



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



Order of Worship

Sixteenth 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

Largo in G

by George F. Handel

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Children of God, we are gathered at the gracious invitation of God who is our Creator, our Sustainer, and the Giver of all good gifts. God welcomes us and receives our prayers and praises, our worship and work. God delights in what we have created with our hands, engineered in our minds, and offered up in our hearts. God delights in our voices, so let us raise them up in gratitude and praise.

All: Bless the Lord, all our souls.

One: All our inmost being bless God's holy name. God of bounty, God of goodness. We praise You for Your abundant gifts. God of plenty, God of

grace. We offer You the works of our hands.

All: Bless the Lord, all our souls.

One: Forget not all God's benefits from fields and farms, cubicles and courtrooms. God delights in our offering of work. So, bring your treasures, the fruits of your labor. Receive them, O God as our thankful offering of praise.

All: Bless the Lord, all our souls.

One: Bless God's holy name

All: Bless the Lord, all our souls: Amen.

~Adapted from a prayer Written for the Worship for Workers Project of Fuller Seminary by Katie Ritsema-Roelofs from Washington, DC*

Opening Hymn #35

O Bless the Lord, My Soul!

Verses 1, 2, & 6

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

Gift of Music

Tim Torres, Cello

Sarabande from Cello Suite #1

in G Major BWV 1007

by J. S. Bach

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

A prayer litany for the 25th Anniversary of 9/11 honors those who died while praying for peace and global unity.

Call to Remembrance

One: Twenty-five years have passed since the towers fell and the dust filled our streets. We remember the lives lost, the families broken, and the fear that gripped our world.

All: We remember, O God. We hold their names in our hearts.

One: We remember the first responders who ran toward danger, showing us the deep capacity of human love and sacrifice.

All: We give thanks for their courage and grieve for those who did not return.

A Prayer for Healing and Justice

One: In the days and years that followed, our grief was weaponized. Fear built walls, and anger justified endless wars, taking more lives and breaking more communities across the earth.

All: Forgive us, God, when we chose retaliation over reconciliation.

One: Grant us the courage to break cycles of violence. Heal the wounds of xenophobia, Islamophobia, and nationalism that still scar our global family.

All: Create in us clean hearts that embrace our neighbors of every nation and faith.

A Commitment to Peace

One: Today, we commit ourselves to a different path—the path of radical hospitality, relentless peace, and shared security.

All: We renounce the illusion that empire and violence can keep us safe.

One: Strengthen our hands to build bridges instead of barriers, to feed the hungry, and to shelter the displaced.

All: May our memory of tragedy fuel our dedication to justice.

Blessing

One: In a little while we will go forth into a fragile world as makers of peace. Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

All: Amen. In a while we will go in the Spirit of love and hope.

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 the beau-ty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
this our hymn of grate-ful praise.**

Today's Scripture

Psalm 103:1-13

Of David.

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Words: Psalm 103:1

**Bless the Lord, O my soul: bless the Lord, O my soul;
and all that is with-in me bless His ho-ly name.**

Let my whole being bless the LORD!

Let everything inside me bless His holy name!

² Let my whole being bless the LORD

and never forget all His good deeds:

- 3 how God forgives all your sins,
heals all your sickness,
4 saves your life from the pit,
crowns you with faithful love and compassion,
5 and satisfies you with plenty of good things
so that your youth is made fresh like an eagle's.

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Words: Psalm 103:1

**Bless the Lord, O my soul: bless the Lord, O my soul;
and all that is with-in me bless His ho-ly name.**

- 6 The LORD works righteousness;
does justice for all who are oppressed.
7 God made His ways known to Moses;
made His deeds known to the Israelites.
8 The LORD is compassionate and merciful,
very patient, and full of faithful love.
9 God won't always play the judge;
He won't be angry forever.
10 He doesn't deal with us according to our sin
or repay us according to our wrongdoing,
11 because as high as heaven is above the earth,
that's how large God's faithful love is for those who honor Him.
12 As far as east is from west—
that's how far God has removed our sin from us.
13 Like a parent feels compassion for their children—
that's how the LORD feels compassion for those who honor Him.

