



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

AUGUST 9, 2026



Order of Worship

Eleventh Sunday of the Growing Season

10:00 AM

** 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

The Light of the World is Acknowledged in our Worship

"Jesus said: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). The presence of the light reminds us of Jesus' coming into our world and into our lives. The light is carried into the worship service as a symbol of Jesus' coming into the presence of the worshipping community.

During most of the time of our church year our congregation uses two candles on the altar to point out that Jesus was both a human being and God. The light of the world is among us today.

— adapted from <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-why-do-we-light-and-extinguish-candles-during-worship>

Prelude

Meditation From Thais

by Jules Massenet
arr. by Joyce Jones

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Wherever you are on your journey, and whatever you carry today—joy, grief, doubt, or hope—you are welcome here.

All: We come as we are, knowing God meets us in this exact moment.

One: God does not ask us to hide our questions or polish our pain. Love calls us to gather, to be changed, and to stand together for good.

All: With our minds, our hearts, and our strength, let us worship the Spirit of Love who makes all things new.

Amen.

~adapted from a prayer generated by Google AI

Opening Hymn #236

All Creatures of Our God and King
Verses 1, 2, & 3

Passing of the Peace

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

Gift of Music

Hannah Cho-Dougherty, Violin
All Creatures of Our God and King
& This is My Father's World

by St. Francis of Assisi / M. D. Babcock and F. L. Sheppard
arr. by Sun Ahn

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: God, we confess that we do not always understand Your ways. We are easily discouraged when life takes unexpected turns and our carefully laid plans and dreams come to nothing. We confess that we are quick to give up when things get difficult, and quick to question Your presence and Your power.

All: God forgive us.

One: Grant us patience to wait for Your good timing. Open our eyes to recognize Your leading in our lives—to listen for Your gentle whisper when we least expect it. And then give us courage to step out in faith and obedience, trusting in Your leading even when we cannot yet see the outcome.

All: God, we praise You for Your faithful love,

One: And pray that You would make Yourself known to us

All: In all the storms of life. Amen.

~Adapted from a prayer found @ <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/prayer-of-confession-commitment-august.html>

Prayers 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.

Song of Prayer Response

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Words and Music: Ken Medema

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Today's Scripture

Matthew 14:22-33

Walking on the water

²² Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while He dismissed the crowds. ²³ When He sent them away, He went up onto a mountain by Himself to pray. Evening came and He was alone. ²⁴ Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. ²⁵ Very early in the morning He came to His disciples, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw Him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed. ²⁷ Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's Me. Don't be afraid." ²⁸ Peter replied, "Lord, if it's You, order me to come to You on the water." ²⁹ And Jesus said, "Come." Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!"

³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, “You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?” ³² When they got into the boat, the wind settled down. ³³ Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, “You must be God’s Son!”

~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 of Praise #458

Sweet Hour of Prayer

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

Hannah Cho-Dougherty, Violin

Saenu Dougherty, Violin

Sonata #7 in G Major 1st and 2nd movements

By Tomaso Albinoni

**** 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 on Wednesday at noon

NO Faith Development this week.

**For next week's God's
word:
Matthew 15:21-28**

**The Women's Fellowship – will meet for lunch at
August 19 at Mission BBQ at 12:15 in the little private
dining room behind the drink station. ALL Women
are welcome.**

**Council would like to thank everyone that has donated
Toward the chairs for the Fellowship Hall. We have
reached our goal and are in the process of ordering the
chairs and dollies. We will be looking for volunteers to help
with unpacking and setting up the room with the new chairs
when the chairs arrive. More details to following.**

Parking for Sunday Service or Faith Development

**Please Park on church side on Llewellyn Dr. and
Menlo Rd. If able we are allowed to park in the
back of Covenant Presbyterian Church parking lot.**

**Enter Off of Marlyn. This is to make room for
emergency vehicles if needed to come into the neighborhood.**

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

**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.**

**Free magazines are available behind the kitchen door
next to the library shelves. Donations are welcome.**

Benediction (responsively)

“The world now is too dangerous and too beautiful for anything but love. May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone. Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor. May your hands be so blessed that everything you touch is a sacrament. Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love. May your feet be so blessed you run to those who need you. And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire, that your love, your love, changes everything”. **AMEN**

— Black Rock Prayer Book, often attributed to Episcopal priest Brian Baker; Used at Burning Man Festival as a blessing.

The Light of the World is Shared with the World at the end of our Worship

At the end of the service, the light is carried out into the world to show that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere; This symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ going out into the world where believers are to serve.”

