EDWARDS CHURCH of NORTHAMPTON

THE SPIRE

EDWARDS CHURCH of NORTHAMPTON
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

297 Main Street, Northampton, Massachusetts 01060 **Vol. 37 No. 10 November 2026**

Pastor's Message

"Because of YOU, our church changes lives" is way more than a slogan – it is the truth. Every one of us has a valuable role in the mission of this congregation. God has called together this unique group of personalities that is ever shifting as folks come and go. If you are just passing through town and spend a week or two with us – you make a difference. As we say each week, all are welcome to join in the shaping of this community. And simply being present forms part of that shape.

In different life seasons we participate in different ways. Some years we are out visiting fellow parishioners, and in some seasons, we are at home being visited by others. In some seasons we are planning events and in other seasons we are attending. All roles are vital to the health of the organization.

The existence of this congregation has had a profound effect on the city of Northampton and beyond. The building alone has been used to transform lives through worship, devotions, and programs involving children and music and the unhoused. We support safe visitation for non-custodial parents, the Parent's Center, childbirth classes and a variety of anonymous groups. Through Outreach we support programing for children, immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people from historically marginalized racial and ethnic communities. In our personal living, we serve in soup kitchens, at community centers, in nursing homes & hospitals. We march, write letters and make phone calls. We build community that cares for each other and invite others to join us in this community. We do this knowing that with each new person, our complexion changes, our priorities shift, and our skills are enhanced.

Being flexible allows God to use us in more nimble ways. I encourage us to get to know each other better so when a need arises we know to whom to reach out. I also encourage us to continue to pray for each other. If you have lost your care circle list, reach out to the office to be reminded. I think it is time to have another care circle lunch to check in with each other as we grow in our care and support of each other and…there are a few new people to add to our lists.

During this season of Thanksgiving, let us continue in our thanksliving being grateful for our blessings and living as a blessing to others. – Rev. Geary



Worship in November

November 1 – All Saints*, Communion, End DST
Revelation 7:9-17; Matthew 5:1-12

Greeter:
Usher: Marc Waller
Liturgist:
Reader: Melissa Mattison
Fellowship: Ella Sticker & Michele Whiting

November 8 – Children help lead*
Amos 5:18-24; Matthew 25:1-13

Greeter:
Usher: Ron Korza
Liturgist:
Reader: Jon Dietrich
Fellowship: Susan Anderson & Ella Stocker
Flowers: Sally Griggs

November 15 – Pledge Sunday*
Psalm 78:1-7; Matthew 25:14-30

Greeter: Mark Dion
Usher: Justin Chick
Liturgist: Stefanie Adair
Reader:
Fellowship: Nancy Flickinger & Michele Whiting
Spiritual Formation Support: Laura Frogameni

November 22 – Thanksgiving, Rachel's Table*
Matthew 25:31-46

Greeter:
Usher: Mark Dion
Liturgist: Ruth Griggs
Reader:
Fellowship: Ruth Griggs
Flowers: Mark Dion

November 29 – Advent 1, Mary & Joseph*
Isaiah 64:1-9; Matthew 1:18-19; Luke 1:46-55

Greeter: Debbie Davis
Usher: Carolyn Dion
Liturgist: Stefanie Adair
Reader:
Fellowship: Sandra Rossi & Michele Whiting
Spiritual Formation Support: Janet Tucker

*Worship Notes

All Saints Day: On November 1, we will honor the saints who have gone to be with God over the past year. In the worship bulletin we will list the names of church members and anyone else you would like to have listed. Please have names to the church office by October 29. During the service folks will have an opportunity to light a candle in memory of anyone regardless of the time of their death.

Children lead us in song: The children have been practicing a song to teach to the congregation as the first hymn on November 8th. If you have a child or grandchild, please ask them to practice by teaching you the song at home.

Pledge Sunday: Please read more about making a faith promise on this day in an article by the Stewardship Team.

Rachel's Table: Rachel's Table is one of the recipients of a New Way Grant. A speaker will give us a brief overview during worship and then will give a full presentation on their ministry during fellowship time.

