



THE SPIRE

EDWARDS CHURCH *of* NORTHAMPTON
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

297 Main Street, Northampton, Massachusetts 01060

Vol. 36 No. 4 April 2026

Holy Week Worship & Events

Maundy Thursday 6 PM, Thurs 4/2

Edwards Church, Addis Hall

Soup & Bread Supper

Remember together Jesus' last days through a service of supper, Communion and Tenebrae. We will read 12 scripture passages telling of Jesus' passion, extinguishing a candle after each reading. The service ends in silence.

Good Friday 9 AM – 4 PM, Fri 4/3

Edwards Church

Sanctuary with labyrinth open for meditation.

Good Friday 7 PM, Fri 4/3

First Churches – 129 Main Street

The Seven last words of Christ

Seven different preachers will each offer a brief meditation and seven frontline servant leaders will be honored through a foot washing ceremony. This is a service of proclamation, reflection, music and prayer.

Great Easter Vigil 7 PM, Sat. 4/4

St. John's Episcopal Church

48 Elm Street

Service of Light, Word, Water and the Table.

UCC Easter Sunrise Services

Hampshire Association

Easthampton 6:00 AM

Molitoris Farms, 95 Park Hill Road, Easthampton

Granby 6:40 AM

"The Farm", 6 South Street, Granby

Hadley 6:15 AM

North end of West Street Common, Hadley (intersection of West St. and North Ln)

North Hadley 6:25 AM

243 River Drive, Hadley. A pancake breakfast following. If you plan to eat, please let them know by texting: 718-812-5143.

Westhampton 6:00 AM

On the hill above the church which is located at 1 Tob Rd, followed by breakfast in the church dining room. Arrive early to walk up the hill as there is limited parking up there for those unable to make the walk.

Williamsburg 6:15 AM

Village Hill Cemetery, Village Hill Road, just up the road from the church which is located at 4 North Main Street, Williamsburg

Easter Celebration 10 AM, Sun. 4/5

Edwards Church

Celebrate resurrection through music, prayer and communion

Easter Egg Hunt 11:20ish AM, Sun. 4/5

Court Yard (Addis Hall if rain)

Ages 12 and under – bring your own basket



H O L Y W E E K

Pastor's Message

6 years ago, when the reality of the pandemic hadn't quite sunk in, many pastors said they were not going to celebrate Easter until they could be together in their sanctuary. They were expecting a quick fix and had no concept of how long it would take for it to be safe to once again gather in person. While we no longer need to be as cautious about the Corona Virus, today we still find ourselves grappling with how to celebrate resurrection when it feels like things are falling apart around us.

I can only imagine how it must have felt for those first disciples, so full of hope and apprehension as they and Jesus walked into Jerusalem, only to watch things unravel with lightning speed so that by Friday, Jesus was dead. But then, on Sunday, alive?! Dizzily disorienting.

We, like those first century faithful, wish for a sudden righting of the world. How nice it would be to wake up tomorrow and hear that all the wars have stopped; that all the world's people are being fed and no one is being denied vital medical care.

Jesus' resurrection didn't suddenly change the world. The experts didn't suddenly give us a cure for COVID. But in the midst of the struggle, people figured out how to have the hope of resurrection. The followers of Jesus, learned to be bold in sharing their Christian faith in the midst of a still dangerous world. Churches celebrated Easter in new and unique ways that brought blessings that were unimaginable before.

Resurrection calls us to boldly engage the powers of this world rather than retreating to an upper room with the doors locked, pretending that nothing bad is happening. The ultra-rich are fleecing the poor. Bombs are falling in Ukraine, all over the Middle East and beyond. Cubans are in dire straits due to blockades. Immigrants are being abused. Voting rights are being threatened. People are losing their housing and access to medical care. The number of guests at Manna meals are swelling. Too much! Too much!

