



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026



Order of Worship

Eighteenth 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

Aria

By: Andrew Carter

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Out of the warmth of the Florida sun, from the edges of the gulf where the waters meet the shore, we gather.

All: We come seeking the encouragement of Christ and the comfort of sacred love.

One: The Apostle Paul reminds us: make joy complete by being of the same mind, sharing the same love, and moving in full accord.

All: We step away from the culture of selfish ambition. We step toward a community where we look out for the good of our neighbors.

One: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who did not exploit

divine status but emptied Himself—taking the form of a servant.

All: We celebrate a God who meets us in human skin, who walks with the marginalized, and who shows us that true power is found in vulnerability.

One: For it is God who is at work within us, giving us the desire and the strength to work for the common good.

All: Let us worship the One who guides our steps, calms our storms, and unites our hearts in love. Amen.

~adapted from prayers found @ theological stew & re:worship.com

Opening Hymn #154

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Passing of the Peace

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

Gift of Music

Ray Diaz, Baritone

Lord of the Dance

Traditional Shaker Melody
Words by: Sydney Carter
Arr. by: Mark Hayes

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: God of the warm waters and the endless sun, Creator of the shifting sands and the resilient coastlines of Southwest Florida,
We gather today just as we are—bringing our exhaustion, our hope, our deep love for this planet, and our longing for authentic community.

All: God, in Your mercy, hear our prayers.

One: In this sacred space, we hear the ancient, radical call of the Apostle Paul: to be of the same mind, to share the same love, and to be in full accord with one another. We confess that true unity is hard work, but we are anchored by the reminder that there is comfort in Your love and a shared movement in Your Spirit.

All: God, in Your mercy, hear our prayers.

One: Teach us the beauty of emptying ourselves. In a culture that demands we consume, achieve, and look out only for our own interests, call us back to the subversive way of Christ Jesus. He did not cling to power, status, or privilege. Instead, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, moving toward a hurting world with absolute humility.

All: God, in Your mercy, hear our prayers.

One: May that same mind be in us today. Help us to hold our privileges loosely and our neighbors closely. Let us see the divine spark in everyone we encounter—especially those at the margins. Guide our progressive community to be a place where love is taught, shared and modeled on a daily basis.

All: God, in Your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

~adapted from prayers found @ theologicalstew.com & re:worship.com

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

For the Beauty of the Earth

Words by: Lyra Eucharistica

Music by: Conrad Kocher

Arr. by: William Henry Monk

**For each per-fect gift of Thine,
to the world so free-ly giv'n,
grac-es hu-man and di-vine,
flow'rs of earth and buds of hean'n;**

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise
this our hymn of grate-ful praise.**

Today's Scripture

Philippians 2:1-13

Imitate Christ

Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort in love, any sharing in the Spirit, any sympathy, ² complete my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, being united, and agreeing with each other. ³ Don't do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. ⁵ Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus:

⁶ Though He was in the form of God,

He did not consider being equal with God something to exploit.

⁷ But He emptied Himself

by taking the form of a slave

and by becoming like human beings.

When He found Himself in the form of a human,

⁸ He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God highly honored Him

and gave Him a name above all names,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus everyone

in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow

¹¹ and every tongue confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Carry out your salvation

¹² Therefore, my loved ones, just as you always obey Me, not just when I am present but now even more while I am away, carry out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³ God is the one who enables you both to want and to actually live out His good purposes.

~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

Seek Ye First

By: Karen Lafferty

**Seek ye first the king-dom of God
and His right-eous-ness,
And all these things shall be add-ed un-to you;
Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia.**

**Man shall not live by bread a-lone,
but by ev-'ry word
that pro-ceeds from the mouth of God;
Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia.**

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

Ray Diaz, Baritone

Rest in the Lord

(from Elijah)

By: Felix Mendelssohn

**** 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

Faith Development

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

Five major events that shaped the life of Moses.

