



THE SPIRE

EDWARDS CHURCH *of* NORTHAMPTON
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Vol. 35 No. 8 September 2025

A message from the Interim Pastor

As I write this, we have just gone from a low in the 60's to a high in the 60's in the matter of 24 hrs. As you are reading this, the traffic patterns have changed as schools are now in session. September is a month of season change. We will have some really hot days and some really cold days – perhaps even a frost. The decrease in the amount of daylight becomes more noticeable. In response, we start carrying a jacket or sweatshirt when we go out. We adapt to the environmental seasons and the cultural seasons. We go through many seasons annually. We also experience longer seasons in our lives. When the house is full of children – when it is empty. The season of full workdays and the season of retirement. Seasons of health and seasons of sickness. Sometimes the season changes abruptly but usually the change is slow.

This congregation is going through a season change. It might not be clear what season we are in at the moment. The Transition Team is preparing to lead us through an exploration of this current season to help us prepare for the next season. You need to take a clear-eyed view of who this congregation is right now, what the congregation is actually doing, and who is doing the doing. Then you can look around and listen to see and hear what God might be calling you to do over the next five years. Once we've laid a plan, then you can begin to look for the right staff to make that plan possible.

As we go through this process there will be abrupt changes and some slow ones. Some days we will be prepared for what happens and others we will be caught unaware. Please be patient with each other, support each other and help to bring everyone along from this season to the next.

Just as we keep on doing all the essentials of daily living during the changing seasons, we, as a congregation, will continue to worship, study, play and serve together. We are here to support each other – please reach out when you have need. - Jennifer



When: Sunday, September 14th, 2025, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Where: Look Park, Dow Pavilion, Northampton
(<http://www.lookpark.org/>)

Everyone, young and old are encouraged to join us at Look Park on Sunday, September 14th for worship and lunch. Our service will be interactive - perfect for all ages. The church will provide pizza and grinders as well as salad, drinks and desserts. Please bring your friends and family. We will gather at the Dow Pavilion. Worship begins at 10 AM with lunch to follow. If you need a ride, please let the church office know.

Directions: Follow Rte. 9 (Elm St.) through Florence to Look Park. Admission to the park is by season pass OR mention "Edwards Church" to the gate attendant and you shall pass (Edwards will pay the fees after the Picnic). We look forward to seeing you there!!

Sunday Worship in July

We will worship at 10 AM in the Edwards sanctuary and on-line which can be accessed from our home page: www.edwardschurchnorthampton.com. Childcare will be provided.

September 7

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Luke 14:25-33

September 14 (Look Park, Dow Pavilion)

Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

September 21

Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

September 28

1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

Pastoral Care – Rev. Jennifer Geary

Please 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: 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.

Team Meetings in September

- 9/2 7PM Transition Team (Zoom)
- 9/2 7PM Music Team (Zoom)
- 9/3 7PM Building & Grounds (Zoom)
- 9/7 11:30AM Outreach (Zoom)
- 9/11 4PM Care & Visitation (Zoom)
- 9/15 7PM Elected Core Ministry (Zoom)
- 9/16 7PM Transition Team (Edwards Room)
- 9/17 7PM Building & Grounds (Zoom)

Bible Study

Wednesdays 11 AM - Zoom

Join us every Wednesday as we read together the passages for the upcoming Sunday. Every day is a stand-alone event so come when you can and join our lively discussion. Scripture for each meeting is listed in the worship section of the Spire and in the previous week's bulletin. Let the church office know if you would like to have your name added to the weekly Zoom invitation.

Northampton Parents Center
Fall/Winter Schedule 2025
WEEKLY 9/8/25-12/18/25

FREE & ALL WELCOME!

Monday
INDOORS
[At] NPC

Tuesday
OUTDOORS [At] THE HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL YMCA PLAYGROUND

Wednesday
INDOORS
[At] NPC

Thursday
INDOORS
[At] NPC

PLAYGROUPS ARE 9:30AM-11:30AM

TUESDAYS WILL BE INDOORS AT NPC IF THE WEATHER IS RAINY/SNOWY/ TOO COLD!

