



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

OCTOBER 18, 2026



Order of Worship

Twenty-First 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

Amazing Grace

arr. by Lorie Line

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: We believe in You, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to Your deeds we testify.

All: You call the worlds into being, create persons in Your own image and set before each one the ways of life and death.

One: You seek in, holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by Your righteous will, declared through prophets and apostles.

All: In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, You, have come to us and shared our

common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to Yourself.

One: You bestow upon us Your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

All: In You we believe. In Your presence we gather for worship today.

Opening Hymn #57

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Verses 1,2 and 6

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

Gift of Music

Moa Dougherty, Organ

Invention #1 BWV 772

by J. S. Bach

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: Thank You, God, for calling us into Your church: To accept the cost and joy of discipleship; to be Your servants in the service of others. Remind each of us God that You call us: To proclaim the Gospel to all the world, and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism, Eat at His Table; And to join Christ in His passion and victory.

All: God, remind us during this time of worship together that You promise to all who trust You: Forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace; courage in the struggle for justice and peace; Your presence in trial and rejoicing; and eternal life in Your realm which has no end.

One: And, so God, as we gather today in worship and as we seek Your presence in the daily minutes of real life: Bless our time together.

All: May we bring honor to Your Kingdom. May we understand where the origin and destination of glory resides. And may Your unexplainable resurrection-al power be with us all. Amen.

Call to Worship and Prayer of Discipleship ~ Prayer slightly adapted from United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology-http://www.ucc.org/beliefs_statement-of-faith#DOX ~Prayer adapted from a prayer found @ homiletics online.

Prayers of the People

A Prayer for World Peace (Inspired by Psalm 99)

One: Holy One, who reigns in love,
The earth trembles, yet You call us to steady our hearts.
You are great, exalted above all peoples,
Not in domination, but in an expansive, boundary-breaking love.

**All: Let Your creation praise Your great and awesome name.
Holy are You.**

One: Mighty Ruler, lover of justice,
You do not rule with violence or an iron fist;
Instead, You establish equity.
You execute justice and righteousness throughout the world.
We confess that our world is fractured by borders, greed, and the drums of war.
Forgive our complicity in systems that harm,

All: And re-center our lives around Your vision of a just peace.

One: God of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam,
You speak to us out of the pillar of cloud—in the messy, uncertain spaces of human history.
When Your people cry out for relief, You answer.
You are a God who forgives, yet You hold us accountable to the demands of love.
We cry out to You now for the war-torn corners of our globe.

All: We pray for the peacemakers, the refugees, the marginalized, and the victims of systemic violence.

One: Exalt the Holy One, our God,
And worship at the footstool of divine love.
Turn our weapons into tools for feeding the hungry.
Turn our nationalisms into a global citizenship of care.
Transform our fears into radical hospitality.

**All: May Your equity sweep across the earth like a mighty river,
Until peace is not merely the absence of war,
But the presence of justice for all people. Amen.**

~Slightly adapted from a prayer found online adjacent to <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/08/congregational-prayer-psalm-99.html>

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.**

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.**

Gift of Music

Hannah Cho Dougherty, Violin

Since Jesus Came into My Heart

by R. H. McDaniel and C. H. Gabriel

arr. by Sun Ahn

Today's Scripture

Psalm 99

- ¹The LORD rules—
the nations shake!
He sits enthroned on the winged heavenly creatures—
the earth quakes!
- ²The LORD is great in Zion;
He is exalted over all the nations.
- ³Let them thank Your great and awesome name.
He is holy!
- ⁴Strong king who loves justice,
You are the one who established what is fair.
You worked justice and righteousness in Jacob.
- ⁵Magnify the LORD, our God!
Bow low at His footstool!
He is holy!
- ⁶Moses and Aaron were among His priests,
Samuel too among those who called on His name.
They cried out to the LORD, and He Himself answered them—
- ⁷He spoke to them from a pillar of cloud.
They kept the laws and the rules God gave to them.
- ⁸LORD our God, You answered them.
To them You were a God who forgives
but also, the one who avenged their wrong deeds.
- ⁹Magnify the LORD our God!
Bow low at His holy mountain
because the LORD our God is holy!

