



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

AUGUST 30, 2026



Order of Worship

Fourteenth 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 worshiping 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

Pastorale BWV 590

by J. S. Bach

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Friends, Jesus calls us to a radical path. He says: If you want to follow Me, let go of your ego. Take up your cross and walk the way of active love.

All: We come seeking a faith that is real. We want to trade fear for freedom. We want to trade selfish safety for shared community.

One: In this humid season of late summer, as creation rests and breathes around our Florida shores, Christ invites us to slow down and notice where love takes root.

All: Here, we lose our grip on what we think we own. Here, we find our true lives poured out for our neighbors.

One: Come, let us worship the Living God.

All: Let us walk together in the light of Christ's transforming grace. Amen.

~Prayer of Discipleship written based on Matthew 16:24-28 in southwest Florida in August 2026

Opening Hymn

Here I Am, Lord

Music and Words by Daniel L. Schutte

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.

All who dwell in deep-est sin. My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.

I have wept for love of them, They turn a-way.

I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a-lone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them, My hand will save.

Fin-est bread I will pro-vide, Till their hearts be sat-is-fied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Passing of the Peace

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

Blessing of our new Chairs

One: Loving God, Creator of all people and places, we pause today to give thanks. You call us into community. You walk with us in this vibrant land of Southwest Florida, beneath the bright sun, the beautiful palm trees, and among the gentle breezes.

**All: Today, we bring new chairs into this sacred, shared space.
We ask Your blessing upon them.**

One: God bless these chairs for radical welcome:

All: May these seats be symbols of Your wide-open table.

One: Whoever sits here—whether a lifelong member, a curious seeker, a weary traveler, or a neighbor searching for hope—let them feel an immediate sense of belonging.

All: Let no one feel turned away.

One: God bless these chairs for comfort and rest:

All: As bodies rest upon these chairs, grant rest to tired spirits.

One: When people sit here in times of grief, bring comfort.

All: When they sit here in times of joy, lift their hearts.

One: God bless these chairs for action and justice:

All: Bless these seats not just for sitting, but for launching.

One: From these chairs, may our hands reach out to feed the hungry, our voices speak up for the oppressed, and our feet carry Your love into our local community and the wider world.

All: God bless these chairs for flexibility of Spirit:

One: Just as these chairs can be moved and rearranged to welcome new visions and fresh expressions of faith keep our spirits nimble. Help us adapt to Your call in this ever-changing world.

All: God, we dedicate these chairs to the work of peace, the warmth of hospitality, and the pursuit of Your inclusive love.

One: Bless the frames that hold them, the hands that built and placed them, and every single soul who will ever sit in them.

**All: In the name of Love, grace, and community, we pray.
Amen.**

— slightly adapted from a prayer written to bless and dedicate new chairs for a community of faith

Gift of Music

Dr. Dan Davis, Saxophone

In the Garden/ What a Friend We Have in Jesus

by C. Austin Miles
arr. by Brant Adams

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: God of grace, help us let go of our need for control. Help us to release the heavy armor of ego and fear. Show us how to take up our cross of love today.

All: God, in Your mercy hear our prayers.

One: God bless our neighbors across Southwest Florida in this steamy late summer heat. Give us the courage to stand with the vulnerable and marginalized. May our hands do the work of mercy and radical inclusion.

All: God, in Your mercy hear our prayers.

One: God remind us that losing our lives for love means truly finding them. Ignite our community with your kingdom justice. Strengthen us to live out the gospel with open doors and open hearts.

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

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 16:24-28

Saving and losing life

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "All who want to come after Me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of Me will find them. ²⁶ Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? ²⁷ For the Human One is about to come with the majesty of His Father with His angels. And then He will repay each one for what that person has done. ²⁸ I assure you that some standing here won't die before they see the Human One coming in His kingdom."

~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 #27

How Great Thou Art

Verses 1, 2, & 3

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

Dr. Dan Davis, Saxophone

Poor Wayfaring Stranger

by Mark Hayes

arr. by Dan Davis

**** 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.

One: The foundational prophet and leader in the Hebrew Bible. Exodus 1 & 2

Two: The Burning Bush. Exodus 3

Three: The Ten Plagues and Passover. Exodus 7 - 13

Four: Parting of the Red Sea. Exodus 14 & 15

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?

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

**For next week's God's word:
Matthew 18:15-20**

This Sunday, August 30th, right after the service, we will be celebrating August's birthdays. Please join us to celebrate:

Janice Sherman

Patti Seebock

Lourdes Smoot

**Colsen Palmer
Marti Daltry
Jane Rediske
Carol Downing**

**Rodney Schaffter
Jackie Sellers
Nine Hansen
Letuza Walsh**

**Lorraine Stone
Sharon Nelson
Phyllis Contino
Greg Haston**

**Sunday, September 13th
Ordination for David Black at 3:00 PM**



Lindy Smith from Upstanding Mobility will be presenting an educational lunch and learn on Sept 20th after services. Signup sheet is on the bulletin board. We will need to know by Sept. 16th, 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.

