

LAST NIGHT

MAUNDY THURSDAY



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3/28 @ 7 PM, LIVE! ONSITE & ONLINE

CONNECT @ WWW.NEEDHAMUCC.ORG

The Congregational Church of Needham, *United Church of Christ*

1154 Great Plain Ave, Needham MA 02492 / Tel 781.444.2510 / www.NeedhamUCC.org / IG @NeedhamUCC

Rev. John Gage, *senior minister*

Rev. Maddie Foster, *acting senior minister*

Valerie Becker, *director of music*

Robin Bevilacqua, *church administrator*

Cindy Sullivan, *financial administrator*

Tom Mollerus, *moderator*

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

on sabbatical

revmaddie@needhamucc.org

musicdirector@needhamucc.org

office@needhamucc.org

finance@needhamucc.org

moderator@needhamucc.org

prc@needhamucc.org

March 28, 2024: Maundy Thursday

WELCOME

Rev. Maddie Foster

THE STORY OF THIS NIGHT

John 13: selected verses

One: Just before the Passover Feast, Jesus knew that the time had come to leave this world to go to the Father. Having loved his dear companions, he continued to love them right to the end. Jesus knew that he came from God and was on his way back to God. So he got up from the supper table, set aside his robe, and put on an apron. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with his apron. When he got to Simon Peter, Peter said, "Master, are *you* going to wash *my* feet?"

Many: **Jesus answered, "You don't understand now what I'm doing, but it will be clear enough to you later."**

One: Peter persisted, "You're not going to wash *my* feet - ever!"

Many: **Jesus said, "If I don't wash you, you can't be part of what I'm doing."**

One: So Peter said. "Master! Then, not only my feet, but also wash my hands! Wash my head!"

Many: **Jesus said, "If you've had a bath in the morning, you only need your feet washed now and you're clean from head to toe. My concern, you understand, is holiness, not hygiene. So now *I say you're clean.*"**

One: After Jesus had finished washing their feet, he took his robe, put it back on, and went back to his place at the table.

Many: **"You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Master,'" he said, "and rightly so. That is what I am. So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet. I've laid down a pattern for you. What I've done, you do. Let me give you a new command:**

All: **Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you should love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples, when they see the love you have for each other."**

HYMN

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant (see below)

SHARING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION*

Matthew 26:26-29

(together, using whatever food & drink you have on hand if participating online)

** For our celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion / The Eucharist / The Lord's Supper today, those in the sanctuary who wish to partake will be invited to come down the center aisle to receive a piece of gluten-free bread from a Deacon and take for themselves a serving of juice (pre-set in a compostable cup). As always, all bread is gluten-free and all juice is non-alcoholic and ALL ARE INVITED. You do not need to be a member of this congregation or any congregation, but simply desire to receive this blessing in your life. Come, friends, taste and see the goodness of God!*

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Love Consecrate the Humblest Act"

THE SHADOWS GATHER

Following each reading, we will join together the following refrain:

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer -
cy on us. cy, have mer - cy on us.

THE SHADOW OF AGONY

Matthew 26:36-46

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

Matthew 26:47-56

THE SHADOW OF FALSE WITNESS

Matthew 26:57-67

THE SHADOW OF DENIAL

Matthew 26:69-75

THE SHADOW OF INJUSTICE

Matthew 27:1-2, 11-18, 20-24

THE SHADOW OF CRUCIFIXION

Matthew 27:27-38

THE SHADOW OF DEATH

Matthew 27:45-51

THE SHADOW OF GRIEF

Matthew 27:55-61

CHORAL REFLECTION

“Were You There?”

Please leave in silence.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS: March 28, 2024



We Need YOU to Teach Sunday School!

Both our Sunday School and Youth Group programs rely on the help of volunteers to teach and lead! All of the material prep is done in advance by Rev. Maddie and lesson plans are available online to make teaching as straightforward as possible for our volunteers. When you arrive to teach you simply grab the box marked for that Sunday, give everything a once-over, and prepare to welcome kids to the classroom! **Sign up at this link:** <https://tinyurl.com/CEYouth2324>



Sabbatical Project: Lay Preachers Series

While Rev. John is on sabbatical (until May 19), we'll be reconnecting to our ministry as a congregation through a series of sermons delivered by church members serving on our ministry teams: Prayer & Care (2/25), Christian Education (3/10), Environmental Ministries (3/17), Guatemala Partnership (4/14), Open & Affirming (4/28), and Outreach (5/12). These preaching teams will be working with our consulting pastor, Rev. Chris Mereschuk, to share with us not just what they do, but why, and how it connects to their faith and our shared faith. Please make plans to attend those Sundays to support your fellow members and learn more about who we are as a congregation and who God is calling us to become.



