



# THE SPIRE

EDWARDS CHURCH *of* NORTHAMPTON  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

297 Main Street, Northampton, Massachusetts 01060

Vol. 36 No. 3 March 2026

## Staying Put for Lent

Often, we refer to the 40 days of Lent as a journey to Easter. We use symbols of paths or roads – sometimes winding through wilderness. Perhaps you are ready for a journey. You feel like you have been spinning your wheels or life has been dull, same old, same old. If so, grab your coat and head out the door. I'm happy to walk and talk with you as you journey. And perhaps there are others who are ready to go with you. Let's see if there are companions for the trip.

Maybe, you have been going, going, going and you just need to stop. Maybe all the voices coming at you have been saying, do better, look better, eat better, be better.... For you, take some time to just be – enough. You are enough, just the way you are. Use these 40 days to see yourself as God does – a beloved child. No matter your age or stage of life, God loves you and is showing you that love each day. Take some time to stop and see. Easter will come without your working at it.

Now you might be thinking, “wouldn't that be nice, to be able to stop the craziness and just be, but others won't allow it. I have responsibilities.” I hear you and invite you to tell me all about it. Pause long enough to give me a call and tell me more. Tell me what life is like right now – I'm ready to listen.

Whether you head off on an adventure or stay put, I'm available to listen. – Rev. Jennifer Geary

### **Worship in March**

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>

#### **March 1 – Communion**

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Diane J. Johnson, Ph.D.

Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Greeter:

Usher: Justin Chick

Liturgist: Stefanie Adair

Reader: Sheri Chung

Fellowship: Debbie Davis and Michele Whiting

**March 8 – Lent 3** – Meeting Jesus in unexpected places

**Daylight Saving Time begins**

John 4:5-42

Greeter:

Usher: Marc Waller

Liturgist:

Reader: Kathy Korza

Fellowship: Sandra Rossi and Michele Whiting

Flowers: Sally Griggs

**March 15 – Lent 4 – When your growth causes a stir  
Antisemitism workshop**

John 5:1-11

Greeter:

Usher: Jon Dietrich

Liturgist:

Reader:

Fellowship: Carolyn Dion and Michele Whiting

**March 22 – Lent 5 – When you feel lost**

John 11:1-15

Greeter:

Usher: Mark Dion

Liturgist:

Reader:

Fellowship: Sue Anderson and Michele Whiting

**March 29 – Palm Sunday**

**Worship begins at 9:40 in Pulaski Park**

*See related article*

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

Greeter:

Usher: Justin Chick

Liturgist:

Reader:

Fellowship: Kathy & Ron Korza and Michele Whiting

**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 – 6:30 PM in my office. And am available at other times by appointment.

**Team Meetings in March**

3/4 7PM Investments Team (Heritage Room)

3/10 7PM Transition Team (Zoom)

3/11 7PM Building & Grounds (Zoom)

3/12 4PM Care & Visitation (Zoom)

3/25 7PM Building & Grounds (Zoom)

**Bible Study**

**Wednesdays 11 AM and Mondays at 7 PM – via  
Zoom**

Join us every Wednesday and (beginning March 9<sup>th</sup>) Monday 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. Or simply join at the appropriate time [here](#).

**All Church Retreat**

**Saturday, March 14. 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Addis Hall**

There is important transition work to be done together. Several items were raised last fall for which it was determined that we needed a longer session so we could give each topic more concentrated time. Breakfast will be served at 8 AM with the program starting at 8:30. We will spend time in devotion as well as discussion.

The topics include:

- Getting to know our personalities and how we best work together
- Review our governing structure – what's getting done and what's not
- How are we living out our Vision Statement?
- How are we teaching/forming faith for all ages and abilities?
- Discussion around the church name.

Please register so we can have an appropriate amount of food and resources. Also, please complete the personality questionnaire that will be sent directly to all who register. No one sees your responses just your score. Completion of the questionnaire is foundational to the discussion on how we work together.