~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 #417

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

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

**Hannah Cho Dougherty, Violin
Saenu Dougherty, Violin**

Sonata in D Major

by Giuseppe Tartini

**** 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

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 Twelve Spies and the Rebellion at Kadesh Barnea:

Numbers 13–14 – Week 3

Korah's Rebellion: Numbers 16; Numbers 17; Numbers 26:9-11;

Psalms 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

**Today's flowers are gifted to the church by
Carla & Carlos Menendez. We would like to thank
them for this beautiful gift.**

**For next week's God's
word:
Matthew 22:34-46**

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

A Night of Music, Costumes & Nostalgia!  

Get ready for an evening full of joy! You're warmly invited to our very first—and only—Fall Piano Recital of Alena Michel's talented students. Join us for a fun-filled program featuring lively music, unbelievable Halloween costumes, and sweet melodies that are sure to bring back your favorite childhood memories.

When: Friday, October 23rd at 6:00 PM

Where: Thomas Edison Congregational Church

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 6:16 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 Sunday, November 8th.

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
on Monday 11/2 starting at 9:00 AM. 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 23th

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.

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.”

— adapted from <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-why-do-we-light-and-extinguish-candles-during-worship>

Postlude

Down to the River to Pray

arr. by Mark Hayes

Time with our Children



The Object Lesson: The Playground Balance

- Theme: God loves justice, fairness, and inclusion.
- Prop needed: A small toy seesaw, or a simple ruler balanced on a marker, with a few small toys (like LEGO figures).

The Script

Introduction

"Good morning, everyone! Today, our Bible reading is from Psalm 99. It's a song that talks about how amazing, powerful, and 'holy' God is. But it also tells us something very specific about why God is so great. It says: 'The King is mighty, He loves justice—you have established equity.'

Does anyone know what the word equity or fairness means? (Let kids answer) It means making sure everyone has what they need, so things are fair."

The Demonstration

"Look at this little playground seesaw I brought today. Imagine if one person sat on this side, and they got all the turns, all the toys, and all the fun. The seesaw stays stuck on the ground on one side, and the other person is left hanging in the air, left out.

Does that feel like a good playground? No, that feels unfair.

The Psalm tells us that God loves justice. Justice is a big church word, but it really just means making things right. God doesn't want anyone left out, stuck at the bottom, or ignored. God loves it when the seesaw is balanced—where everyone gets a turn, everyone has enough to eat, and everyone feels safe and loved."

The Mainstream Christian Connection

"Sometimes, people think God's holiness means God is far away, shouting rules at us. But Psalm 99 shows us that God's holiness is actually found in kindness, fairness, and listening. The Psalm reminds us of leaders like Moses, Aaron, and Samuel. It says they cried out to God, and God answered them from a cloud. God answers us, too, when we speak up for what is fair. Whenever you share your toys, welcome a new friend at school, or stand up for someone who is being treated unfairly, you are doing 'holy' work. You are helping God balance the seesaw of our world."

Closing Prayer

"Let's pray together. Dear God, thank You for loving justice and fairness. Help us to see where things are unfair in our world and give us the courage to help make them right. Teach us to love our neighbors so that everyone has a fair turn.

Amen."

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

HELP US MAKE OUR

Boutique Treasures Sale

A SUCCESS!



