



NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2026 Volume 1

Watch Emmanuel online, learn more, and donate!

By scanning the QR Code or going to the web address below, you can find out more about who we are and what we're doing. You will find links to Facebook and YouTube to see our livestream or watch it later. You will also find ways to donate easily and quickly to Emmanuel, either through Venmo or Tithely. Your presence and support are very important to us, and crucial to making sure we are always here for you.

<https://linktr.ee/emmanuelwr>



Emmanuel Joy and Thanks!

Sunday, June 21st was a joyous and glorious day at Emmanuel. What a fantastic way to begin Summer! Highlights included:

- Father Jon and parish members welcomed Assisting Bishop Right Reverend Mary Glasspool and Deacon Reverend Holly Hartman.
- Bishop Mary preached a memorable and inspiring sermon and baptized Eddy and Ronny Brown-Goncalves, presented and sponsored by Fr. Jon.
- The music was uplifting, with Esther playing organ, our choir singing and Ted treating us to his beautiful flute.
- Ken announced that after a focused discernment process, **the Vestry voted to call Fr. Jon as our Rector and Fr. Jon accepted!** It was noted that although Emmanuel has had regular clergy presence, we have not called a Rector in over 25 years! See page 4 for full announcement, [Calling Our Rector](#)
- If you missed the service, you can see /experience it via Facebook or YouTube [Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 21, 2026 - Emmanuel Episcopal Church \(emmanuelwr.org\)](#).
- We could not have asked for more perfect weather for our annual potluck picnic which followed. The food was abundant, varied, and delicious! The children enjoyed playing and the youth/young adults made good use of the corn hole game! We had great conversations with parishioners and all the visitors we welcomed – Ronny and Eddy's friends and family and even a couple of Scottish soccer fans! (The Episcopal Church has a special kinship with Scotland. The first U.S. bishop in the Episcopal Church, Samuel Seabury, was consecrated as Bishop in 1784 by Scottish bishops in Aberdeen Scotland after the Church of England declined to do it.) Emmanuel dads who attended were given special Emmanuel Dads caps.
- We hope everyone who worshipped and picnicked with us felt at home and will come back to see us some time.

- See pages 5 and 6 to enjoy a few photos.
- We are so grateful to everyone – clergy and laity – whose presence and work before, during and after the service and picnic gave us a wonderful day!

HAPPY SUMMER!

Upcoming/Ongoing Events - Mark Your Calendar!

Please worship with us any/every Sunday at 10 AM and, after the service, join us for hospitality and refreshment.

- Sundays, June 28th, July 12th, 19th, 26th and August 2nd and August 30th: upcoming Services of Morning Prayer and music at 10 AM
- Sundays, July 5th, August 9th, August 16th, and August 23rd: Services of Holy Eucharist and music at 10 AM

Other News

We are still gratefully accepting donations at Emmanuel toward our support to our local food pantry and neighbor, Rose's Bounty. The Neponset River Deanery approved the amount of \$750 for our request for a House of Mercy grant at our May meeting, hosted by our friends at Church of the Holy Spirit, Mattapan. We hope to increase that amount with the generosity of Emmanuel's members and visitors. Rose's Bounty seeks to address the ever-growing food insecurity problem in our community and includes a pop-up pantry at the Chittick School (Hyde Park) for the children to take home. Click on any of the following links to learn more about Rose's Bounty, [About Rose's Bounty \(stratfordstreetunitedchurch.org\)](http://stratfordstreetunitedchurch.org), their programs: [Our Programs \(stratfordstreetunitedchurch.org\)](http://stratfordstreetunitedchurch.org), and volunteer opportunities: [How to Help \(stratfordstreetunitedchurch.org\)](http://stratfordstreetunitedchurch.org) Please make note your intention for Rose's Bounty with your donation.

Diocesan News and Events

For the latest Episcopal and Diocesan news, please visit: [News | Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts \(diomass.org\)](http://news.episcopal-diocese-of-massachusetts.org)

Barbara Harris Camp & Conference Center Camp 2026 Information

- The Barbara C Harris Camp & Conference Center Summer 2026 Camp are inclusive Christian formation ministries of the Diocese of Massachusetts, in partnership with the dioceses of New Hampshire and Western Massachusetts. There are lots of activities! For more details, please visit the website at: [BCH Camp – BCH Center](http://bchcenter.org)
- The brochure is viewable at: [GeneralBrochure2026.pdf \(bchcenter.org\)](http://bchcenter.org) and the schedule is as follows:
 - Grades 9-12: 6/28-7/3
 - Mini Camp K-Grade 3: 7/8-7/10
 - Youth Camp Grades 2-10: 7/12-7/17, 7/19-7/24 and/or 7/26-7/31

For those interested, ways to act through prayer and other means:



We pray for peace and reconciliation at home, throughout Ukraine, the Middle East and everywhere in the world. We pray for those impacted by earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, fires, floods, and acts of terror or violence.

Do you want a way to respond as an Episcopalian to the United States' Attack on Iran? The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations has a simple way, with suggested language, to write to your Senators and Representatives: www.votervoice.net/EPISCOPAL/Campaigns/134780/Respond. The website also has other resources and causes for which you can advocate.