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Words: Psalm 103:1

**Bless the Lord, O my soul: bless the Lord, O my soul;
and all that is with-in me bless His ho-ly name.**

~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 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

Tim Torres, Cello

Song without words Op. 109
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

No Quilting on Wednesday.

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.

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 Roger Yergeau "In honor of his sister Paula Brown, on the first Anniversary of her passing." We would like to thank him for this beautiful gift.

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

**For next week's God's
word:
Philippians 1:21-30**

Women's Fellowship

All women are invited to the Women's Fellowship End of Summer Meeting, on Wednesday, September 16th at noon. Lunch will be provided by the Women's Fellowship Officer's; therefore, they will need an accurate count so they will have plenty of food for you. Kindly R.S.V.P. to Gail Courtwright at: gailcourtwright26@gmail.com by Sept 12th.

Come see what we are all about!

Please, no more egg cartons for now. Thank you.



Lindy Smith from Uprstanding 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.

GriefShare Support Group

Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one.

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 13-week group, you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.

**Groups meet starting Wednesday, October 28th
at 10:00 AM or 6:00 PM.**

To register, Contact us at Lorifcn@taecc.com or leave a message at 239-334-4978 or 239-810-2662

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

Fantasy BWV 904

by J. S. Bach

Time with our Children

You can talk to children about Psalm 103 by framing "blessing" as sending a big "thank you" or deep love to God from our inner feelings.

In a mainstream faith setting, you want to focus on God's kindness, forgiveness, and care for all people rather than fear or strict rules. Here is a simple way to guide this conversation with kids.

Explain Key Words Simply

- **Soul:** Your soul is your deepest self. It is the quiet, glowing part inside you that loves, feels, and breathes.
- **Bless:** To bless God means to send back love and gratitude. Just like you tell a parent or friend "I love you," blessing God is saying "Thank you for being good to us."
- **The Lord:** In mainline faith spaces, you can describe God as a safe, loving presence, a healing spirit, or the energy of unconditional love that holds the whole world together.

Focus on Progressive Themes in Psalm 103

- **God's Compassion:** Highlight verses about God forgiving mistakes and showing mercy. Explain that God does not stay mad. God is like a loving parent who always welcomes us back with open arms.
- **Healing and Kindness:** Talk about how the Psalm says God heals the broken and helps the weak. Ask children, *"How can we help heal or comfort others in our neighborhood?"*
- **Connection to Nature:** Use the local Southwest Florida environment as a backdrop. Point out how the ocean, the sun, or the trees in the Everglades show beauty and life. Tell children that thanking God means also taking care of the beautiful earth around us.

Simple Activities for Children

- **Heart Breathing:** Have children put their hands on their chest, feel their heartbeat, and take three deep breaths. Tell them this quiet space is their soul, and they can send a silent "Thank you, God" with every breath.
- **Gratitude Jar:** Pass around a jar and have kids drop in a small stone or paper slip for something they love about life, framing each one as a way to "bless" the world.
- **Kindness Action:** Brainstorm one kind thing the group can do together that week to show God's love to someone else.

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.

Lunch and Learn

September 20th, 2026, at 11:00

Please join Lindy Smith, Certified Personal Trainer, for an interactive lesson on using walking sticks for improved mobility, stability and balance. Be prepared to have fun while learning to stay safe.

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.

September class curriculum Faith Formation

September 20th The Hidden Treasure, Matthew 13:44-52

Lori McMullen RN-FCN

Pastor's Reading Corner

The Pastor's offering 5 possible book groups.

**Choose one of the titles if you would like,
read the book, contact the Pastor if you would
like with others about what you have read.**

More free copies are on their way.

An Uncertain Life – by: Charles Michael Brill

Short Stories by Jesus – by: Amy-Jill Levine

Inspired – by: Rachel Held Evans

Home Town Tales – by: Philip Gulley

Theo of Golden – by: Allen Levi

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:

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

***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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