



THE SPIRE

EDWARDS CHURCH *of* NORTHAMPTON
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Vol. 35 No. 9 October 2025

A Prayer for October – Rev. Jennifer Geary

As nature changes clothes from greens to reds and golds, we turn to you God seeking your grace. We confess the unfulfilled promises made in spring, for what we would accomplish during summer which are still undone as we enter autumn. Help us, like the trees, let go of those lost plans as they wither and dry up, that they might be composted and recycled into nourishment for next spring's goals. (Or give us warmth for just a little bit longer so we can hurriedly get them done.)

Bless the creatures that are making and filling their winter nests. May we be equally wise, not to hoard, but to gather the relationships, the prayers, the rituals, and the community that will help us through winter.

The decreasing humidity gives us clear, crisp air. Give us eyes to clearly see those around us who need our care and support. As we begin to add layers of clothing and blankets, remind us of those who wear all their layers year-round because they have no closet in which to store the basics.

We notice the darkness increasing; help us continue to be outside, to engage in meaningful activity and to not just hibernate in front of a glowing screen.

As in all seasons some of us are in stellar health and some of us are struggling; give strength to our bodies and our souls. Renew our physical, spiritual, and mental health. Should autumn bring to us, like so much of nature, our time to pass from this life to the next, we ask for a smooth transition accompanied by your presence and grace.

Thank you, God, for the fullness of summer which we cherish in the harvest. Continue to open our awareness to the bounty of blessings that surround us. Grant us to have grateful hearts and may words of gratitude be often on our lips.

Bless O God, those people who live in the southern hemisphere who are beginning to thaw out and who look forward to spring. In the name of Jesus. Amen.



Sunday Worship in October

Below are the lectionary passages for the month with the focus passages in bold. Consider reading these passages each week in preparation for worship. For an easy way to access these passages go to:

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts/?y=384&z=p&d=78>

October 5 – *World Communion; Celebrate Creation*
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

October 12 – *Accept the Miracle*
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

October 19 – *Live the belief*
Genesis 32:22-31; **Psalm 121**; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5;
Luke 18:1-8

October 26 – *Guest Preacher: Rev. Joanne Graves*
Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22; Psalm 84:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

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 October

- 10/1 7PM Building & Grounds (Zoom)
- 10/2 7PM Music Team (Zoom)
- 10/9 4PM Care & Visitation (Zoom)
- 10/15 7PM Building & Grounds (Zoom)
- 10/15 7PM Elected Core Ministry (Zoom)
- 10/16 7PM Finance Team (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.

All Saints Day Commemoration

On November 2, we will honor our Saints by sharing the names of anyone dear to us that has died in the past year whether connected to the church or not. During the service everyone will have opportunity to light a candle and say those names out loud.

Meditation Group Forming

Offering basic instruction in meditation techniques common to many traditions with the goal of incorporating into everyday life. A session will be led by Brian and Susan Swift on Monday, October 20th 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Edwards Room.



October 4-5, 2025

Shelter Sunday is a longstanding community fundraiser that supports individuals and families experiencing homelessness in and around Northampton, MA.



Donate Today

Or mail a check to:
Shelter Sunday / MANNA
Community Kitchen
48 Elm Street
Northampton, MA 01060

www.northamptonsheltersunday.org

All proceeds support emergency hotel shelter, local outreach, and nourishing meals to individuals and families in need.

Zoom Bible Study in the Evening?!

Submitted by Jennifer Geary

I've had a request for a weekly evening Zoom Bible study of the lectionary passages similar to what we do at 11 am on Wednesdays. Does that interest you? If so, let me know. If we have at least 3 people express interest, we'll find a good time and get it going.

Also, we are hearing a lot of scripture being thrown around by folks in the government, Christian Nationalists, and news commentators. Would you be interested in a six-week study of passages of which you have questions? Let me know your passages or topics of concern and I will see what I might be able to put together. Email, text or phone are fine ways to reach me.

Sunday Morning Volunteers

	Flowers	Greeter	Usher	Liturgist	Reader	Fellowship
5-Oct			Marc D	Marc W	Kathy K	Susan & Brian S, Michele W
12-Oct			Jon D	Hazel W	Ella S	Sandra R & Michele W
19-Oct			Ron K	Kristen R	Paul B	Kathy & Ron K, Michele W
26-Oct		Leon & Susan D	Justin C (& Marc)	Justin C	Leon D	Kelley T, Michele W

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



"No Other People's Children" An Interfaith Concert for the Children of Gaza

First Churches of Northampton
129 Main St, Northampton, MA

Saturday, October 4th
2pm

Join us for an afternoon of music and poetry from Palestinian, Jewish, and Christian Traditions, performed by artists across our local faith communities, to benefit the Sumud School in Gaza. The Sumud School is working tirelessly everyday to continue to provide quality education to children in Gaza.



Scan to learn more about the Sumud school and make a donation!