The world didn't change with Jesus' resurrection but the hope in the hearts of Jesus' followers did. May we use this season of Easter to focus on the hope of resurrection in the midst of all that we cannot control. May placing our trust in a loving God and a caring community, help us to find restful sleep. May our conversations and communion open our understanding, that we might imagine our small part in creating the beloved community where all are valued and nurtured.

Happy Easter to all you resurrection people! - Rev. Jennifer Geary



Worship in April

April 5 – Easter Celebration, Communion

Matthew 28:1-10; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Greeters: Debbie Davis,

Usher: Mark Dion

Liturgist: Stefanie Adair

Reader: Melissa Mattison

Fellowship: Melissa Mattison, Michele Whiting
Childcare:

April 12

John 20:19-31

Flowers: Sally Griggs

Greeters:

Usher: Jon Dietrich

Liturgist: Ruth Griggs

Reader:

Fellowship: Susan Anderson, Michele Whiting
Childcare:

April 19

Luke 24:13-35

Flowers:

Greeters:

Usher: Ron Korza

Liturgist: Ruth Griggs

Reader:

Fellowship: Ruth Griggs, Michele Whiting
Childcare:

April 26

John 10:1-10

Flowers:

Greeters:

Usher: Carolyn Dion

Liturgist: Debbie Davis

Reader:

Fellowship: Nancy Flickinger, Michele Whiting
Childcare:

Pastoral Care & Changed Office Hours

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. My open office hours for the month of April are Mondays 1:00-3:00 PM, Tuesdays 10:00-11:30 AM and Thursdays 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. – Rev. Geary

Team Meetings in April

- 4/8 7PM Building & Grounds (Zoom)
- 4/9 4PM Care & Visitation (Zoom)
- 4/9 7PM Finance (Zoom)
- 4/12 11AM Outreach (Heritage Room)
- 4/13 7PM Transition Team (Zoom)
- 4/22 7PM Building & Grounds (Zoom)



Tuesday Tea – Tuesday, APRIL 21 – 3PM

Take a mid-afternoon break and join us as we enjoy delicious snacks and wonderful conversation. Open to all!

Bible Study

Wednesdays 11 AM– via 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. Or simply join at the appropriate time [here](#).

♥ Thank you ♥
VOLUNTEERS!

Anti-Semitism Workshop – Well attended

Over 50 people from many faith communities across the valley, including many from our congregation, attended the Understanding Anti-Semitism workshop hosted at Edwards on March 15. The potluck lunch was varied, abundant and delicious.

Rachel Hannah from CBI began by sharing the workshop's core beliefs: People are good, People get hurt, Hurt people hurt people, Change is possible, All oppression hurts everyone, We are in this together. She then ably led the group in a conversation which defined anti-Semitism and its relationship with people who are Jewish, considered what has happened historically, and what is happening right now. Almost 50% of the attendees were Jews. Hearing their thoughts and stories was a vital part of the conversation. The event closed with the group discussing ways that non-Semites can be allies. The group agreed that future conversation would be good so be watching for future events.

Interfaith Gathering for Immigrant Justice

April 18th 7:30 PM

**Congregation B'nai Israel
253 Prospect Street, Northampton**

The Tikkum Olam/Healing the World Committee of Congregation B'nai Israel (CBI) has invited us to affirm our commitment to protect our immigrant neighbors by gathering with others to raise our voices in song and to honor our local immigrant organizations. Molly Baigot and Ben Brosscup will lead us in singing and Jared and Laurie Berezin, founders of Bearing Witness, will speak about their work in Burlington, VT. For more information see the flyer at the end of the Spire.

Register [here](#).

Search Team Nominations

In late March, the Elected Core Ministry (ECM) announced they are ready to accept nominations for the 5 - 9 member Edwards Church Search Team. ECM encourages you to **review** the criteria, **complete** a Nomination Form and **return the form by April 5**.

Paper forms are available at the back of the Sanctuary; electronic forms are available from the church office and by clicking [here](#). Forms may be dropped into the Nominations Form Box or emailed to the church office. You may recommend more than one person but please use a separate form for each nomination.

