



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

OCTOBER 11, 2026



Order of Worship

Twentieth 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

Allemande from Pastorale in F major, BWV590

by J. S. Bach

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: We are led

All: Beside still waters.

One: We are fed

All: At a huge banquet table.

One: We are accompanied

All: Through valleys of shadow and death.

One: We are guided

All: To do justice and righteousness.

One: We are anointed

All: Blessed and filled.

One: We sing

All: Of God's goodness and mercy.

~Slightly adapted from a prayer Based on Psalm 23 found @ homiletics online

Opening Hymn #1

Holy, Holy, Holy!
Verses 1, 2, & 3

Passing of the Peace

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

Gift of Music

Holly Sorensen, Mezzo Soprano
Safe Within Your Arms
by Mark Hayes

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: Divine Source, our Shepherd and Companion,

All: We are guided and sustained by You.

One: In the landscape of our lives,

**All: You invite us to rest in the lush, green spaces of
connection and quiet reflection.**

One: You lead us beside the still waters of mindfulness,

All: Refreshing our souls when the world feels overwhelming.

One: Even as our paths evolve,

All: You reorient our spirits toward biblical justice, love, and authentic truth.

One: When our spiritual journeys lead us through dark, uncertain valleys of doubt, deconstruction, and fear,

All: We will not be afraid.

One: Your presence is our constant comfort.

All: Your love protects us, and Your grace nudges us forward.

One: You prepare a table of belonging for us,

All: Even in the presence of our deepest anxieties, biases, and divisions.

One: You anoint our lives with purpose,

All: And our hearts overflow with gratitude for the sacred interconnectedness of all things.

One: May Your radical goodness and relentless compassion pursue us every single days of our lives.

All: Today, and every day, may we choose to dwell in the expansive, loving heart of the Divine forever. Amen.

~ A prayer compiled from many resources

Prayers of the People

One: The Universe is our shepherd; we shall not live in scarcity.

It grounds us in the vibrant green of the earth and leads us beside the quiet waters of reflection. It restores our weary souls and guides us along paths of justice, not for our own glory, but for the collective good of all creation.

All: We pray for peace and justice in all of God's green pastures.

One: Even though we walk through the darkest valleys of war, injustice, and systemic oppression, we will refuse to give in to fear. For the spirit of love and connection is with us. Our shared humanity and our commitment to truth—these comfort us.

All: We pray for peace and justice in every war zone and every place on earth that injustice prevails.

One: You prepare a table of peace before us, even in the presence of our deepest divisions. You anoint our heads with the oil of compassion; our cup of hope overflows. Surely goodness, mercy, and radical inclusion will follow us all the days of our lives. And we will dwell together in a world transformed by peace, a home wide enough for all, forever.

All: We pray for peace and justice in life and in death and in eternity for all who journey this world as spiritual faith travelers. Amen.

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

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Sly Miller and Bill Jackson

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it be-gin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.**

With God our cre-a-tor, chil-dren all are we.

Let us walk with each oth-er in per-fect har-mo-ny.

Let peace be-gin with me; let this be the mo-ment now.

**With ev-ery step I take, let this be my sol-emn vow:
to take each mo-ment and live each moment in peace e-ter-nal-ly.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it be-gin with me.**

Today's Scripture

Psalm 23

A psalm of David.

23 The LORD is my shepherd.

I lack nothing.

2 He lets me rest in grassy meadows;

He leads me to restful waters;

3 He keeps me alive.

He guides me in proper paths

for the sake of His good name.

4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no danger because You are with me.

Your rod and Your staff—

they protect me.

5 You set a table for me

right in front of my enemies.

You bathe my head in oil;

my cup is so full it spills over!

6 Yes, goodness and faithful love

will pursue me all the days of my life,

and I will live in the LORD's house

as long as I live.

~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 #243

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Verses 1, 2, 3, & 5

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

Holly Sorensen, Mezzo Soprano

O Light of Life!

By Mack Wilberg and David Warner

**** 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 journey of the Hebrew people after receiving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai is a foundational period in biblical history, marked by trials, transitions, and the eventual entry into the Promised Land.

Here are seven significant events that shaped their journey:

The Construction of the Tabernacle: 1. The Instructions & Blueprints (Exodus 25–31) 2. The Actual Construction (Exodus 35–40) – Week 2

The Twelve Spies and the Rebellion at Kadesh Barnea: Numbers 13–14 – Week 3

**Korah's Rebellion: Numbers 16; Numbers 17; Numbers 26:9-11;
Psalm 42, 44–49; Jude 1:11 – Week 4**

**Moses Striking the Rock at Meribah: Exodus 17;
Numbers 20 – Week 5**

**The Appointment of Joshua: Exodus 17:8–16; Exodus 24:12–14;
Exodus 33:11; Numbers 27:12–23; Deuteronomy 31:1–8;
Deuteronomy 34:9; Joshua 1:1–9 – Week 6**

**Crossing the Jordan and Entering Canaan:
Joshua 1 through 5 – Week 7**

**For next week's God's
word:
Psalm 99**

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

**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.**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CHURCH

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**Women's Fellowship will meet Wednesday, October 21st,
at 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Rick Hawk will demonstrate
Ikebana, the Japanese art of arranging flowers. Bring your**

own lunch. All women are welcome.