JEWELRY



BELTS



HANDBAGS
& PURSES



FASHION
ACCESSORIES



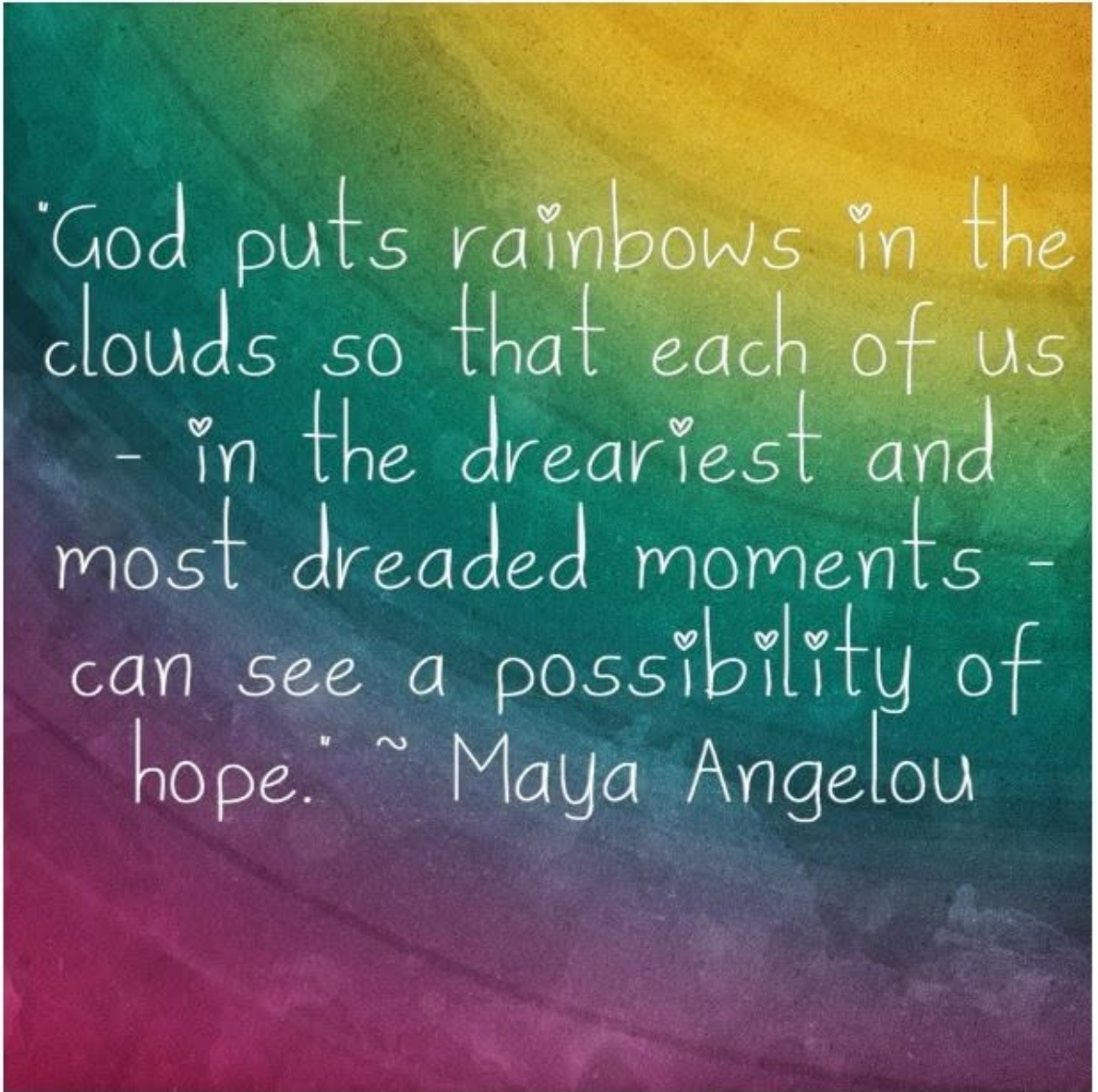
SCARVES

Do you have *friends*
or neighbors who are
cleaning out their
jewelry boxes
or closets?

Share the Joy.
INVITE THEM TO
DONATE TOO!

Your donations help support our ministries and outreach.

Donations may be dropped off during Worship on Sundays
or at the Church Office Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.



"God puts rainbows in the clouds so that each of us - in the dreariest and most dreaded moments - can see a possibility of hope." ~ Maya Angelou

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**

**Mrs. Patti Seebock
232 Fern Place
Fox Lake, IL 60020**

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
right to redirect donations to the area of greatest need.*



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