All Church Retreat - March 14, 2026

Brief Summary

25 people gathered in Addis Hall from 8a-3p on March 14th for the All-Church retreat. The group engaged in deep conversation about how the church operates, what we are doing well, what needs improvement, and what we are dreaming. Presentations were made about our working/leadership style, the Core Ministry Model that was designed by the REACH team and we discussed if we need to have a discussion about the name of the Church. We also enjoyed great conversation, good food and the "Grow Your Church" game. The Elected Core Ministry will follow up on the issues raised such as how to discuss the church name, forming a Worship Team and a Stewardship Team and discerning which tasks for which a second ministerial position might be needed. A full summary of the retreat is available by request from the church office.



Cathedral in the Night

Please join us this Sunday, April 5th 2026 to help prepare and serve a meal for Cathedral in the Night. We will begin working the kitchen at Edwards Church at 1:00 Pm on Sunday and prepare for meal service in front of First Churches at 4:00 PM. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Debbie Davis at debradavis1217@gmail.com. Thank you!

Transition Team Update

Aren't you done yet? Trust us, we understand your question. It has been challenging to complete the UCC's 40-page profile required to submit our job posting for our next settled minister. The questions range from salary/benefits/housing to the history of previous ministerial staff, current staff, demographics, finances and governance. Along with questions that we asked you in person and with a survey – What is God calling you to do? Who are our neighbors? What programs are vital to your church? How do we worship? What are the most important strengths for a pastor?

We are currently waiting for survey responses from our community leaders. The survey asks for their opinion on how Edwards Church is doing to support the wider community. Also, is there something they feel we could be doing to fill a void? We are confident that the Profile will be done in early April.

The next step is yours – you need to discern if you are being called to be on the Search Team. We have heard your opinions in the listening sessions as to the strengths and talents the next minister should have. How strong is your desire to make that happen? A diverse Search Team can find that person. Is that you?

Education Opportunities offered by the SNEUCC

[2026 Spring Women's Yoga and Music Spirit Retreat Weekend at Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center](#)

Friday, April 10, 2026 7:00 PM to Sunday, April 12, 2026 at 12:00 PM (ET)

Location: Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center

Whether you're a yoga devotee or a novice, a seasoned singer or shy about your voice, we have a special place for you in our circle! This will be a weekend of exploration and restoration.

[Living into the Mystery - Worship & Sacraments in the United Church of Christ](#)

Saturday, April 11, 2026 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (ET)

An overview of the worship tradition of the United Church of Christ, tracing its history back to the early Christian practices of Baptism and Communion. Discussion will include creating worship experiences that welcome all ages and abilities.

[Lunch and Learn: Immigrant Welcoming Congregations](#)

Thursday, April 16, 2026 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM (ET)

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 12 - 1 pm via Zoom Presented by Megan Bergert Megan Bergert, Minister for Refugee and Migration Services for the national setting of the UCC, will discuss a number of new and revised resources for congregations working in ...

[SNEUCC Women's Connection, Tolland, CT](#)

Saturday, April 25, 2026 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM (ET)

Location: United Congregational Church of Tolland

Women of the SNE Conference are invited to the Spring Gathering of the SNEUCC Women's Connection on Saturday, April 25 at United Congregational Church of Tolland. The keynote speaker is the Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree.

[Youth Ministry 101](#)

Saturday, May 2, 2026 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (ET)

Explore the nuts and bolts alongside the theological foundations of organizing and implementing youth ministry programs in the local church — recruiting, nurturing, and supporting volunteers, leadership skills, and working on a church staff.

PROJECT PROCLAIM AND
FIRST CHURCHES OF NORTHAMPTON
PRESENT

**GOOD FRIDAY
"SEVEN LAST WORDS"
SERVICE**

7 Guest Preachers | Music
7 Servant Leaders | Foot-Washing Ceremony

Friday, April 3, 2026 | 7:00 - 9:00PM EST
First Churches of Northampton
129 Main Street, Northampton, MA

**EASTER
SOUP
AND BAKE
SALE**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4
10AM-3PM**

**Haydenville Congregational Church
143 Main St, Haydenville**

Part of the proceeds to support **Transhealth**
in their work to provide gender-affirming care.

