



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

JULY 19, 2026



Order of Worship

Eighth Sunday of the Growing Season

**** 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

Star of the County Down

Traditional Irish
arr. by Lorie Line

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: We believe in a bold God, Creator of splendor, spinning stars into night skies, warming the planet with life-giving sunshine, filling the earth with all creatures great and small.

All: **We believe in a big God, Creator of over 2 trillion galaxies, who is big enough to receive our praise and loving enough to answer our prayers.**

One: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who meets us in the brokenness of life, accompanies us on all our wanderings and forever seeks to welcome us

home with open arms.

All: We believe in the Holy Spirit, guide and companion, who fills the church with windy hope and fiery compassion.

One: We believe in the church, where we can taste some of the heavenly banquet and live as a renewed people for the world.

All: This we believe because we are people of faith hoping to be found by God and our neighbors as faithful folks on our spiritual journeys. Amen.

~ slightly adapted from a prayer found @homilticis online

Hymn of Praise #10

O Worship the King

Verses 1, 2, & 4

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And, also with you!

Gift of Music

Marc Pierre-Louis, Violin

Romance in F Major, op.50

by Ludwig van Beethoven

arr. by Cesar Madeira

Prayer of Discipleship (responsively)

One: God, investigate our lives; get all the facts firsthand.

All: We are an open book to You; even from a distance, You know what we are thinking.

One: You know when we leave and when we get back; we are never out of Your sight.

All: You know everything we are going to say before we start

the first sentence.

One: We look behind us and You're there, then up ahead and You're there, too
— Your reassuring presence, coming and going.

All: This is too much, too wonderful — we can't take it all in!

One: Is there any place we can go to avoid Your Spirit?

All: To be out of Your sight?

One: If we climb to the sky, You're there!

All: If we go underground, You're there!

One: If we flew on morning's wings to the far western horizon,

All: You'd find us in a minute — You're already there waiting!

One: Then we said to ourselves, "Oh, God even sees us in the dark!"

All: "At night we are immersed in the light!"

One: It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to You;

All: Night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to You.

One: Investigate our lives, O God,

**All: Find out everything about us; cross-examine and test us,
get a clear picture of what we are about;**

One: See for Yourself, God.

**All: Whether we've done anything wrong— then guide us on
the road to a blessed life. Amen.**

~Adapted from portions of Psalm 139 The Message (MSG)

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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

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Words and Music: Ken Medema

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Today's Scripture

Psalms 139:1-12

For the music leader. Of David. A song.

139 LORD, You have examined me.

You know me.

² You know when I sit down and when I stand up.

Even from far away, You comprehend my plans.

³ You study my traveling and resting.

You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.

⁴ There isn't a word on my tongue, LORD,
that You don't already know completely.

⁵ You surround me—front and back.

You put Your hand on me.

⁶ That kind of knowledge is too much for me;
it's so high above me that I can't reach it.
⁷ Where could I go to get away from Your spirit?
Where could I go to escape Your presence?
⁸ If I went up to heaven, You would be there.
If I went down to the grave, You would be there too!
⁹ If I could fly on the wings of dawn,
stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean—
¹⁰ even there Your hand would guide me;
even there Your strong hand would hold me tight!
¹¹ If I said, "The darkness will definitely hide me;
the light will become night around me,"
¹² even then the darkness isn't too dark for You!
Nighttime would shine bright as day,
because darkness is the same as light to You!

Psalm 139:23-24

²³ Examine me, God! Look at my heart!
Put me to the test! Know my anxious thoughts!
²⁴ Look to see if there is any idolatrous way in me,
then lead me on the eternal path!

~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 #460

What A Friend We Have in Jesus

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

Marc Pierre-Louis, Violin

Arioso by J. S. Bach

arr. by Latham

**** 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 Big Picture: Seeing God's Dream for Your Life* by Jevon and Nicole Caldwell-Gross is a 5-week Christian study guide. It explores the story of Joseph in the Bible to help you connect the dots between your own happy and hard times, revealing how God weaves them into a beautiful purpose.**

The book acts like a connect-the-dots puzzle. Imagine a child's drawing before the dots are connected. It just looks like random spots on a page. That is a lot like our lives! Sometimes bad things (trauma) and good things (triumph) happen, and they feel random.

When you connect the dots, a clear picture forms. The authors use Joseph's life to show this idea. Joseph was thrown in a pit, sold as a slave, and put in prison (random hard events). But

later, he saved his family and a whole nation. God was weaving all those messy, random events together into a big plan all along.

