



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

January 11, 2026



Order of Worship

Baptismal Remembrance Sunday

**** 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

Prelude

Aria from Pastorale BWV 590

By J. S. Bach

Opening of Worship (responsively)

One: Wade into the waters of love;

All: Step into the rivers of blessing.

One: Here, find the renewing streams of mercy.

All: Here, splash in the wonder of God's goodness.

One: Feel the waters of life;

All: Know the joy of baptism;

One: See the springs of eternal life;

All: Sing of the triumph of God's blessing.

Opening Hymn #559

Shall We Gather at the River

Verses 1, 2 and 4

Passing of the Peace

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

Gift of Music

Dr. Jason Bahr, Baritone

Deep River

Arr. by: H. T. Burleigh

Prayers of the People and Concerns of the Heart

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.

Prayer of Response

Spirit of the Living God

Words/Music by: Daniel Iverson

**Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.**

Today's Scripture

Matthew 3:13-17

Baptism of Jesus

¹³ At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize Him. ¹⁴ John tried to stop Him and said, "I need to be baptized by you, yet You come to me?" ¹⁵ Jesus answered, "Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness." So, John agreed to baptize Jesus. ¹⁶ When Jesus was baptized, He immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and

resting on Him. ¹⁷ A voice from heaven said, “This is My Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in Him.”

~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

Baptismal Remembrance(responsively)

A Prayer of Blessing Over the Water

One: Listen! (*Pour a little water into the font*) The sounds and sight of the water of life.

All: Like the splash of a baby’s bath, the crash of waves on an ocean shore, the gentle patter of falling rain, the tear in a friend’s eye, the delicate dew glistening in the morning sun.

One: Listen! (*Pour a little water into the font*) The water of history, echoes of our story.

All: From the dry void and barren wasteland, God brought the teeming waters of creation. After the flood, God placed a rainbow in the sky as a sign of your promise. When God saw the people as captives, God parted the waters and led the oppressed to new freedom and great responsibility.

One: Listen! (*Pour a little water into the font*) The water of renewal, echoes of the Redeemer.

All: Jesus was born in the water of a womb, baptized by John and anointed to preach the Good News of freedom and forgiveness. He changed water into wine, calmed storms, offered living water to societies forgotten and invited us

to share in His baptism and to make disciples locally and globally.

One: Listen! (*Pour a little water into the font*) The water is always full of hope. God, pour out Your Holy Spirit on us. May this gift of water become on us living water – Living water that take us deep into the river of Life; that nourish our joy; and that cools and eases our burdens. Let Your baptismal touch God bring us into Your holy circle of unconditional love and tender embrace.

All: Amen. Amen.

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Act

If you choose, come forward to recall the promises of your baptism – made either by you or on your behalf by your parents/guardians.

If you have never been baptized, consider whether this is the day you would like to start the journey towards your path of following in Jesus' footsteps.

As the water touches your forehead, water hears these words today:

“You are a Child of God, who God loves dearly!”

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

Dr. Jason Bahr, Baritone

At The River

Arr. by Aaron Copland

****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.**

Life of Our Church

Quilting on Wednesday at noon.

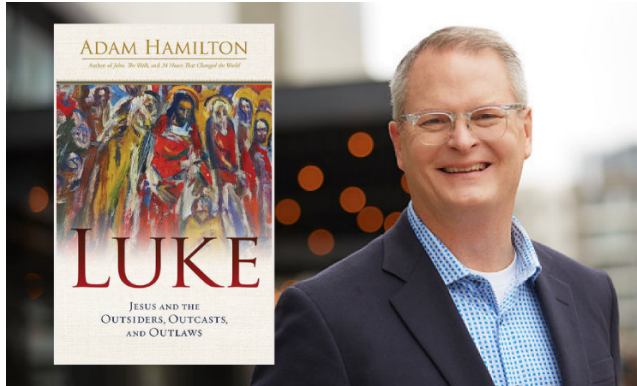
Faith Development

**JOIN US WEDNESDAY @ CHURCH @ 11 AM & 6:30 PM;
AS WELL AS ONLINE THURSDAY @ 11 AM**

**Luke — Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws written
by Adam Hamilton.**

From Birth to Resurrection in the Gospel of Luke Jesus came to lift up the lowly. Throughout his ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, we find stories of his relationships with ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. He met, dined, and traveled with people who were not perfect. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, from those he healed to the outlaws with him at his crucifixion, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it. In Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.