**INTERFAITH
COMMUNITY
GATHERING
FOR
IMMIGRANT
JUSTICE**

Across traditions, we are called to welcome the stranger, protect the vulnerable, and work for justice in our communities. Together we will affirm our commitment to stand with our immigrant neighbors.

**SATURDAY
APRIL 18TH**

7:30 PM

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL
253 PROSPECT STREET
NORTHAMPTON, MA

Join us as we

- Sing as a community, led by Molly Bajgot & Ben Grosscup
- Learn from Jared and Laurie Berezin, founders of Bearing Witness New England
- Explore local volunteer opportunities with organizations working for immigrant justice
- Light the Havdalah* candle in honor of those who support vulnerable immigrants

*Havdalah is a short Jewish ceremony marking the transition between the sabbath and the rest of the week.

Organized by Congregation B'nai Israel's Tikkun Olam/Repair the World Committee's Immigrant Justice team.

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Questions? Reach out to Janet Grant at janetlavingrant@gmail.com

**SUMMER 2026
ADULT MUSIC CAMP**

JULY 23-26

**CRAIGVILLE CONFERENCE CENTER,
CENTERVILLE, MA**

JOIN OTHER ADULTS FOR CHOIR SINGING, WORSHIP, BEACH TIME, RELAXATION AND FELLOWSHIP! LEARN MUSIC TO SING FOR A SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE ON THE 26TH IN THE HISTORIC CRAIGVILLE TABERNACLE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, CONTACT ERIK ELA,
ELAERIK@MAC.COM

Upcoming Installations

Would you represent our congregation at a Ministerial Installation?

Ministers hold their ministerial standing in an Association. When a church calls a minister, the Association installs that minister as Pastor and Teacher. The Association is made up of delegates from each of the congregations in the Association. Edwards Church is part of the Hampshire Association.

When this congregation calls its settled minister, it will request that the Hampshire Association install that minister.

There are several upcoming Installations happening in the Hampshire Association and then there will be a lull as very few churches are search at this time. It could be helpful for a variety of folks to serve as our delegates for each of these services to familiarize ourselves with what goes on at an Installation.

If you are willing to represent us at one or some of these services, please let the church office know.

- April 26th, 3 PM the Rev. Carol Smith will be installed at Westhampton Cong'l, UCC
- May 17th, 2 PM the Rev. Susan Cartmell will be installed at South Church Amherst, UCC
- May 24th, 3 PM Larry Picard will be installed as a Lay Pastor at North Hadley Cong'l





