Thomas A. Edison

Congregational Church

NOVEMBER 22, 2026



Order of Worship
Thanksgiving Sunday
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

We Gather Together
arr. by Lorie Line

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Welcome to this sacred space where all are seen, valued, and loved. As we gather online, or in person at 1619 Llewellyn Dr, on this Thanksgiving Sunday, we pause to breathe in the beauty of this place and the amazing grace of this community.

All: We come with open hearts, ready to give thanks for the gifts of life and love.

One: We are grateful for: the waters that surround us; the warmth of the sun; and the resilience of our neighbors through every season and storm. We give thanks for the diversity of God's table, where every story is honored

and every voice matters.

All: We give thanks for a Creator who calls us to Biblical justice, compassion, and shared abundance.

One: Yet even in our gratitude, we remember those who carry heavy burdens today. We hold space for grieving, loneliness, and all who hunger for bread, shelter, or peace. May our thankfulness move us beyond words into acts of radical generosity and care for this earth and one another.

All: May our gratitude become our prayer, and our lives become a blessing to the world.

One: Come, let us worship the Source of all goodness with joyful, humble, and hopeful hearts. Amen.

All: Amen.

~A prayer written for Edison Congregational church for Thanksgiving Sunday, 2026

Opening Hymn #590 We Gather Together

Passing of the Peace

May the Pease of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

Gift of Music Rachel Cox, Violin

We Gather Together/ Count Your Blessings

arr. by Brant Adams

Litany of Gratitude and Discipleship (responsively)

One: Creator of wind and water, of mangrove, bay, and Gulf; we gather on this Thanksgiving Sunday with hearts open to your amazing grace. For the gift of life and the beauty of our Southwest Florida home we all share, we all give You thanks.

All: Make us faithful stewards of your earth, protecting the waters and lands that sustain us.

One: For the abundance on our tables and the hands that planted, harvested, and prepared the food we will eat, we give you thanks. Yet we remember

neighbors in our communities who face empty cupboards, rising rents, and struggles with affordability, and on uncertain days.

All: Turn our gratitude into generosity, and move us to share our bread with those who hunger.

One: For the resilience of our neighbors, who rebuild after storms and stand together in times of trial, we give you thanks. Remind us that our strength is found in community and mutual care of each other.

All: Equip us to be builders of peace and shelter for all who are weary or displaced.

One: For the diverse tapestry of people who call this region home—across every race, language, background, and identity—we give you thanks. Where division or fear seeks to take root, plant your radical extravagant love.

All: Open our doors and our hearts, that every person may find belonging and dignity in our midst.

One: For Jesus, who showed us that true thanksgiving is lived through biblical justice, mercy, and humble service, we give you thanks. Call us out of comfort and into courageous lives of discipleship.

All: Send us into the world with grateful hearts and willing hands, to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

~A prayer written for Edison Congregational church for Thanksgiving Sunday, 2026

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

Rain Down

By: Jaime Cortez
Arr by: John Carter

Rain down, rain down,
rain down your love on your peo-ple,
Rain down, rain down
rain down your love, God of life.

Today's Scripture — Psalm 100

A Psalm of thanks.

Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth!
2 Serve the LORD with celebration!
Come before him with shout of joy!
3 Know that the LORD is God—
He made us; we belong to Him.
We are His people,
the sheep of His own pasture.
4 Enter His gates with thanks;
enter His courtyards with praise!
Thank Him! Bless His name!
5 Because the LORD is good,
His loyal love lasts forever;
His faithfulness lasts generation after generation.

~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 #591 **Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**
Verses 1, 2, & 4

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 **Rachel Cox, Violin**

Give Thanks
by Henry Smith

**** 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

No Quilting on Wednesday.

No Faith Development this week.

Today's flowers are gifted to the church by Sandy Cole, thanks and blessings from her wonderful family. We would like to thank her for this beautiful gift.

For next week's God's word:
Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9. Mark 13:24-37

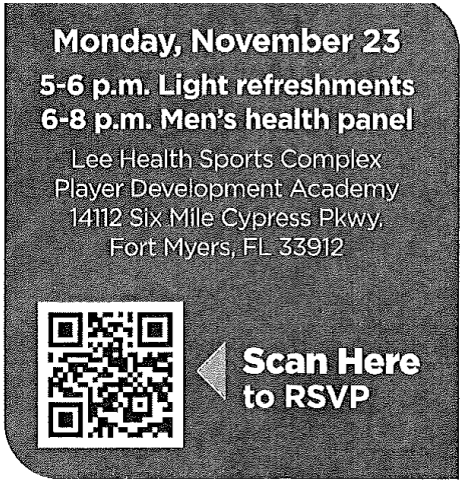
Parking for Sunday Service or Faith Development

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

Pastor Jim, Pastor Anton, Cindy, Alena, Stephen, Rachel

Happy Thanksgiving from your church staff at Edison Congregational Church! We are grateful for your faith, kindness, and friendship. May your table be full of joy, peace, and warmth this week and every week after.