Advent 1: We start a new Christian Year on November 29th. The Worship Team has been busy for months creating a special Advent experience for all ages. In place of the traditional hope, peace, joy, love we will consider the characters in the Christmas story. Mary and Joseph start us off.

Worship Volunteer Opportunities

Sunday worship at Edwards Church is a wonderful opportunity to share in community, connect with visitors, and help create a meaningful worship experience. There are many ways to participate, and now is a great time to sign up!

Interested? Please reach out to the church office at info@edwardschurchnorthampton.org or 413-584-5500. Thank you for being part of the Edwards Church community!



Because of YOU our church changes lives.

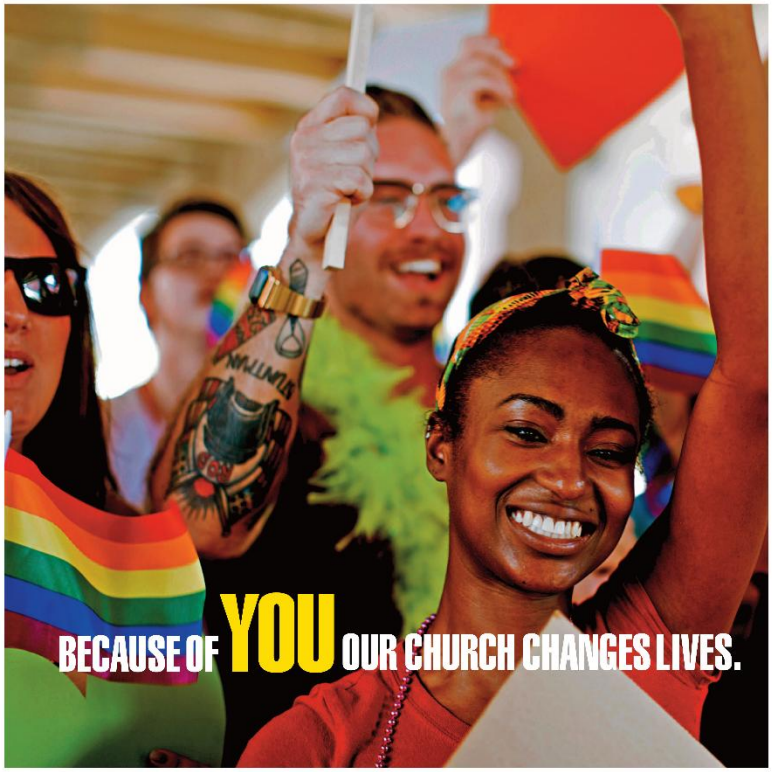
It is a statement that is both bold and simple. It boldly expresses the truth about the ultimate nature and the purpose of the church: to engage in acts of transformation. It boldly asserts that we see our mission as one that gives assurance to every individual that their life matters, not because we say so, but because the gospel says so.

It boldly challenges us to engage in the work of breaking down barriers and dismantling systems which deny the fundamental truth that God loves *the world*. This radically inclusive belief leaves no living thing out of the Divine embrace or allows anyone to be separated from the hope of that promise.

We can be bold because we know it is true. Our own life stories bear witness that being a part of the beloved community in some way has either made us different; or causes us to fervently believe that it will. It gives us hope, reminds us of our value, calls us to discover and claim our purpose, clarifies the moral Right and Wrong, motivates us to be a part of something larger than ourselves all for the sake of *change!* Change that can more closely align us and our world with the values of the Realm of God. Our church matters because of **you**.

Our theme ***Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives*** is also simple. It recognizes that each of us, by our gifts and the decisions we make to employ them, power this sacred work. Our resources make ministry happen. The arithmetic is not complex. Our choice to grow in our generosity enables the church to increase the impact of the difference it makes.

By choosing to give, even a little bit more, we will expand our shared quest to change lives – even our own. Be *bold!* Take a step forward in your generosity. It's simple! The choice is **yours.**



2027 Edwards Church Stewardship Campaign: Because of YOU, Our Church Changes Lives!

This autumn, we have been reflecting on the many ways Edwards Church changes lives through worship, service, volunteering, and fellowship. Our annual stewardship campaign invites us to consider how we can continue this important ministry by sharing our time, talents, and financial resources.