Suggested Donation: \$15

Photobooks produced by students at the Sumud School available for a suggested donation of \$25

Presented by the First Churches Peace and Justice Action Team. For more information, email admin@firstchurches.org

Tuesday, October 21 6:30-8:00 pm

Show Up! Sing Out! Sing for Justice

Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence

220 Main St.
Northampton

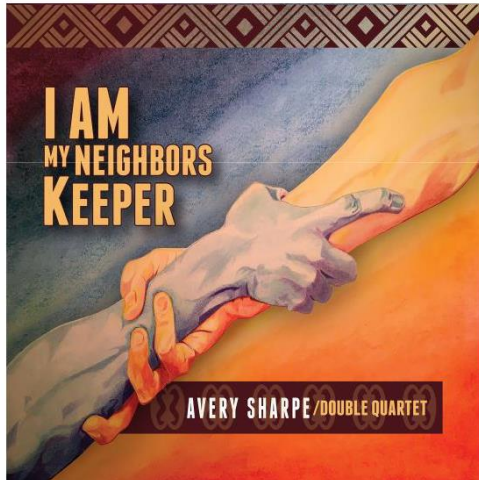
For more information and to RSVP, scan:



Show Up! Sing Out! at the Holyoke Labor Day parade and protest, September 1, 2023.



The workshop is led by Anne Louise White and Lara Shepard-Bluc and accompanied by guitar and piano. Lyrics will be available and can also be found on showupsingout.org.



Avery Sharpe "I Am My Neighbors Keeper" with
his Double Quartet

October 10, 2025 7:00pm
Edward's Church
297 Main St.

Northampton, MA 01701

Email: info@edwardschurchnorthampton.org

Website: <https://edwardschurchnorthampton.org/>

Mr. Sharpe has composed a new work which highlights our commitment to
one another.

**Avery Sharpe-Bass, Andrew Wilcox -piano, Yoron Israel-drums, Tony
Vacca balafon/African percussion, Sarah Briggs and Kaila Graef-
violins, Gregory Diehl-viola and Dave Haughey-cello**

NO TICKET REQUIRED

Suggested donations: \$10-\$30

100% of Donations benefit

CATHEDRAL IN THE NIGHT

**Performance is made possible by a South Arts-Jazz Roads Grant
and TMO Entertainment.**

Transition Team Update

The first paragraph of our covenant reads: *Our Transition Team understands our task is to support and prepare our congregation in the search and call process. We will gather ideas, opinions, and thoughts from the congregation operating with open hearts and minds.*

In order to reach our goal of creating an accurate picture of who we want as our next settled pastor to give to the Search Team, we need to hear your thoughts and opinions. We **want** to hear what you have to say. We will be having more gatherings before and after our worship services on Sundays, as well as a monthly session in October and November, with possibly one in December. We will also ask each of you to fill out a survey, which can be done on-line or on paper. The short survey will address your preferred skill sets for a minister as well as programming priorities.

The monthly gatherings – “Congregational Conversations”- will be held in Addis Hall and a light lunch will be provided. These sessions are intended to talk about the history of Edwards Church, our changes in governance, where we want to go as a church and where we feel God is calling us to go. Please save **OCTOBER 19th and NOVEMBER 16th** for these important conversations.

In the church’s weekly email (Wednesday Word), the transition team will post a question or two for you to consider. Your responses can be sent to the office (attn: Transition Team) or can be given during any of our discussion opportunities. A printed list of all the 14 questions is available in the church.

Again, we need and want to hear from you. Let us know if there is another way or time that you would like to gather for discussion. We are open to your suggestions. You can contact the Transition Team anytime at search@edwardschurchnorthampton.org

With gratitude,

The Transition Team – Sheri Cheung, Carolyn Dion, Laura Frogameni, Melissa Mattison, Chuck McCullagh, Janet Tucker with the support of Rev. Jennifer Geary

Edwards Church Transition Team covenant:

Our Transition Team understands our task is to support and prepare our congregation in the search and call process. We will gather ideas, opinions, and thoughts from the congregation operating with open hearts and minds.

- *We will create a space that is safe to speak freely.*
- *We will strive to use our time wisely.*
- *We will listen with sensitivity to persons with various perspectives.*
- *We will strive to be available to all.*
- *We will provide support and guidance to the interim pastor.*
- *We will communicate regularly with the congregation about the work of the Transition Team.*
- *We will recommend activities and directions that will strengthen the congregation and move it through the interim period.*
- *We will remember to find joy and God in the process.*



Elected Core Ministry (ECM) Update

September 15, 2025

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

Edwards welcomed three new members to the leadership team. ECM approved Debbie Davis as the new Clerk and Claudia Lyons as a member of ECM. In addition, the Music Committee welcomed Ruth Griggs. Thank you to all of our new leaders—your time and talents are a wonderful gift to the church.

Reports from several committees were reviewed as well as general activities of the staff, including the selection of a new church management system, Tithely, which should streamline activities around church finances, membership rolls and communication with members.

The Settled Pastor Transition Planning Team is in full swing. Please be on the lookout for invitations (via email, announcements or the bulletin) to have your voice heard!

