



Edgewood Congregational Church

1788 Broad Street
Cranston, RI 02905
401-461-1344

www.edgewoodchurchri.org

Vision Statement

Edgewood Congregational Church is a progressive Congregation whose vision is to reclaim Christianity as a faith of extravagant grace, radical inclusion, and relentless compassion.

Rhode Island Conference Office
Rev. Barbara J. Libby, Interim Conference Minister
8 Summer Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

Conference Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 - 4:30
401-724-7700
ricucc@ricucc.org

February 2016

Our Website

Visit Our Website

Check out our website at www.edgewoodchurchri.org, especially the Calendar section. Here you'll find everything that's scheduled for the church.

Need to send emails? If you would like to send an email to Pastor Gary, you can do so by sending it to pastor@edgewoodchurchri.org. To send information or questions to Jerry in the church office, send it to office@edgewoodchurchri.org.



Visit our Facebook page! You can find us by clicking [here](#) or by searching for "Edgewood Congregational"...just make sure you "like" the one in Cranston, not in Alabama!



Pastor Gary adds updates to the Facebook page frequently, and we're seeing even more activity, so join in!

Thrift Shop

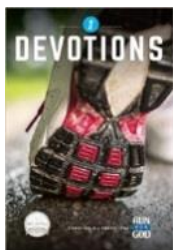


Lydia's Closet Thrift Shop

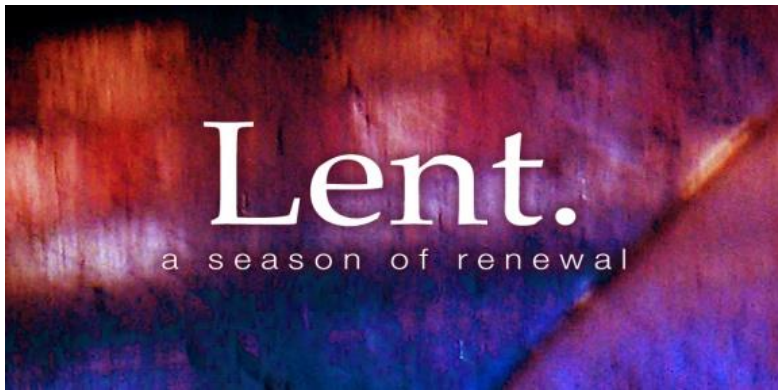
Join us on Saturdays, from 11:00 to 2:00. We have a wonderful selection of so many types of items. Who knows—you may find something here that you can't find anywhere else!

Thanks to all who donate to the thrift shop! Donations are always being accepted. Men's, women's, and children's good, clean, used or new clothes are needed. Please drop off any contributions at the church anytime.

Walking the Faith – For Body and Soul



Join us on **Wednesdays**, at **6:00 p.m.** in the Smith Room for Devotional time and then a walk. This program is based on the program "Running for God". It was developed by a runner who saw the importance of Christians keeping themselves healthy in both body and soul. It also provides a place of accountability for those of us who find it hard to exercise on our own. We meet once a week for a short devotional and to discuss how we are doing in our walking program. This program encourages a person to take time every day for devotional time and walking. You are invited to join us for a devotional and walk. Look forward to seeing you there.



Ash Wednesday, **February 10** we will have an early morning presentation from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and an evening service at 7:00 p.m.

Our Lenten schedule - Sundays 6:00 to 7:30 (with light supper provided):

- February 14 Family Lenten Activities
- February 21 Taize Service
- February 28 Lenten Discussion: Stressed Out
- March 6 Wrapping Yourself in Forgiveness Service
- March 13 Lenten Discussion: Holy Spirit
- March 20 Taize Service

Trustees' and Deacons' Meetings

The Trustees will meet in regular session on Monday, **February 8**, at 6:30 p.m.
The Deacons meet on Tuesday, **February 9**, at 6:00 p.m.



Food Closet



Helping the Community – Did you know that the Edgewood Ecumenical Food Closet is part of the Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP) and the Rhode Island Food Bank? Our Food Closet covers people who live between Providence on the north, Warwick on the south, Narragansett Bay on the east, and Elmwood Avenue on the west. Clients are referred by CCAP. The Church of the Transfiguration donates space and volunteers donate their time on Tuesday and Friday mornings, and Wednesday evenings. Some of the food is purchased from the RI Food Bank, but the rest must come from donations.

These non-perishable food items and individual personal care products can be placed in the shopping cart in our Narthex and our volunteer, Nancy Sumrall, will deliver them to the Food Closet. Thank you Nancy!

Everything you donate is used directly by those who need it most. Please remember the words of Christ, *“What you have done to the least of these you have done to me.”*

Coffee Hour



Coffee Hour Fellowship and Refreshments – If there is anyone who would like to help with coffee hour, there's a coffee hour sign-up sheet is posted in Sawyer Hall. Included on the sheet will be the contact person for more information. Thank you in advance for all the help you provide for our congregation and visitors.

