Thomas A. Edison

Congregational Church

NOVEMBER 8, 2026



Order of Worship
Twenty-Fourth 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

Beautiful Savior
arr. by Robert A. Hobby

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Good morning again God,

All: We come before You today with grateful hearts, thanking You for bringing us together as a community.

One: We invite Your presence into this space and in the space of those joining us online.

All: Thank You for the unique gifts, voices, and perspectives that each person brings to this hour together.

One: Grant us a spirit of unity and mutual respect.

All: Clear our minds of distractions, help us to listen more than we speak and give us the wisdom to make decisions that

serve the common good.

One: May our time together be productive, peaceful, and filled with goodwill.

All: In the name of all that is good and holy, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn #589 Now Thank We All Our God

Passing of the Peace

May the Pease of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

Gift of Music Marc Pierre-Louis, Violin

This is My Father's World

by Duane Funderburk

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations.

All: Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect.

One: Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows.

All: Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken.

One: Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly.

All: So that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin color.

One: Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness.

All: So that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbors.

One: And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbors.

All: Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty.

One: And let the mountains teach our hearts

All: To reach upward to heaven. Amen.

"A Prayer for the World" by Rabbi Harold Kushner - 2003

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

Rain Down
By: Jaime Cortez
Arr by: John Carter

Rain down, rain down,
rain down your love on your peo-ple,
Rain down, rain down
rain down your love, God of life.

Today's Scripture **Matthew 6:10**

Bring in your kingdom so that your will is done on earth as it's done in heaven.

~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

Invitation to the Table / Blessing and Sharing of the Gifts

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at this table.

Today's breads: Garlic Tuscan, Brioche bread, English Breakfast bread with fruit and nuts, Pretzilla Pretzel bread, Garlic Tandoori Naan, and on a clear plate is Gluten Free bread.

Communion **Marc Pierre-Louis, Violin**

Ave Maria adapted from
J. S. Bach 's Prelude in C
by Charles Gounod

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 **Red Hansen, Baritone**

Hymn of Promise
by Natalie Sleeth

** 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

The journey of the Hebrew people after receiving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai is a foundational period in biblical history, marked by trials, transitions, and the eventual entry into the Promised Land.

Here are seven significant events that shaped their journey:

The Appointment of Joshua: Exodus 17:8–16; Exodus 24:12–14; Exodus 33:11; Numbers 27:12–23; Deuteronomy 31:1–8; Deuteronomy 34:9; Joshua 1:1–9 – Week 6

Crossing the Jordan and Entering Canaan: Joshua 1 through 5 – Week 7

Today's flowers are gifted to the church by Rick Hawk. We would like to thank him for this beautiful gift.

For next week's God's word: Matthew 25:14-30

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.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CHURCH

Guardian ad Litem works with ANA's Friends and will be coordinating the Wishing Tree Project at Christmas again this year. TAECC will be collecting children's Christmas books, New Cozy Blankets, Holiday Mugs, Tumblers and Kid-friendly Cups, Hot Chocolate (prepackaged) and New Cozy Socks for the 4th year for this project. The Wishing Tree Project will serve 765 children who are under court supervision appointed to the Guardian ad Litem office here in Lee County. The collected children's books will be distributed at Christmas to the foster parents and relatives to give to the children. If you would like to participate in the book drive this year, books can be brought to the church anytime and the drive will end on November 23.

November 15th
Blood Pressure Clinic right after service

Also looking for volunteers for cleaning windows in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for one of the following mornings: Monday 11/16, Tuesday 11/17, Thursday 11/19 and Friday 11/20. We will not be cleaning the stained-glass windows in the Sanctuary.
There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Monday, November 16th – Edison Park Expressive Arts School – Presentation of: *Sights and sounds of the season,* on the Church lawn between 10:00 and noon. Bring a Chair, and your Neighbors.

Women's Fellowship – November 18th
Will meet Wednesday, at 12:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be Amy McGlynn from Exceptional Entrepreneurs. Please bring your

own lunch. All women are welcome.

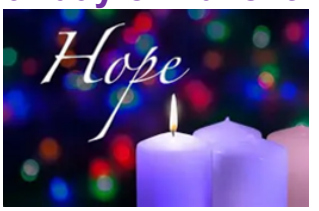
November 21-22
Edison and Ford Winter Estates – Autumn Garden Festival

Monday November 23rd
Decorate church for Advent – starting at 10:00 AM
– lunch provided – sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.
We need to know by November 18th who is planning to help.

Thanksgiving – November 26th - Don't Be Alone.
Anton will be hosting a Thanksgiving luncheon
On Thanksgiving Day here at the church at 1:00 PM.
There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board
In the Fellowship Hall.

The Turkey will be provided by the Church. When you sign up, please also write down how many and what side dish you would like to bring so we don't end up with a lot of the same thing. Let's make it an assortment of different side dishes to make it festive. There will be a limit of 50 people this year.

Sunday November 29th
First Sunday of Advent - Hope



Friday December 4th
Alena Michel presents

“Keys to Christmas Magic”
Student’s Piano Recital starting
at 6:00 PM here at the church.

Sunday, December 6th
Second Sunday of Advent - Peace



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.