**FRIENDS
OF CHILDREN**

March 25th, 2026

To the Quilt Committee and Congregation of Edwards Church,

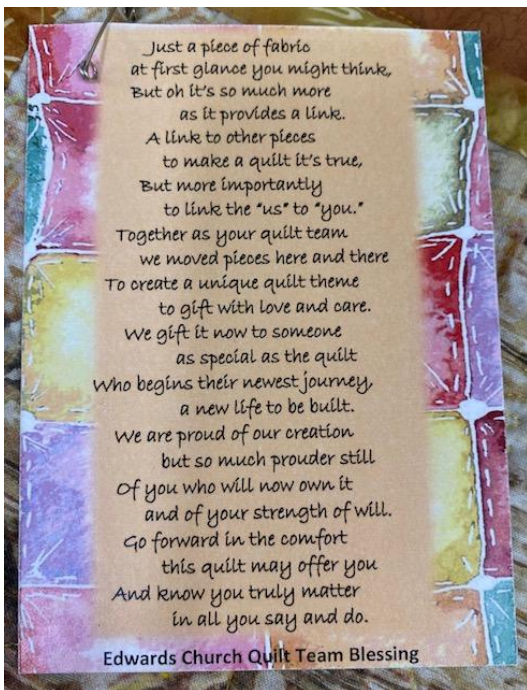
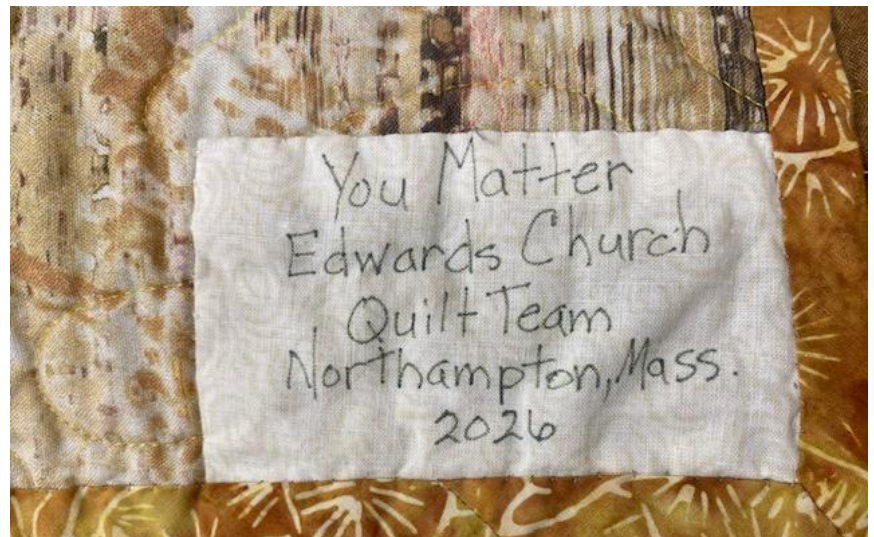


We are in awe of the love and community devotion that is represented in every stitch of the quilts that were blessed and donated this past week. That feeling grows with each batch that comes into our office and every time we are able to spread your kindness with our strong and resilient youth. Your love and good will watch and protect these incredible individuals as they dream each night of a better future for themselves. We take the charge seriously to help them on their path, to live up to the trust that they instill in us by reaching out in their vulnerability to ask for a kind, helping hand. And we take seriously the trust that each of you place in us when you bless and donate your hearts, faith, and love through these quilts.

Sincerely,

Sarah Segura

Co-Executive Director
Friends of Children, Inc.



241 King St, Ste 227, Northampton, MA 01060 | (413)586-0011 | friendsofchildreninc.org

*Images provided by Susan Swift





Summer Camp 2026

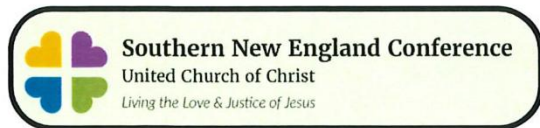
↓ Week #
Grades 4-6
Grades 7-9
Grades 10-12

<p>1 JUNE 21-27</p> 	<p>PRAISE & PLAY ALL DAY Deans: Stacy Stevens, Debi Mastroni-Kenyon</p> <p>BRING ON THE MONSTERS Deans: Brittany Romaniello, Rebekah Lyon</p> <p>ARTS ALIVE Deans: Emily McKenna, Tiffany Nakanishi</p> <p>BABY CAMP Ages 0-3 & Adult Wednesday-Saturday Deans: Chelsea Kordiak, Mike Kordiak, Anne Hughes</p>
<p>2 JUNE 28- JULY 4</p> 	<p>FAMILY CAMP 1 All Ages Sunday-Wednesday Deans: Sarah Rodriguez, Chris Miller</p> <p>CIRCLE OF FRIENDS Deans: Camryn Cicarelli, Aran Gillette</p> <p>TBA Program Details to be Announced Soon!</p> <p>ADVENTURE CAMP! Dean: Andrew Wicks</p>
<p>3 JULY 5-11</p> 	<p>FAMILY CAMP 2 All Ages Sunday-Wednesday Deans: Evelyn Cass Adams, Kelsey DeCarlo</p> <p>WATER WORLD Deans: Betty Geiling, Josh Geiling, Maureen Montrose</p> <p>SING PRAISE Deans: Valerie Tutson, Leanna Bonafini, Whendi Cook Broderick</p>
<p>4 JULY 12-18</p> 	<p>MUGGLES & WIZARDS Dean: Jennifer Long</p> <p>FUN IN THE SON Deans: Brian Lapis, Cameron Hull, Caitlin Mundy</p>
<p>5 JULY 19-25</p> 	<p>GOD SONG Deans: Victoria Bower, Brianna Gambacini</p> <p>ALL ABOARD! Deans: Brittany Anderson, Kaleb Oakleaf</p> <p>SUMMERTIME S.T.E.A.M. Deans: Vin Urbanowski, Donna Kaiser</p>



