



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

JANUARY 18, 2026



Order of Worship

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

** 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

Oh, that I had a Thousand Voices

Arr. by Paul Manz

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Come, listen to the story

All: Of God's love and grace.

One: Come, tell the story

All: Of Jesus' life and saving work.

One: Come, experience the story

All: Of the Spirit's renewing power.

One: Come, let us listen,

All: Let us tell and experience the story of God together! Amen.

~Adapted from homiletics online

Hymn of Faith #451

Lead On, Oh Eternal King

Passing of the Peace

May Christ be with You on Your Journey!

And, also with you!

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

An Affirmation of Faith from the Masai People

One: We believe in the one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. He created humanity and wants us to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the earth. We have known this High God in the darkness, and now we know Him in the light. God promised in the book of His word, the Bible, that He would save the world and all the nations and tribes.

All: God, may we believe this too.

One: We believe that God made good His promise by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left His home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and humanity, showing that the meaning of religion is love. He was rejected by His people, tortured and nailed, hands and feet, to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch Him, and on the third day, He rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.

All: God, may we believe this too.

One: We believe that all our sins are forgiven through Him. All who have faith in Him must be sorry for their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love, and share the bread together in love, to announce the good news to others until Jesus comes again. We are waiting for Him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe.

All: God, may we believe this too. Amen.

~ The Maasai or Masai people live in southern Kenya and Northern Tanzania. The Christian Community wrote this creed to use in their worship together.

Gift of Music

Katy Sumrow, Alto

How Beautiful

By Twila Paris

Prayers of the People / Concerns of 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.

Prayer of Response

Spirit of the Living God

Words/Music by: Daniel Iverson

Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.

Today's Scripture

John 1:29-42

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one about whom I said, 'He who comes after me is really greater than me because He existed before me.' ³¹ Even I didn't recognize Him, but I came baptizing with water so that He might be made known to Israel." ³² John testified, "I saw the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove, and it rested on Him. ³³ Even I didn't recognize Him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit coming down and resting is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ I have seen and testified that this one is God's Son."

Jesus calls disciples

³⁵ The next day John was standing again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus walking along, he said, "Look! The Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard what he said, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, He asked, “What are you looking for?” They said, “Rabbi (which is translated *Teacher*), where are You staying?”

³⁹ He replied, “Come and see.” So, they went and saw where He was staying, and they remained with Him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ One of the two disciples who heard what John said and followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated *Christ^(a)*). ⁴² He led him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephass” (which is translated *Peter*).

~Common English Bible

Response to the Sharing of God’s Story

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

Pastoral Words

Hymn #293

Just As I Am
Verses 1, 2, & 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

Katy Sumrow, Alto

Captivate My Heart

By Terry Mac Almon

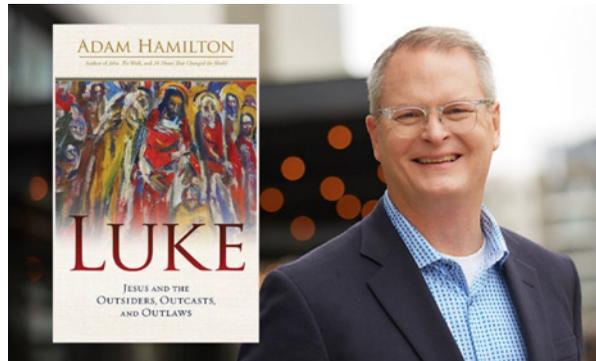
****Doxology**

**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.**

Life of Our Church

No Quilting on Wednesday.

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



Luke — Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws written by Adam Hamilton.

From Birth to Resurrection in the Gospel of Luke Jesus came to lift up the lowly. Throughout his ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, we find stories of his relationships with ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. He met, dined, and traveled with people who were not perfect. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, from those he healed to the outlaws with him at his crucifixion, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it. In Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through

Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.