Session Two: Read Luke 2



Today's flowers are gifted to the church by Rick Hawk. We would like to thank him for this beautiful gift.

Edison Church Luncheon for 8 will meet on January 18th at Pinchers Restaurant, on the first floor near the elevators right after church service. If you have any questions, please see Jack Walmsley or call him at 720-292-7043.

Women's Fellowship

January 21st, will be a workday to prepare for the Jewelry Sale on the 24th and 25th of this month. We will meet at 12:00 PM at the church. Please bring your own lunch and coffee will be provided.

Sunday January 25th

Right after service, Lori McMullen, RN, will be offering Blood Pressure checks. Blood Pressure Screening is an important part of health maintenance. All are encouraged to do this.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Concert Series
January 23, 2026, 7:30 p.m.
Brass Elements Big Band
February 6, 2026, 7:30 p.m.
Gulf Coast Harmonizers
February 28, 2026, 7:30 p.m.
Juan Pablo & Friends
March 20, 2026, A Joyful Celebration**

**For next week's God's word:
Significant Sign
John 1:29-42**

The new quilt displayed in the Fellowship Hall is by Carol Krohse and it won first place in the local quilt guild show. Please take a moment to thank Carol.

We are looking for Volunteers for Ushers/Greeters. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board, or you can go to the website "Signup Genius" if interested.

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board to donate flowers to enhance our Sunday Service.

**OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
IS PLANNED FOR
FEBRUARY 2nd AFTER WORSHIP.**

Saturdays till INASMUCH, Fort Myers, 2025
Save the Date — March 7th

We will be collecting quarters to feed the machine
Stay tuned to sign up for volunteering opportunities.

Benediction/Blessing for Our Journey of Faith (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, and 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

Postlude

Down to the River to Pray

Arr. by Mark Hayes

Time with our Children

Jesus Surprises John

By Dr. Carol J Miller

Matthew 3:13-17

John was standing waist deep in the Jordan River in Israel. For days John had been standing near the river, preaching to the grown-ups, telling them that they were not doing the right things. They were not helping the poor; not giving them clothes or food or shelter. John warned them that God's own Son was coming. He would be angry at them. That made the adults nervous—they had gotten selfish; they had forgotten the poor. What should they do?

John told them to come and be baptized as a way of showing God that they meant to change their ways. Then God would forgive their sins.

But then, said John, they had to prove that they truly meant it by living their lives differently—by not being selfish and by paying attention to helping others.

What do you think those grownups could do to show God that they had stopped being selfish? [accept all answers].

Well, the people began to do what John told them. First, they came to be baptized by John in the Jordan River. Lots and lots of selfish people, coming to show God that they would do better. That's why John was standing knee-deep in the river. Then, John suddenly looked up and his mouth dropped open. Jesus came splashing into the river toward his cousin John!

"Baptize Me, too," said Jesus. Without even thinking, John said, "I should be baptized by You." John knew that Jesus was not a selfish grown-up. He was the best person John ever knew. John knew something else, too. He knew in his heart that Jesus was God's Son that people had been waiting for. He didn't need to be baptized.

But Jesus said, "Allow it for now." Maybe Jesus wanted the people to know that instead of being mad at them He wanted to be with them and help them to do what God wanted them to do. This wasn't what John had expected. But he would see that it was the best way for God to be with God's people. Jesus would show them understanding and love, just as He shows it to us.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible
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JANUARY FAITH AND WELLNESS NEWLETTER

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”
2 Corinthians 5:17*

January is Cervical Cancer awareness month

The National Cancer Institute projected that approximately 13,360 individuals were diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2025, of those, 4,320 died of the disease.