- Step up to the plate for men's health with exclusive access to the Player Development Academy
- Go behind the scenes with the Twins to uncover career insights, unexpected experiences, and stories from inside the organization
- Exciting chance give-aways
- Engage with experts on important men's health topics, including:
  - Heart health
  - Urology
  - Diabetes management and more!

Twins | LEE HEALTH



Thanksgiving – November 26th
<u>Don't Be Alone.</u>
Anton will be hosting a Thanksgiving luncheon
On Thanksgiving Day here at the church at 1:00 PM.
There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board
In the Fellowship Hall.

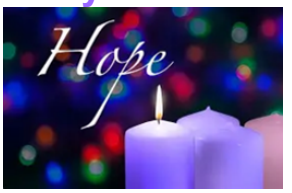
The Turkey will be provided by the Church. When you sign up, please also write down how many and what side dish you would like to bring so we don't end up with a lot of the same thing. Let's make it an assortment of

different side dishes to make it festive. There will be a limit of 50 people this year.

Thursday, November 26th - Morning
Turkey Trot 5K Race

November 27th thru January 3rd
Holiday Nights 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM nightly at the Edison and Ford Winter Estates (closed 12/24 & 12/25)

Sunday November 29th
First Sunday of Advent - Hope



Friday December 4th
Alena Michel presents
"Keys to Christmas Magic"
Student's Piano Recital starting at 6:00 PM here at the church.

December 5th – 6th - Bromeliad Sale at the Edison and Ford Winter Estates

Sunday, December 6th
Second Sunday of Advent - Peace



Wednesday, December 9th
Women's Fellowship Christmas Party.
All are welcome. The gathering will be at the church at noon with a Potluck Party and Gift Exchange. Please RSVP to Gail Courtwright - gailcourtwright26@gmail.com for more details.

Sunday, December 13th
Third Sunday of Advent - Joy



December 20th
Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love



Thursday, December 24th
Christmas Eve – Music starts at 4:30 PM



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.

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)

A Thanksgiving Litany of Blessing and Sending

One: Loving and Liberating God, as we acknowledged earlier we gather at the edge of the Gulf, thankful for the warmth of the sun, the rhythm of the tides, and the resilience of our Southwest Florida home. As we prepare to leave this sanctuary, open our eyes to the abundance all around us.

All: Make us people of deep and active gratitude.

One: For the beauty of this coastal land—its mangroves and estuaries, its gentle breezes and vibrant skies—we give you thanks. Teach us to honor and protect this fragile creation so that all living things may thrive.

All: Make us faithful stewards of your earth.

One: For the diverse neighbors who share our cul-de-sacs, communities, cities, farmlands, and beaches—those who harvest our food, care for our elders, welcome the stranger, and build community across lines of difference—we give you thanks. Open our tables and our hearts so that no one in our community goes hungry or unseen.

All: Make us bold builders of biblical justice and welcome.

One: For the grace that sustains us through changing seasons, personal storms, and times of rebuilding, we give you thanks. Send us out with courage to share the peace, generosity, and radical love we have found in this place.

All: Send us forth to be a blessing in the world.

One: Go now in the peace of the Creator who sustains you, the love of the Christ who walks beside you, and the power of the Spirit who calls you into hope. Go in gratitude and go in love.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

~A prayer written for Edison Congregational church for Thanksgiving Sunday, 2026

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

Thanksgiving from Thanksgiving Suite Op.52

by Charles Callahan

Time with our Children

Finding Joy **Psalm 100**

By Lois Parker Edstrom

I can't tell you how important it is for you to find something you love to do. As you are growing up take advantage of opportunities to find out more about the world and about yourself.

Whenever you have a chance, go to a concert or a play, take a summer pottery class just for fun, travel with your parents and notice how buildings are built, find out about the food and customs of others.

Make things at home. Bake, do crafts, build things, find interesting projects. Try needlework, collect rocks, hike, study the clouds and stars and the animals and fish of the sea.

