



# THE SPIRE

EDWARDS CHURCH *of* NORTHAMPTON  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

297 Main Street, Northampton, Massachusetts 01060

Vol. 35 No. 11 December 2025

## From the Interim Pastor

We here at Edwards Church are participating in a hopeful process. A process seeking peace, celebrating love, and moving toward joy. Advent is a season of waiting and preparing for yet another year of God's grace and mercy. We know that Jesus was already born; we don't need to anticipate that. But we can anticipate the light and truth of God breaking forth in our world today.

We can invite the Holy Spirit to grant us new birth in Jesus' name. We can keep our eyes and ears on alert; looking and listening for the grace of God moving among us. We can apologize, forgive, reach out, and welcome in. For God so loves us that God became human to teach us how to live with each other.

We can, like Mary and Joseph, take risks, knowing that no matter what happens, God loves us and welcomes each of us the way a parent loves and welcomes a newborn child. May God grant you grace throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.

With joy,  
Jennifer

## Worship in December

Consider reading each week's scripture 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>

### Advent Worship

November 30 – Advent 1, Hope  
Romans 15:4-13, Isaiah 2:3-4, Matthew 24:36-44

December 6 – 4:00 PM, Saturday  
Advent Festival, Communion, Peace  
Matthew 3:1-6, 11

December 14 – Advent 3, Joy  
James 5:7-10, Isaiah 35:1-7, 10, Matthew 11:2-10

December 21 – Advent 4, Love  
Romans 1:1-7, Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-24

### Christmas Worship

December 24 – 7:00 PM, Wednesday  
Candle Light Lessons and Carols

December 28 – Christmas Sunday  
Cosmic Praise



**Pastoral Care & Office Hours** – 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](mailto:minister@edwardschurchnorthampton.org) or call or text my cell phone. My open office hours are Wednesdays 9:30-10:45 AM and Thursdays 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM in my office. And am available at other times by appointment.

**Team Meetings in December**

- 12/1 7PM Transition Team (Zoom)
- 12/2 7PM Building & Grounds (Zoom)
- 12/8 7PM Elected Core Ministry (Zoom)
- 12/11 4PM Care & Visitation (Zoom)
- 12/17 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.

**Wednesday Worship**

Please join us on Wednesdays at 12:30 PM in the Sanctuary for Communion Service.

**Join or Support Team Edwards Church in the Hot Chocolate Run for Safe Passage on Dec. 7!**

Please consider joining or supporting Team Edwards Church as members and friends participate in the Hot Chocolate Run for Safe Passage on Sunday, Dec. 7. Safe Passage delivers an array of support, counseling and prevention services that offer safety, hope and healing to adults and children experiencing violence in Hampshire County and surrounding towns. The annual run begins at 9 am in downtown Northampton. To donate, just scan the QR code below or label your plate offering "for Hot Chocolate Run":



To join the team, simply add your name to the poster in the church lobby. If you have questions, ask team co-captains Floyd Cheung and Ruth Griggs. Thank you! We hope to see you there!

## Worship on Saturday, Dec. 6

No Sunday worship!

### Advent Festival

#### One of our favorite Edwards Church traditions!

**What:** A beloved Edwards Church tradition for all ages to celebrate Advent together! Worship service, tree trimming, carol singing, and a scrumptious light dinner.

**When:** Saturday, December 6 at 4 pm. Our worship service, which is appropriate for all ages, will include service activities and communion. Our three Faith Formation teachers will be present to help out. It will be followed by a light supper served buffet-style in the Edwards Room and also tree trimming & carol singing in the sanctuary.

**Why on Saturday?** Downtown Northampton will be the site of the Hot Chocolate Run, a fundraiser for Safe Passages, on Sunday morning, Dec. 7. Due to road closures and parking at a premium for this event, we'll hold our worship service and Advent Party on Saturday.

**What should I bring?** Bring friends & family, young and old, to share in the fun! You're also invited to bring cookies or some other sweet to share for dessert - preferably something that doesn't require utensils because folks won't be eating at tables. Desserts can be homemade or store-bought, your choice!

**What's for dinner?** Assorted finger sandwiches, chips, cheese and crackers, and beverages – things that are easy to eat while standing or transitioning back & forth between caroling, tree trimming and enjoying refreshments. Gluten-free sandwich, snack & dessert options will be provided.

**Need Transportation?** Contact the church office. Several drivers are ready to help.

If you're interested in helping, please call or email the church office: [info@edwardschurchnorthampton.com](mailto:info@edwardschurchnorthampton.com) or 413-584-5500.

*This event has been a favorite Edwards Church tradition for many years and you won't want to miss it!  
Mark Saturday, December 6th on your calendar now!*



## ECM November Meeting Summary

November 17, 2025

All members were in attendance for the November meeting except Leon Drzewianowski, who was traveling, Rev. Geary also attended. ECM reviewed various committee reports and staff activities.

Highlights from committee reports include the successful donation of New Way Funds by the Outreach committee and the Music committee announced new Music at the Crossroads events for February 20 and May 15, 2026.