Cervical Cancer is preventable. Nearly all cases are caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV). Males and females ages 9 to 45 should get vaccinated for HPV.

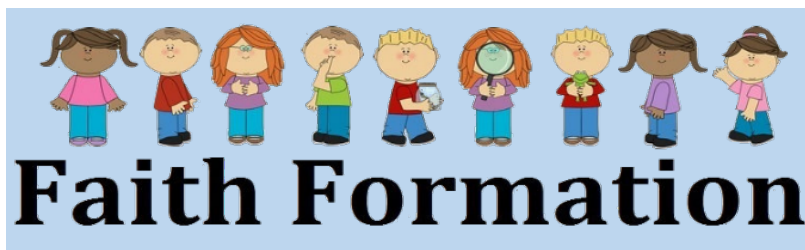
Early detection is key for more effective treatment. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that women should start getting Pap tests every three years, beginning at age 21. From 30 to 65 years of age, they recommend either the Pap test alone every three years and a high-risk HPV test alone every five years. Women can also opt for “contesting”: both tests every five years. In the past it was not recommended for most women over 65, new studies show that cervical cancer in women older than 65 is unfortunately in a later stage of the disease.

The good news is the FDA has approved the first at-home device for Pap smears! These tests are scheduled to be available nationwide through Teal Health by early 2026.

January Upcoming Events:

January 25th Faith Formation for Kids at Cathy's Place from 10:00 – 11:00
January 25th 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. Our classes will be held every other Sunday from 10:00 – 11:00, starting November 2nd, 2025. Your children will learn about Jesus through age-appropriate faith activities, songs, prayers, Bible stories, games and arts and crafts.

January Class Curriculum:

January 25th Isaiah 9:1-4

**Wishing everyone a happy and safe New Year.
Lori McMullen RN-FCN**



INASMUCH Planning
Every Tuesday starting on January 13th
at 7:00 by zoom. If interested in joining,
please contact Jane Rediske.



Dance performance — NEW BEGINNINGS!

We are presenting our mid-season performance at the Broadway Palm Theatre on Monday, January 12th with a 6:00 pm twilight show.

Our littlest dancers, age 3, are sure to capture your smile as they dance to the playful *Fruit Song!* in “Blueberry Ballet.” Our teen and young adult dancers will engage and inspire you through a variety of styles, including jazz, tap, and contemporary. One featured piece, choreographed by Dina Tigelerio, offers a thoughtful look at humanity, danced to Eleanor Rigby.

Edison Church and Our Ministry Partnerships.

Ministry Partnerships 2024

Edison Park Elementary School (total value \$2,750.00)

Operation INASMUCH Fort Myers (\$3,800.00)

South Fort Myers Food Pantry

Mision Peniel

Nations Association Charities

ACT – Abuse, Counseling & Treatment

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

One Great Hour of Sharing

Builders without Borders

Campolo Center for Ministry

Local outreach with Food, Power Bill's and Prescriptions
Center for Sight, a US Eye Company, Ahuachapan, El Salvador
Eye and Medical Care
Guardian ad Litem – 316 books collected
1,020 Egg Cartons for Mision Peniel
230 Toys for the farm workers kids for Christmas

Cards can be sent to the following:

General Dozier
Barrington Terrace, of Ft. Myers
9731 Commerce Center Ct., Room #326
Fort Myers, Fl. 33908

Ms. Marth Jean Long
7133 Almendro Terr #2
Fort Myers, Fl. 33907

Mr. Bill Person
Calusa Harbour Assisted Living
2525 First St, Room 233
Fort Myers, FL 33901

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Jean Lindenlaub; Liz Lloyd; General Dozier;
Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch; Bill Persons;
Sharon Nelson; Martha Jean Long.

Whitney Blair Roth (the passing of her husband Rob Roth).

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).

***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-Thursday 9 AM – 12PM
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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