**Five: Receiving the Ten Commandments At Mount Sinai.
Exodus 19 & 20 & 24. Exodus 32-34. Deuteronomy 5**

Join us for this journey of faith, flaws, faithfulness and foundation. Moses was 400 years after Joseph. Moses was called by God to bring the people out of bondage and into the wilderness on their way back to Canaan. What are the elements of Moses' life that we can incorporate into our lives of faith in the year 2026?

**For next week's God's
word:
Matthew 20:23-32**



Sandy Frank from League of Women Voters will be speaking on Sunday, October 4th after services. Signup sheet is on the bulletin board. We will need to know by Sept. 30th, so we can order the food.

**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.**

**Women's Fellowship
The Women's Fellowship is collecting gently used jewelry and accessories (loose or broken pieces are okay) for their Jewelry Sale in January.**

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board to donate flowers to enhance our Sunday Service. We will stop doing flowers from November 22nd until January 3rd. We will start again on January 10, 2027.

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)

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, 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

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

Toccata

by Douglas E. Wagner

Time with our Children

Selfishness

By: Dr. Dan Wuori

Philippians 2:1-13

Have you ever heard the word “selfish?” What does it mean to be selfish? (Solicit children’s responses.)

You’re right. We act selfishly when we spend too much time thinking about what we want – or the things we’d like to do.

Being a little bit selfish is probably normal, isn’t it? It’s hard not to think about those things sometimes – but the problem is that what’s good for us isn’t always good for others. Can you imagine what a sad world it would be if everyone was just looking out for themselves? If people stopped sharing? If people stopped helping? I know that my life would be much less happy.

Today we hear a reading from the Apostle Paul’s Letter to the Philippians – and one of the things he tells them really stood out to as important to me. He told them that they should try to have a mind like Jesus’ – and that that means (in part) not being selfish in the things we do or believing that we’re more important than other people.

Instead, he tells us that we should be humble. (That might be a new word too?) To be humble is really to be the opposite of selfish – and to treat other people as though they are even more important than we are. That’s what Jesus’ life was all about, wasn’t it?

So, this week, I want you to join me in being mindful of selfishness. Will you do it? See if you can't find some ways to share more and to help more – and to really think of what's good for others. I think you'll find that it'll make you feel pretty good yourselves. Give it a try.

Let's pray.

Dear God,

Give us the strength this week to have minds like Jesus.' Help us to be humble and to look out for the needs of our families, our friends – and even the needs of the strangers meet. In your name we pray. Amen.

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September Faith and Wellness Newsletter

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well."

3 John 1:2

September is Healthy Aging Month. This month focuses on encouraging older adults to take charge of their health and well-being. Part of aging

healthy is Fall prevention. More than one in four people aged 65 and older fall each year. Falls can be particularly dangerous for older adults, often causing fractures, hospitalization, and disability.

6 Steps to Prevent a Fall

- 1. Find a good balance and exercise program**
 - Find a program you like and take a friend
- 2. Talk to your health care provider**
 - Ask for an assessment of your risk of falling.
- 3. Regularly review your medications with your doctor or pharmacist**
 - Make sure side effects aren't increasing your risk of falling.
- 4. Get your vision and hearing checked annually and update your eyeglasses**
 - Your eyes and ears are key to keeping you on your feet.
- 5. Keep your home safe**
 - Remove tripping hazards, increase lighting, make stairs safe, and install grab bars in key areas.
- 6. Talk to your family members**
 - Enlist their support in taking simple steps to stay safe. Falls are not just a seniors' issue.

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.

Lori McMullen RN-FCN

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.

The Summer Day

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

—*Mary Oliver*



**STRONG PEOPLE DON'T
PUT OTHERS DOWN. THEY
LIFT THEM UP.**



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;
Phyllis Contino; Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch;
Patti Seebock; Lana Zeigler.

Friends & Family:

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); Cara (Jean Long's daughter); Tasha (friend of Jackie Sellers); Andrea (friend of Pat Jessie); Larry (friend of Pat Jessie); Patty & family (Jean Long's friends).

***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.*