— adapted from <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-why-do-we-light-and-extinguish-candles-during-worship>

Postlude

The Emperor's Fanfare

by Antonio Soler
arr. by E. Power Biggs

Time with our Children

Walking on Water

By Dell Smith Klein

Matthew 14:22-33

Kyle had been so excited because his dad had promised to teach him to swim. That day in the shallow water at the edge of the lake, Kyle's dad showed him how to use his arms and legs to swim forward in the water. Then they went out into deeper water. Kyle's dad said, "Swim to me and keep your eyes on me." Kyle began to swim toward his dad, but when a boat came roaring by, Kyle turned his head to look at it. Waves splashed over him and he began to sink under the wildly churning water. But suddenly there was dad lifting him up and telling him he was safe.

Our Bible story today is about Jesus' walking on water. Have you ever seen a person walking on water? (Let the children respond.) No. I haven't either. Remember, though, that Jesus could do many things that you and I can't do. Here's what happened:

Jesus sent His disciples off in a boat. He did this because He wanted to have time alone to pray to His Heavenly Father, God. When He finished praying it was early in the morning, and the disciples were far out on the lake. Wind blew; waves swished this way and that.

When they saw someone walking on the water toward their boat, the disciples got scared. One of the men called out, "It's a ghost!" Jesus said, "Don't be afraid, it is I." There was Jesus, walking on top of the water!

Peter called back, "If it is really You, let me come to You on the water." Jesus agreed and Peter climbed out of the boat and started toward Jesus. The wind blew and the water splashed around, and Peter looked away from Jesus at the waves. When he did, Peter began to sink!

As he sunk, Peter called out to Jesus, "Help me!" Jesus reached down and caught Peter's hand. Together, the two walked to the boat.

Now, all that time the other disciples were watching. Like Peter, they had always seen Jesus as their friend, their teacher, even their leader, but at that moment they all realized that Jesus was more than that. When Peter and Jesus climbed into the boat, Jesus disciples said, "You are truly the Son of God." (vs. 33) Like Kyle, who forgot to keep his eyes on his dad as he learned to swim, Peter was distracted by the wind and waves and took his eyes off Jesus. And he sank! That can happen to us, too, unless we keep our eyes on the Lord.

PRAYER

God, we are so grateful that we have these lessons from the Holy Bible that show us that we can trust Jesus. Help us to think about Jesus often and know that even when we are in scary situations, he is with us. Amen.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible
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August Faith and Wellness Newsletter

"I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security"

Jeremiah 33:6

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)

NIAM is an annual observance held in August to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. Together, we can help raise awareness about the importance of vaccination and encourage people to talk to a healthcare provider they trust about staying up to date on their vaccinations.

Why should we vaccinate?

- To provide immunity. We become immune to (or protected from) a disease when our bodies create specific antibodies to fight that disease. Vaccines contain ingredients that help your body build this Immunity
- Vaccines have saved lives for over 100 years—But serious disease is still a threat
- Vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from preventable disease
- Vaccines can prevent serious illness
- Certain vaccines are required for school, work, travel, and more
- The vaccines we receive are safe

See the list of recommended vaccinations and their frequency's posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall

August 9th, 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. Your children will learn about Jesus through age-appropriate faith activities, songs, prayers, Bible stories, games, and arts & crafts.

August class curriculum Faith Formation

August 9th - Luke 5:1-11," Jesus Calls His First Disciples"

August 23rd - Matthew 6:14-15, Forgiveness





Join the Intermezzo Choir for their Fall Season "Over the Moon" singing songs that are out of this world! The Intermezzo Choir supports singers living with Alzheimer's and dementia.

Thursdays, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

September 3rd - November 19th

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Register online at [<https://mastersingersfm.com/programs/intermezzo-choir>]

(<https://mastersingersfm.com/programs/intermezzo-choir...>)

Vote in the August 18, 2026 Primary Election

Your Vote Matters! Your Vote is Your Voice!

Elected leaders make the decisions that affect the economy, education, environment, housing, healthcare, transportation, water quality, and more. All eligible voters, including those without a party affiliation, may vote in the Primary Election. All primary ballots will include nonpartisan races. Ballots for voters with a party affiliation will include their party's candidates.

The August 18, 2026 Primary Election is the final deciding election for:

- Lee County School Board Districts 1 and 6
- Lee County Commissioner District 5, (a universal primary open to All Lee County voters)
- 20th Circuit Judges and Lee County Judge
- Bonita Springs Bond Referendum for the Bonita Estero Rail Trail (BERT)
- Three Cape Coral City Charter amendments

In addition, ballots will determine who advances to the general election for School Board Districts 4 and 5, Cape Coral Mayor and Council, and partisan primary races.