Read [Bishop Julia's June Pastoral Message](#) on page 7. To join others across our Diocese with donations to the Immigrant Legal Emergency Fund: [DONATE NOW](#)

We pray for those in sorrow, anguish, fear, despair and for those who are sick, especially for those named in this week's Order of Service. We also pray for all who travel, that their journeys may be safe, rejuvenating and filled with the knowledge of God's presence.

Our prayers truly help, as they keep us mindful of God's love for us and his miracles. If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please be in touch with The Rev. Jonathan Eden, Rector (therev.jonteden@gmail.com.) If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact him at: [617.798.0770](tel:617.798.0770).

CALLING OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends in Christ:

With gratitude to God and great joy, the Vestry of Emmanuel Church, West Roxbury, is pleased to announce that the Reverend Jonathan T. Eden, who has faithfully served as our Bridge Priest (from May 2022), then as Priest in Charge (since March 2024), has accepted the call to become the next Rector of our parish.

Since joining our congregation, Fr. Jon has provided thoughtful leadership, compassionate pastoral care, inspiring preaching and teaching, and a steadfast commitment to the mission and ministry of our church. We have profound faith that he will continue to help strengthen our community, and deepen our relationship with Christ.

After prayerful consideration and consultation with diocesan leadership, the Discernment Committee, made up of Vestry members and other lay leaders, recommended that the Vestry call Fr. Jon to serve as Rector. At our May 2026 meeting, the Vestry agreed unanimously, and voted to extend the call. We believe this call reflects God's guidance and affirms the fruitful ministry we have already shared together.

The transition from Priest in Charge to Rector marks an important milestone in the life of our parish. It has been over 25 years since we last called a rector, and this decision is both a recognition of the strong partnership that has developed between Fr. Jon and the congregation, and an expression of our hope for and confidence in the future.

We are excited that Fr. Jon, his wife Lucy, and their son Braylen will continue to be a part of the Emmanuel community for a long time to come. Please join us in giving thanks for Fr. Jon's ministry, and in praying for God's continued blessings upon our parish as we enter this new chapter together. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us as we grow in worship, fellowship, service, and witness. Faithfully,



Ken Thelen & Cathy McCarthy
Co-Wardens

EMMANUEL CELEBRATES - A few photos from Sunday, June 21, 2026



Baptized and marked as God's own



Rev. Holly Hartman, Mom Michelle, Eddy, Bishop Mary, Ronny & Fr. Jon



Emmanuel's Rector with some of our Vestry members



A few dads, modeling their Emmanuel dad caps
Happy Fathers' Day!



A gorgeous day for the Emmanuel Annual Picnic enjoyed by parishioners, family and friends – old and new! Happy Summer!
Thank you to each one who came today for worship and/or the picnic. It would not have been the same without YOU!! Thank you to all who worked so hard before, during and after this joyous day!

Pastoral Message from Bishop Julia – June 2026

Beloved of God,

I join so many across our diocese in grief, concern, and lament after yesterday's ruling by the Supreme Court of the United States allowing the Trump administration to [end Temporary Protected Status for Haitians and Syrians](#) in our country. This decision will impact approximately 350,000 legal immigrants in our country, including 45,000 Haitian TPS holders in Massachusetts, the state with the third largest Haitian population in the United States. This decision directly affects members of our parishes, neighborhoods, and communities in Eastern Massachusetts and beyond.

To members of our Haitian community in the Diocese of Massachusetts, as your bishop, I want you to know that you are not alone as you face the ramifications of this unsettling, dangerous ruling and the cruel policies it enables. You remain beloved members of our community. As the body of Christ, we are members of another, and I and many others throughout our Diocese will continue to support you in any way we can.

No matter our country of origin or political affiliation, our Christian faith calls us to love our neighbor. That faith compels us to care for those who seek safety, sanctuary, and safe harbor. And our baptism convicts us to respect the dignity of each and every human being. I lament that the highest court in our land has taken steps which I believe deny not only the ideals of our Constitution, but also run counter to central tenets of our Christian faith.

Jesus Christ calls us all to follow his example by standing with the vulnerable and oppressed and by acting in the name of love and justice – for all. That is why I stood with Governor Maura Healey, Attorney General Andrea Campbell, Mayor Michelle Wu, and civic leaders from across the Commonwealth yesterday in our State House to affirm our solidarity with TPS holders in Massachusetts and all immigrants under threat in our country. My office remains in close contact with state and local officials as well as community partners as we work together to provide support and resources for those whose lives are upended by this decision. I encourage those affected by the ruling to consult [these resources](#) prepared by the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General.

I invite you to join me today at 11 am at our Cathedral for a time of prayer and public witness with partners from the Massachusetts TPS Committee, Episcopal City Mission, and other community organizations.

I also encourage you to consider [making a gift](#) to our Immigrant Legal Emergency Fund.

Please keep our immigrant siblings, their families, and our country in your fervent prayers.

Faithfully,
The Rt. Rev'd Julia E. Whitworth
Bishop Diocesan

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