



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

JUNE 21, 2026



Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of the Growing Season

** 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

Be Thou My Vision

arr. by Michael Burkhardt

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Why should we feel discouraged, and why should shadows gather in our midst?

All: When the world tells us we are insignificant, we remember our roots.

One: Hear the tender promise echoing through creation: even the smallest sparrow is seen and known by the Creator.

All: If God so clothes the fields and remembers the smallest among us, how much more are we cherished?

One: We gather today to lift each other up, to cast off the weight of anxiety, and to celebrate our shared liberation.

All: We sing because we are happy; we sing because we are free!

One: For the Creator's eye is on the sparrow, and we know our God is watching over all of us.

All: Let us worship the Divine with joy, resting in the boundless love that holds us all.

~Slightly adapted from a prayer generated by Google AI for our time together this morning.

Hymn #378

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

Gift of Music

Rachel Cox, Violin

Butterfly Waltz

by Brian Crain

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: We believe in God, our source of hope, which though fragile and often dashed is surprisingly strong and resilient. We believe that hope is given so that we can wake each morning with a sense of wonder and live each day in light of the joy that is promised.

All: This we believe as people of faith.

One: We believe that hope is woven with faith and love to form a tapestry of beauty and possibility. We believe that out of suffering and destruction can emerge something new, a new earth with the mark of God upon it. We believe our efforts make a difference and transform hope into bread for the hungry, clothes for the poor, love for the forgotten.

All: This we believe as people of faith.

One: We believe the church is a community of hope, living the love of Jesus for all creation, continually renewed by the fresh winds of the Spirit.

All: This we believe as people of faith. God help our belief,

help our faith, today and every day after; Amen.

~Slightly adapted from a prayer found @ Copyright 1983-2026 by Communication Resources, Inc. All rights reserved.

Prayer Response

The Love of God

Words and Music by: Frederick Martin Lehman

**O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
the saints' and angels' song!**

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.

Today's Scripture

Psalm 86:1-11

A prayer of David.

86 LORD, listen closely to me and answer me,
because I am poor and in need.

2 Guard my life because I am faithful.

Save Your servant who trusts in You—You! My God!

3 Have mercy on me, Lord,
because I cry out to You all day long.

4 Make Your servant's life happy again
because, my Lord, I offer my life to You,

- ⁵ because, my Lord, You are good and forgiving,
full of faithful love for all those who cry out to You.
- ⁶ Listen closely to my prayer, LORD;
pay close attention to the sound of my requests for mercy.
- ⁷ Whenever I am in trouble, I cry out to You,
because You will answer me.
- ⁸ My Lord! There is no one like You among the gods!
There is nothing that can compare to Your works!
- ⁹ All the nations that You've made will come
and bow down before You, Lord;
they will glorify Your name,
- ¹⁰ because You are awesome
and a wonder-worker.
You are God. Just You.
- ¹¹ Teach me your way, Lord,

so that I can walk in your truth.

Make my heart focused only on honoring your name.

Psalm 86:16-17

- ¹⁶ Come back to me! Have mercy on me!
Give Your servant Your strength;
save this child of Your servant!
- ¹⁷ Show me a sign of Your goodness
so that those who hate me will see it and be put to shame—
show a sign that You, LORD,
have helped me and comforted me.

Matthew 10:29-31

²⁹ Aren't two sparrows sold for a small coin? But not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father knowing about it already. ³⁰ Even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ Don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

~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

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

By Thomas A Dorsey

**Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,
take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me on.**

**When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near,
when my life is al-most gone;
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall,
take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me on.**

**When the dark-ness ap-pears and the night draw near,
and the day is past and gone;
at the riv-er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand,
take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me on.**

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

Ave Maria
by Guilio Caccini

Rachel Cox, Violin

**** 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 will start back up late July.

**Today's flowers are gifted to the church
by Tom and Lourdes Smoot. We would like
to thank them for this beautiful gift.**

**For next week's God's
word:
Matthew 10:40-42**

Sunday, June 28th

**Lori McMullen will be offering Blood Pressure checks.
Blood Pressure Screening is an important part of health
maintenance. All are encouraged to do this.**

**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.

Birthday Celebration – Sunday, July 26th

If you are interested in helping with setting out the food and drinks for the Birthday Celebration, a Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. You will be responsible for setting up, serving and cleaning up after the Birthday Celebration.

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)

One: "May the road rise to meet you, and the wind be always at your back. May the sunshine warm upon your face, and the rain fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."
Amen.

All: Amen.

~The Irish Blessing A widely used cultural and spiritual 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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

arr. by Michael Burkhardt

Time with our Children

Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17

Show the children a large, red paper heart, and ask them to guess what the symbol stands for. Tell them that it means "love," and it is used to describe a number of things that people love: I [heart] New York; I [heart] Amazon.com; I [heart] Dogs; I [heart] Bacon; I [heart] Naps. Ask the children to name some of the things that they love. Then ask them if there is a problem with a red paper heart. Suggest that it is not very strong and then bend it and tear it a little bit. Say that some of the things we say we love are going to change. For instance, we might love dogs one day and cats the next day. But God's love is different. It doesn't tear or change. It is stronger than this paper heart. Psalm 86 says that God shows "steadfast love" to all who call on him (v. 5). Steadfast love is another way of saying "strong" love, love that's "untearable." (You might have another red heart to bring forth now that is made of a strong and untearable material.) God's love is reliable, strong, solid and unchanging. God's love is more like a rock than a paper heart, and it is always going to be something that will hold us up. Close by saying that they will love many things over the course of their lives, and some of those loves will come and go, but the strong love of God for each of them will never, ever change.