Friday October 23rd

Alena's Student's present a Halloween Concert

here at the church at 6:00 PM

HALLOWEEN TREATS - October 31st

Church Council is sponsoring our 4th annual Halloween celebration for children Trick or Treating in the Edison Park neighborhood. Help us by signing up on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board to help distribute and/or donate treats. Please drop off wrapped store-bought treats at the church office any time between now and Wednesday, October 28th during hours of 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. We plan to gather at the church at 6:15 PM on Saturday, October 31st to set up Trick or Treat Stations across the portico and front sidewalk from approximately 6:30 – 8:00.

All Saints Day – November 1st

You will have a chance to light a candle in memory of someone close to you who has passed.

Communion will be on the second Sunday in November.

Guardian ad Litem works with ANA's Friends and will be coordinating the Wishing Tree Project at Christmas again this year. TAECC will be collecting children's Christmas books, New Cozy Blankets, Holiday Mugs, Tumblers and Kid-friendly Cups, Hot Chocolate (prepackaged) and New Cozy Socks for the 4th year for this project. The Wishing Tree Project will serve 765 children who are under court supervision appointed to the Guardian ad Litem office here in Lee County. The collected children's books will be distributed at Christmas to the foster parents and relatives to give to the children. If you would like to

participate in the book drive this year, books can be brought to the church anytime and the drive will end on November 23.

Looking for Volunteers for Power Washing Portico

If anyone is interested, we are looking for people for one of the following days: Monday 11/9, Friday 11/13 or Saturday 11/14. Please contact Pastor or Glen if interested. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Also looking for volunteers for cleaning windows in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for one of the following mornings: Monday 11/16, Tuesday 11/17, Thursday 11/19 and Friday 11/20. We will not be cleaning the stained-glass windows in the Sanctuary. Please contact Pastor or Glen if interested. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Tuesday, November 16th – Edison Park Expressive Arts School – Presentation of: *Sights and sounds of the season*, on the Church lawn between 10:00 and noon. Bring a Chair, and your Neighbors.

Monday November 23rd

Decorate church for Advent – starting at 10:00 AM – lunch provided – sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. We need to know by November 18th who is planning to help.

Sunday November 29th
First Sunday of Advent

Friday December 4th

**Alena Michel presents
“Keys to Christmas Magic”
Student’s Piano Recital starting
at 6:00 PM here at the church.**

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 will stop doing flowers from November 22nd thru January 3rd. We will start again on January 10, 2027.

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.

**Blessing and Benediction based on the
Twenty-Third Psalm (responsively)**

One: May you journey forward with the absolute assurance that you are deeply held and never alone.

The Divine is your constant companion, your grounding presence, and your steady guide. In a world that often demands tireless production, may you hear the radical call to rest, allowing yourself to be led beside quiet waters where your soul can genuinely recover.

When you navigate the darkest, most terrifying valleys of life—the grief, the fear, and the unknown—may you feel a peace that defies logic. You need not fear the shadows, for Love is walking right beside you. The comfort of the Divine protects you and gives you courage when your own

strength fails.

Even in the presence of systemic injustice, conflict, or division, may a table of abundance and radical hospitality be laid out before you. May your head be anointed with the oil of purpose and joy, and may your cup spill over with love to share with a hurting world.

As you step out into the days ahead, may you be pursued fiercely by goodness and fierce compassion. May you always recognize that you are a sacred home, forever dwelling in the presence of Love.

Go in peace, go in power, and go in love. Amen.

All: Amen.

~ A prayer compiled from many resources

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

**Alena Michel
Layla Morell, Piano Duet**

Hungarian Dance #5

by Johannes Brahms

Time with our Children

The Lord is My Shepherd

Psalm 23

By Lois Parker Edstrom

Most of us know about shepherds from seeing Christmas pictures and hearing about how shepherds in the fields learned of Jesus’ birth. These men, who care for flocks of sheep, still work in many parts of the world. (Show pictures.)

One of the most well-known parts of the Bible is Psalms 23. This is David’s song to God. David was a shepherd when he was young and he starts his song by saying, the Lord “is my shepherd...” (23:1).

Let's talk about how a shepherd cares for his sheep. He leads them to a place where they will find grass to eat and clean water to drink.

A shepherd uses a staff to guide the sheep. If one of the sheep gets caught in the brambles or falls into a place where it can't get out, the shepherd uses the curved part of his staff to lift and rescue the sheep.