INFANT GROUP STARTS AT 8:30!

Located in the lower level of Edwards Church 297 Main St, Northampton MA
Please use the side entrance and public parking, not the church lot
The closest PVTA bus stop is the Academy of Music

Northampton Parents Center
EARLY BIRD
INFANT GROUP
THURSDAYS AT 8:30AM

Come anytime! There is no such thing as late!
You are always welcome to stay for our regular 9:30AM-11:30AM playgroup.

Join NPC director Lindsey King for a free weekly drop-in group for infants and their caregivers. Coffee and tea included!
Siblings welcome :)

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Please use the side entrance and public parking, not the church lot
The closest PVTA bus stop is the Academy of Music

Fellowship Hosts Needed to Volunteer Once Every Other Month

Our fellowship time after worship is made possible by those who volunteer to serve as hosts by setting up light refreshments. Please consider joining the Fellowship Team to help us make this important time to come together as a community happen.

Fellowship hosts are paired with another volunteer and they arrive at church about 30 minutes before worship to set up snacks and drinks. Hosts then stay after church to visit with folks during Fellowship time and clean up afterward. *No baking skills needed!* We keep a variety of snacks in stock in the Edwards Room kitchenette for your use. And, we generally have enough volunteers that you will only be asked to help once every other month. Please contact Debbie Davis at debradavis1217@gmail.com or 413.626.5117 for more info. Thanks for considering this opportunity to serve your faith community!

Coming soon!

The quilt team wants to say THANK YOU to everyone who helped create the heart blocks for the wall hanging that will be displayed in the Edwards Room. We hope to have it in place by early October – sooner if possible.



- Janet, Deb, Sandra and Trudy

A Preaching Event for Everyone

The Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ is offering an event to encourage non-clergy to consider how they tell the story to others and to the world. Consider attending this two day event in Hartford, CT. Learn more:

<https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/seeds-of-hope-a-preaching-gathering-for-all-19007161>

Sexton Haiku

Perfection
Is the enemy
Of goodness

Sunday Morning Volunteers

	Flowers	Greeter	Usher	Liturgist	Reader	Fellowship
7-Sept			Marc W	Jennifer G		
14-Sept			Mark D	Jennifer G		
21-Sept			Jon D	Jennifer G		
28-Sept			Carolyn D	Jennifer G		

We'd love to have all the spots filled. Can you help out one Sunday this September? Please contact the church office: info@edwardschurchnorthampton.org



Confronting the Immigrant Deportation Crisis

An Interfaith Valley Forum and Call to Action

September 13, 2025
1:00-5:30 PM

First Churches of Northampton
129 Main St, Northampton MA, 01060

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free... Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.
-Inscription on Statue of Liberty, 1883

Very soon, [Alligator Alcatraz] will house "deranged psychopaths... and some of the most menacing migrants, some of the most vicious people on the planet."
-Donald Trump, July 1, 2025

The Trump agenda to detain and deport hundreds of thousands of persons of foreign origin without due process violates the very essence of "America" as expressed in the famous Statue of Liberty inscription. It also threatens to cripple many sectors of the U.S. economy that rely on immigrant workers, including construction, manufacturing, agriculture, health care, and the hotel/restaurant industry. And it inflicts needless fear and suffering upon millions of individuals and families who have come here – whether legally or not – "yearning to breathe free."