Session Three: Read Luke 18:9-14 & Luke 15

Today's flowers are gifted to the church by Roger Yergeau for his sister Paula Brown. She was a special gift to the Yergeau family. We would like to thank him for this beautiful gift.

Women's Fellowship -- January 21st, will be a workday to prepare for the Jewelry Sale on the 30th and 31st of this month. We will meet at 12:00 PM at the church. Please bring your own lunch and coffee and dessert will be provided.

Sunday January 25th

Right after service, Lori McMullen, RN, will be offering Blood Pressure checks. Blood Pressure Screening is an important part of health maintenance. All are encouraged to do this.

The new quilt displayed in the Fellowship Hall is by Carol Krohse and it won first place in the local quilt guild show. Please take a moment to thank Carol.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Concert Series**

**January 23, 2026, 7:30 p.m.
Brass Elements Big Band
February 6, 2026, 7:30 p.m.
Gulf Coast Harmonizers
February 28, 2026, 7:30 p.m.
Juan Pablo & Friends
March 20, 2026, A Joyful Celebration**

**Looking for Volunteers for Greeters and for Ushers.
Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board if interested.**

**Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board to donate
flowers to enhance our Sunday Service.**

**For next week's God's word:
Matthew 4:12-23**

**OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
IS PLANNED FOR
FEBRUARY AFTER WORSHIP.**

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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Arr. by Michael Burkhardt

Time With Our Children

Do You Recognize Me?

John

1:29-42

By Lois Parker Edstrom

We recognize people in many ways. Our family members are easy to recognize. We are familiar with their faces and certain items of clothes that they wear. We recognize the way they comb their hair, the way they walk and motion with their hands, the way their voice sounds. People we feel close to may even have a distinctive fragrance, like special cologne, or the smells that come from cooking or working in the garden.

Sometimes we are given clues that help us recognize people who are not familiar to us. These clues may tell us something about who a particular person is or what he or she does.

If you see a young person carrying a backpack near a school, there is a pretty good chance that person is a student.

You can recognize a fireman or a policeman by the uniform he or she wears.

A man or woman with a stethoscope around the neck is likely to be a doctor or a nurse.

A person carrying a musical instrument is probably a musician.

Can you think of other ways you recognize people?

In the Bible John the Baptist tells us how he was able to recognize Jesus as the Son of God. John said, "I have seen the Spirit descending like a dove out of heaven, and it remained on him" (1:32).

John goes on to say that he had been told by God that "On whomever you will see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he who baptizes in the Holy Spirit" (1:33).

And again, John says, "I have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God" (1:34).

God sent a sign, gave the world a clue so Jesus could be recognized as the Son of God. This sign, this clue that first came in the form of a dove, is the Holy Spirit. It is the part of

God that lives in you and teaches you to recognize what is true. It is that quiet knowing inside of you that helps you make good choices and leads you to recognize Jesus as the Son of God.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible, Copyright 2008, Richard Niell Donovan



JANUARY FAITH AND WELLNESS NEWLETTER

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”
2 Corinthians 5:17*

January is Cervical Cancer awareness month

The National Cancer Institute projected that approximately 13,360 individuals were diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2025, of those, 4,320 died of the disease.

Cervical Cancer is preventable. Nearly all cases are caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV). Males and females ages 9 to 45 should get vaccinated for HPV.

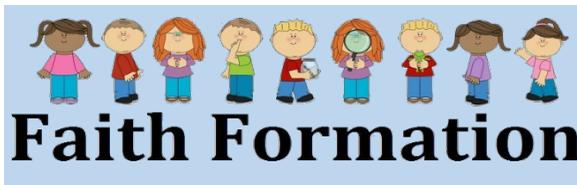
Early detection is key for more effective treatment. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that women should start getting Pap tests every three years, beginning at age 21. From 30 to 65 years of age, they recommend either the Pap test alone every three years and a high-risk HPV test alone every five years. Women can also opt for “contesting”: both tests every five years. In the past it was not recommended for most women over 65, new studies show that cervical cancer in women older than 65 is unfortunately in a later stage of the disease.

