



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

March 2016

Our Website

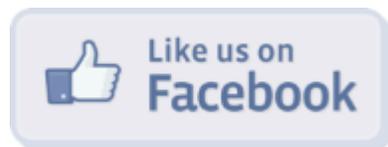
Visit Our Website

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.

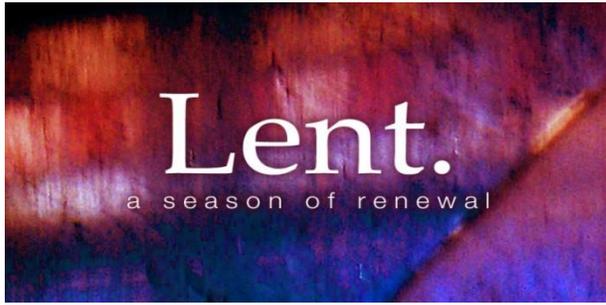
NOTE: We have donations of unclaimed property from dry cleaners. Great clothing in excellent condition! Check it out!

Leadership Planning Retreat



We will be having a retreat on **March 6**, at **11:30** to plan events for the year. Come one, come all so that we can hear from everyone. Your input is essential to guide Edgewood so that it will be stronger than ever. Lunch will be provided.

Lent



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

March 6 Wrapping Yourself in Forgiveness Service
March 13 Lenten Discussion: Holy Spirit
March 20 Taizé Service

Deacons' and Trustees' Meetings



We have changed the Deacons' meetings to the second Wednesday of each month.

The Deacons will meet on Wednesday, March 9, at 6:00 p.m.

The Trustees will meet on Monday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m.

Food Closet

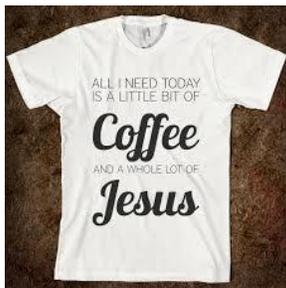


Helping the Community – Did you know that the Edgewood-Pawtuxet Food Closet is part of the Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP) and the Rhode Island Food Bank? Our Food Closet covers people who live between Providence on the north, Warwick on the south, Narragansett Bay on the east, and Elmwood 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.

This month's focus is **tomato products** (such as sauce, paste, soup, and spaghetti sauce). These non-perishable food items and individual personal care products can be placed in the shopping cart in our Narthex and our volunteer, Carol Cornell, will deliver them to the Edgewood-Pawtuxet Food Closet. Thanks so much Carol!

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.

A big thank you to Herb Alexander for his generous offer—thanks Herb!

If anyone would like to donate other items that are part of coffee hour, it would be greatly appreciated!

Andover Newtown



A message from Andover Newton Theological School:

"Dear Friends at Edgewood Congregational Church,

Thank you for your donation to the Fund for Andover Newton. Your generous gift will help us continue educating leaders who make a real difference in the lives of individuals, communities, and the world. At Andover Newton, our mission is 'to educate inspiring leaders for the 21st century.' The world needs passionate and skilled leaders more than ever, and we thank you for supporting our mission.

Yours in Faith,
Rev. Ruth Edens
Director of Advancement"

Spaghetti Dinner



Our first spaghetti dinner of 2016 is **March 19** at 6:00 p.m. Join us for a great meal and especially a wonderful time of gathering. If anyone would like to help, call the office and let us know. On the menu: spaghetti, meatballs, salad, rolls, hot and cold beverages, and dessert. Adults \$6.00, kids 5-12 \$3.00, under 5 eat free!

Muffins for Missions



Our Muffins for Missions continues to benefit the homeless men of Harrington Hall. Muffin kits are available in the back of the sanctuary. 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 you. For this month, we need the muffins at the church no later than **Sunday, March 13**. 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 that are provided by Woodridge Church, please join us on **Monday, March 14 at 10:00 a.m.** 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.

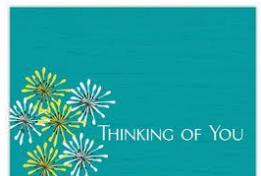
At this time in Iraq and Kuwait find themselves in difficult and life-threatening situations. This exacts and extreme physical, emotional, and psychological toll on them. Through Holy Joe's Café Ministry, the support that is offered to them is so effective and well received, that the outreach program 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, ½ of the loose currency in the collection for the last Sunday of the month is donated to Holy Joe's Café.

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

Thought for Lent

Dear Lord, as I begin
my journey toward
spiritual growth,
help me to look
deep within myself
and let go of the old
and embrace the new
life that comes from you.