the Crossroads successfully raised \$2,000 for Fuel Assistance

Blue Heron was the performers

Next Crossroads is May 20

Work on lighting systems will take place, and a quote for the price will be forthcoming shortly.

The team will need help from congregation members to install the new lights. A formal request will go out shortly.

Outreach:

Will be contacting all organizations that we have funded to find out how they are doing and how the monies were used

ECM unanimously agreed to give money to the Community Support Alliance organization. Question: Should we sponsor a table and send community members? It was shared that the \$6,000 gift to Michael McSherry should be shared with outreach to keep them aware of what is happening.

Sandi brought up LGBTQUIA+ challenges, such as losing funding and loan forgiveness for people working in nonprofits that serve them. It was agreed that this topic should be added to the agenda for next month.

Rob (from Outreach) will be asked to join us next month to discuss how we can best serve our community members facing challenges from the current administration.

Annual Meeting Minutes

The minutes contain some questions for Kyla to complete. ECM members were requested to view them and offer answers to Kyla's questions.

Michael McSherry's gift:

ECM voted via email that we would send a gift in Michael's name to Hampshire Support Alliance to honor his 11-year work with our church. The check for \$6,000.00 should go out shortly.

Jonathan Edwards

We were willing to cover the cost of revising the marker before First Church. Floyd Cheung is handling the cost and the wording change to acknowledge Edwards' slave ownership.

Scams:

Recently, one of the church employees experienced an attempted scam in which the Treasurer was asked to do something by email that an employee had not requested. The fraud was unsuccessful, but ECM reminds all church members never to share banking information, buy gift cards, or send money, even if our minister or someone else in authority appears to be asking. If anyone has any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with Jennifer or a member of the ECM.

Settled Pastor Transition Planning

ECM needs to help form a group of individuals to join transition planning. What do we want to do going forward? What type of minister do we want? Where do we want to be? We have some members who were mentioned for us to contact. Sandi offered to create an early draft of a letter to ask people to join the committee.

We anticipate holding large and small gatherings to explore what the church community wants and/or needs. Based on those meetings, we will develop questions to help us process the next steps in our journey.

Replacement Office Manager

Kyla has resigned and will leave on March 18. She will help us for a few weeks by working remotely and coming in once a week while we advertise.

We will make changes to her job description to include social media.

Ryan Askew, our webmaster, will be contacted about expectations for tech related to social media.

The website needs a significant overhaul. Jeff reminded us that we must consider safe churches as we put up pictures, particularly of children in our church. Leon will contact Ryan regarding what the office manager will need to support this endeavor, including but not limited to website maintenance

There was a question about how many hours the Office Manager should work. ECM approved that the new job be a full-time, 35-hour-per-week position.

The interviewing committee will consist of Jennifer, Ron (a member of Building and Grounds), and Leon.

Other Business:

*Filos wants to discuss modifications to the space they rent. Leon agreed to follow up.

*Building and Grounds emailed about pews and the modification to allow wheelchair access other than at the front of the church. This was discussed, and the suggestion was made to modify and only adjust one side of the pews to see how they are used.

*Adam raised the issue of indefinitely having all of our services on YouTube. We decided to redo the services and mark them as unlisted so the public cannot view them all. Several recent services remain active and available, but this will be limited. Marking services as unlisted keeps the public from seeing them indefinitely.

Closing Devotional: Mark

Meeting closed at 8:39 pm

Next Meeting: April 7 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Coyne-Gilbert

Chancel Flowers

Just A Reminder

If you are interested in dedicating flowers for a regular Sunday service that will be placed on the Communion/Chancel table all you have to do is contact me, Deb Dietrich. My phone number and email are available through the church office.

You may choose the Sunday you prefer if it is available and we can chat about the dedication for the bulletin, the florist and delivery to the church or you may wish to do your own arrangement.

We all appreciate the beauty of flowers in the chancel and are grateful to those folks who decide to supply them.



self-evident education

PRESENTS

THE FOURTH ANNUAL

POWER OF TRUTHS

Arts & Education Festival

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025—

9:30 am-3:30 pm

&

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025—

10:30 AM-5 PM & 7:30-9:30 PM

Bombyx Center for Arts & Equity
130 Pine St. | Florence, MA



Sa-Roc



Reginald
Dwayne Betts



OUSMANE
POWER-GREENE



DUTCH
REBELLE



AKROBATIK



NINA
BUXENBAUM



MARCIA
GOMES



MICHAEL
LAWRENCE-RIDDELL



BAYETÉ
ROSS SMITH



ADRIENNE
MACK-DAVIS

EXPLORING THE POWERS OF ARTS AND EDUCATION AS TOOLS FOR RACIAL
JUSTICE AND BUILDING COMMUNITY IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS



SAVE THE
DATE!
SCAN TO
PRE-REGISTER



A background image of yellow tulips in bloom, with a semi-transparent olive-green rectangular box overlaid in the center. The box contains the text for the April Birthdays section.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Richard Aquadro, Carla Bee, Rachel Frogameni, Frank Heston,
Karen Hogan, Michael John Masamitsu, Karen Pohlman,
Janet Tucker

Pastoral Care

Feel free to contact me at any time. Messages left at the church phone (413) 584-5500 x2 will be emailed to me. You can send an email to minister@edwardschurchnorthampton.org or call or text my cell phone. I am usually at the church on Mondays and have set office hours: Tuesdays 5-7 PM in the lobby; Wednesdays 9:30-10:45 AM in my office. I am happy to visit you in your home or at some neutral location. I look forward to getting to know you.

April 2015

NPC = Northampton Parent's Center

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30 NPC 5 Pastor Open Office Hours 7 Gamblers Anon.	2 9:30 NPC 9:30 Pastor Open Office Hours 11 Bible Study 7 Building & Grounds 7 AA	3 9:30 NPC 6:30 AA	4 11:30 MANNA 5 YWCA 7 AA	5 8:30 YWCA 11:30 MANNA
6 10 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	7 9:30 NPC 7 ECM	8 9:30 NPC 5 Pastor Open Office Hours 7 Gamblers Anon.	9 9:30 NPC 9:30 Pastor Open Office Hours 11 Bible Study 5 NPC First Aid 7 AA	10 9:30 NPC 6:30 AA 4 Care & Visita- tion	11 11:30 MANNA 5 YWCA 7 AA	12 8:30 YWCA 11:30 MANNA
13 10 Worship 11:15 Fellowship & Easter Egg Hunt	14 9:30 NPC	15 9:30 NPC 5 Pastor Open Office Hours 7 Gamblers Anon.	16 9:30 NPC 9:30 Pastor Open Office Hours 11 Bible Study 7 AA	17 9:30 NPC 6:30 AA	18 11:30 MANNA 5 YWCA 7 AA	19 8:30 YWCA 11:30 MANNA
20 10 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	21 9:30 NPC	22 9:30 NPC 5 Pastor Open Office Hours 7 Gamblers Anon.	23 9:30 NPC 9:30 Pastor Open Office Hours 11 Bible Study 7 AA	24 9:30 NPC 6:30 AA	25 11:30 MANNA 5 YWCA 7 AA	26 8:30 YWCA 11:30 MANNA
27 10 Worship 11:15 Fellowship	28 9:30 NPC	29 9:30 NPC 5 Pastor Open Office Hours 7 Gamblers Anon.	30 9:30 NPC 9:30 Pastor Open Office Hours 11 Bible Study 7 AA			