EDWARDS CHURCH of NORTHAMPTON

THE SPIRE

EDWARDS CHURCH of NORTHAMPTON
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

297 Main Street, Northampton, Massachusetts 01060 **Vol. 37 No. 7 July/August 2026**

Summer Worship – *Rev. Jennifer Geary*

Often our routine changes during the summer months but regular worship attendance doesn't have to. (Check out last July's Spire article.) Travel provides an opportunity to worship in new and different ways. Most National Parks and many resorts have chaplains that conduct outdoor services. Can't find a UCC church where you are staying? Try a different denomination for that Sunday. Here in Northampton we will continue to gather for worship at 10 AM. For the month of July and the 30th of August, we will worship at Edwards Church; for August 2, 9, 16, 23, we will worship at First Churches.

During the month of July, we will use a variety of Psalms throughout our services. I had hoped to have them all listed in the Spire but didn't get that far by the deadline. Check out the Wednesday Word each week for the upcoming Psalms. I've listed all the Lectionary passages for the month of August as I don't know which will be used as a basis for worship at First Churches. - Rev. Geary

July 4th Bell Ringing

Would you be willing to ring the church bell at 2:50 PM on July 4, 2026?

Bells in other parts of the USA will ring at adjusted times based on their time zones so that all will be ringing simultaneously nationwide: https://www.bells.org/blog/bell-ringing-guidelines-americas-250th.

If this sounds like a task for you, please let the church office know.



July Worship
At Edwards Church

July 5 – Independence 250, Communion
Psalms 20, 23, 34, 46, 91
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Greeter:
Usher: Jon Dietrich
Liturgist: Stefanie Adair
Reader:
Fellowship: Debbie Davis & Michele Whiting

July 12
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Flowers: Sally Griggs
Greeter:
Usher: Ron Korza
Liturgist:
Reader: Kathy Korza
Fellowship: Susan & Brian Swift & Michele Whiting

July 19
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Flowers:
Greeter:
Usher: Mark Dion
Liturgist:
Reader: Justin Chick
Fellowship: Susan Anderson & Michele Whiting

July 26
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Flowers:
Greeter: Mark Dion
Usher: Carolyn Dion
Liturgist: Stefanie Adair
Reader:
Fellowship: & Michele Whiting

August Worship
August 2-23 at First Churches
August 30 at Edwards Church

August 2 - Communion
Genesis 32:22-31, Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 55:1-5, Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21

August 9
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28, Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
1 Kings 19:9-18, Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33

August 16
Genesis 45:1-15, Psalm 133
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 23
Exodus 1:8-2:10, Psalm 124
Isaiah 51:1-6, Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

August 30 – Bless Backpacks
Edwards Church
Exodus 3:1-15, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

Pastoral Care & 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 months of July and August are Mondays 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Tuesdays 10:00-11:30 AM and Thursdays 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. – Rev. Geary

Team Meetings in July & August

7/1 6:30 PM Search Team (Heritage Room)
7/15 7PM Building & Grounds (Zoom)
7/16 4PM Care & Visitation (Zoom)
7/16 7PM Elected Core Ministry (Zoom)
8/13 4PM Care & Visitation (Zoom)

Online 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 for embracing the idea of Care Circles. I've heard such heart-warming stories of how praying for each other has been a blessing. If you were not able to attend the kickoff luncheon, here is a bit of what was shared. Praying for each other isn't a chore or burden. You can't do it wrong. Each day or each week, ask God's blessing on each person on your list. If you get to the end of the day and are all snug in bed and remember that you didn't pray that day – no worries - God knows your list. Simply ask God to bless your list. If you miss a whole bunch of days, don't beat yourself up, just start again. If you lose your list, contact the church office and Keith will resend it. If you have questions about prayer or praying, please contact me. - Rev. Jennifer Geary

First Aid/CPR/AED Training Opportunity

We are pleased to announce an upcoming First Aid/CPR/AED training session scheduled for **Friday, July 31, at 1:00 PM**. Currently, there are three openings available.

This training offers a valuable opportunity to learn new skills, deepen your involvement, and serve more effectively within our church community.

Date: Friday, July 31
Time: 1:00 PM
Available Openings: 3

If you are interested in participating, please register soon, as space is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

For additional information or questions, please contact the church office at info@edwardschurchnorthampton.org.

Worship Team Forming

Have you ever wondered how guest ministers are selected, who positions Easter lilies in the Chancel or how special services are planned (e.g., the Fall picnic)? So do we! Edwards Church is looking for 3-5 members to form a Worship Team that will work with Rev Geary, as well as other teams, to identify and plan those Edwards traditions that all of us have come to love. Being part of this institutional knowledge base will be a big help to our new minister, whether we decide to keep existing traditions or forge new ones. It is expected the team will meet monthly or quarterly. Prior experience with the Edwards "way" is helpful but not required.

