



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

OCTOBER 4, 2026



Order of Worship
Nineteenth Sunday of the Growing Season
10:00 AM

WORLD COMMUNION 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

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

Trio in G

by Josef Rheinberger

Call to Worship (responsively) (Japan)

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

All: Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.

One: What do we find at today's table?

All: God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.

One: What is not at today's table?

All: The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.

One: Let us repent and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation to all who believe.

All: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love. Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one.

Opening Prayer (Australia)

We gather today as the people of God, as a community of Christ's followers. We gather to share Word and sacrament, to discern the ways of faithful service. We serve our God in this community and throughout every land. Let us serve by working toward justice where there is oppression, by offering comfort where there is pain, by sharing love where there is hatred. The Spirit beckons us, because Jesus calls us to enact our faith. Let us now worship the one who calls us!

Opening Hymn #322

Faith of Our Fathers

Verses 1, 2, & 4

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

Gift of Music

Rachel Cox, Violin

Prelude from Baroque Suite

by Adolphus Hailstork

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)(South Africa)

One: For our failure to feel the sufferings of others, and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

All: God forgive us.

One: For the self-righteousness which denies guilt, and the self-interest which strangles compassion,

All: God forgive us.

One: For those who live their lives in careless unconcern, who cry 'Peace, peace' when there is no peace,

All: We ask Your mercy.

One: For our failings in community, our lack of understanding.

All: We ask Your mercy.

One: For the times when we are too eager to be better than others, when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we don't really listen, when we are too quick to act from motives other than love,

All: God forgive us.

Prayer of Grace (Bangladesh)

Know that God loves you. From the very beginning God's loving mercy has been poured out upon you. God loves you like a parent embracing you. God watches over you, guiding you each day. On behalf of Jesus Christ, our Savior: you are forgiven; forgive others. You are restored; restore others. You are reconciled with God; be reconciled with others, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

Prayers of the People

One: We pray for the people of Africa.
We pray for the people of Asia.
We pray for the people of the Pacific.

All: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of Latin America and the Caribbean.
We pray for the people of Europe.
We pray for the people of the Middle East.

All: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

One: We pray for the people of North America.
We pray for the people of every place whose names we know-and those we do not.

All: May they be strengthened in faith, justice, and hope.

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

Isaiah 56:3-8

³Don't let the immigrant who has joined with the LORD say,

"The LORD will exclude me from the people."

And don't let the eunuch say,

"I'm just a dry tree."

⁴The LORD says:

To the eunuchs who keep My sabbaths,
choose what I desire,
and remain loyal to My covenant.

⁵ In My temple and courts, I will give them

a monument and a name better than sons and daughters.

I will give to them an enduring name
that won't be removed.

⁶ The immigrants who have joined Me,
serving Me and loving My name, becoming My servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath without making it impure,
and those who hold fast to My covenant:

⁷ I will bring them to My holy mountain,
and bring them joy in My house of prayer.
I will accept their entirely burned offerings and sacrifices on My altar.
My house will be known as a house of prayer for all peoples,

⁸ says the LORD God,
who gathers Israel's outcasts.

I will gather still others to those I have already gathered.

~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

Invitation to the Table / Blessing and Sharing of the Gifts

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at this table.*

**Today's breads: Garlic Tuscan, Brioche bread, English Breakfast bread with
fruit and nuts, Pretzilla Pretzel bread, Garlic Tandoori Naan,
and on a clear plate is Gluten Free bread.**

Communion

Rachel Cox, Violin

Intermezzo

by H. Leslie Adams

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

Pastorale

by Charles Wesley

**** 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 Incident of the Golden Calf: Exodus 32 – Week 1

The Construction of the Tabernacle: 1. The Instructions &

Blueprints (Exodus 25–31) 2. The Actual Construction

(Exodus 35–40)

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

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

Moses Striking the Rock at Meribah: Exodus 17; Numbers 20

**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**

Crossing the Jordan and Entering Canaan: Joshua 1 through 5

**Today's flowers are gifted to the church by
Anton in memory of Barry's 77th birthday on October 7th.
We would like to thank him for this beautiful gift.**

**Sorry I forgot to list the birthdays that
you celebrated last Sunday after service.**

They are:

**Anthony Contino
Steven Brittain**

**Steve Peterson
Liz Lloyd**

Jane Wilson

**For next week's God's
word:
Psalm 23**

**October 10-11, 2026, Edison & Ford
Winter Estates Plant Sale &
Educational Workshops.
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 5:45 PM on Saturday, October 31st to set up Trick or Treat Stations across the portico and front sidewalk from approximately 6:15 – 7:30.

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.

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.

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.

Benediction (responsively)(Cuba)

May God prosper you.

May your days be long and your nights serene.

May your friendships honor you, and your family love you.

May you eat at your table, and may you be gathered into Gods embrace
with a smile. Amen. **Amen.**

~ Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Discipleship, Prayer of Grace, Prayers of the
People and Benediction Adapted from A Global Table of Grace, of Global Ministries of DOC/
UCC.

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

Voluntary in D

by William Boyce

Time with our Children

How Good it is When We Live Together

Psalm 133:1

~adapted from: A Global Table of Grace, of Global Ministries of DOC/UCC.

Object Lesson: Two jars of sand – one plain, one colorful.

-Show the plain jar: “This sand is nice, but it’s all the same.”

-Show the colorful jar: “Look at this – so many colors together! Isn’t it beautiful?”

Message:

Psalm 133 says, “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.” When people come together-different colors, different languages, different cultures-it’s like the colorful sand: more beautiful together than apart. On World Communion Sunday, churches everywhere share bread and cup, showing that God’s family is made up of many people who are one in Christ.

Discussion Questions:

-Which jar do you like better: the plain one or the colorful one? Why?

-What happens when we mix lots of colors together?

-Do you have a friend who is different from you? What makes your friendship special?

-Why do you think God likes it when people come together?

Prayer:

God, Thank You for all the different people in Your family. Help us live together in peace and love, so the world can see Your beauty in us. 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

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