Some of you may have already found activities that excite and delight you. Some children find their special interests very early. I know a little girl who loves to study bugs and a little boy who loved music from the time he was a toddler. Now he is a successful and happy musician who performs, composes music, teaches, and writes books about it.

Grab on to your exciting life and figure out what inspires you. In the Psalms we find this verse: “Serve Yahweh (God) with gladness” (100:2). When you find what you love to do, use that something to serve God. It will make you happy!

“God is good” and “his loving kindness endures (lasts) forever” (100:5).

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible
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November Newsletter

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.”
3 John 1:2

November is American Diabetes Month

American Diabetes Month is a time to care for our bodies, encourage one another, and replace fear with faithful action. The CDC’s 2026 National Diabetes Statistics Report estimates that in 2023 about **40.1 million Americans had diabetes** — and more than 1 in 4 of them (11 million) did not know it. Another **115.2 million adults have prediabetes**, and 8 in 10 of them do not know it either. In Florida, about **2.3 million adults** have diagnosed diabetes. Yet there is real hope: type 2 diabetes, which accounts for 90–95% of cases, can often be delayed or prevented — and prediabetes is a warning, not a verdict. Awareness is more than wearing blue on World Diabetes Day (Saturday, Nov. 14). It means knowing your number, keeping recommended appointments, and helping every person in our community receive timely, high-quality care.

5 ways to turn awareness into action

1. Know your number. A simple A1C blood test tells the story. The American Diabetes Association says everyone age 35 and older should be screened — earlier if you carry extra weight or have a family history, high blood pressure, or other risk factors.
2. Prediabetes can be turned around. Losing just 5–7% of body weight through healthy eating and 150 minutes of activity a week can cut the risk of type 2 diabetes by more than half. If your results are normal, retest at least every 3 years; if you have prediabetes, test yearly.
3. Learn the warning signs. Extreme thirst, urinating often, unusual tiredness, blurry vision, weight loss without trying, or sores that heal slowly — see a doctor and ask for a blood sugar test. A change does not always mean diabetes, but it deserves a prompt conversation with a health care professional.
4. Protect the whole body. Uncontrolled blood sugar raises the risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, blindness, and amputation. Managing blood sugar protects your heart, kidneys, and eyes alike — and regular checkups catch problems early, when they are most treatable.

5. Do not let cost stop the first step. Lee Health offers ADA-recognized diabetes education and a free year-long prevention program, and the Florida Department of Health in Lee County helps income-eligible residents with insulin prescription costs (see resources below).

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.

Lee County diabetes resources: Lee Health Diabetes Education & Support (239) 424-3127 · Lee Health Diabetes Prevention Program (239) 468-0051 · Free chronic-disease self-management workshops 239-424-3121 · Florida DOH-Lee insulin prescription assistance 239-332-9565 · American Diabetes Association 1-800-342-2383

See the checklist posted on the bulletin board for diabetes reminders and screening resources.

Health information is general; speak with your healthcare professional about your individual risk. Sources: CDC · ADA · FL DOH-Lee · Lee Health

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.

November class curriculum Faith Formation

November 29th Genesis 18

Lori

A Prayer for Thanksgiving Tables in Southwest Florida, 2026

Gracious and loving God,

We gather around this table in Southwest Florida with hearts full of gratitude. We thank You for the warmth of the Gulf breeze, the shade of the palms, and the steady grace that carries us through every season—both the sunny days and the storms that test our shores.

In this year of 2026, when the world outside can feel noisy and divided, we give thanks for the quiet strength of community. Thank You for a faith that welcomes questions, values compassion over certainty and calls us to love our neighbors without exception.

Bless the hands that prepared this meal and the farmers, harvesters, and workers who brought it from field and sea to our plates. As we share this food, nourish our bodies and renew our spirits so we may continue to be instruments of peace, justice, and hope across our neighborhoods.

May the conversation around this table be marked by grace, laughter, and deep listening. Bless our loved ones near and far, and keep us mindful of those who are lonely, hungry, or rebuilding today.

In gratitude and hope, we pray. Amen.




HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

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

Mr. Bill Persons
Calusa Harbour Assisted Living – 2525 First St
Ft Myers, Fl. 33901
Room 233

PRAYER LIST

Our Church Members:

Jean Lindenlaub; Liz Lloyd; General Dozier;
Phyllis Contino; Sharlene Dozier; Barbara Buch;
Jean Long, 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); Phil Denmark (friend of Tom & Jan Sherman).

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.

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

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