



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

AUGUST 2, 2026



Order of Worship

Tenth 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 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

The Ash Grove

Traditional Welsh
arr. by Lorie Line

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Loving God, You give us more than enough.

All: You take our small gifts and make them great.

One: Thank You, in advance, for feeding our souls today.

All: Open our hearts to Your love.

One: Help us share Your grace with a hungry world.

All: Speak to us today God, we are listening. Amen.

~Adapted from a prayer found in a Google AI search on Jesus feeding the multitudes

Opening Hymn #33

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

Gift of Music

Rachel Cox, Violin

Minor Fantasy :

1. Mystery of Life

2. Awakening of Life

3. Dance of Life

by Katherine-Moira Leda Levant

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: God, we bring our open hands to You.

All: We bring our small gifts to You.

One: We feel like we do not have enough.

All: You see our limits and smile.

One: You take what we give and multiply it.

All: You turn a little bit into a feast.

One: You care for our bodies and our spirits.

All: You leave no one empty or alone.

One: Today fill us with Your bread of life.

All: Make us brave to share our portion.

One: Guide our hands to feed the hungry.

All: Let Your love flow through us to all people.

One: God, we are recognizing our smallness.

All: God, we are trusting Your abundance.

One: Once again today remind us of Your love;

All: As You send us out to serve. Amen.

~Adapted from a prayer found in a Google AI search on Jesus feeding the multitudes

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 14:13-21

Feeding the five thousand

¹³ When Jesus heard about John, He withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by Himself. When the crowds learned this, they followed Him on foot from the cities. ¹⁴ When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, He had compassion for them and healed those who were sick. ¹⁵ That evening His disciples came and said to Him, "This is an isolated place and it's getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ But Jesus said to them, "There's no need to send them away. You give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here except five loaves of bread and two fish." ¹⁸ He said, "Bring them here to Me." ¹⁹ He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them and broke the loaves apart and gave them to His disciples. Then the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ Everyone ate until they were full, and they filled twelve baskets with the leftovers. ²¹ About five thousand men plus women and children had eaten.

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 #330

Let Us Break Bread Together

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, Brown Wheat Dinner Rolls,
and on a clear plate is Gluten Free bread.**

Communion

Rachel Cox, Violin

Reflections

by James M. Stephenson

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 Prayer (inspired by Matthew 14:13-21)

One: Merciful God, the gifts we bring are so small in comparison to the vast
needs in our world—

**All: Nowhere near enough to save the thousands dying of
starvation all around the world,**

One: Or even to meet the needs of the hungry and homeless in our city.

All: Yet we have brought what we can.

One: As You once multiplied the five small loaves and two fish,

All: Multiply these gifts as well,

One: So that, once again,

All: The hungry may receive all they need, and more. Amen.

~ adapted from a prayer written by Christine Longhurst, re: Worship

Offertory

Sarabande in E from French Suite 4

by J. S. Bach

**** 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 Big Picture: Seeing God's Dream for Your Life by Jevon and Nicole Caldwell-Gross is a 5-week Christian study guide. It explores the story of Joseph in the Bible to help you connect the dots between your own happy and hard times, revealing how God weaves them into a beautiful purpose.

The book acts like a connect-the-dots puzzle. Imagine a child's drawing before the dots are connected. It just looks like random spots on a page. That is a lot like our lives! Sometimes bad

things (trauma) and good things (triumph) happen, and they feel random.

When you connect the dots, a clear picture forms. The authors use Joseph's life to show this idea. Joseph was thrown in a pit, sold as a slave, and put in prison (random hard events). But later, he saved his family and a whole nation. God was weaving all those messy, random events together into a big plan all along.