Trusted Nonpartisan Resources for Voters include:

- **VOTE411** www.Vote411.org by the League of Women Voters Education Fund, with local, state, and federal candidate information, proposed ballot measures, and other nonpartisan election information.
- **LWVLee Resource Links:** <https://lp.uniqo.de/FILKL1> Links to VOTE411, Recordings of Candidate Forums, LWVLee Events, Publications, and more
- **Lee County Supervisor of Elections**, www.lee.vote, 239-533-8683 to **Register to Vote**, request your **VoteByMail Ballot**, view your Sample Ballot, and check your voting location for Lee County Early Voting and for Election Day. [ALL-INCLUSIVE SAMPLE BALLOT August 18, 2026 | Primary Election](#)
- **Election Protection** <https://protectthevote.net> for voting questions or issues. 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) – English language hotline. 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682) – Spanish language hotline.
- **Voter Identification Assistance from** www.VoteRiders.org 866-432-8683.
- **Returning Citizens/Rights Restoration.** Contact the [Florida Rights Restoration Coalition](http://FloridaRightsRestorationCoalition.org) (FRRRC) at 407-901-3749 or email info@floridarrc.org.
- **LWVLee Resource Links:** <https://lp.uniqo.de/FILKL1> Links to VOTE411, Recordings of Candidate Forums, LWVLee Events, Publications, and more.

EVENTS

Saturday, August 8, 2026, 12:30 to 2:30 pm., LWVLee and Allies, Voting Rights Act (VRA) Anniversary, Call to Action, Get Out the Vote, Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33919. space limited.
Information: www.lwvlee.org/calendar Registration: [Unite & Rise for Voting Rights - LWV Lee County - Mobilize](#) Flyers [Flyer1.pdf](#), [Flyer2.jpg](#)

Saturday, September 12, 2026, 2-4pm, Forums: Bonita Springs Candidates and Ballot Measures, Bonita Spring Public Library, 10560 Reynolds St., Bonita Springs, FL 34135. *This program is not sponsored/endorsed by the Lee County Library System.* Information and Registration <https://2026BonitaSpringsForum.eventbrite.com>

Saturday, September 19, 2026, 2-4pm: Our Waters, Our Vote Southwest Florida Water Summit 2026, Collaboratory, 2031 Jackson St. Fort Myers 33901. Information and Registration: <https://SWFLwatersummit2026.eventbrite.com>

Saturday, October 3, 2026. 9am-12pm. Ballot Measures and Meet Candidates. Collaboratory, 2031 Jackson St. Fort Myers 33901. Information and Registration: <https://2026BallotMeasures.eventbrite.com>

The League of Women Voters of Lee County, Inc. is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose candidates and/or political parties.

Websites: www.lwv.org www.lwvfl.org, www.lwvlee.org e-mail: lwvlee@lwvlee.org

Thank you for visiting Thomas A. Edison Congregational Church

To learn more about our church and to make a donation, please scan the QR code below.



Scan me!

Place your phone camera over the QR code to scan. Then scroll down to where it says donate and follow the instructions. You can use either your credit/debit card or your bank account.

There is a way to communicate with the staff through the website. Send us a message.

Thank you.

Cards can be sent to the following:

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

Mrs. Patti Seebock
232 Fern Place
Fox Lake, IL 60020

Mr. Bill Persons
Calusa Harbour Assisted
Living – 2525 First St
Ft Myers, Fl. 33901
Room 233

PFC Ian Walsh
1-79 FABN B BTRY 4th PLT
59705 S Boundary Rd
Fort Sill, OK 73503

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Jean Lindenlaub; Liz Lloyd; General Dozier; Jean Long;
Phyllis Contino; Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch; Patti Seebock;
Lana Zeigler.

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); Christopher Smith and Darwin Solorzono – missing at sea (friends of Mark Rosandich); Edward Yergeau (brother of Roger Yergeau); Ben Collens - stationed in Quatar (friend of Martha Jean Long); Jennifer McMullen & family (Lori McMullen extended family); Renee Imm (friend of Sandy Cole); Fay Lombardo (friend of Sandy Cole); Cara (Jean Long's daughter); Tasha (friend of Jackie Sellers); Diane Shinkle (cousin of Tom Johns).

***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
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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