



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

AUGUST 23, 2026



Order of Worship

Thirteenth 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

Elegy

by Yuri Shchurovsky

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: God of mercy, we bring our everyday, ordinary lives to You. Take our sleeping, our working, our eating, and our driving — take all aspects of our lives.

All: **Do not let this world press us into its mold. Do not let fear, greed, or division shape our minds.**

One: Instead, keep us open and unshaped by the culture around us.

All: **God, do Your best work in us from the inside out. Give us clear eyes to see what You want us to see.**

One: Give us open hearts to love who You love. Help us know Your best for us, which is beautiful, satisfying, and mature.

All: God, meet us in this space today. Amen.

~Slightly adapted from Romans 12:1-2 of Eugene Peterson's version of the Bible known as The Message

Opening Hymn #37

Blessed Be the Name

Verses 1, 2, & 4

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

Gift of Music

Angela Blasi, Soprano

Grace

by John Newton
arr. by Mark Hayes

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: Living God, Speaker of Grace, We hear Your invitation today to take our every day, ordinary lives—our sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around lives—and place them before You as an offering. For too long, we have treated worship as a Sunday routine rather than a daily rhythm. Forgive us for the times we have compartmentalized our faith, keeping You in our sanctuaries but locking You out of our politics, our workplaces, and our neighborhoods.

All: God, in Your mercy hear our prayers.

One: We confess that the culture around us is loud and demanding. It presses us into its own mold, tempting us to seek security in wealth, comfort in isolation, and power through exclusion. We easily fit into the world without even thinking about it. Forgive our passive compliance with systems that exploit, divide, and diminish human dignity.

All: God, in Your mercy hear our prayers.

One: God, we boldly and faithfully ask for Your transformative power. Change us from the inside out. Fix our attention on You so that we may be modeled by Your love rather than the anxieties of our age. God of Evolution and Growth, do not let our minds stagnate. Readjust our vision so that we can see what You want from us, recognizing the sacred possibilities in every person and every situation.

All: God, in Your mercy hear our prayers.

One: We do not ask for a static faith, but for a dynamic discipleship. Empower us to respond to Your promptings, to culture goodness wherever there is harm, and to pursue justice where there is oppression. Unlike the culture around us, which always drags us down to its level of immaturity, You bring out the best in us. You develop well-formed maturity within our community.

All: God, in Your mercy hear our prayers.

One: We dedicate our bodies, our minds, and our collective energy to Your unfolding work in the world. May our lives become the living sanctuary where Your love is made visible.

All: God, in Your mercy hear our prayers. Amen.

~Slightly adapted from a prayer written from Romans 12:1-2, Eugene Peterson's The Message

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

Romans 12:1-2

Place Your Life Before God

¹⁻² So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

~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 #485

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

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

I'll Walk With God

by Nicolas Brodsky and Paul Francis Webster

**** 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 1 main step the book walks you through:

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 Jean Long. We would like to thank her for this beautiful gift.

**For next week's God's word:
Matthew 16:21-28**

**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)

One: As you leave this space, take your everyday, ordinary life. Your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life. Place it before God as an offering. Do not copy the behavior and customs of this world. Instead, let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Go out to love boldly, live authentically, and pursue justice. Amen.

All: Amen.

~prayer of benediction for worship based on Eugene Peterson's The Message version of romans 12:1-2

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

Prelude in C Major

by J. S. Bach

Time with our Children

Place a globe before the children and then begin to mold a figure out of a piece of clay as you are talking. Ask them what kind of features a clay person should have, and add a head, arms, legs, etc. Then share with them a line from today's Scripture reading: "Do not be conformed to this world" (Romans 12:2). Ask them if they know what that means. Press your clay person against the side of the globe, until the figure is flat. Then peel the person away from the globe and show them how the person has been conformed to the shape of the world. Ask them if this is a good way to be. No! Then reshape the clay person and tell the children that God wants us to "be transformed" - to be changed by God into people who know "what is good and acceptable and perfect." Let them know that they can be transformed by worship and Sunday School and having fun with other Christians. Turn the clay figure into a person who is well-rounded and healthy-looking, and encourage the children to be transformed by God, not conformed to the world.

— slightly adapted from homiletics online

[illegible]

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

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 23rd - Matthew 6:14-15, Forgiveness

Lori McMullen RN-FCN



Join the Intermezzo Choir for their Fall Season "Over the Moon" singing songs that are out of this world! The Intermezzo Choir supports singers living with Alzheimer's and dementia.

Thursdays, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

September 3rd - November 19th

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Register online at [<https://mastersingersfm.com/programs/intermezzo-choir>]

(<https://mastersingersfm.com/programs/intermezzo-choir...>)



Volunteer Opportunity

Friday September 25th 2026

2:00pm-6:30pm

Join fellow TAECC members for an opportunity to share our time and love with the Immokalee migrant farmer community

DETAILS

Location: Mision Peniel

Address: 208 Boston Avenue, Immokalee, FL 34142

*Support Packing, Organizing and Sharing food with 350-400 households

*Meet and Interact with the migrant farmer community and their families

*Must be able to work standing for most of the 4 hour shift

NAME	EMAIL	PHONE #
1 _____		
2 _____		
3 _____		
4 _____		
5 _____		
6 _____		
7 _____		
8 _____		
9 _____		
10 _____		

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

Donations for Edison Park – School Supplies 2026

Box of 24 Crayola Crayons	4
Pencil Sharpeners	3
Scissors	14
Wedge Erasers	9
Box of 24 Crazy Art Crayons	4
Box of 8 Crazy Art Crayons	2
Pencil Bags	7
Composition Books	6
Folders	5
Binder	1
Spiral Notebooks	5
Bottles of Glue	4
Index Cards	600
Glue Sticks	224
Pencils	1,130
Color Pencils	408
Markers	60
Pens	259
Highlighters	69
Dry Erasers	14
Sharpie Pens	42
Back Packs	6
Post It Notes	124
Cube Tissues	51
Regular size Tissue Boxes	6
Egg Cartons	34

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).

***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.*

