



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

September 29, 2024



Order of Worship

Eighteenth Sunday of the Growing Season

** You are invited to stand
(Please remember to silence your cell phone during the service.)

When the prelude begins, let us quiet our hearts and conversation.

Church Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Stephen Brittain, Piano

Just As I Am

By: Charlotte Elliott
Arr.: S. Brittain

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Good morning again God.

All: we come into Your presence from many different places.

One: We come with songs of joy and shouts of gratitude.

All: We come carrying heavy burdens and sighs of suffering.

One: As You welcome us into Your house, lift our burdens and receive our praise.

All: Salt us with Your grace and flavor us with Your mercy.

One: Bind us together, that we may be at peace with one another and be strengthened to go forth in service to the world, after our time together today.

All: Praying in the name of all that is holy. Amen.

~ Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009, © 2008 Abingdon Press. Posted on the Ministry Matters website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>

Hymn #383

There Is a Balm in Gilead
Verses all

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!
And, also with you!

Song of Prayer Response

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Words: Joseph Medlicott Scriven

Music: Charles Crozat Converse

**What a Friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev – ‘ry-thing to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
oh, what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
ev – ‘ry-thing to God in prayer!**

Prayer of Discipleship

One: Thank You, God, for being there for us and allowing us to cry out to You in our times of need.

All: It is amazing to us that the God of the Universe would take time to listen to us and to care about what we say.

One: God, there are things happening around us that we do not always understand.

All: Some of these things make us feel weak, helpless, and afraid.

One: Even in the midst of this, we know that You are God.

All: We know that the situation is in Your hands, and we put our trust in You. Amen.

— adapted from a prayer found @ <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/strength>

Song of Prayer Response

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Words: Joseph Medlicott Scriven

Music: Charles Crozat Converse

**Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a Friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.**

Prayers for the people

Our Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy
kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Song of Prayer Response

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Words: Joseph Medlicott Scriven

Music: Charles Crozat Converse

**Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;**

**take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
in His arms He'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.**

Scripture

James 5:13-20

¹³ If any of you are suffering, they should pray. If any of you are happy, they should sing. ¹⁴ If any of you are sick, they should call for the elders of the church, and the elders should pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ Prayer that comes from faith will heal the sick, for the Lord will restore them to health. And if they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ For this reason, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous person is powerful in what it can achieve. ¹⁷ Elijah was a person just like us. When he earnestly prayed that it wouldn't rain, no rain fell for three and a half years. ¹⁸ He prayed again, God sent rain, and the earth produced its fruit. ¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if any of you wander from the truth and someone turns back the wanderer, ²⁰ recognize that whoever brings a sinner back from the wrong path will save them from death and will bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

~Common English Bible

Response to the Sharing of God's Story

**The Story of God for the People of God!
Thanks Be to God!**

Gift of Music

Debbie Marino, Soprano

Surely The Presence of The Lord

By: Lanny Wolfe

Pastoral Words

Hymn of Praise #293

Just As I Am
Verses 1, 2 and 6

Invitation to the Offering

*What we give and the spirit with which we give it, enables this church
to make a difference in the lives of all whom we touch.*

Offertory

Debbie Marino, Soprano

Live Like You Believe

By: Tyler Castleton and Jenny Phillips

Arr. By: Tyler Castleton

** Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Tune: Thomas Ken, 1709

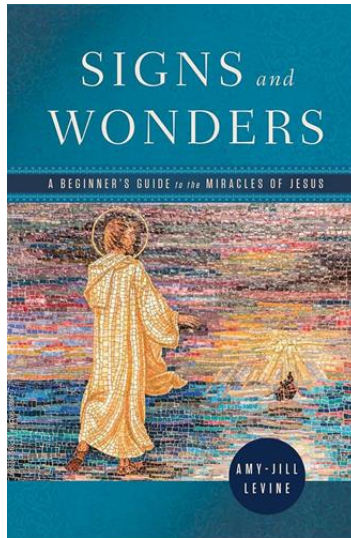
Life of Our Church

Quilting at Noon

Faith Development

**JOIN US WEDNESDAY @ CHURCH @ 11 AM & 6:30 PM;
AS WELL AS ONLINE THURSDAY @ 11 AM**

In Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus, Amy-Jill Levine explores selected miracles of Jesus in historical and theological context. For each miracle, she discusses not only how past witnesses would have understood the events, but also how today's readers can draw meaning from Jesus's words and actions.



Signs and Wonders Session 1: On the Role of Caregivers

Reading:

Mark 2:1-12/Matthew 9:1-8/Luke 5:17-26

Today's flowers are gifted to the church by Cheryl Ellis. We would like to thank her for this beautiful gift.