Schedule

- 1:00 PM: Welcome
- 1:15-2:30 PM: Panel 1 – "America's Immigration Divide: Welcome vs. Exclusion"
- 2:30-2:45 PM: Break
- 2:45-3:45 PM: Panel 2 – "Confronting the Immigration Crisis in the Valley"
- 3:45-4:15 PM: Closing Session
 - Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Christina Rathbone, Author of *The Asylum Seekers*
 - Benediction: Rev. Sarah Buteux, First Churches
- 4:15 PM-5:30PM: Call to Action Fair

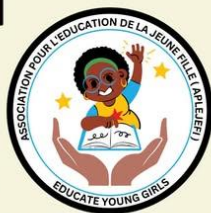
For further information, visit firstchurches.org/pjat/immigration-forum or email Elliot Davey, admin@firstchurches.org



Choir Rehearsal will begin in September and will happen on Thursdays from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

BENEFIT CONCERT

for the education of girls in Cameroon, presented by:



EDUCATE YOUNG GIRLS

Edwards Church, 297 Main St,
Northampton, MA

Sunday, Sep 14th
3:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Transition Team Update

The Transition Team has met multiple times over the summer and created our Covenant with our intentions as we move forward. We welcome your thoughts and opinions during planned activities and discussions in the coming months. We also hope everyone will be involved as we move forward in the search and call process.

Transition Team members: Sheri Cheung, Carolyn Dion, Laura Frogameni, Melissa Mattison, Chuck McCullagh, Janet Tucker



Manna Seeking Volunteers

Kitchen Helpers Needed:

Monday & Wednesday Mornings!

Wednesdays:

Delivery Drivers Needed:

Wednesdays at 1 PM

Thursday Shifts: A few driving shifts!

Volunteering at Manna Community Kitchen is a fantastic way to give back, meet new people, and have a great time.

Sign up for a shift today at

mannanorthampton.org.

Elected Core Ministry (ECM) July & August Articles

July 21, 2025

Three of four members were present for the July meeting of ECM in addition to Rev. Geary to tackle a relatively light agenda. Highlighting the meeting was ECM's continued search for additional members. ECM will reach out to certain members to gauge interest but anyone with interest is encouraged to reach out to Rev. Geary or an ECM member.

ECM is also looking for someone to serve as Clerk for the church.

As we move through Summer and prepare for a busy Fall, please note the following events:

Mark Dion is looking for proctor volunteers (think First Night events) and will schedule training sessions as needed.

Finally, please look for a complete set of ECM meeting minutes posted in the hallway outside the sanctuary.

ECM (Jeff Prince, Leon Drzewianowski, Mark Dion, Ron Korza)

August 18, 2025

All members were present for the August meeting of ECM in addition to Rev. Geary and Adam Simon.

Activity is picking up after a mild Summer slowdown. The Transition Team has met three times and the congregation will undoubtedly hear from them this Fall.

We also have the annual Fall Church Picnic at Look Park coming up. We hope that you can attend! Pizza, grinders, salad and drinks will be provided. So, just bring yourself and, if you like, a game to play. Church service will start at 10am in the Dow Pavilion followed by lunch and fellowship. There is a fee to enter the park but mention Edwards Church to the attendant and you shall pass (without cost)! We hope to see you there.



Many Teams have been active throughout the summer. Here is a brief list of activities:

- The Music Team is preparing for what will be a very special Music at the Crossroads to be held at Edwards on October 10, 2025.
- The Building and Grounds Team has replaced the sign in front of Edwards, replaced windows in the Annex, replaced the church thermostats (the old ones were very complicated!) and refurnished the pastor's study among many other things.
- Outreach Grants has made significant progress in distributing funds to many important charities throughout the valley
- ECM's own Mark Dion has prepared a class for those who wish to become a proctor for events held at the church as well as volunteered to train members of Edwards Church in CPR, AED use and Narcan administration. Please contact Mark or the Church office (info@edwardschurchnorthampton.org) to get involved!

Finally, please look for a complete set of ECM meeting minutes posted in the hallway outside the sanctuary.

ECM (Jeff Prince, Leon Drzewianowski, Mark Dion, Ron Korza)



Do something **BIG** with your lunch break
Become a **LUNCH BUDDY** today!