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JUNE FAITH AND WELLNESS NEWSLETTER

“Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.”

Isaiah 46:4

Alzheimer’s and Dementia

Worldwide, 55 million people are living with Alzheimer’s and other dementias. Alzheimer’s disease is a degenerative brain disease and the most common cause of dementia. Dementia is not a specific disease. It’s an overall term that describes a group of symptoms.

According to the Alzheimer’s Association, adopting these everyday actions can lower your risk of cognitive decline:

10 Brain-Healthy Habits

Challenge your mind: Learn a new skill or play strategic games.

Get moving: Regular cardiovascular exercise increases blood flow to the brain and body.

Protect your head: Always wear a seatbelt and wear a helmet during sports to prevent head injuries.

Control cardiovascular health: Manage high blood pressure, diabetes, and maintain a healthy weight.

Be smoke-free and eat right: Focus on heart-healthy, balanced diets (like the Mediterranean or MIND diets).

Sleep well: Get 7 to 9 hours of quality sleep nightly to allow the brain to clear out toxins.

Wear purple this month to honor everyone who is affected by Alzheimer’s.

Blood Pressure Clinic will be on June 28th.

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 and crafts.

June class curriculum Faith Formation

June 28th – Matthew 10:40-42

Lori McMullen RN-FCN

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN LEE COUNTY

Our church council has been deliberating and praying over ways our church family may contribute help to folks in our county who are experiencing hardships in relationship to immigration issues. After taking some time, our council believes these are small efforts in a very big ongoing situation. This opportunity to respond as a community of faith will not solve our present immigration needs. However, these small attempts to bring a little help to our neighbors, it is a place to start.

We have families who are in need in Lee County

THREE WAYS YOU AND I CAN HELP FAMILIES IN NEED...

#1 PRAY AND BE AWARE OF THE STORIES OF THOSE AFFECTED BY ICE DETENTIONS AND HARASSMENT

Here are some of the family stories we are working with right now in Lee County:

31 families in South Lee County – we went to help 5 families, and from there, 31 other families contacted us. They ask for food, diapers, clothes for their children, soap and shampoo. Basics. They do not ask for luxuries. They do not even ask for 2 ply toilet

tissue. They are so very appreciative of what we bring. Their children rush to us with smiles and hugs. They are so polite and sweet

C & L – this couple has a beautiful girl who is about 8 years old. She just got a baby brother and is very excited. Unfortunately, this precious boy was born with a cleft palate and lip. Pretty severe issues, for any child, and for any family. This child will need dozens of surgeries over his lifetime. His first will be in 3 months. The father of the family works when he can. He is not earning enough to pay the rent this month. We have taken them food, baby items, diapers, etc. They are not running the air conditioning, and the apt is stiflingly hot. They do not speak English, and their dialect makes it more difficult for us to communicate.

S – She and her husband have 2 kids, N who is 8, and has special needs, E who is a few months old. Husband works as much as he can. She asks for diapers and wipes. N, the 8-year-old special needs child, had surgery this week.

G – This mother of 4 under 14, lives with a sister, since the father was deported last year. She does not have a job. She does not speak English. Her sister's spouse works when he can. They are only asking for food and clothes for the kids. They are afraid to leave home.

T – This young woman has an almost one year old. She has no job, as the taqueria did not have enough business to let her work. She asks for food and diapers. She speaks no English.

V - This young woman, and her spouse, rent a room with unrelated others. He works when he can, she stays home, as she is nursing their one-year-old. They do not own a TV. She stays home with the baby all day long, day after day. She wanted a highchair. She is such a good mother. Her child is precious. She speaks no English.

W- This woman shares the home with V. They are unrelated. She is a mother to a young boy and a one-year-old girl. She needs a special formula for her sensitive child. She asks for help with that. She asked for a highchair, too.

M & M – Two women who have moved into one apt with their children and nephews. The 2 nephews were taken by social services due to lack of car seats being used in the car. The boys were separated and are with 2 different foster families. These women have babies and other children in their one-bedroom apt. They are desperate to get the boys back.

#2 PURCHASE THESE ITEMS AND BRING THEM WITH YOU TO CHURCH TO DONATE TO THESE FAMILIES

Diapers (all sizes up to 7)
Gift Cards to Walmart

Maseca - corn flour
Gift Cards to Publix

Toilet Paper
Paper Towels

#3 VISIT THIS QR CODE AND DONATE THROUGH MIDWEST FOOD BANK

The drive is to support our communities affected by ICE detentions and harassment. Those left behind do not have jobs or breadwinners in many cases anymore. Families are struggling with food insecurity and diet related health issues. The food drive is designed to help them with the kind of healthy food they really need.

It is so easy! Visit the webpage (click link below, or scan the QR code), pick out your food, pay online, and they take care of the rest!

An actual distribution of the food event will be Saturday, July 11th at the New Image Tabernacle Church on Pondella Rd. in North Fort Myers. We are doing this with a 501(c)(3) organization (O.I.L.E), and the Midwest Food Bank.

SWFL Coalition for Democracy is assisting so many volunteers make a difference in people's lives that are living in fear and without many resources for daily life.



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.



Pastor Jim

Scan here for contact information of the church and Pastor Jim . Please add to your phone.



Church Office

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; Jean Long;
Phyllis Contino; Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch.

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 Qatar (friend of Martha Jean Long); Jennifer McMullen & family (Lori McMullen extended family); Renee Imm (friend of Sandy Cole); Fay Lombardo (friend of Sandy Cole).

***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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