Here are the 3 main steps the book walks you through:

Dreaming in Prison: Keeping your faith alive when you feel stuck. — Genesis 39 & 40

Resisting the urge to get even: Choosing grace instead of revenge. — Genesis 41 & 42 & 43

Seeing the Big Picture: Finally understanding how God protected you the whole time. — Genesis 44 & 45 & 46 & 47





**Today's flowers are gifted to the church by
Tom & Jan Sherman. We would like to
thank them for this beautiful gift.**

**For next week's God's
word:
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28**

**Blood Drive – August 2nd - The bus will be in front
of the church from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.**

School Supplies for Edison Park School

**We would like to collect school supplies for Edison Park
School. If you wish to help, we will be collecting the items here**

at the church until August 3, 2025, so we can get the supplies over the teachers before the fall session starts. The supplies that the school has requested are:

Pre-sharpened Pencils -- Square Boxes of Tissues – Post-it Notes of any kind – Glue Sticks – Pens.

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

Postlude: Toccata on “ Leoni”

by Gordon Young

Time with our Children

Jesus Feeds the People

By Dell Smith Klein

Matthew 14-13-21

(Begin to nibble on your snack. You might say, “Umm, this is really good.” When the children ask about the snack, you might say, “Oh, you want one, too?” Hold up a package of the small fish-shaped crackers. Then explain that after today’s sermon there will be some for each.)

Wherever Jesus went, people followed Him. They wanted Him to help sick people feel better. They wanted to hear what He had to say. One time Jesus went to a quiet place where there were no stores, or restaurants. There were no houses in that place either. The Holy Bible calls it a “deserted place.” (v. 13) When the people heard where He was, they followed Him. They had walked a long time to reach Him. Jesus taught them, and He healed those that were sick.

When evening came, Jesus’ disciples wanted to send everyone away, so they could walk back to town and buy food for themselves.

Jesus said, “Don’t send them away. You give them something to eat.”

Now remember, there are no grocery stores nearby, and no restaurants near this place. The disciples weren’t sure what to do since they only had a little bit of bread and two fish. They wondered how they could feed all those people with such a small amount of food.

Jesus disciples didn't know how all those people could be fed, but they did as Jesus asked. They brought the fish and bread to Him. Jesus told the people to sit down on the grass. He took the bread and the fish and prayed over it. Then He broke the fish and bread into pieces, and the disciples carried the meal to the people.

Everyone ate and when they were finished, the disciples collected the left-over pieces of fish and bread. They didn't waste any of the food. Imagine that!

In the Holy Bible, Jesus is called the Bread of Life. Also, in the early days of Christianity, a fish was a common symbol for Jesus. So, now when you see a loaf of bread, or a fish, you can remember this story of Jesus feeding a lot of people with just a little bit of bread and fish.

PRAYER

We are thankful to You, Loving God that Jesus cared so much for those people that He provided plenty of food for them from just a little bit of bread and two small fish. We are thankful, too, that You care for us.
Amen.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible
Copyright 2013, Richard Niell Donovan



This art was created in 1970s to help teach the gospel in Northern Cameroon. This image is archived here: <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl...>

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

August 9th, Blood pressure Clinic

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.

August class curriculum Faith Formation

August 9th - Luke 5:1-11, "Jesus Calls His First Disciples"

August 23rd - Matthew 6:14-15, Forgiveness

Lori McMullen RN-FCN



August is
**NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION
AWARENESS MONTH**

 **Vaccination is the best
Protection**
against serious diseases

**STAY UP
TO DATE
ON ROUTINE
VACCINES**
Protect precious moments

**PROTECT
YOURSELF
WITH VACCINES**
Before you see the world

GW | Himmelfarb
Health Sciences Library

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.

Council Corner

Council has approved replacement of the folding chairs in the Fellowship Hall. A task force has researched and found chairs to meet our needs. The fully upholstered stacking chairs will improve comfort and aesthetic appeal to the space that is used both for worship services and fellowship events.

We would like to purchase 50+ chairs at a cost of approximately \$60 per chair. If you are interested in purchasing one or more chairs **In Memory Of** or **In Gratitude For**, please fill out a form and return it to the church along with a check made out to TAECC.

We hope to have the chairs delivered sometime in the fall and will recognize and dedicate them during one of our Sunday worship services.