In the meantime, preparations are underway for Advent, with a special service planned for Saturday, Dec. 6, at 4pm followed by a simple meal, Christmas tree decorating and caroling. For those interested, Edwards is sponsoring a Hot Chocolate team the following morning (Sunday)—please contact the church office for details if you care to join.

Edwards will once again be a host for First Night, the annual Northampton New Year's celebration. Those interested in assisting with the event may reach out to Mark Dion. On a less celebratory note, Rev. Geary reported that the Edwards Church audio system continues to frustrate staff, with only one hand held microphone is currently working. Adam will meet with Alex and Thomas in an effort to resolve the issues though professional help may be needed.

ECM

(Jeff Prince, Leon Drzewianowski, Mark Dion, Ron Korza and Claudia Lyons)

### Transition Team Update

You Shared, We Listened.

Over the past few months, the Transition Team has asked for your thoughts and opinions about our weekly question prompts and through the on-line survey. Your participation in these opportunities has been great and very much appreciated. The Transition Team has gathered all your responses and used them to start forming a job description for the next settled pastor. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, we would like to share what we heard you say.

What's next? –

#### **Enhanced Fellowship Hour**

**When:** December 14, 2025 – 11:15 – 12:30 PM

**Where:** Addis Hall

**Who:** all are invited.

#### **What:**

Learn what your voices have shared.

- What direction(s) do we want to take?
- What will we ask of our next minister?

Learn about the area's demographics.

- Who are our neighbors?
- What are the area's needs?
- What makes Edwards Church different?



This will be an “enhanced” fellowship hour and not a luncheon. Please bring a snack to share if you can. Sweet savory – all are welcome. We will provide the usual fellowship hour coffee and drink.

# Valley Interfaith Refugee Action Group

Presents:



**A fund-raiser for the Pioneer Valley Worker's Center and  
LUCE Immigrant Justice Network of MA**

**Sunday, December 7th from 2:00-4:30 PM**

**St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 128 Main Street, Easthampton**  
(next door to large white Congregational Church)

**To purchase tickets, sliding scale of \$5-25, please go to:**

**<https://borderlandfilm.eventive.org/schedule/borderland-the-line-within-easthampton-ma-691d05bf305f7b5bd22ae9f8>**

## **Co-Sponsors:**

Beit Ahavah, Catholic Charities Agency, Congregation B'Nai Israel Tikkun Olam, Easthampton Solidarity with Palestine, Edwards Church, Haydenville UCC, Indivisible Easthampton, Indivisible Noho/SLWM, Jewish Activists for Immigration Justice, Jewish Community of Amherst Tikkun Olam, Massachusetts Peace Action, Northampton Friends Meeting, St. John's Episcopal Church, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence, Western Mass Code Pink

**For more information, contact [e-l-k@comcast.net](mailto:e-l-k@comcast.net)**

### Gratitude Corner

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

- The Transition Team for all the hard work they are doing for the congregation.
- Manna for serving the community Thanksgiving.
- All the Cathedral in the Night volunteers.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sexton Haiku:

Golden leaves drift down—  
a crisp, liting breeze at dusk  
whispers, *you are blessed*

### Haiku reflection on Pine Island Lake summers in Westhampton, MA

Waters shimmering  
Memories cling to the shine  
Sing old frog of mine

Sandra Rossi with thanks to Justin  
for the inspiration.

Pamela Lamlein  
Shannon Small  
Jensen Kroll  
Sheri Chung  
Alex Koster  
Sarah Pease  
Caroline Prince

Katherine B. Cook  
Hazel Waller  
Diane Roeder  
Susan Voss  
Wednesday Zadworny  
Greg Boucher  
Jared Koster

### Sunday Morning Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to help lead worship. December is a great time for children, adults and families to volunteer to be the liturgist, reader, greeter, Advent Wreath lighter, etc. Please consider signing up by contacting the church office at 413-584-5500 or [info@edwardschurchnorthampton.org](mailto:info@edwardschurchnorthampton.org)

	Flowers	Greeter	Usher	Liturgist	Reader	Fellowship	Advent Wreath
6-Dec (Saturday)			Justin C			Jeff P	
14 -Dec	Sally G.		Carolyn D			Sandra R. & Michele W.	
21- Dec	Poinsettia		Marc W			Susan & Brian S., Michele W	
24 – Dec (Wednesday)	Poinsettia		Mark/Carolyn D.				
28 – Dec			Jon D			Carolyn D., Michele W.	



### TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will decorate our chancel for the services on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Plants are \$13.75 each. If you wish to place an order, please fill out the form below and return it with your payment to the church office by **Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**. Make checks payable to *Edwards Church* and write “poinsettias” on the memo line.

Edwards Church  
297 Main Street  
Northampton, MA 01060

A. Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ Total cost (@ \$ 13.75 each): \_\_\_\_\_  
Please include payment with your order

C. In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

D. Given by (*if different from “ordered by” name*): \_\_\_\_\_

E. Please check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ I will remove the plant(s) after worship on December 24.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please deliver plant(s) to an “at home” member or friend.



# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS IDEAS

## DAILY CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
NOV 30	DEC 1	2	3	4	5	6
Write a love note to someone at risk of deportation. Tell them you have their back. Mean it.	Take a long shower. Marvel at the ways water can not only destroy but sustain as well.	As you brush your teeth, think about the last time you bit someone with words. Repent.	Let something go today: a chore, a bug in your house, someone's mistake, your own mistake. Just let it be free!	Find a rock and draw a house on it. Pray to be sturdy and steady for yourself and others.	Turn off the lights and spend five minutes in silence. See what God whispers to you in that eternity.	Open your hands under a stream of warm water. Surrender to God.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Write a limerick about Christmas. Every act of creation matters.	Put your hands in icy cold water. This is John's call to a baptism of renewal.	Stage a mini Christmas pageant using your nativity figurines (or sock puppets). Narrate the story aloud.	Write yourself a letter from God. Mail it without postage. When it returns, reflect on the slow work of God.	Pray today over the last 5 people who texted you.	Add some flowers to your home, and give thanks for those who speak truth to power.	Make a list: ten things that must be done and ten good things that are already here.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Make a list of your shortcomings, then listen to "O Come All Ye Faithful." You are both flawed and faithful.	Drink a glass of water, and ask yourself what you're really thirsting for.	Go for a walk. Look around you for the unexpected, the dissonant, the holy.	Browse a seed catalog. Luxuriate in thoughts of how life could be next summer.	Stare at your eyes in the mirror. Recognize in yourself the enduring fractal of God.	Embellish something today. With glitter, beads, gel pens, sprinkles, make the world sparklier.	Read the news deeply enough that you see Jesus alive and at work. Christmas has already come.
21	22	23	24	CHRISTMAS	26	27
Remember to go to church!	Play your five favorite carols, singing at top volume. You belong to this heritage.	Decorate a gingerbread person. Think about your own body: its hurt, its strength, its pleasure.	Just for tonight, you are Luciano Pavorotti or Leontyne Price. Belt out "O Holy Night."	Give thanks for the world already being born.	What of your faith do you really need to be true? Write it down.	There is no such thing as other people's children. Make a generous gift to a child-saving org today.
28	29	30	31	JAN 1	2	3
Write "Praise the Lord!" in the most beautiful way you know how: calligraphy, cursive, bubble letters!	Call or text a member of your "chosen family" and tell them how glad you are that you belong to each other.	Pray to God with all kinds of titles: Mr., Mrs., Mr., Coach, Capt., Dr., Msg., Prof., HRH, Dame!	Kiss your hands and cradle your face with love.	Give your poverty to God today. Hold out your empty hands and pray that poverty becomes providence.	Think of plans you have. Open the Bible to any random page, and see if God shows you a truth there.	Don't give way to despair! Name aloud five signs of hope you've seen recently.
4	5	EPIPHANY				
Make a feast at home. Even if it's leftovers, set a table before God and dine fancy with Them.	Refuse to rush. Breathe. Do only what is necessary; let the rest wait.	Go outside. Face east, and give thanks for God in your past. Next face west, and give thanks for God in your future.				

Daily prompts from Molly Baskette & Quinn Caldwell to accompany the *Soon & Very Soon 2025 Advent Devotional*.

# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 PM Transition Team	2 7:00PM GA 7:00PM B&G	3 9:30AM NPC 9:30AM POH 11AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Communion 7:00PM AA	4 8:30 Infant Group 9:30AM NPC 7:00PM Choir	5 5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	6 8:30AM YWCA 4:00 PM Worship
7 4:00 PM CITN	8 9:30AM NPC 6:00 PM Meditation 7:00 PM ECM	9 7:00PM GA	10 9:30AM NPC 9:30AM POH 11AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Communion 7:00PM AA	11 8:30 Infant Group 9:30AM NPC 4:00 PM Care & Visitation 7:00PM Choir	12 5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	13 8:30AM YWCA
14 10AM Worship 11:15AM Fellowship	15 9:30AM NPC 6:00 PM Meditation	16 7:00PM GA	17 9:30AM NPC 9:30AM POH 11AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Communion 7:00PM AA 7:00PM B&G	18 8:30 Infant Group 9:30AM NPC 7:00PM Choir	19 5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	20 8:30AM YWCA
21 10AM Worship 11:15AM Fellowship	22 6:00 PM Meditation	23 7:00PM GA	24 9:30AM POH 11AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Communion 7:00PM AA 7:00 PM Worship	25 Christmas Day (Church Offices Closed)	26 5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	27 8:30AM YWCA
28 10AM Worship 11:15AM Fellowship	29 6:00 PM Meditation	30 7:00PM GA	31 9:30AM POH 11AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Communion 7:00PM AA		Key: NPC = Northampton Parents Center POH = Pastor Office Hours ECM = Elected Core Ministry	