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

**Please no more egg cartons for now.
Thank You.**

**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)

One: May God bless you as you take up your cross and follow Jesus. May you lose your life for love and find it new again. Go out to feed the hungry, fight for justice and bring God's light to southwest Florida today. Carry love into a tired world. Stand strong for the poor and the left out. Trust the promise of Christ's near and active kingdom. May the Creator give you courage. May the Redeemer walk beside you. May the Spirit set your heart on fire for good work.

All: Amen.

~Benediction written based on Matthew 16:24-28 in southwest Florida in August 2026

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

O God, Our Help
by Gordon Young

Time with our Children

It's Not Easy

By Lois Parker Edstrom

Matthew 16:21-28

Do you like to hike? Perhaps you live near the mountains and are able to hike along a trail that winds up through a beautiful forest, along a creek, or to a cool lake.

Living near the desert, your hiking trail may lead you along a canyon where you see interesting rock formations, desert plants and flowers.

In the city a hike may take you through a park filled with tall trees and colorful flowers, or perhaps to a pond where swans float.

Hiking, although fun, is not easy. The path may be steep and rough causing you to become tired. Your pack may feel too heavy; you may develop a blister on your foot, become too hot or too cold or thirsty. If you camp overnight your tent may leak and your food, cooked over the campfire, may burn. Many things can cause your hike to be difficult.

Jesus talked about a similar idea with His disciples. He said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (16:24).

When you choose to follow Jesus you choose a life of freedom, but also of responsibility. It is not easy. You may encounter people who make fun of you because of your beliefs. There may be times when you want to do something that looks like fun, but the activity is not something that would honor God.

You hike to find beauty and enjoy the freedom and freshness found in nature. You may become uncomfortable and the hike may be difficult, but it is worth it! Being a Christian is just like that!

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

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



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...>)

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.

Donations for Edison Park - SCHOOL SUPPLIES 2026

Box of 24 Crayola Crayons	4
Pencil Sharpeners	3
Scissors	14
Wedge Erasers	9
Box of 24 Crazy Art Crayons	4
Box of 8 Crazy Art Crayons	2
Pencil Bags	7
Composition Books	6
Folders	5
Binder	1
Spiral Notebooks	5
Bottles of Glue	4
Index Cards	600
Glue Sticks	224
Pencils	1,130
Color Pencils	408
Markers	60
Pens	259
Highlighters	69

Dry Erasers	14
Sharpie Pens	42
Back Packs	6
Post it Notes	124
Cube Tissues	51
Regular size tissue boxes	6
Egg Cartons	54

Donations for Chairs in Fellowship Hall

Brooke Beeson	Ted Bluey
Bob Cole	Buddy Conyers
Marti Daltry	Cheryl Ellis
Sherry Gunsett	Denise & Doug Hagge
Pastor, Tina & Camryn Harper	Ronni & Greg Haston
Richard Hawk	Shirley Keller
Pat Jessie	Terri Martin
Domnick & Frances Minella	Tee & Flo Newbrough
James O’Brien	Andra & Paul Perisho
Preston Perry	Tom & Jan Sherman
Richard & Holly Snyder	John & Jan Wilson
Roger Yergeau	

IN MEMORY OF:

Barry Pierce
Beloved Family members who have passed
Bob Keller
Brooke Beeson and Adrian Carless

**Carol Rea (sister)
Cathy Bluey
Charles & Gloria Wade
Elizabeth Haston
Harold & Loriane Perry
Harry & Ione Sherman
Lyne & Tru Newbrough
Richard Kennedy
Rose O'Brien (mother)
Shari Blevins
Virginia Gray**

IN GRATITUDE FOR:

**Appreciation of the Music
Cindy Wilson, who keeps our church running smoothly
Edison Congregational Music
Lori McMullen, Faith Community Nurse, our health guru
Our Minister and his Family and our loving Church Family
Pastor Jim Harper III
Pastor Anton Pierce
Tara Daltry-Johnson (daughter)
Tony & Phyllis Contino
Wayne Daltry (husband)
Wyatt Daltry (son)
Women's Group leadership, Members, Music Program and the quality & joy
it brings**





"You'll never do a whole
lot unless you're brave
enough to try."

Dolly Parton

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); Cara (Jean Long's daughter); Tasha (friend of Jackie Sellers).

***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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