Worship Team Description

The role of the worship team is to become a resource for the minister in the planning and implementation of Edward Church's special services from baptism services to church picnics. Specifically, this would include regular meetings to plan for the ensuing month or quarter, work with other teams (e.g., Chancel Team, Sacraments Team, ECM) to plan special events and services. The team would also help with pulpit supply when the Senior Minister is away. Ultimately the team will become an institutional knowledge base and resource for current and future ministers in the life/calendar of Edwards Church.

Church Offices Closed

Church Offices will be closed on Friday, July 3rd and Monday, July 6th.

Faith Formation Classes

We will continue to offer Faith Formation classes for children throughout the summer months. And as always, children are welcome to be in the sanctuary for the entire service.



Church Directory

We plan to distribute the church directory in its current printed form next week. We will include the names, addresses, phone #'s and emails for all our members and friends. If there is information you wish to have withheld, please contact the church office ASAP. Also, please send in your picture to be included in the directory to info@edwardschurchnorthampton.org.

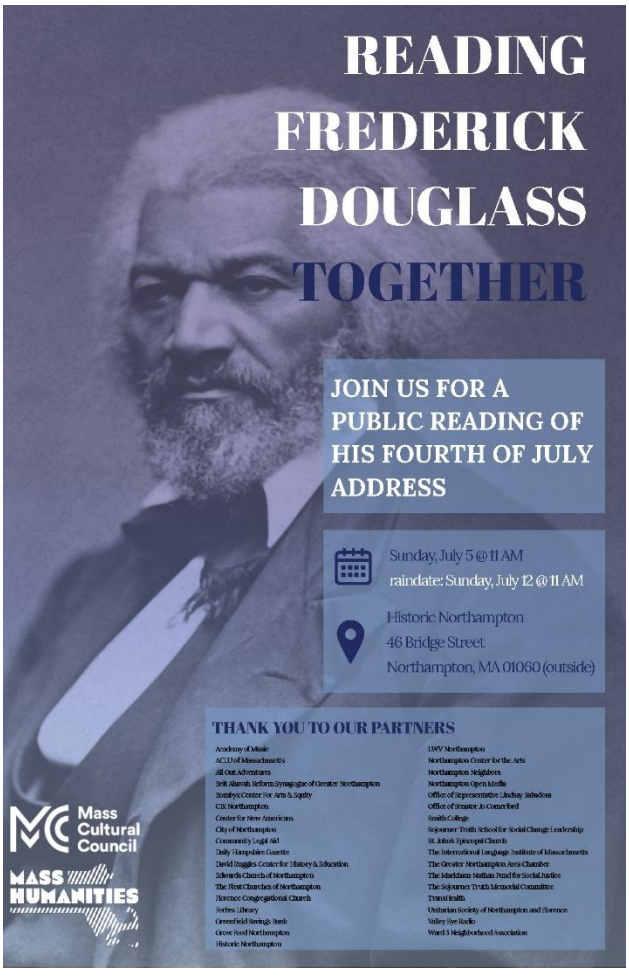


Scholarships/Camperships Available

The Edwards Church Scholarship Team is currently accepting scholarship/campership applications on a rolling basis. Applications are welcome throughout the year and decisions will be made quarterly with awards to follow. To access the application form, please click here.

Please sign and date your application. If you have previously applied please include a new essay/update for the team. This fund is open to all regardless of age, religion, national origin, sexual or gender expression.





Life is good, Even when it's not

Many of you have talked with me about your struggles with finding positivity. The days seem to rush by. We're getting done what has to get done, mostly, but too often it feels like trudging through mud. As a nation we are about to celebrate our 250th Birthday, celebrating the signing of the Declaration of Independence. For those of us who remember the 200th celebration, this one feels a bit less celebratory. Fifty years ago, we spent a year learning about and celebrating our history as a nation. Sometimes it feels like we spent the past year trying to erase a lot of that history. But it can't be erased. We are who we are.

Hosting the World Cup, having hundreds of thousands of out-of-town visitors for weeks, has been a gift to our spirits. Watching folks enjoy and be amazed by things we take for granted has shaken a bit of the fogginess from our daily routines. Having folks from around the world exhibit pride in their national team and their culture while thanking us profusely for our hospitality reminds us that we, the people, decide who we are as a country. It also reminds us that we the people, decide who we are as Church.

While we celebrate the fine hospitality, we are not so naïve to think that it's all been good. Some teams can only be in our country during their game and then need to leave our borders immediately and their fans aren't allowed at all. Some of these visitors have been swindled by less than reputable businesses in renting rooms or RVs. Human trafficking is just as robust as whenever there is a huge sporting event. And not all guests are blessings. Humanity is capable of so much good and so much bad. God knows this. It is well documented in our scriptures. Through all the folly of human history there runs a stream of hope – of hope that we can do better.

Jesus the Christ was all about that hope and invited everyone to join the movement. Jesus invites us to be part of the Finding Hope movement. Not for us to be Polly Anna and ignore the bad but to seek out and celebrate the good. When life get tough or just blah, a little celebration of what is good can go a long way to give us the hope needed to get us through. It reminds us that we are not alone; God is with us through the good and the bad. May we not only hope but also strive for the day when all can enjoy life, liberty and happiness without hurting or harming another. We together are the church of hope; offering each other light in the dark times and together bringing hope far beyond our small circle.