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: For you, this day, I pray this African Blessing...
Walk tall, walk well, walk safe, walk free
And may harm never come to thee.
Walk wise, walk good, walk proud, walk true
And may the sun always smile on you.
Walk prayer, walk hope, walk faith, walk light
And may peace always guide you right.
Walk joy, walk brave, walk love, walk strong
And may life always give you a song. Amen.

All: Amen

- Slightly adapted from an African Blessing translated by Patricia Schonstein

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

Rigaudon

by Andre Campra
arr. by Diane Bish

Time with our Children

When Children Ask About God

A Guide for Parents Who Don't Always Have All the Answers
By Harold S. Kushner

Harold Kushner on how to handle children's religious questions on the meaning of life.

" 'Salvation' and 'redemption' are terms not often met in Jewish thought. They are much more prominent in Christian theology; Jews for the most part don't see themselves in a condition from which they must be saved or redeemed. But if we take Salvation to mean the goal and end-purpose of life, there is a Jewish equivalent, which is not Salvation — rescue from a dire situation — but Fulfillment, making the most of an incomplete situation. Jews of an earlier age spoke of "meriting a place in Olam Haba, the world to come," as the goal to which their lives were dedicated. Every deed was to be evaluated in the light of whether it increased or decreased the chances of meriting that reward. We can call our own sense of where we are headed, our understanding of Fulfillment as the purpose of our lives, another sort of Olam Haba, world to come. As we understand it, the purpose of life is:

"To realize all of our potential as human beings and develop those God-like qualities which are latent in each of us.
"To live in such a way that our influence and our memory will live on beyond our own time.

"To leave the world a better, happier, more human place for having been part of it.

"To live thusly is to find Fulfillment or Salvation, the purpose of our lives.

~https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/book-reviews/excerpts/view/14140

Rabbi Harold Kushner's prayer for Global Healing



A Prayer for the World, by Rabbi Harold Kushner

"Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations.

Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect.

Then let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken.

Let it burn away the fog so we can see each other clearly, beyond labels, accents, gender or skin color so we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbors.

Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth gardens to give us hope. And the mountains teach our hearts to reach upwards to heaven. Amen"

November Newsletter

"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers."
3 John 1:2

November is American Diabetes Month

American Diabetes Month is a time to care for our bodies, encourage one another, and replace fear with faithful action. The CDC's 2026 National Diabetes Statistics Report estimates that in 2023 about **40.1 million Americans had diabetes** — and more than 1 in 4 of them (11 million) did not know it. Another **115.2 million adults have prediabetes**, and 8 in 10 of them do not know it either. In Florida, about **2.3 million adults** have diagnosed diabetes. Yet there is real hope: type 2 diabetes, which accounts for 90–95% of cases, can often be delayed or prevented — and prediabetes is a warning, not a verdict. Awareness is more than wearing blue on World Diabetes Day (Saturday, Nov. 14). It means knowing your number, keeping recommended appointments, and helping every person in our community receive timely, high-quality care.

5 ways to turn awareness into action

1. Know your number. A simple A1C blood test tells the story. The American Diabetes Association says everyone age 35 and older should be screened — earlier if you carry extra weight or have a family history, high blood pressure, or other risk factors.
2. Prediabetes can be turned around. Losing just 5–7% of body weight through healthy eating and 150 minutes of activity a week can cut the risk of type 2 diabetes by more than half. If your results are normal, retest at least every 3 years; if you have prediabetes, test yearly.
3. Learn the warning signs. Extreme thirst, urinating often, unusual tiredness, blurry vision, weight loss without trying, or sores that heal slowly — see a doctor and ask for a blood sugar test. A change does not always mean diabetes, but it deserves a prompt conversation with a health care professional.
4. Protect the whole body. Uncontrolled blood sugar raises the risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, blindness, and amputation. Managing blood sugar protects your heart, kidneys, and eyes alike — and regular checkups catch problems early, when they are most treatable.

5. Do not let cost stop the first step. Lee Health offers ADA-recognized diabetes education and a free year-long prevention program, and the Florida Department of Health in Lee County helps income-eligible residents with insulin prescription costs (see resources below).

To every person facing testing, diagnosis, treatment, or recovery — and to every caregiver walking beside them — you are not alone. May our church be a place of prayer, practical help, patient listening, and steady hope. God's healing presence can meet us in the exam room, the waiting room, and every day in between.

Lee County diabetes resources: Lee Health Diabetes Education & Support (239) 424-3127 · Lee Health Diabetes Prevention Program (239) 468-0051 · Free chronic-disease self-management workshops 239-424-3121 · Florida DOH-Lee insulin prescription assistance 239-332-9565 · American Diabetes Association 1-800-342-2383

See the checklist posted on the bulletin board for diabetes reminders and screening resources.

Health information is general; speak with your healthcare professional about your individual risk. Sources: CDC · ADA · FL DOH-Lee · Lee Health

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.

November class curriculum Faith Formation

November 15th Matthew 25:1-13

November 29th Genesis 18

Blood Pressure Clinic November 15th

Lori

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

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

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Jean Lindenlaub; Liz Lloyd; General Dozier;
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); Andrea (friend of Pat Jessie); Larry (friend of Pat Jessie); Patty & family (Jean Long's friends); Phil Denmark (friend of Tom & Jan Sherman).

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.

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

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