Lunch Buddies Are Volunteer Mentors & Friends of Youth in Northampton & Amherst

- Have lunch with a local youth at one of these 3 schools: **Jackson Street School** in Northampton, **RK Finn Ryan Road School** in Northampton, **OR Wildwood Elementary School** in Amherst
- 30 minutes per week
- October 2025-June 2026
- Support and engaging materials provided
- A meaningful way to spend your lunch break

Contact us for more info, or apply now with this QR Code



Make a BIG difference in the life of a child in your community

Contact Us Today
MMAGUIRE@CHD.ORG
413 478 8547



Gratitude Corner

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

- All who help coordinate and participated in the Interfaith Vigil for the Disappeared.
- Janet Tucker for keeping the courtyard beautiful.
- All the Cathedral in the Night volunteers.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Carolyn Gray

Kathleen Korza

Pamela Cook

Eli Hutchinson

Elena Frogameni

James Young

William Hogan, Jr.

Elizabeth Prince

Mariana Haughey

Jennifer Geary



Please join us at Cathedral in the Night on Sunday, October 5th for a great service opportunity!



We're launching a monthly membership program on Patreon to sustain our FREE playgroups and events for ALL families.

Join now to be a Founding Friend - Full launch coming in Fall 2025!



Pastor's Office Hours

Rev. Geary will continue to have office hours on Wednesdays from 9:30a to 10:45a. Due to a variety of commitments there will be no evening office hours during the month of September. Jennifer is available by appointment on some evenings, call or text her to make an appointment. Evening office hours will return in October. They will be on Thursday evenings from 5p – 7p. Please remember that you can reach out at any time. If it is urgent, please call Jennifer's cell phone.

Sunday Time With Friends

(child-care and more)

As we return to our sanctuary for worship, we will continue to offer childcare for those birth to age 5 during the entire service which begins at 10 AM. In addition, beginning on September 21, we will provide a Bible lesson and activities for those littles on up to grade 6. Children who begin in the sanctuary will be invited to go downstairs for a lesson and activity after the Time for Children of All Ages.

We have hired staff in the nursery and will need each of you to consider volunteering once every two months to be a friend to our children, by going downstairs to be with them during this time. This fulfills our SafeSpace policy. Children are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary for the entire service.



New UCC Credit Union Opportunity

We are excited to share that members of our congregation can now join **Generations United Federal Credit Union**, a member-focused financial institution created to serve UCC congregations nationwide, including Puerto Rico. Generations United FCU offers savings and checking accounts, affordable loan options, convenient online and mobile banking, and financial counseling services.

As a member-owned credit union, it aligns with the values of the United Church of Christ, promoting integrity, stewardship, and financial empowerment for all.

Learn more or join at: www.generationsfcu.org

Northampton Parents Center

SOAPY CLEAN UP & STOCK UP PARTY!

THURS, SEPTEMBER 4TH 9:30AM-12NOON

Bring a change of clothing in case kids get soapy and wet!
We will be sponging down the riding toys, cleaning the little toys, and collecting supplies to get us stocked up for playgroups!

WISHLIST

♥ NAPKINS	♥ CREAM CHEESE
♥ HAND SANITIZING GEL	♥ GROUND COFFEE & TEA
♥ RICE FOR RICE TABLE	♥ NUT-FREE SNACKS & FRUIT
♥ PAPER PLATES	♥ FRAGRANCE-FREE BABY WIPES

Located in the lower level of Edwards Church 297 Main St, Northampton MA
Please use the side entrance and public parking, not the church lot
The closest PVTA bus stop is the Academy of Music

YOUTH GROUP

NEWS

Attention Youth Ages 11-17

You are invited to participate in the **Rite 13 - Pilgrims** program that is run by St John's Episcopal Church and includes youth from First Churches. **There will be an informational meeting at 11:30 am on September 7th at St. John's for Parents and Youth to check out the program to see if it is something in which you are interested.** Please reach out to the church office if you have any questions.