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 and Claudia Lyons)

Team Edwards/First Churches Suicide Prevention Walk

Team Edwards/First Churches is once again taking part in the Greater Springfield Out of the Darkness Community Walk on Saturday, Oct. 25, at School Street Park in Agawam. Check-in is at 9 a.m. and the event will kick off at 10 a.m.

Participants should gather by the registration table and look for Team Captain Kristin Rivers of Edwards Church sporting a blue and white “Hope” hat on Walk Day.

This year, the team is raising \$5,000 to support education, research and resources for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s Massachusetts Chapter. So far, the team has raised \$1,450. A huge thank you to everyone who has donated so far!

For those interested in walking, they can reach out to Honorary Team Co-Captain Desiree at First Churches or to Kristin at Edwards Church at krivers2723@gmail.com and she will get you added to the roster. Participants can register from now until Walk Day.

On donations, online donations, cash and check donations are welcome. For online donations, donors should visit <https://afspwalks.donordrive.com/teams/368286>.

Donors can donate to an individual team member by clicking “roster” on the team page, or they can donate to the team as a whole by clicking the “Support Us” button. Whether you donate \$5, \$10, \$50, or \$500, your donation will make an impact, and it has in the years since our first team walk.

One final note. This team is the only one comprised of churches to date, showing our commitment to fostering conversations about mental health and suicide prevention in religious communities. Thank you to everyone who has lent their support in the past, today and in the next couple of weeks. Together, we can prevent suicide.

Learn More
VISIT US ONLINE

Abundance Farm
COMMUNITY - JUSTICE - EDUCATION - תורה - צדק - חינוך

Sukkot Harvest Festival

OCT 12
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

RSVP Requested: Open To Everyone

RSVP Online:
www.abundancefarm.org/events

253 Prospect St.,
Northampton, MA 01060

Bring a veggie to toss in our stone soup potluck over the fire!

Generous contribution by
Harold Grinspoon FOUNDATION

Gratitude Corner

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

- ECM and Building and Grounds for their never ending and superb work for Edward's Church from Margaret.
- Jon, Deb, Janet, and Mike for planting the mums out front.
- All the Cathedral in the Night volunteers.



Pastor's Office Hours

Rev. Geary's office hours are on Wednesdays from 9:30 AM - 10:45AM and Thursday from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Jennifer is available by appointment on some evenings, call or text her to make an appointment. Please remember that you can reach out at any time. If it is urgent, please call Jennifer's cell phone.

OCTOBER



BIRTHDAYS

Sidney Letendre

Charles McCullagh

Floyd Cheung

Robert Saalfrank

Judith Almeida

Fumiko Brown

Sid Montague

Susan Swift

Nancy Flickinger

Daisy Letendre

Alenna Shapleigh

cathedral
IN THE NIGHT

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

Check out the great programming the Northampton Parents Center has to offer this fall!!

Northampton Parents Center
WELCOME BACK PICNIC!

THURSDAY 10/9
4PM-6PM

FREE! **ALL WELCOME!**

ON THE LAWN AT FORBES LIBRARY IN NORTHAMPTON!

BYO PICNIC NPC WILL PROVIDE PIZZA!

→ 20 West St. Northampton MA

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

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

PLAYGROUPS ARE 9:30AM-11:30AM

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 :)

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

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 9:30AM POH 11AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Communion 7:00PM AA 7:00PM B&G	2 8:30AM IG 9:30AM NPC 5:00 PM POH 6:30PM AA 7:00PM Choir 7:00PM Music Team	3 5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	4 8:30AM YWCA
5 10:00AM Worship 11:15AM Fellowship 4PM Cathedral in the Night	6 9:30AM NPC	7 7:00PM GA	8 9:30AM POH 11AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Communion 7PM AA	9 8:30AM IG 9:30AM NPC 4:00PM Care 5:00 PM POH 6:30PM AA 7:00PM Choir	10 5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA 7PM Music @ the Crossroads	11 8:30AM YWCA
12 10:00AM Worship 11:15AM Fellowship	13 9:30AM NPC	14 7:00PM GA	15 9:30AM POH 11:00AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Communion 7:00PM AA 7:00PM B&G 7:00PM ECM	16 8:30AM IG 9:30AM NPC 5:00 PM POH 6:30PM AA 7:00PM Choir 7:00PM Finance	17 5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	18 8:30AM YWCA
19 10:00AM Worship 11:15AM Fellowship	20 9:30AM NPC	21 7:00PM GA	22 9:30AM POH 11:00AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Communion 7:00PM AA	23 8:30AM IG 9:30AM NPC 5:00 PM POH 6:30PM AA 7:00PM Choir	24 5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	25 8:30AM YWCA
26 10:00AM Worship 11:15AM Fellowship	27 9:30AM NPC	28 7:00PM GA	29 9:30AM POH 11:00AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Communion 7:00PM AA	30 8:30AM IG 9:30AM NPC 5:00 PM POH 6:30PM AA	31 5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	1 IG: Infant Group NPC: Northampton Parents Center POH: Pastor Office Hours TT: Transition Team ECM: Elected Core Ministry B&G: Building