This looks to be a productive and fun event. Register here:

<https://edwardschurch.breezechms.com/form/330a84>

## Palm Sunday – March 29

We will gather in Pulaski Park with the congregations from First Churches and St. John's Episcopal at 9:40 AM. Following the brief service there, we will process while waving our palms to the church. If you do not make it to the park, don't worry, you can join us when we get to the church. We will enter through the front door, go down the ramp and exit into the courtyard. We will go through the court yard and Button street to State Street and back to the front of the church. A prayer will happen on our front steps and then we will enter the sanctuary singing. There will be ramps the entire way so chairs can join us.

## Tuesday Tea – Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 3PM

Our first Tuesday Tea was a success! **BUT**, to clear up some confusion – we served more than tea and this is not a gendered event – everyone is welcome. More info will be shared in an upcoming Wednesday Word.

## Manna's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



### **Call to Manna Volunteers: Share Your Stories!**

Hello Manna Volunteers!

As Manna Community Kitchen celebrates 40 years of serving the community, we're reaching out for your help to commemorate this milestone. Your stories and memories are the heart of Manna's legacy, and we want to share them. We especially like to have stories from the very beginning, so please reach out with any cherished memories.

If you have memorable stories or photos, please contact Kaitlyn Ferrari, our Development Director, at [kaitlyn@mannanorthampton.org](mailto:kaitlyn@mannanorthampton.org).

Thank you for being an integral part of Manna's journey. We look forward to celebrating with you!



## Daylight Savings Time

Daylight saving time will begin at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 8, 2026. Clocks will be set forward one hour, so sunrise and sunset will occur an hour later. This is also a great time of year to check/replace the batteries in your smoke detectors at home.

## Maundy Thursday

We will observe Maundy Thursday on April 2<sup>nd</sup> with a simple supper and service of Tenebrae. For this service, we will need 3 people who are willing to make/bring a soup (one being vegan) and 3 people who are willing to make/bring a type of bread (one being gluten free). Also, we will need 12 readers. The readings will be done sitting around the table so no need to be able to move around or do steps. A sign-up sheet will become available by the middle of March but if you know you want to sign up now, feel free to contact the church office.

Lastly, it would be nice to have a variety of house plants in the space with us. This can be tricky as many are very careful about not exposing their house plants to others in case of disease or bugs so feel no pressure. If you would be willing to loan some plants for the service, please let Rev. Geary know.

# HOUSE MUSIC

ACAPPELLA JAM



4:00 PM, SUNDAY MARCH 8 2026

HELEN HILLS CHAPEL  
NORTHAMPTON, MA



Admission by  
Donation. All  
proceeds support  
families  
experiencing  
homelessness in  
Hampshire County.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
gatewayfiber

HOST BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Foster Laughter.  
Foster Hope.

A NON-PROFIT  
COMEDY SHOW

FEATURING



THURSDAY MARCH 12  
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

NORTHAMPTON ELKS LODGE  
17 SPRING ST, NORTHAMPTON, MA 01062

\$25 Tickets



All ticket pricing goes directly to:  
FRIENDS OF CHILDREN  
TRUTH, ACTION, CHANGE, & OPPORTUNITY

<https://friends-of-children.networkforgood.com/events/96595-foster-laughter-foster-hope>

## DOULA MEET & GREET



A doula is a special companion who supports you during pregnancy, labor, birth, and postpartum.

Parents who are supported by doulas report higher satisfaction rates with their birth experiences and lower rates of postpartum depression



Northampton Parents Center

SUNDAY 3/15  
3:30-5:30PM



NPC is located in the lower level of Edwards Church, 297 Main Street. Please use public parking and the backdoor entrance. We are wheelchair accessible.

EMAIL NORTHAMPTONPARENTSCENTER@GMAIL.COM WITH ANY QUESTIONS

## Join us for a virtual fundraiser for the: MA LUCE Immigrant Justice Hotline



Thursday  
March 26, 2026  
7:00-8:00 pm ET  
Virtual



For more information:  
**Neighbor to Neighbor**



### Program

A discussion on defending immigrant dignity and rights and advancing a humane and just immigration system.

- **Keynote:** A special speaker will be joining us. More to come.
- **Andrea Joy Campbell**  
MA Attorney General
- **Dálida Rocha**  
Executive Director, Neighbor to Neighbor
- **Family member** of someone who has been detained

### About LUCE and Neighbor to Neighbor

Neighbor to Neighbor builds community power so Black, Brown, working-class, and immigrant communities can win real, material change with dignity and care.