If anyone is able to, donations of coffee would be greatly appreciated!

Muffins for Missions



There are a few muffin kits still available. Thank you to everyone who has already picked up a muffin kit! Once you have the muffins baked and ready to return to the church, you can bring them on Sunday and put them in the basket on the back table where the kits were. You may also drop off the muffins at the church office during the week if it's more convenient. For this month, we need the muffins at the church no later than **Sunday, February 7**. Again, thank you for being a part of this special mission to the homeless.

If anyone would like to help pack the muffins into the lunches provided by Woodridge Church, please join us on **Monday, February 8** in the conference room.

Altar Flowers



Would you like a way to honor or remember a loved one on a birthday or special date? You can by dedicating the flowers used in the Sanctuary to their honor or memory. If you would like to dedicate the Altar flowers for a particular Sunday in memory or honor of a loved one, you can do so with a gift of \$25.00 (please note on the check or envelope that your gift is for a flower dedication and the date) and then choose a date on the flower calendar that is located in the Narthex next to the Welcome Table. Then place the name of your loved one on the calendar, along with your name or you can email/call in your dedication to Jerry at office@edgewoodchurchri.org or 461-344.

Holy Joe's Café



Holy Joe's Café – COFFEE FOR THE TROOPS

Holy Joe's Café originated from the First Congregational Church in Wallingford, Connecticut on Pentecost Sunday, 2006. Based on a simple goal to collect and ship coffee thus assisting our military chaplains in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait with their Coffee House Ministry. What began as a coffee drive within one church family has gained momentum through the Holy Spirit and has grown into a national donation effort.

At this time in Iraq and Kuwait find themselves in difficult and life-threatening situations. This exacts and extreme physical, emotional, and psychological toll on them. Through Holy Joe's Café Ministry, the support that is offered to them is so effective and well received, that the out-reach program has grown to assist over 120 chaplains.

You can help in this special ministry to our troops by a donation through <http://Interfaith.EqualExchange.com> or by making your donation through the church office. You can designate your gift and make it through the offering on Sundays or bring your gift to the church office and Jerry will be glad to collect it on behalf of Holy Joe's Café. Brochures are located in the Narthex and at the Arnold Avenue entrance.

As usual, 1/2 of the loose currency in the collection for the last Sunday of the month is donated to Holy Joe's Café.

Sad News



Rev. C. Conrad Browne Sr. passed away on January 26, 2016. Conrad will surely be missed. You can leave a remembrance of Conrad at <http://www.carpenterjenks.com/obituary/Rev.-C.-Conrad-Browne/Warwick-RI/1584877>. We're sure his wife Cay and his family would very much appreciate it.

Thinking of you

- Art Carter -----at home in Cranston
- Patricia Conklin -----at Elmhurst Extended Care rehab
- Bert Reid -----at home in Agoura Hills, California
- Betty True -----at home in Warwick
- Rev. Kit Wilke -----at home in Long Beach, California



Worship at Scandinavian Home



On the first Sunday of each month, Pastor Gary leads the worship service at Scandinavian Home. If you would like to share in this service with the men and women at the home, you are welcome to join Pastor Gary at 2:30. If you can play an instrument or sing, you are welcome to share your gift in the service.

Weekly Self-Help Meetings

AA

Sundays, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Every 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Al-Anon

Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Beacon Hospice, Inc.



...presents:

Support groups for those who have experienced the death of a loved one. Participants will explore, within a trusting and nurturing environment, their reactions to loss, learn about the grieving process, develop strategies for coping, and begin to integrate these changes into their lives in order to move forward.

General Support: Tuesdays, 4 - 5 PM, Beacon Hospice, 1 Catamore Boulevard, East Providence, RI 02914
Wednesdays, 10 - 11 AM, Anchor Recovery Community Center, 249 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860

Dementia/Alzheimer's Support: Wednesdays, 4 - 5 PM, Beacon Hospice, 1 Catamore Boulevard, East Providence, RI 02914

For more information, contact John DaSilva, Bereavement Coordinator, at 401-438-0008

Reflection



Preparation

What is Lent? The word “Lent” comes from the Old English word “lengten,” which simply means “spring” – when the days lengthen and new life springs forth. It is a time in which we anticipate the victory of the light and life of Christ over the darkness of sin and death. It is, to borrow a phrase from C.S. Lewis, a season of a kind of “happiness and wonder that makes you serious.”

It is our prayer that as you journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter, you would be reminded of the reality of our broken humanity, but as days grow brighter, you would experience with greater abundance the reality of God’s redeeming grace. And so, just as we carefully prepare for big events in our personal lives, such as a wedding or commencement, Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus’ death and resurrection.