Please join us for Stewardship Sunday on November 15, 2026! During worship, we will celebrate our congregation's generosity and bless and consecrate our pledges for the coming year.

This year, we encourage everyone to make their pledge online. An email with a link and instructions will be sent on Wednesday, November 4, at noon. Pledge cards will also be available during worship on November 15, and you may return your card or contact the church office to make your pledge.

This year's pledge card also includes an optional checkbox to give the church permission to send you text messages about important updates, weather emergencies, and church events.

Thank you for being part of a congregation that makes a difference. **Because of YOU, our church changes lives!**

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/text my cell phone. My open office hours for the month of November 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 November

11/11 7PM Building & Grounds Team (Zoom)
11/12 4PM Care & Visitation Team (Zoom)
11/15 11AM Outreach Team (Heritage Room)
11/23 7PM Elected Core Ministry (Zoom)
11/24 7PM Finance Team (Zoom)
11/25 7PM Building & Grounds Team (Zoom)

Solidarity Sing – Sunday, November 1

Join us at Edwards Church on **Sunday, November 1, from 3–5 PM for a Pre-Election Solidarity Sing!** This gathering will bring people together through music, community, and hope as we sing for joy, grieve, and stand in solidarity for a more just world.

Songs will focus on ending war, abolishing ICE, and stopping the funding of the genocide in Gaza. Song leaders include Singing Resistance Western Mass, Singing for Change, and the Ujima Singers.

The event will take place at Edwards Church, 297 Main Street, Northampton. **All are welcome!** One hundred percent of proceeds will benefit Lanterns for LUCE and the Pioneer Valley Workers Center. Suggested donation: $10–$50.

November Gleaning Opportunities

Help rescue fresh local produce, get it to people who need it and work to end hunger!

Tuesday (11/3) we will glean **apples** in **Monson** from **2-4 pm.** This will be our last glean at this orchard for the year! Click here to register!

Church Directory

Church Directories are available to all those whose information is in the directory. Many have been given out at worship services. You may pick one up at the church office. They will not be emailed to maintain privacy. The Directory will be available on the Church Website under the password protected "member" tab. If you have not yet, please send in a picture for the directory. This will be helpful to new members and also your new minister.

Arcadia Players

Arcadia Players: English Music for Voice and Viols

Dowland, Purcell and more performed by voice and Arcadia Viols

- Saturday, November 7 at 5 PM
- Edwards Church, Northampton, MA

This concert highlights Arcadia Viols playing fantasies, consort music, and consort songs by Byrd, Dowland, Gibbons, Tomkins, Jenkins, and Purcell. You are in for a feast for the mind and the senses, as you engage in the rich poetry and lush expressivity of this incredible music. It will take you to regions both melancholy and sublime. Learn more and get tickets: https://www.arcadiaplayers.org/concert-season





Scholarships Available

The Edwards Church Scholarship Team is currently accepting scholarship 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.

Monday Meditation Group

Monday Meditation Group is back! Please join us on Mondays at 6:00 PM in the Edwards Room. No experience necessary!

Fourth Friday Friends

There will be no Fourth Friday Friends gathering in November. Instead, join us for supper on Saturday, December 5th, as part of our Advent Festival! We look forward to sharing a meal and celebrating the season together.

Transgender Day of Remembrance Service

Join us at **7:00 PM on Friday, November 20 at First Churches** (129 Main Street), for a service honoring Transgender Day of Remembrance. We will gather to remember transgender people who have lost their lives to anti-transgender violence, hold space for grief, and reaffirm our commitment to love, dignity, and inclusion for all. All are welcome.

Join Team Edwards Church for the Hot Chocolate Run!

Team Edwards Church is participating in the **2026 Hot Chocolate Run** to support Safe Passage, a Hampshire County organization that provides safety, hope, and healing for families affected by domestic violence. Safe Passage offers free services, including counseling, housing advocacy, children's services, and legal advocacy.