N2N joined with other immigrant-led groups across MA to launch the LUCE hotline and rapid response network to:

- Track activity of immigration agents
- Accompany impacted families
- Organize public actions

Funds raised will keep the hotline & rapid response lifeline strong and help us resist authoritarianism and defend our rights.

Photo credit: David Bacon

## Understanding the Impact of Antisemitism and the Role of Allies an Interfaith Gathering

We are co-sponsors of this event that is happening in Addis Hall. We will need greeters and kitchen volunteers to serve as hosts to the interfaith community.

March 15, 2026, Sunday  
11:30am Potluck  
12:00pm-2:30pm Program

**This event is free - registration is required.**

Please join us for an interactive workshop to deepen our understanding of antisemitism. We will explore how it is being used politically and its harmful impact on everyone, Jewish or not. Together we will hear personal experiences of antisemitism and allyship, and delve into the role of allies in this historical moment.

*About the facilitators:*

Rachel Hannah and Amy Leos-Urbel have led groups in discussion about antisemitism, racism, classism, sexism and other forms of oppression, at CBI and in other settings around the Valley. They both are current members and former board members at CBI; Rachel is a former co-president and Amy is former co-chair of the Tikkun Olam (social justice) committee. Amy is co-author, with Cherie R. Brown, of the booklet “*Antisemitism: why is it everyone’s concern?*” published in 2018.

To register please click this link by midnight Saturday, March 14, 2026

<https://edwardschurch.breezechms.com/form/2b0c27>

Sponsored by Congregation B'nai Israel, Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence, Edwards Church, First Churches of Northampton, Beit Ahavah, St. John's Episcopal Church, Nourishing Beloved Community, Greater Northampton Interfaith Clergy



**Northampton Parents Center**  
*Winter/Spring Schedule*  
WEEKLY 1/5/26-6/11/26

**FREE & ALL WELCOME!**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>MONDAY</b><br>INDOORS<br>[AT] NPC    | <b>TUESDAY</b><br>OUTDOORS [AT] THE HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL YMCA PLAYGROUND<br><b>TUESDAYS WILL BE INDOORS AT NPC IF THE WEATHER IS RAINY/SNOWY/TOO COLD!</b> |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br>INDOORS<br>[AT] NPC | <b>THURSDAY</b><br>INDOORS<br>[AT] NPC<br><b>INFANT GROUP STARTS AT 8:30!</b>  |

PLAYGROUPS ARE 9:30AM-11:30AM COME ANYTIME :)

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 @ 8:30am!  
*\*no such thing as late\**

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

Infants and their caregivers are welcome at any and all M-TH playgroups. 9:30-11:30!

**NORTHAMPTON PARENTS CENTER IS LOCATED IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF EDWARDS CHURCH 297 MAIN STREET. PLEASE USE PUBLIC PARKING AND THE BACKDOOR ENTRANCE. WE ARE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE!**

**TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS**

Lilies and other Easter flowers will decorate our chancel on Easter Sunday, April 5. 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, March 24, 2026.**

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.

The background of the entire flyer is a dark blue color. Scattered across this background are several light blue hand silhouettes, each with a small red heart on the palm. The hands are positioned in various orientations, some pointing towards the center and others towards the corners.

# UNDERSTANDING ANTISEMITISM

## AND THE ROLE OF ALLIES

## AN INTERFAITH GATHERING

Join us for an interfaith potluck and interactive workshop to deepen our understanding of antisemitism. We will hear personal experiences, explore how it is being used politically, its harmful impact on everyone, and about the role of allies.

**Sunday, March 15**  
**11:30 am–2:30 pm**  
**Edwards Church**  
297 Main Street, Northampton



**Register Online**

<https://edwardschurch.breezechms.com/form/2b0c27>

**COSPONSORED BY:** Congregation B'nai Israel,  
Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence,  
Edwards Church, First Churches of Northampton,  
Beit Ahavah, St. John's Episcopal Church,  
Nourishing Beloved Community, Greater  
Northampton Interfaith Clergy

### Gratitude Corner

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

- Debbie Davis for stepping up to help with office administration in March.
- The Building & Grounds Team for keeping up to date on projects and building maintenance.
- Justin for keeping the building spotless during a messy winter season.
- All the Cathedral in the Night volunteers.