Make check payable to TAECC and the number of chairs x \$60.00

A picture of the chair and additional forms will be in the Fellowship Hall.



**As of July 31, 2026
48 Chairs have been
bought towards the 50
Chairs that we would like to
order.**

Thank you.

Vote in the August 18, 2026 Primary Election

Your Vote Matters! Your Vote is Your Voice!

Elected leaders make the decisions that affect the economy, education, environment, housing, healthcare, transportation, water quality, and more. All eligible voters, including those without a party affiliation, may vote in the Primary Election. All primary ballots will include nonpartisan races. Ballots for voters with a party affiliation will include their party's candidates.

The August 18, 2026 Primary Election is the final deciding election for:

- Lee County School Board Districts 1 and 6
- Lee County Commissioner District 5, (a universal primary open to All Lee County voters)
- 20th Circuit Judges and Lee County Judge
- Bonita Springs Bond Referendum for the Bonita Estero Rail Trail (BERT)
- Three Cape Coral City Charter amendments

In addition, ballots will determine who advances to the general election for School Board Districts 4 and 5, Cape Coral Mayor and Council, and partisan primary races.

Trusted Nonpartisan Resources for Voters include:

- **VOTE411** www.Vote411.org by the League of Women Voters Education Fund, with local, state, and federal candidate information, proposed ballot measures, and other nonpartisan election information.
- **LWVLee Resource Links:** <https://lp.uniqo.de/FilKL1> Links to VOTE411, Recordings of Candidate Forums, LWVLee Events, Publications, and more
- **Lee County Supervisor of Elections,** www.lee.vote, 239-533-8683 to **Register to Vote**, request your **VoteByMail Ballot**, view your Sample Ballot, and check your voting location for Lee County Early Voting and for Election Day. [ALL-INCLUSIVE SAMPLE BALLOT August 18, 2026 | Primary Election](#)
- **Election Protection** <https://protectthevote.net> for voting questions or issues. 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) – English language hotline. 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682) – Spanish language hotline.
- **Voter Identification Assistance from** www.VoteRiders.org 866-432-8683.
- **Returning Citizens/Rights Restoration.** Contact the [Florida Rights Restoration Coalition](#) (FRRC) at 407-901-3749 or email info@floridarrc.org.
- **LWVLee Resource Links:** <https://lp.uniqo.de/FilKL1> Links to VOTE411, Recordings of Candidate Forums, LWVLee Events, Publications, and more.

EVENTS

Saturday, August 8, 2026, 12:30 to 2:30 pm., LWVLee and Allies, Voting Rights Act (VRA) Anniversary, Call to Action, Get Out the Vote, Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33919. space limited.

Information: www.lwvlee.org/calendar Registration: [Unite & Rise for Voting Rights - LWV Lee County · Mobilize](#) Flyers [Flyer1.pdf](#), [Flyer2.jpg](#)

Saturday, September 12, 2026, 2-4pm, Forums: Bonita Springs Candidates and Ballot Measures, Bonita Spring Public Library, 10560 Reynolds St., Bonita Springs, FL 34135. *This program is not sponsored/endorsed by the Lee County Library System.* Information and Registration <https://2026BonitaSpringsForum.eventbrite.com>

Saturday, September 19, 2026, 2-4pm: Our Waters, Our Vote Southwest Florida Water Summit 2026, Collaboratory, 2031 Jackson St. Fort Myers 33901. Information and Registration: <https://SWFLwatersummit2026.eventbrite.com>

Saturday, October 3, 2026. 9am-12pm. Ballot Measures and Meet Candidates. Collaboratory, 2031 Jackson St. Fort Myers 33901. Information and Registration: <https://2026BallotMeasures.eventbrite.com>

The League of Women Voters of Lee County, Inc. is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose candidates and/or political parties.

