



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026



Order of Worship

Fifteenth 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

The Harvest

by Lorie Line

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Come, you who are weary and heavy burdened from the labor of the week. Come, you who seek a community of grace, justice, and radical hospitality.

All: We come to rest, to renew, and to be fed at Christ's table.

One: Today, we celebrate the sacred worth of all labor and all workers. We honor the hands that harvest our food, the minds that solve complex problems, the hearts that care for the vulnerable, and the holy pause of intentional rest.

All: In this sacred space in Southwest Florida—surrounded by

the beauty of the waters and the diversity of our neighbors—we affirm that everyone belongs.

One: At this table, there are no outsiders. Christ invites us to share in a meal of radical love, breaking bread that unites us across every divide and drinking from a cup that pours out liberation.

All: May the bread strengthen us to do justice. May the cup inspire us to love kindness. Let us worship God together.

~Slightly adapted from a prayer written for Southwest Florida, Labor Day Weekend celebrating Communion.

Opening Hymn #241

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Passing of the Peace

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

Gift of Music

Angela Blasi, Soprano

Refuge and Strength

Psalm 46:1-7
arr. by Mark Hayes

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: Holy Creator, Rest-Giver, and Sustainer, On this Labor Day weekend, we gather around Your table of radical hospitality in Southwest Florida, mindful of the hands that work, the bodies that tire, and the spirits that long for justice.

All: God, in Your Mercy hear our prayers.

One: We thank You for the gift of labor—for the farmworkers in our fields, the service and hospitality staff in our tourism industry, the educators, the healthcare providers, the builders, and the caretakers. Yet, we confess that our economic systems too often value profit over people, leaving many exploited, underpaid, and exhausted.

All: God, in Your Mercy hear our prayers.

One: As we celebrate Communion, we remember that this bread and cup

represent the ultimate act of solidarity. Jesus, the carpenter turned teacher, broke bread to break down walls. By sharing this meal, we commit ourselves to the path of true discipleship:

We pledge to seek justice by standing with the worker, advocating for fair wages, and honoring the dignity of every person's labor.

All: God, in Your Mercy hear our prayers.

One: We pledge to practice Sabbath by resisting the culture of endless production, honoring rest for ourselves, and demanding it for others.

All: God, in Your Mercy hear our prayers.

One: We pledge to expand the table ensuring that no one in our community is left hungry, excluded, or forgotten.

All: God, in Your Mercy hear our prayers.

One: May the bread we eat today strengthen our hands for service, and may the cup we share today fuel our passion for compassion.

All: God, in Your Mercy hear our prayers. And God send us out from this sacred space in Southwest Florida to be Your hands and feet in a world weary for change. Amen.

~Slightly adapted from a prayer written for Southwest Florida, Labor Day Weekend celebrating Communion.

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

For the Beauty of the Earth

Words by: Lyra Eucharistica

Music by: Conrad Kocher

Arr. by: William Henry Monk

**For the beau-ty of the earth,
for the glo-ry of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
ov-er and a-round us lies;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
this our hymn of grate-ful praise.**

Today's Scripture

Exodus 12:1-14

First Passover

12 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²“This month will be the first month; it will be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole Israelite community: On the tenth day of this month, they must take a lamb for each household, a lamb per house. ⁴If a household is too small for a lamb, it should share one with a neighbor nearby. You should divide the lamb in proportion to the number of people who will be eating it. ⁵Your lamb should be a flawless year-old male. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You should keep close watch over it until the fourteenth day of this month. At twilight on that day, the whole assembled Israelite community should slaughter their lambs. ⁷They should take some of the blood and smear it on the two doorposts and on the beam over the door of the houses in which they are eating. ⁸That same night they should eat the meat roasted over the fire. They should eat it along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Don't eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over fire with its head, legs, and internal organs. ¹⁰Don't let any of it remain until morning and burn any of it left over in the morning. ¹¹This is how you should eat it. You should be dressed, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. You should eat the meal in a hurry. It is the Passover of the LORD. ¹²I'll pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I'll strike down every oldest child in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I'll impose judgments on all the Gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. ¹³The blood will be

your sign on the houses where you live. Whenever I see the blood, I'll pass over you. No plague will destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ "This day will be a day of remembering for you. You will observe it as a festival to the LORD. You will observe it in every generation as a regulation for all time.

~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

Angela Blasi (1st verse)

Congregation verses 2, 3, & 4

Remember Me

O Waly Waly

Tune: Traditional Melody ("Though I May Speak")

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

*Remember me – the God who saves –
For back in Egypt, you were slaves;
Then by my hand I set you free.
Now keep my law. Remember me.*

**Remember me in bread and wine
Whene'er you share this meal of mine.
I gave my life to set you free.
With thanks and praise, remember me.**

**Remember me in all you do,
For I'm alive! I walk with you.
I was, I am, and I shall be.
O church I love, remember me.
Our God, we hear! We're called and freed!
Your Spirit gives us memory.**

**Now send us out that we may share
Your love's great story everywhere.**

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

Angela Blasi, Soprano

My Soul's Been Anchored in de Lord

by Florence B. Price

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

Angela Blasi, Soprano

In This Very Room

by Ron and Carol Harris

**** 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.

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?

**For next week's God's
word:
Psalm 103:1-13**

**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.

Women's Fellowship

All women are invited to the Women's Fellowship End of Summer Meeting, on Wednesday, September 16th at noon. The Women's Fellowship Officer's will be treating you to lunch; 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!

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.
Also, we will be putting out cones closer to the church for
people to park that need assistance (wheelchair,
walker, on oxygen). If you would be so kind as to either
park in the parking lot of further away so that we can
accommodate these parishioners. Thank you.

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

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.

Office will be closed on Monday, Sept 7th for Labor Day.

Benediction (responsively)

Our worship has ended, but now our life of service begins!
Go from this space, for you and I are the body of Christ, and all of creation
awaits us. So, live passionately, love faithfully, and celebrate every
moment of your life from now until the finale. Our God of relentless,
amazing, creative, and hopeful grace goes with us! Amen. **Amen.**

~ Adapted from The Rev. Michael S. Piazza

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

Laudation

by Gilbert M. Martin

Time with our Children

Ask the children to tell you what they do on Labor Day. Open a basket and show them items that are part of your Labor Day tradition, whether they be cookout tools or sports equipment or picnic supplies. Explain that Labor Day marks the end of summer and the beginning of a year of school and work, and many families do special things to observe this day. Ask them what they would think of this family tradition: “Take a lamb for each family,” slaughter it at twilight, and then “eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs” (Exodus 12:3-8). Let them know that this is the Passover tradition for the Israelites, which helped them to remember how God brought them out of captivity in Egypt — this special day marked the beginning of a new year for them. Ask the children if there are any traditions that we follow in church to remind us of what God has done for us. Suggest that Holy Communion reminds us of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross, and baptism shows us that God loves us and accepts us into His family. Invite them to name other traditions, which might range from singing songs to reading Scripture to giving an offering. Point out that every Sunday is a special day because it is the day that Jesus was raised from the dead, and it is good for us to practice our traditions whenever we come together for worship.

~Slightly adapted from homiletics online

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.

Blood pressure clinic on September 6th.

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 6th Seeds That Grow, Matthew 13:1-23

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

Lori McMullen RN-FCN



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:

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).

***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.*



CCLI Copyright License for Music and Video # 11164399; Live-Streaming License #20628968