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Courtney Aquadro

Sabra Aquadro

Michele Carroll

Martha McCullagh

Lynda Erickson

Bud Geary

Keith Barnicle

Ruth Griggs

Alfred Griggs

Elizabeth Henneman

James Stokes-Buckles

Gwen Swift

### Sexton Haiku

thin ice loosens,  
the storm's howl hushes to peace—  
winter bows, departs



### Sunday Morning Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to help lead worship. March is a great time for children, adults and families to volunteer to be the liturgist, scripture reader, greeter. Please consider signing up by contacting the church office at 413-584-5500, by email [info@edwardschurchnorthampton.org](mailto:info@edwardschurchnorthampton.org), via this [link](#) or by simply scanning the QR code below:



# March 2026

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                   | Saturday                                    |
|---|--|--|---|---|--------------------------|---|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>                 | <b>7</b>                                    |
| 10AM Worship<br>11:15AM<br>Fellowship                                     | 9:30AM NPC<br>6:00 PM<br>Meditation                  | 9:30AM NPC<br>7:00 PM GA                           | 9:30AM NPC<br>9:30AM POH<br>11AM Bible<br>6:00 PM IT<br>7:00PM AA | 8:30 Infant Group<br>9:30AM NPC<br>5:00 PM POH<br>6:30 PM AA<br>7:00PM Choir                | 5:00PM YWCA<br>7:00PM AA | 8:30AM YWCA                                 |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b>   | <b>13</b>                | <b>14</b>                                   |
| 10AM Worship<br>11:15AM<br>Fellowship                                     | 9:30AM NPC<br>6:00 PM<br>Meditation<br>7:00 PM Bible | 9:30AM NPC<br>7:00 PM TT<br>7:00 PM GA             | 9:30AM NPC<br>9:30AM POH<br>11AM Bible<br>7:00PM AA<br>7:00PM B&G | 8:30 Infant Group<br>9:30AM NPC<br>4:00 PM C&V<br>5:00 PM POH<br>6:30 PM AA<br>7:00PM Choir | 5:00PM YWCA<br>7:00PM AA | 8:00AM All<br>Church Retreat<br>8:30AM YWCA |
| <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b>   | <b>20</b>                | <b>21</b>                                   |
| 10AM Worship<br>11:15AM<br>Fellowship<br>11:30AM<br>Antisemitism<br>Event | 9:30AM NPC<br>6:00 PM<br>Meditation<br>7:00 PM Bible | 9:30AM NPC<br>7:00 PM GA                           | 9:30AM NPC<br>9:30AM POH<br>11AM Bible<br>7:00PM AA               | 8:30 Infant Group<br>9:30AM NPC<br>5:00 PM POH<br>6:30 PM AA<br>7:00PM Choir                | 5:00PM YWCA<br>7:00PM AA | 8:30AM YWCA                                 |
| <b>22</b>   | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b>                | <b>28</b>                                   |
| 10AM Worship<br>11:15AM<br>Fellowship                                     | 9:30AM NPC<br>6:00 PM<br>Meditation<br>7:00 PM Bible | 9:30AM NPC<br>7:00 PM GA<br>3:00 PM Tuesday<br>Tea | 9:30AM NPC<br>9:30AM POH<br>11AM Bible<br>7:00PM AA<br>7:00PM B&G | 8:30 Infant Group<br>9:30AM NPC<br>5:00 PM POH<br>6:30 PM AA<br>7:00PM Choir                | 5:00PM YWCA<br>7:00PM AA | 8:30AM YWCA                                 |
| <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b>  |   |   |                          |   |
| 9:40AM Worship<br>at Pulaski Park<br>11:15AM<br>Fellowship                | 9:30AM NPC<br>6:00 PM<br>Meditation<br>7:00 PM Bible | 9:30AM NPC<br>7:00 PM GA                           |   |   |                          |   |

## NOTES:

NPC – Northampton Parents Center

ECM – Elected Core Ministry

POH – Pastor Office Hours

TT- Transition Team

Bible – Bible Study

C&V – Care & Visitation

B&G – Building & Grounds

IT – Investments team