Please consider supporting Team Edwards Church with a donation to help Safe Passage continue its important work in our community. Every contribution makes a difference!

To learn more or donate, visit:
https://p2p.onecause.com/hcr2026/team/team-edwards-church

Music at the Crossroads: Pollinators Comes to Edwards Church

On **Saturday, November 21st at 7PM** join us for Pollinators / Polinizadores, a special performance in Edwards Church's Music in the Crossroads concert series! Featuring cellist Dave Haughey, pianist Henrique Eisenmann, and percussionist Rogério Boccato, this talented trio brings together musical influences from Brazil and the United States through improvisation, collaboration, and creative exchange. The concert will benefit the Center for New Americans. Come enjoy an inspiring musical experience while supporting an important community organization!

How We Serve

The purpose of this church, in all its programs and activities, shall be to bind together followers of Jesus Christ for sharing in the praise and worship of God and in seeking and serving God. As Christians, it is our mission to respond to all God's creation with the love Christ directs, through collective and individual worship, prayer, support and action.

This congregation has designated several positions and teams necessary to fulfill that mission & purpose. These positions are: **Moderator, Clerk,** Treasurer, **Elected Core Ministry.** We also have various Teams that form and reform such as Buildings and Grounds, Finance, Investments, Outreach, Education, Worship, Stewardship, Care & Visitation, Sacraments, Quilt, Cathedral in the Night, Ushers, Fellowship, Music. And then there are Fellowship groups: ROMEOs, Tuesday Tea, Fourth Friday Friends. These officers and teams create the framework on which all the activities of the congregation are built.

Volunteers are needed to be voted in at the Annual meeting in January, to serve in the three highlighted positions for the coming year. All of our Teams can use new members also. Please take some time daily or weekly to pray over these positions and to pray over the Church Directory. Who has God best equipped to serve in what capacity? To what work is God calling you? If you hear God calling, please let the Elected Core Ministry know. If you think someone would be great in a position, please encourage them to volunteer.



Manna's Annual Thanksgiving Meal at Edwards Church

Thanksgiving is a time to come together, share a meal, and celebrate the spirit of generosity and community. This Thanksgiving, Manna will once again bring people together for its annual Thanksgiving Day meal, and we are pleased to share that this special community gathering will take place right here at **Edwards Church in Northampton!**

Join Manna on **Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, from noon to 2:00 PM** for a warm meal and an opportunity to connect with neighbors.

Community meals are about more than food. They offer an opportunity to build connections, welcome new faces, and remind one another that no one needs to feel alone during the holidays. By hosting this event at Edwards Church, we are proud to support Manna's ongoing work of bringing people together and serving our wider Northampton community.

Would you like to help make this Thanksgiving meal possible? Volunteers are an essential part of making the event a success. Volunteer sign-ups will open on **November 2**. Whether you are interested in lending a hand with preparations, helping during the meal, or supporting other aspects of the event, there will be opportunities to get involved.

To learn more about Manna Community Meals and sign up to volunteer, visit mannanorthampton.org.

We hope you will join us in supporting this wonderful community tradition and helping make Thanksgiving a welcoming, nourishing, and meaningful day for our neighbors.

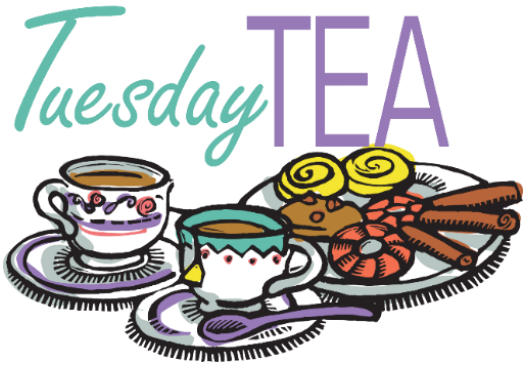
Manna's Annual Thanksgiving Meal
Thursday, November 26 | Noon–2:00 PM
Edwards Church, Northampton
Volunteer sign-ups open November 2 at:
mannanorthampton.org.



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.