Sometimes sheep are bothered by flies and other insects that gather around their faces and make them uncomfortable. The shepherd rubs oil over their heads. That causes the insects to go away. Then the sheep feel peaceful so they can lie down and rest.

David compares how a shepherd cares for his sheep to the love that God has for each one of us. Listen to parts of this song that David sings to God and see if you can imagine how much God cares for us and loves us.

"The Lord is my shepherd: I shall lack nothing" (23:1). "He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters" (23:2). The Lord's "rod and... staff, they comfort me" (23:4). The Lord "anoints my head with oil" (23:5).

When we think about how a shepherd cares for his sheep, we may have a better understanding of how much God cares for us. God provides what we need to feel peaceful and loved.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible, Copyright 2014, Richard Niell Donovan



October Newsletter

So, faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
Romans 10:17

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a time to care for our bodies, encourage one another, and replace fear with faithful action. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2026 about **321,910 women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer** and about **42,140 will die from the disease**. There is hope: the breast cancer death rate has fallen **44% since 1989**, largely because of earlier detection and better treatment.

Awareness is more than wearing pink. It means knowing what is normal for you, keeping recommended appointments, and helping every woman in our community receive timely, high-quality care.

4 Ways to turn awareness into action

1. **Know your normal.** Pay attention to a new lump, swelling, skin dimpling, nipple changes, or any change that concerns you. A change does not always mean cancer, but it deserves a prompt conversation with a health care professional.
2. **Keep screening on your calendar.** The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends a mammogram every two years for women ages 40 to 74. Personal risk can change the schedule, so ask your clinician what is right for you.
3. **Stand for equal care.** Black women are about 40% more likely to die of breast cancer than White women. We can help close this gap by sharing trusted information, encouraging timely follow-up, offering transportation or childcare, and listening when someone says her concerns are not being heard.
4. **Do not let cost stop the first step.** Most private health plans cover recommended screening mammograms without a copay when plan rules are met. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program also offers free or low-cost screening to eligible women.

Men get breast cancer too.

In 2026, an estimated 2,670 men will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and about 530 will die from it. A man's lifetime risk is about 1 in 755, and male breast cancer accounts for less than 1% of all cases. Black men have the highest male breast cancer incidence and mortality rate. Men are often diagnosed later because the disease is not looked for in men, which can worsen outcomes. At the same age and stage, however, survival rates for men and women are virtually identical: the disadvantage is delayed diagnosis, not a different disease. Men should promptly report any lump, breast change, or nipple discharge to a doctor.

To every person facing testing, diagnosis, treatment, or recovery – and to every caregiver walking beside them – you are not alone. May our church be a place of prayer, practical help, patient listening, and steady hope. God's healing presence can meet us in the exam room, the waiting room, and every day in between.

See the checklist posted on the bulletin board for breast-health reminders and screening resources.

Blood Pressure Clinic – October 18, 2026

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.

October Class Curriculum Faith Formation

October 18th – Moses and the Ten Commandments

Lori McMullen RN-FCN

Peace

As I wander through the green, green, grassy glades
With valleys swathed in darkness.
In deep dark tunnels of despair,
all my burdens laid on my shoulders.
I know that I am His sheep and He is my shepherd.

With every footstep I take He guides my way.
When I stumble, He lifts me up
And leads me through valleys far and wide.
Streams flow and meander with life-giving water,
A place where I can sit and stay.

With Him I am at peace.
He knows my every thought,
Even the secrets of my heavy heart.
His blessings fill my every day.
With His spirit I know I am safe.

I foresee the light of heaven.
All around the crafted colours of creation.
His arms outstretched to comfort me.
His caring, calming voice
Leads me to a place of peace.

Jackie Sallis. "Peace." Family Friend Poems, November 21, 2014.
<https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/peace-psalm>

A Cowboy's 23rd Psalm

Since the Lord Himself is my trail boss,
I'm pretty well taken care of.
He sees to my grazing and water rights
and all the other needs of a maverick like me.
He watches so that nothing bothers me much
And keeps me well rested, for those hard times.
He scouts the way ahead and leads me down the best trails.
Even when the lightning strikes and the herd stampedes
and I'm scared to death of dying, I'm not crippled by those fears
Because, Lord, I know You're riding herd. And that's a comfort, that is.
Then You go and throw a shindig for me and invite the whole county;
even those who think I'm a scoundrel.
And right there, in front of everybody, You pat me on the back
and treat me like I'm someone special.
You've got me drinking from my saucer, because my cup has
overflowed.
Since I've been branded by Your mercy and grace,
those two will chaperone me my whole life.
When the long, long drive is over and we're on the home range,
I'll be back in Your House, with You,
where I'll just linger forever in Your presence
and in Your love. I sure will.

- William Kruse, January 5, 2009
- <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/a-cowboy-s-23rd-psalm/>

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:

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); Patty & family (Jean Long's 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
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