Websites: www.lwv.org www.lwvfl.org, www.lwvlee.org e-mail: lwvlee@lwvlee.org

FAVORITE HYMNS BY OCCUPATION

DENTIST - CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

METEOROLOGIST - THERE SHALL BE SHOWERS OF BLESSING

TAILOR - HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

OPTOMETRIST - BE THOU MY VISION

ELECTRICIAN - THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD

BUYER - SWEET BY AND BY

REALTOR - I'VE GOT A MANSION, JUST OVER THE HILL

MASSAGE THERAPIST - HE TOUCHED ME

DOCTOR - THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

PILOT - I'LL FLY AWAY

GEOLOGIST - ROCK OF AGES

SHOEMAKER - IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

SHEPHERD - LAMB OF GOD

SURVEYOR - WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

TOUR GUIDE - SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER?

VETERINARIAN - ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

Miracles of Jesus

at a glance...

The Miracles of Jesus

The Miracles Jesus Performed in the Bible

POSSESSION

Jesus Drives an Evil Spirit from a Man

-Mark 1:21-27 and Luke 4:31-36

Jesus Casts Demons Into a Pig Herd

-Matthew 8:28-33, Mark 5:1-20, and Luke 8:26-39

Jesus Heals Woman's Possessed Daughter

-Matthew 15:21-28 and Mark 7:24-30

Jesus Casts Out a Demon from a Boy

-Matthew 17:14-20, Mark 9:14-29, and Luke 9:37-43

FOOD

Jesus Turns Water Into Wine at Wedding

-John 4:43-54

First Miracle of Catching Fish

-Luke 5:1-11

Jesus Feeds 5,000 People

-Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17, and John 6:1-14

Jesus Feeds 4,000 People

-Matthew 15:32-39 and Mark 8:1-10

Second Miracle of Catching Fish

-John 21:4-11

NATURE

Jesus Calms the Storm

-Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, and Luke 8:22-25

Jesus Walks on Water

-Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-52, and John 6:16-21

Tax is Paid with Coin in Fish's Mouth

-Matthew 17:24-27

Jesus Curses a Fig Tree

-Mark 11:12-14

RAISING FROM THE DEAD

Jesus Raises a Boy from the Dead

-Luke 7:11-17

Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter from Dead

-Matthew 9:18-19, 23-26, Mark 5:21-24, 35-43, and Luke

8:40-42, 49-56

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

-John 11:1-44

HEALINGS

Jesus Heals an Official's Son

-John 4:43-54

Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law's Fever

-Matthew 8:14-15, Mark 1:29-31, and Luke 4:38-39

Jesus Heals the Sick and Oppressed

-Matthew 8:16-17, Mark 1:32-34, and Luke 4:40-41

Jesus Cleanses Man with Leprosy

-Matthew 8:1-4, Mark 1:40-45, and Luke 5:12-14

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

-Matthew 8:5-13 and Luke 7:1-10

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

-Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, and Luke 5:17-26

Jesus Heals a Man's Withered Hand

-Matthew 12:9-14, Mark 3:1-5, and Luke 6:6-11

Jesus Heals a Woman with Blood Issues

-Matthew 9:20-22, Mark 5:25-34, and Luke 8:42-48

Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

-Matthew 9:27-31

Jesus Heals a Mute Man

-Matthew 9:32-34

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

-John 5:1-9

Jesus Heals Many That Touch His Hem

-Matthew 14:34-36 and Mark 6:53-56

Jesus Heals a Deaf Man

-Mark 7:31-37

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

-Mark 8:22-26

Jesus Heals a Man Blind Since Birth

-John 9:1-12

Jesus Heals a Blind and Mute Man

-Matthew 12:22-23 and Luke 11:14

Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman

-Luke 13:10-13

Jesus Heals a Man with Dropsy

-Luke 14:1-6

Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

-Luke 17:11-19

Jesus Restored Bartimaeus' Sight

-Matthew 20:29-34, Mark 10:46-52, and Luke 18:35-43

Jesus Heals a Severed Ear

-Luke 22:50-51

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.

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); Fay Lombardo (friend of Sandy Cole); Cara (Jean Long's daughter); Tasha (friend of Jackie Sellers); Diane Shinkle (cousin of Tom Johns).

***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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