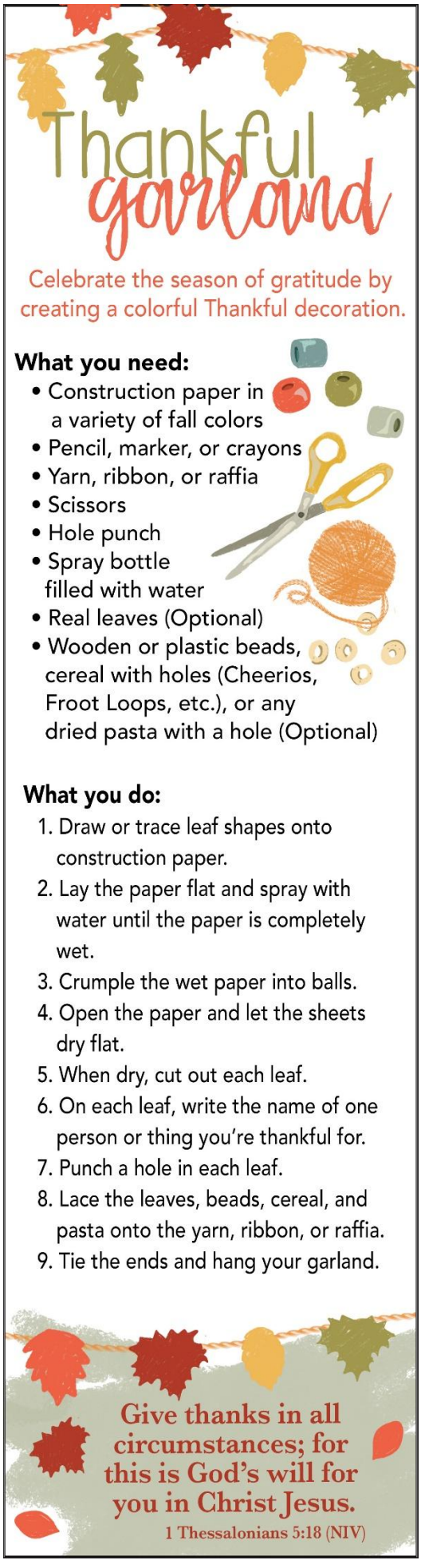
Tuesday Tea

Join us for **Tuesday Tea on Tuesday, November 17th at 3:00 PM in the Edwards Room.** Come take a break, relax, and enjoy a cup of tea and good conversation with friends and fellow members of the Edwards Church community. Everyone is welcome. We hope you'll join us!

Activities for Teens and Tweens

The following service projects are being done by youth from our congregation, St. John's, First Churches, the Unitarian Society and St. Philips. At this time, we do not have an adult volunteer to accompany our youth for these events. If you can be that volunteer, please speak to Rev. Geary.

- Sunday, Nov 22nd - Thanksgiving Food Drive for Easthampton Survival Ctr
- Sunday, Dec 6th - Host Cathedral in the Night at First Churches



Gratitude Corner

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

Thank you to:

- The Stewardship Team for planning and organizing the upcoming stewardship campaign! Everyone did a great job.
- Rev. Geary for organizing and making a great meal for Fourth Friday Friends.
- Susan & Brian Swift for Monday's Meditation Group (6:00 PM in the Edwards Room)
- Our Spiritual Formation staff – Zoë, Shannon, Denisse, Edie.
- Team Edwards Church for organizing around the 23rd Annual Hot Chocolate Run for Safe Passage.