The good news is the FDA has approved the first at-home device for Pap smears! These tests are scheduled to be available nationwide through Teal Health by early 2026.

January Upcoming Events:

January 25th Faith Formation for Kids at Cathy's Place from 10:00 – 11:00

January 25th Blood Pressure Clinic



Dear Worshipers,
We invite your child to join us for Faith Formation learning in Cathy's Place at Thomas Edison Congregational Church. Our classes will be held every other Sunday from 10:00 – 11:00, starting November 2nd, 2025. Your children will learn about Jesus through age-appropriate faith activities, songs, prayers, Bible stories, games and arts and crafts.

January Class Curriculum:

January 25th Isaiah 9:1-4

Wishing everyone a happy and safe New Year.
Lori McMullen RN-FCN



“If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



INASMUCH DAY – March 7, 2026, DONATE!

JOIN US! SUPPORT US!

Operation Inasmuch is a movement to help us obey the biblical mandate to minister to the “least of these”, where we live out our calling to serve others and experience the joy that comes from serving. Since 2012 over 1,000 volunteers have shared God’s love with thousands of community members in need. We provide wonderful opportunities for first-time volunteers, families serving together, and congregations from various denominations to come together to be the hands and feet of Jesus as the Body of Christ.

Projects From Past Years*:

1. Quilting – sew baby blankets for foster children (12 noon each Wednesday at Edison Congregational Church)
2. No Sew Throws - cut & tie blankets for foster children.
3. Prepare for Foster Child Bags of Hope – purchase items, collect & sort donations
4. Fill Foster Child Bags of Hope – Help fill bags of love with donated clothing, toiletries, books and quilts/blankets
5. Fill Blessing Bags – Bless our homeless community by sorting & packing donated necessities for future distribution. A perfect multi-generational activity
6. Feed the Machines – Visit area laundromats to fellowship with patrons and pay for laundry services until quarters run out
7. Home Repairs – minor construction, repairs, painting for homeowner(s) in need
8. Dr. Piper project – Light landscaping, mulching
9. Kindness Cards – make cards to be delivered to local nursing homes. A perfect multi-generational activity
10. Midwest Food Bank – sort nonperishable food and commodities

***Activity 1-3 Prior to Event, 4-9 Day of Event**

Donation Opportunities - more details will be forthcoming

- New children’s clothing, diapers & pull-ups
- Adult socks & underwear
- Quarters for laundromat (in Fellowship Hall)
- Home repair & landscape supplies
- *Toiletries
- *Backpacks & duffel bags
- *Flannel fabric
- *Greeting card materials, Crayons, stickers



Cards can be sent to the following:

General Dozier
Barrington Terrace, of Ft. Myers
9731 Commerce Center Ct., Room #326
Fort Myers, Fl. 33908

Ms. Marth Jean Long
7133 Almendro Terr #2
Fort Myers, Fl. 33907

Mr. Bill Person
Calusa Harbour Assisted Living
2525 First St, Room 233
Fort Myers, FL 33901

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Jean Lindenlaub; Liz Lloyd; General Dozier;
Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch; Bill Persons;
Sharon Nelson; Martha Jean Long.
Whitney Blair Roth (the passing of her husband Rob Roth).

Friends & Family:

Betty Denson; Jim Martin (Teri Martin's husband); Michele Baron (friends of Rod Schaffter and Carol Skaza); Fred & Natalie Johnson (friend of Rod Schaffter & Carol Skaza); Bob Mesce (brother of Patti Seebock); Tom Simpson (brother of Kathy Bolen); Dwight Brzinski (friend of Pat Jessie).

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-Thursday 9 AM – 12PM
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
Distinguished Director of Sacred Arts – Alena Michel
Faith Community Nurse – Lori McMullen
Pianist - Stephen Brittain*

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.



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