



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



Order of Worship

Seventeenth 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

The Prayer

By: Carol Bayer Sager & David Foster

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: O God, we give thanks to You and call on Your name in this hour of worship.

All: **Tell us again of Your wonderful works, Your miracles, and deeds.**

One: Tell us again,

All: **That we might tell the whole world. Amen.**

~Slightly adapted from a prayer found @ homiletics online

Opening Hymn #28

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Verses, 1, 2, 3, & 6

Passing of the Peace

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

Gift of Music

Molly Phillips, Flugelhorn
Softly and Tenderly
by Will Thompson

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: We believe in God: Maker of Rainbows, Spinner of Chaos,
Weaver of Stories

**All: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth:
Rabbi of the Poor, Carpenter of a New Creation.**

One: We believe in the Holy Spirit:
Nudging Discomforter, Midwife of Changes.

**All: We believe in the Church, as that group of people who
have chosen to believe these outrageous, offensive and
wonderful truths. Thanks be to this One God with many
names. Amen.**

~Slightly adapted from Collected images of the poet Brian Wren

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 joy of hu-man love,
broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent child,
friends on earth and friends a-bove,
for all gen-tle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
this our hymn of grate-ful praise.**

Today's Scripture

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ Because for me, living serves Christ and dying is even better. ²² If I continue to live in this world, I get results from my work. ²³ But I don't know what I prefer. I'm torn between the two because I want to leave this life and be with Christ, which is far better. ²⁴ However, it's more important for me to stay in this world for your sake. ²⁵ I'm sure of this: I will stay alive and remain with all of you to help your progress and the joy of your faith, ²⁶ and to increase your pride in Christ Jesus through my presence when I visit you again.

Live worthy of the gospel

²⁷ Most important, live together in a manner worthy of Christ's gospel. Do this, whether I come and see you or I'm absent and hear about you. Do this so that you stand firm, united in one spirit and mind as you struggle together to remain faithful to the gospel. ²⁸ That way, you won't be afraid of anything your enemies do. Your faithfulness and courage are a sign of their coming destruction and your salvation, which is from God. ²⁹ God has generously granted you the privilege, not only of believing in Christ but also of suffering for Christ's sake. ³⁰ You are having the same struggle that you saw me face and now hear that I'm still facing.

~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 #461

Just a Closer 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

Molly Phillips, Alto, Guitar

Gratitude

by Brendan Lake

**** 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.

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 Cheryl Ellis. We would like to thank her for this beautiful gift.



Sandy Frank from League of Women Voters will be speaking on Sunday, October 4th right after the service. Signup sheet is on the bulletin board. We will need to know by Sept. 30th, so we can order the food.

For next week's God's
word:
Philippians 2:1-13

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.

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship is collecting gently used jewelry and accessories (loose or broken pieces are okay) for their Jewelry Sale in January.

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)

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."

Postlude

Pass It On

By: Kurt Kaiser
Arr. by: Mark Hayes

Time with our Children

Worthy of the Gospel

By Lois Parker Edstrom

Philippians 1:21-30

Today let's talk about choices. Which would you choose? This banana or this old brown banana peel? That's an easy choice.

Would you rather have this red balloon or the blue one? Now your choice depends on which color you like best.

Imagine that you have some homework to do, but your very special friend wants you to come outside and play. Wow, that becomes a more difficult choice. You must decide between what you should do and what you want to do.

We make many choices each day. Some of the choices we make are good, others not so good. When we make bad choices, we must deal with the consequences.

We all know right from wrong. Why then do we make poor choices? Perhaps something seems like too much fun, and we want to do it even though we know it is the wrong thing to do.

Perhaps we don't take time to think, we act in a rush and later realize we made a bad choice and feel sorry for our mistake.

Sometimes we make bad choices because we have been hurt and feel angry. There are many reasons why we make poor choices.

The Apostle Paul, in writing to his Christian friends makes this suggestion: "...live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ..."

This means that we should try to live our lives in a way that pleases God. If we do that, we will always make the right choice.

Make your life the best that it can be. Live your life in a way that honors God.

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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.

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

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;
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 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); Patty and family (Jean Longs friends).

***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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