Susan Anderson

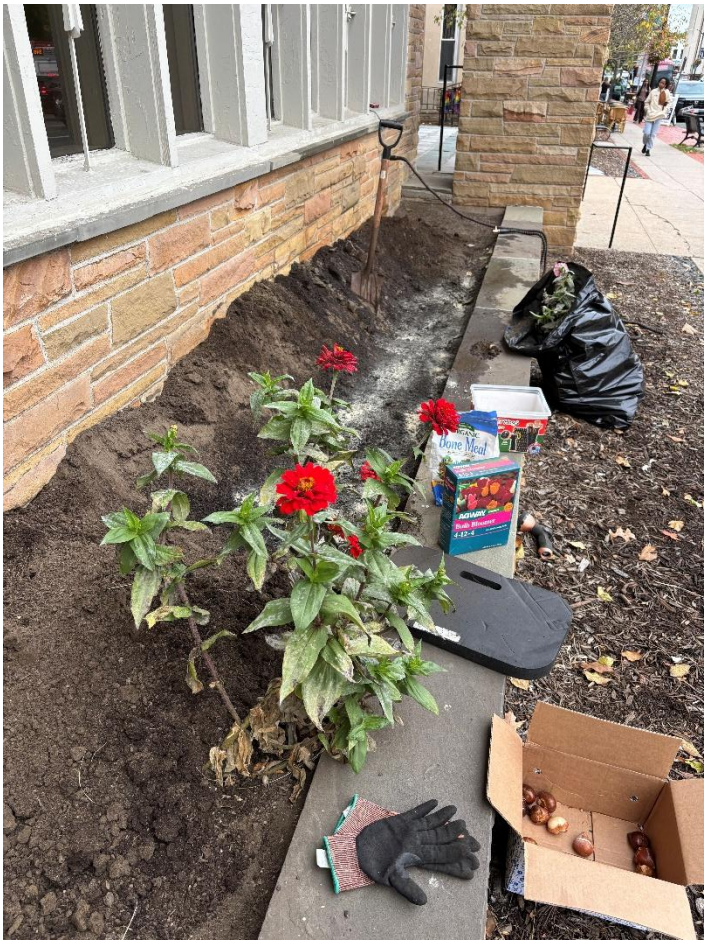
Susan Banas

Jody Kinner

William Roeder

Ella Stocker

Happy Birthday!



100 tulip bulbs planted for spring! Image: Janet Tucker

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST
1–5 PM

DUST TO DUST

SURROUNDING DEATH WITH CARE

WORKSHOPS ON
HOSPICE CARE | GRIEF
MEMORIAL SERVICE
PLANNING | CREATING
YOUR WILL
AND MORE

TICKETS:

Come together in a supportive environment to learn more about what one might encounter around the end of life and how to prepare for it. Come for yourself, loved ones, or to be supportive to your community as a whole.

Held within spiritual community, this event is open to people of all backgrounds and faith journeys.

TO RSVP, PLEASE USE THE "TICKETS" QR CODE ABOVE OR EMAIL OPERATIONS@STJOHNSNORTHAMPTON.ORG

St. John's Episcopal Church
St. John's Episcopal Church
48 Elm Street, Northampton, MA
stjohnsnorthampton.org

Valley Interfaith Refugee Action Group
Presents:

Unaccompanied Minors

Why do children make the journey alone? What is their experience once within the United States? What has been the impact of the Trump administration terminating the federal funding (as of July 31, 2026) that provided legal representation to thousands of unaccompanied immigrant children.

Join us Thursday, November 5th, 2026
7:00-8:15 PM on zoom. Register below.

Speakers

Imelda Maynard, Esq., Legal Director, Estrella del Paso
Since 1986, migrants and refugees in West Texas and New Mexico have been provided free immigration legal services from Estrella del Paso, a ministry of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso

Justin Fyrten, Managing Attorney, Boston office of KIND (Kids In Need of Defense)
KIND is the preeminent international nongovernmental organization devoted to the protection of unaccompanied and separated children.

Ascentria Care Alliance, provider of foster care to unaccompanied minors in Massachusetts
Mahlon Lebron, LSW, Program Manager, Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM)
Rebecca Petty, LCSW, Program Manager, Division of Children's Services Long Term Foster Care (DCS LTFC)



Register in advance for this meeting using the link or QR code:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/uipxr4H2Q6OyYqdSpkBoQA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing your personal link for joining the meeting.

