



# Edgewood Congregational Church

1788 Broad Street • Cranston, RI 02905

401-461-1344 • [www.edgewoodchurchri.org](http://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](mailto:ricucc@ricucc.org)

## December 2016

### Visit Our Website



Check out our website at [www.edgewoodchurchri.org](http://www.edgewoodchurchri.org), especially the News/Info - 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](mailto:pastor@edgewoodchurchri.org). To send information or questions to Jerry in the church office, send it to [office@edgewoodchurchri.org](mailto: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!

### Holiday Festival



Thank You, thank you, thank you, to all who plotted and planned, helped set up, cooked, carried, worked, bought, and cleaned up at our annual festival. We brought in over \$1,000 for our Church. It was a nice team effort. Thank you again,

Judy Provorse

### Stewardship



Hi all,

Just a quick note to say: keep up the good work! Pledges are at a level of being on time. Thank you so much for keeping current. Our expenses are still a bit higher than our income, so keeping up with your pledge is very helpful.

Judy and ID

P.S. E-Pledging

Most everyone has submitted their pledge cards and I just wanted to mention that if you want any information on how to E-Pledge, please let me know. Several of our members already use E-Pledging. It is really wonderful for our church because it allows your pledge to stay current, so you won't have to keep track.

### 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](mailto:office@edgewoodchurchri.org) or 461-344.

### Shut-Ins



The Christmas season will soon be upon us. Won't you please take a moment to send a note or a card to one of our shut-ins? You can get names by contacting the office.

## 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.

## 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.

Any 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.”*

## 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  
Alice Laurenson -----at assisted living in Wingate  
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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

### Al-Anon

Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.

Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

## 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.

Christmas through the eyes of children is a time of wonder and delight. It is a time of excitement and expectation as they wait for Christmas morning and the gifts that will be under the tree. Watching a child in this time of year brings joy and hope to the lives of adults as they see the hope and joy in the eyes of the children. But then we turn to look at the world and what we see is disheartening to say the least.

In this holy season, we see the coldness of human hearts who hate because of differences of skin color, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, political differences, and anything else that makes them different from us. We see a dark and cold world that offers no hope, no love, no joy, and no peace.

It was into a dark and cold world just like this that Christ was born into. You see—God saw the brokenness of the world and offered to all of creation a light of hope, love, joy, and peace. The world has changed little since the birth of Christ. People are still struggling to make ends meet and provide for their families. People still feel oppressed, whether it is from the prejudice and bigotry that they experience or from the government under which they live. Little has changed.

On a dark night in Bethlehem in a cold, dirty stable a child was born, a child that would change how many would see the world and respond to others. You see—this child did not bring an end to the oppression, the bigotry, the prejudice, or the hate that exist in this world.

What this child did was change the hearts of men and women and how they viewed the world and responded to others. God gave us an example in Christ of God's grace and love and how that grace and love can change the world one life at a time. When we look at the world through the eyes of Christ, we will see the hope, love, joy, and peace that are here in our world. As we open our lives to Christ, we experience God's grace and love and see the world through new eyes. We see the needs of the poor and strive to lift them up and help. We see the oppressed and we do all that we can to fight injustice. We see the sick and we do what we can to help them find healing. You see—we need Christ in our world and in our lives, to bring about the changes that this world needs through those of us who call ourselves the followers of Christ.

In this dark cold world in which we live, there is still a light of hope and love and each Christmas we remember and celebrate that hope and love that is ours in and through Christ. As we come to this Christmas, no matter how bad things may seem or how dark we may feel the world is, there is hope and a light that is still shining bright in the stable in Bethlehem and in our hearts. Even in the darkest days of life, this light cannot be extinguished. You see that light is no longer just in a stable in Bethlehem. You see—that light is burning bright in your heart and hearts of thousands just like you. There is hope for this world in which we live, there is love in this world, there is joy, and there is peace; it is the love of God, peace of Christ, and the joy of the Holy Spirit that abides in you and others like you who follow the Christ.

May you have a Merry and Blessed Christmas and may you, in the coming New Year, be the light of Christ shining in this dark world for others to see.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Tony". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# *Christmas Prayers and Blessings*

*“It is Christmas every time you let  
God love others through you...  
yes, it is Christmas every time  
you smile at your brother and  
offer him your hand.”  
-Mother Teresa*