Here are the 5 main steps the book walks you through:

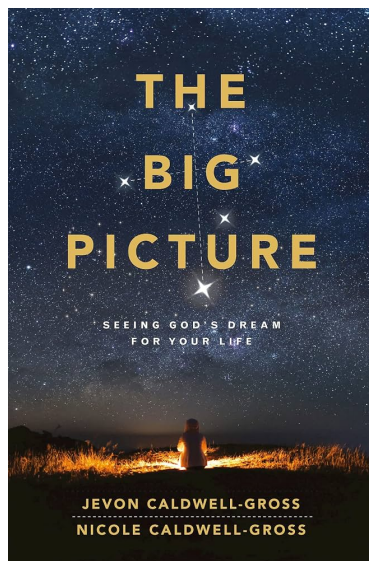
Dreaming in the dark: Seeing God's presence even when you cannot see the future. — Genesis 37:1-11

I'm a Survivor: Learning how to trust God during tough times. — Genesis 37:12-36

Dreaming in Prison: Keeping your faith alive when you feel stuck. — Genesis 39 & 40

Resisting the urge to get even: Choosing grace instead of revenge. — Genesis 41& 42 & 43

Seeing the Big Picture: Finally understanding how God protected you the whole time. — Genesis 44 & 45 & 46 7 47





Birthday Celebration – Sunday, July 26th

If you are interested in helping with setting out the food and drinks for the Birthday Celebration, a Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. You will be responsible for setting up, serving and cleaning up after the Birthday Celebration.

**For next week's God's
word:
Matthew 13:34-33, 44-52**

Blood Drive – August 2nd - The bus will be in front of the church from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

School Supplies for Edison Park School

We would like to collect school supplies for Edison Park School. If you wish to help, we will be collecting the items here at the church until August 10, 2025, so we can get the supplies over the teachers before the fall session starts. The supplies that the school has requested are:

Pre-sharpened Pencils -- Square Boxes of Tissues – Post-it Notes of any kind – Glue Sticks – Pens.

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 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)

“The world now is too dangerous and too beautiful for anything but love. May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone. Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor. May your hands be so blessed that everything you touch is a sacrament. Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love. May your feet be so blessed you run to those who need you. And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire, that your love, your love, changes everything”. **AMEN**

— Black Rock Prayer Book, often attributed to Episcopal priest Brian Baker; Used at Burning Man Festival as a blessing.

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

Postlude on “ Rhondda”

by John Hughes
arr. by Anna Laura Page

Time with our Children

More than Skin Deep

By Lois Parker Edstrom

Psalm 139

I’ll bet you don’t think much about your skin, yet your skin is a protective covering that shields the rest of your body. It protects your muscles, bones – all that is inside such as your heart, stomach and liver. Your skin protects you from diseases and it lets you know when something is too hot or cold.

Your skin stretches just as much as it needs to. When you smile or laugh (a lot, I hope) the skin on your face stretches. The skin on your knuckles is quite stretchy. Make a fist and see how that works.

The thinnest skin is on your eyelids, and the thickest skin is on the soles of your feet.

You might be interested in a couple of interesting facts about animal skin. A rhinoceros's skin is almost two inches thick (indicate how thick that is) and snakes have thinner skins, often beautifully colored and marked. A polar bear has black skin underneath its white fur.

Our human skin comes in many colors – all beautiful. Our skin protects our amazing bodies. The Psalms tell us that God knew us before we were born and that we are “wonderfully made” (139:14). God took care of every detail to give us just what we need to have bodies that allow us to run and play and laugh.

When you look in the mirror, thank God for that beautiful skin and healthy body. You are truly “wonderfully made!”

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible
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July Faith and Wellness Newsletter

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”
2 Peter 3:18

July is UV awareness month

UV rays are the root cause of most skin cancers. It is important to protect your skin year-round. Follow these important tips:

Practice Safe Sun:

- Seek shade, remember the sun's rays are strongest during 10 am. And 2 pm.
- Wear Sun-Protective clothing such as lightweight, long-sleeved shirts, pants, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses with UV protection.
- Apply sunscreen to all exposed skin. Follow all directions regarding reapplying. Water resistance and an SPF of 30 or higher is recommended.

Early Detection:

- Perform a skin self-examination using the **ABCDE** assessment

- 1) **A-Asymmetry**. One half of the spot is unlike the other half
 - 2) **B is for Border**. The spot has an irregular, scalloped, or poorly defined border
 - 3) **C is for Color**. The spot has varying colors from one area to the next, such as shades of tan, brown or black, or areas of white, red or blue.
 - 4) **D is for Diameter**. While melanomas are usually greater than 6 millimeters, or about the size of a pencil eraser, when diagnosed, they can be smaller.
 - 5) **E is for Evolving**. The spot looks different from the rest or is changing in size, shape, or color.
- See your dermatologist at least once a year.

Please fill out the enclosed questionnaire and return it to Lori McMullen RN-FCN. This information will help her better serve you as your FCN.

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.

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.
Council Corner**

Council has approved replacement of the folding chairs in the Fellowship Hall. A task force has researched and found chairs to

meet our needs. The fully upholstered stacking chairs will improve comfort and aesthetic appeal to the space that is used both for worship services and fellowship events.

We would like to purchase 50+ chairs at a cost of approximately \$60 per chair. If you are interested in purchasing one or more chairs **In Memory Of** or **In Gratitude For**, please fill out a form and return it to the church along with a check made out to TAECC.

We hope to have the chairs delivered sometime in the fall and will recognize and dedicate them during one of our Sunday worship services.

Make check payable to TAECC and the number of chairs x \$60.00

A picture of the chair and additional forms will be in the Fellowship Hall.



**As of July 17, 2026
23 Chairs have been
bought towards the 50
Chairs that we would like to
order.**

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.

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); Fay Lombardo (friend of Sandy Cole); Cara (Jean Long's daughter); Tasha (friend of Jackie Sellers).

***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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