CPR CLASS

Free “Hands-Only CPR”, AED (Automated External Defibrillator), and How to Administer Narcan (Naloxone) Training

Where: Addis Hall

When: Sunday, September 28th 2025 from 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Learn “Hands-Only CPR”, how to operate an AED (Automated External Defibrillator), and how to administer Narcan (Naloxone):

- “Hands-only CPR” is CPR without rescue breaths which is simple to learn and easy to remember, especially outside of medical settings. It increases the likelihood of surviving cardiac arrest, when the heart stops beating or beats too ineffectively to circulate blood to the brain and other vital organs.
- Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are portable, life-saving devices designed to treat people experiencing sudden cardiac arrest, a medical condition in which the heart stops beating suddenly and unexpectedly. The combination of CPR and early defibrillation is effective in saving lives when used in the first few minutes following a collapse from sudden cardiac arrest.
- Naloxone (also called Narcan) is a medication used to temporarily reverse an opioid overdose until help arrives.

Please contact the church office to enroll at 413-584-5500 or info@edwardschurchnorthampton.org



We're Updating Our Church Directory

New Church Database and Directory

We are upgrading our database system and producing a new directory. To make sure all our information is correct, we will be contacting everyone affiliated with the church. To start, we will have worship attendees complete information cards during the month of September. We will then send out a letter to those we missed and then will follow up with a phone call if needed. Help us out by returning your information cards in a timely manner. Thank you - Keith and Jennifer

THE POWER OF PRAYER BOX

I want to pray for my family and friends

My PRAYER BOX

Create a simple and meaningful prayer box your family can use to share requests and pray together all week long.

What you need:

- Shoebox with lid
- Wrapping paper or decorative paper
- Scissors & tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers and other craft material (optional)
- Pens or pencils
- Index cards or small pieces of paper

What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a gift, wrapping the lid separately so it can be opened.
2. As a family, decorate the box with drawings, favorite Bible verses, photos, or stickers.
3. Place the box somewhere central, like the kitchen or living room.
4. Keep index cards and pens nearby. When someone has a prayer request, they can write or draw it and drop it in.
5. Throughout the week, take turns praying over the requests as a family, or have a parent lead prayer time.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
—Colossians 4:2, NIV

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Labor Day Church Offices Closed	2 7PM GA 7PM TT 7PM Music Team	3 9:30AM POH 11AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Communion 7PM AA 7PM B&G	4 9:30AM NPC Clean Up Party 6:30PM AA	5 5PM YWCA 7PM AA	6 8:30AM YWCA
7 10AM Worship 11AM Outreach	8 9:30AM NPC	9 9:30AM NPC 7PM GA	10 9:30AM POH 11AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Communion 7PM AA	11 8:30AM IG 9:30AM NPC 4PM Care & Visitation 6:30PM AA	12 5PM YWCA 7PM AA	13 8:30AM YWCA 1:00PM Immigration Event @ First Churches
14 10AM Worship At Look Park, Dow Pavilion 3:30PM Benefit Concert (Sanctuary)	15 9:30AM NPC 7PM ECM	16 9:30AM NPC 7PM GA 7PM TT	17 9:30AM POH 11AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Communion 7PM AA 7PM B&G	18 8:30AM IG 9:30AM NPC 6:30PM AA	19 5PM YWCA 7PM AA	20 8:30AM YWCA
21 10AM Worship	22 9:30AM NPC	23 9:30AM NPC 7PM GA	24 9:30AM POH 11AM Bible Study 12:30PM Communion 7PM AA	25 8:30AM IG 9:30AM NPC 6:30PM AA	26 5PM YWCA 7PM AA	27 8:30AM YWCA
28 10AM Worship	29 9:30AM NPC	30 9:30AM NPC 7PM GA	1	2	3	4 Key: IG: Infant Group NPC: Northampton Parents Center POH: Pastor Office Hours TT: Transition Team ECM: Elected Core Ministry B&G: Building & Grounds