Tiered Pricing: \$940 | \$850 | \$760
Financial Assistance is available.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



www.SilverLakeCT.org

Gratitude Corner

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

- Deb, Sandra, Stefanie and others who provided fantastic hospitality for the Anti-Semitism workshop. Many participants sent their thanks, commenting on the warm welcome.
- The Quilt and Prayer Shawl teams for sharing their skills with the congregation and beyond.
- Stefanie, Ella, Paul, Janet and Sandra for sharing their faith stories during Lenten worship.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Richard Aquadro
Remy Gutterman
Frank Heston
Karen Hogan
Jenny Hutchison
Michael John Masamitsu
Karen Pohlman
Janet Tucker



Too Many Emails?

Are you receiving too many emails from the church? Thank you for your continued patience as we continue learning our new church management software. Instead of unsubscribing, please feel free to reach out to the church office anytime to express any changes to the frequency of communication you are receiving. Thank you so much!



April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			9:30AM NPC 11AM Bible 7:00PM AA	8:30 Infant Group 9:30AM NPC 5:00 PM POH 6:00 Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM AA	Good Friday 9AM – 4PM Sanctuary Open 5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	8:30AM YWCA
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10AM Easter Sunday Worship 11:15AM Fellowship 11:20 AM Egg Hunt	9:30AM NPC 1:00PM POH 6:00 PM Meditation	9:30AM NPC 10:00AM POH 7:00 PM GA	9:30AM NPC 11AM Bible 7:00PM B&G 7:00PM AA	8:30 Infant Group 9:30AM NPC 4:00 PM C&V 5:00 PM POH 6:30 PM AA 7:00 PM Finance	5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	8:30AM YWCA 10AM UU Democracy Forum
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10AM Worship 11:15AM Fellowship	9:30AM NPC 1:00PM POH 6:00 PM Meditation 7:00 PM TT	9:30AM NPC 10:00AM POH 7:00 PM GA	9:30AM NPC 11AM Bible 7:00PM AA	8:30 Infant Group 9:30AM NPC 5:00 PM POH 6:30 PM AA 7:00PM Choir	5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	8:30AM YWCA EarthMass Concert (All Day)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10AM Worship 11:15AM Fellowship	1:00PM POH 6:00 PM Meditation	10:00AM POH 3:00 PM Tuesday Tea 7:00 PM GA	10:00AM POH 11AM Bible 7:00PM B&G 7:00PM AA	5:00 PM POH 6:30 PM AA 7:00PM Choir	5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	8:30AM YWCA
26	27	28	29	30		
10AM Worship 11:15AM Fellowship 3:00 PM Installation (Westhampton)	9:30AM NPC 1:00PM POH 6:00 PM Meditation	9:30AM NPC 10:00AM POH 7:00 PM GA	9:30AM NPC 11AM Bible 7:00PM AA	8:30 Infant Group 9:30AM NPC 5:00 PM POH 6:30 PM AA 7:00PM Choir		

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

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website: www.edwardschurchnorthampton.org
Rev. Jennifer Geary, *Interim Minister*
Adam Simon, *Director of Music*
Sabra Aquadro, *Treasurer*
Keith Barnicle, *Office Manager*
Justin Clifford, *Sexton*

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