MUSIC CARRIED BETWEEN PLACES

MÚSICA QUE LEVA E TRAZ

POLINIZADORES

POLLINATORS



NOV 20	NOV 21	NOV 22	NOV 22
Northampton High School	Edwards Church	BOMBYX	BOMBYX
CONCERT	CONCERT	WORKSHOP	SOUNDBATH
Northampton Jazz Festival Jazz Artists in the Schools (NHS STUDENTS ONLY)	FREE ADMISSION Music at the Crossroads Donations benefit the Center for New Americans	Brazilian Music, Rhythm, and Improvisation	Cello and Chocolate
2:15 PM FRI	7 PM SAT	10 AM SUN	7 PM SUN



BOMBYX TICKETS

DAVE HAUGHEY — CELLO
HENRIQUE EISENMANN — PIANO
ROGÉRIO BOCCATO — PERCUSSION

Pollinators / Polinizadores brings together cellist Dave Haughey (Paul Winter Consort), pianist Henrique Eisenmann (NEC, Juilliard), and percussionist Rogério Boccato (John Patitucci, Manhattan School of Music). With musical lives spanning Brazil and the United States, the trio explores how ideas travel, change through interaction, and take on new meaning as they engage with diverse communities.

EDWARDS CHURCH of NORTHAMPTON
Music at the Crossroads
Northampton Jazz Festival
BOMBYX CENTER FOR ARTS & EQUITY
Center for New Americans — A Community-based Education and Resource Center for Immigrants and Refugees in Western Massachusetts
ANA BANDEIRA CHOCOLATES

Friday Community Breakfast

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR NORTHAMPTON'S COMMUNITY BREAKFAST!

Please reach out to Lex at lex_rabbit@proton.me if you are considering volunteering

When: Friday mornings, any time between 7AM-11AM
Where: First Churches Northampton (129 Main St, Northampton, MA 01060)

Since February 2024, First Churches has been hosting free breakfast for our community every Friday morning from 7-10AM. It's difficult to keep this volunteer-led initiative going, and at the same time it has become more and more critical to have this kind of resource in our community!

Volunteers needed to help out with:

- Set up
- Expediting
- Taking and serving orders
- Rolling breakfast burritos
- Flipping pancakes
- Washing dishes
- Clean up
- And more!

Whether you can help once in a while for just an hour, or more regularly, we'd love your support! **Please reach out to Lex if you are interested:**

lex_rabbit@proton.me

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10AM Worship – All Saints' Day 11:15 AM Fellowship 3PM Sing-A-Long Event	9:30AM NPC 1:00 PM POH 6PM Meditation	9:30AM NPC 10:00AM POH 7:00 PM GA	9:30AM NPC 11AM Bible **12PM - Stewardship Email** 7:00PM AA	8:30AM NPC 5:00 PM POH 6:30 PM AA 7:00 PM Choir	5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	8:30AM YWCA 5PM Arcadia Players
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10AM Worship 11:00 Outreach 11:15 AM Fellowship	9:30AM NPC 1:00 PM POH 6PM Meditation	9:30AM NPC 10:00AM POH 7:00 PM GA	9:30AM NPC 11AM Bible 7 P M B & G 7:00PM AA	8:30AM NPC 4PM Outreach 5:00 PM POH 6:30 PM AA 7:00 PM Choir	5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	8:30AM YWCA
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10AM Worship – Stewardship Sunday 11:15 AM Fellowship	9:30AM NPC 1:00 PM POH 6PM Meditation	9:30AM NPC 10:00AM POH 7:00 PM GA	9:30AM NPC 11AM Bible 7:00PM AA	8:30AM NPC 5:00 PM POH 6:30 PM AA 7:00 PM Choir	5:00PM YWCA 7PM Transgender Day of Remembrance (First Churches) 7:00PM AA	8:30AM YWCA 6PM Music at the Crossroads
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10AM Worship 11:15 AM Fellowship 2PM Wedding	1:00 PM POH 6PM Meditation	10:00AM POH 7:00 PM GA	9:30AM NPC 11AM Bible 7 P M B & G 7:00PM AA	Thanksgiving Day – Manna Meal at 2PM	*Church Offices Closed* 5:00PM YWCA 7:00PM AA	8:30AM YWCA
29	30					
10AM Worship 11:15 AM Fellowship	9:30AM NPC 1:00 PM POH 6PM Meditation					

NOTES:

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