



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

April 2016

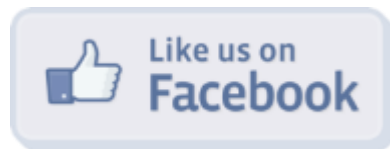
Visit Our Website

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!

Deacons' and Trustees' Meetings



Although the Deacons now usually meet on the second Wednesday, for this month they will meet on Wednesday, **April 6**, at 6:00 p.m.

The Trustees will meet on Monday, **April 11**, at 6:30 p.m.

Annual Yard Sale/Flea Market



Our yard sale/flea market is Saturday April 9th, from 9:00 to 2:00. This year, we have lots of unclaimed clothing that has been donated from dry cleaners. Come check out all our merchandise. We have household goods, clothing, shoes, toys, books, and so much more! In addition, we are having vendors at the sale. **Note: We can always use workers for this event.**

Book Study - *Bullying in the Churches*



Starting April 4th, at 6:30 in the Smith Room, Stephen Finlan along with Pat Kohler will be leading a book study of *Bullying in the Churches*, written by Stephen. Come and join them to discuss bullying.

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.

New Members



Our family grows! We received 4 new members. Welcome Kirk and Jeri Mattes, Linda Carlson, and Janelle Slepski! We hope you enjoy your new home here.

Summer Hymns



Summer will soon be here (we promise!) and we'd like to get a head start on the favorite hymns that everyone would like to hear for worship. Email the office or fill out the form that is in the worship bulletin.

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, April 10**. 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, April 11 at 10:00 a.m.** in the conference room.

The 210th Annual Meeting



Saturday, April 30, 2016
7:30am - 2:00pm
Seekonk Congregational Church, UCC
600 Fall River Avenue
Seekonk, MA 02771

Authorized Ministers, Delegates and Any Interested Persons:

Come hear our General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, speak about the Mission and Purpose of the United Church of Christ and what the Holy Spirit envisions for our future. Come to share in worship, review Annual Reports, and discover resources for ministry. [Click here to register](#)

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.

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.

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



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.

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.

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

Pastor's Article

Scripture

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said "Let there be light" and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. Genesis 1:1-4.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being was life, and the life was the light of the people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:1-5.

A Word about Easter:

We live in a time of darkness. Sometimes it seems we live in a kind of hellish world where people die from crime, famine, and continual war and where discrimination against the poor and weak is ever present.

Yet in this desert of darkness, there shines the light of goodness everywhere. There are people who sacrifice themselves to help those in need. They shine like lights in the dark. As Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid." Matthew 5:14.

In the story of the incarnation Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, says John will prepare the way for the coming of Jesus. He says of Jesus that, "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1:78-79.

I see a sort of metaphorical parallel between what is said in Genesis and what is said in John and Luke.

We celebrated Easter Sunday this past week. We have heard the Easter story countless times. My thought is through Jesus' incarnation, his life which sets an example for us to follow, his death and his resurrection, a bright new light has again pierced the darkness of our world, a light so powerful that it could overcome the darkness of our world if we, through faith, give it a chance. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12.

Prayer

O God of all good and light, give us the faith we need to carry your torch into a world filled with darkness. Amen.