- Rev. Geary



Register here: https://sneucc-reg.brtapp.com/2026SNEUCC7thAM

Gratitude Corner

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

Thank you to:

- Thanks to Adam, staff singers, choir and musicians for leading us in worship through music.
- Thanks to Denisse, Shannon and Edith for providing our children with a safe, loving space to learn about and practice faith.
- Thanks to Justin for keeping our building clean and ready for all its many uses.
- Thanks to Keith for keeping us informed, organized and in the right places at the right time.
- Thanks to Sabra for managing all our finances.
- Thanks to all the volunteers that make our teams successful within our walls and out into the wider community.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Annie Bissett	Beth Firmin
Kristine Bos	Ron Korza
Jon Dietrich	Melissa Mattison
Carl Erickson	Ellyn McAllister



Cathedral in the Night Volunteers
Picture by Debbie Davis



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Adam Boucher	Ben Haughey
Sandi Coyne-Gilbert	Jeff Prince
Carolyn Dion	Diana Masamitsu
Mark Dion	Florence Semb
Glenn Gulotta	

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PACK YOUR BACKPACK!
CHOOSE WHAT ITEMS YOU SHOULD BRING
UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS
1) EDIUG _____
2) TUSRT _____
3) OLFLWO _____
4) ITHFA _____
5) EUSJS _____
ANSWERS: GUIDE, TRUST, FOLLOW, FAITH, JESUS
FOLLOWING JESUS EVERYDAY
"COME FOLLOW ME..." -MATT. 9:19
HELP THE CRITTERS FIND THEIR WAY BACK TO THE CAMPSITE
LIGHT THE FIRE & CONNECT THE DOTS!
CAMP
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DIVE INTO GOD'S WORD
FILL IN THE BLANKS
"This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the_____to shine by day, who decrees the_____ and_____to shine by_____, who stirs up the_____ so that its_____roar— the LORD_____ is his name:"
Jeremiah 31:35, NIV
MATCH THE BIBLE CHARACTER TO THE WATER
MOSES
JONAH
JESUS
FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS
FISH
SEA
ARK
WAVE
SHIP
TIDE
JOY
PEARL
CRAB
FAITH
F I S H S E A
A R K W A V E
I S H I P O C
T I D E J O Y
H P E A R L N
C R A B S A H
HELP THE FISH SWIM ACROSS THE CORAL REEF
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July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			11AM Bible 6:30PM Search Team 7:00PM AA	5:00 PM POH 6:30 PM AA	*Church Offices Closed* 5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	Independence Day 8:30AM YWCA 2:50PM Bell Ringing
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10AM Worship 11:15AM Fellowship	*Church Offices Closed*	9:30AM NPC 10:00AM POH 7:00 PM GA	11AM Bible 7:00PM AA	5:00 PM POH 6:30 PM AA	5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	8:30AM YWCA
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10AM Worship 11:15AM Fellowship	1:00 PM POH	9:30AM NPC 10:00AM POH 7:00 PM GA	11AM Bible 7:00PM AA 7:00PM B&G	4:00 PM C&V 5:00 PM POH 6:30 PM AA 7:00 PM ECM	5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	8:30AM YWCA
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10AM Worship 11:15AM Fellowship	1:00 PM POH	9:30AM NPC 10:00AM POH 7:00 PM GA	11AM Bible 7:00PM AA	5:00 PM POH 6:30 PM AA	5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	8:30AM YWCA
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10AM Worship 11:15AM Fellowship	1:00 PM POH	9:30AM NPC 10:00AM POH 7:00 PM GA	11AM Bible 7:00PM AA	5:00 PM POH 6:30 PM AA	1:00PM CPR Training 5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	

NOTES:

NPC – Northampton Parents Center	ECM – Elected Core Ministry
POH – Pastor Office Hours	C&V – Care & Visitation
Bible – Bible Study	
B&G – Building & Grounds	

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10AM Worship at First Churches	1:00 PM POH	9:30AM NPC 10:00AM POH 7:00 PM GA	11AM Bible 7:00PM AA	5:00 PM POH 6:30 PM AA	5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	8:30AM YWCA
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10AM Worship at First Churches		9:30AM NPC 7:00 PM GA	11AM Bible 7:00PM AA	4:00 PM C&V 6:30 PM AA	5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	8:30AM YWCA
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10AM Worship at First Churches		10:00AM POH 7:00 PM GA	11AM Bible 7:00PM AA	5:00 PM POH 6:30 PM AA	5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	8:30AM YWCA
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10AM Worship at First Churches	1:00 PM POH	10:00AM POH 7:00 PM GA	11AM Bible 7:00PM AA	5:00 PM POH 6:30 PM AA	5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	8:30AM YWCA
30	31					
10AM Worship at Edwards	1:00 PM POH					

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