We are looking for Volunteers for Greeters and for Ushers. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board, or you can go to the website "Signup Genius" if interested.

For next week's God's word:
Mark 10:2-16



Today - September 29th Lunch and Learn
Immediately following the service, Lori McMullen will
have a discussion on: Human Trafficking
Guest Speaker: Karen Gaston

There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board
or you can RSVP to the office by September 25th so we
will know how many boxed lunches to order.

Today - September 29th, will be the last
Sunday for collecting food

Food Drive for Lehigh

Soups and Stews
Instant Potatoes
Canned or Bried Beans
Peanut Butter / other
nut butters

Mac N Cheese
Bags of Rice
Canned Vegetables
Canned Fish/Meat
Shelf-Stable Milk

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CHURCH

Sunday October 6th

We will have a Blessing of the Pets on the
church lawn from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

HALLOWEEN TREATS

October 31st

Do you live in a neighborhood where costumed Children coming to your door are far and few between? Join us in providing Halloween treats for children of the Edison Park neighborhood.

We plan to gather at the church at 5:45 PM on Thursday, October 31st to set up Trick or Treat Stations across the portico and front sidewalk from approximately 6:15-7:30. You may sign up on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board to help distribute and/or donate treats. Please drop off wrapped store-bought treats at the church office any time between now and Monday, October 28th during hours of 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

Benediction (responsively)

Our worship has ended, but now our life of service begins!
Go from this space, for you and I are the body of Christ, and all of creation awaits us. So, live passionately, and love faithfully, and celebrate every moment of your life from now until the Finale. Our God of relentless, amazing, creative, and hopeful grace goes with us! Amen. **Amen.**

~ Adapted from The Rev. Michael S. Piazza

Postlude

All Glory Be to God on High

Attr. Nikolaus Decius
Arr. By: Michael Burkhardt

Time with our Children

Pray for One Another

James 5:13-20

By Lois Parker Edstrom

From the time we are very young many of us learn how to pray. When we come to church, we learn more about prayer. We hear about people who are sick and need our prayers. Together we often say the Lord's Prayer.

Before we go to sleep, we say our prayers. We pray before we eat and give thanks for our food.

In fact, you can pray any time. If you happen to wake in the middle of the night and don't go right back to sleep, think of the people for whom you can pray and do so.

During the day when you think of someone you haven't seen for a while, pray for that person.

We can pray for people we don't even know. When I hear a siren or see an ambulance go down the road, I pray for the person in that ambulance who may be sick or hurt.

Some prayers are prayers of joy. Thank God for all the good and kind people who love and care for you.

The Bible teaches us to "... pray for one another..." (5:16). That is a good thing! As you pray for others, others may be praying for you.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible, Copyright 2012, Richard Niell Donovan



Cards can be sent to the following:

Duane Gardner
50 La Fonda Lane
North Fort Myers, Fl. 33903

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Family of Katie Baumann in lieu of her passing; Liz Lloyd;
Pastor Anton after the passing of Barry Pierce;
Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch; Bill Persons; Tom Johns;
Greg Haston; Ian Laughlin; Duane Gardner (Hospice Care).

Friends & Family:

Betty Denson; Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband); Jim Marc-Aurele (Lou & Carol's son); Darlene Gonzalez (Flo Newbrough's sister); Bob and Darlene Kulesza (Bob is Carol Marc-Aurele's brother); Rhonda and Hunter (friends of Martha Long); Howard Youngquist (brother of Malcolm Youngquist); Norma Stott (friend of Sandy Cole); Tom Jenkins (friend of Flo & Tee Newbrough); Michele Baron (friends of Rod Schaffter and Carol Skaza); Rosemary Wallace (after the passing of her husband).

***No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here at Edison Congregational Church.
Welcome home!***

Website:	www.edisonchurch.com
Facebook:	Facebook.com/EdisonChurch
Email Pastor:	Pastorjim@taecc.com
Email Office:	Admin@taecc.com
Office Phone:	239-334-4978
Office Hours:	Monday-Friday 9 AM – 2 PM
Mailing:	1619 Llewellyn Dr., Ft. Myers 33901

Pastor Jim can be reached at the office
or on his cell phone at 502-494-6649 (voice & text).

Our Church Staff

*Senior Minister – Rev. Jim Harper, III
Associate Minister – Rev. Anton Pierce
Administrative Assistant – Cindy Wilson
Director of Sacred Arts – Alena Michel
Lori McMullen, RN-Faith Community Nurse
Stephen Brittain - Pianist*

*Your gifts are deeply appreciated and enable this ministry to continue. Our church retains the
right to redirect donations to the area of greatest need.*