Mindful Meditation ONLINE

Sundays @ 7pm LIVE! via Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/79920727588>

What is mindful meditation? *Focusing on being intensely aware of what you're sensing and feeling in the moment, without interpretation or judgment. Practicing mindfulness involves breathing methods, guided imagery, and other practices to relax the body and mind and help reduce stress.* Join longtime practitioner Sue Findlay and others Sunday evenings online.



The Women's Retreat is Back!

Join our wonderful community of women for an overnight stay and three meals at the UCC Craigville Retreat Center in Centerville on Cape Cod. This year's theme is "Choosing Hope." The cost is \$150/person in a dorm-like setting. Events include morning beach walk, yoga, music, discussions, a craft, Communion, and overall camaraderie.

To register: please mail or drop off a check made out to Congregational Church of Needham, with "Women's Retreat" in the memo section, as well as a note listing your email address, phone number, and any food allergies or dietary restrictions. Space is limited to 23 participants, reserve your spot now!

If you have any questions, contact a member of the Women's Retreat planning team:

Stephanie Oddleifson (soddleifson@gmail.com)

Carol Brown (walshbrown1@gmail.com)

Cici Hunt (cicihunt@gmail.com)

Carol Oberle (coberle1@verizon.net)

Janet Jankowiak (janetjankowiak@comcast.net)

Dibby Moder (dmoder@verizon.net)



HYMN SING: Submit Your Song Suggestions

Sunday, April 7 @ 10 AM

Join us for a special Communion Sunday full of song! Submit your suggestions for hymns online using our Google form or on-site outside the sanctuary. Part of the form will ask you why you love the hymn you're submitting. If you choose to answer this optional question, we may include your reflections when we're introducing hymns.

Submit your favorite hymns online: <https://forms.gle/5yPWZKSeTwot1xzH7>



Join Us for a Sunday Supper Potluck!

Sunday, April 7 @ 5 PM

A potluck dinner will be held at several church members' homes to bring together younger and older, newer and longer-term members for a cozy evening of connection and great food. Simply email Kristin Mollerus (kristin@mollerus.net) by **Sunday March 24th** and share the names of the adults who will be joining the dinner. And please let us know if you're interested in hosting as we have a few more slots available. We'll do the rest to match you with a host home, and meal contributions will be coordinated at that point. *Looking forward to feasting and fun together!*



Immigration Issues Series #3

Sunday, 4/7 @ 11:15am Live and online via Zoom

The Outreach Committee presents a talk on Immigration in Massachusetts by Heather Yountz on Sunday, 4/7 @ 11:15AM LIVE! onsite & online via Zoom at <http://zoom.us/j/907548568> "Heather Yountz, a resident of Needham, is currently the Senior Immigration Staff Attorney at MLRI (Massachusetts Law Reform Institute). Previously, she worked as an immigration attorney at Demise & Church. Prior to private practice, she was an asylum attorney in the Immigration Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services." (credit: MLRI website bio)



Needham UCC & Me: Our Local Church & Denomination

Sunday, May 5 @ 11:11, Reception room

Learn about the ministry of our church and our participation in our denomination, the United Church of Christ. This program is open to anyone but can be particularly useful for folks who have recently become members or who are considering making Needham UCC their spiritual home through membership.

Would you like to make this congregation your church home?

Would you like to know more about what it means to be a member here?

Reach out to Rev. Maddie at revmaddie@needhamucc.org



Kids'N'Church

Children of all ages are always welcome in worship! Quiet books and **pew pals** (soft toys) are available in our **family room**, just outside the sanctuary, where you'll also find a cozy couch, big toy box, and a speaker that broadcasts the service. All bathrooms have **changing tables**. Our **Nursery** is available for infants & toddlers when volunteers are available. **Sunday School** (for children in older Pre-K through Grade 5) and **Youth Group** (grades 6-12) are both offered during our 10am worship service on the 2nd & 4th Sundays. All children and youth remain in the sanctuary with their families to share **communion** (as parents decide), usually on the first Sunday of the month.

Have questions about our Children's and Youth Ministries? Check in with Rev. Maddie after the service or email RevMaddie@NeedhamUCC.org



Your support makes a difference.

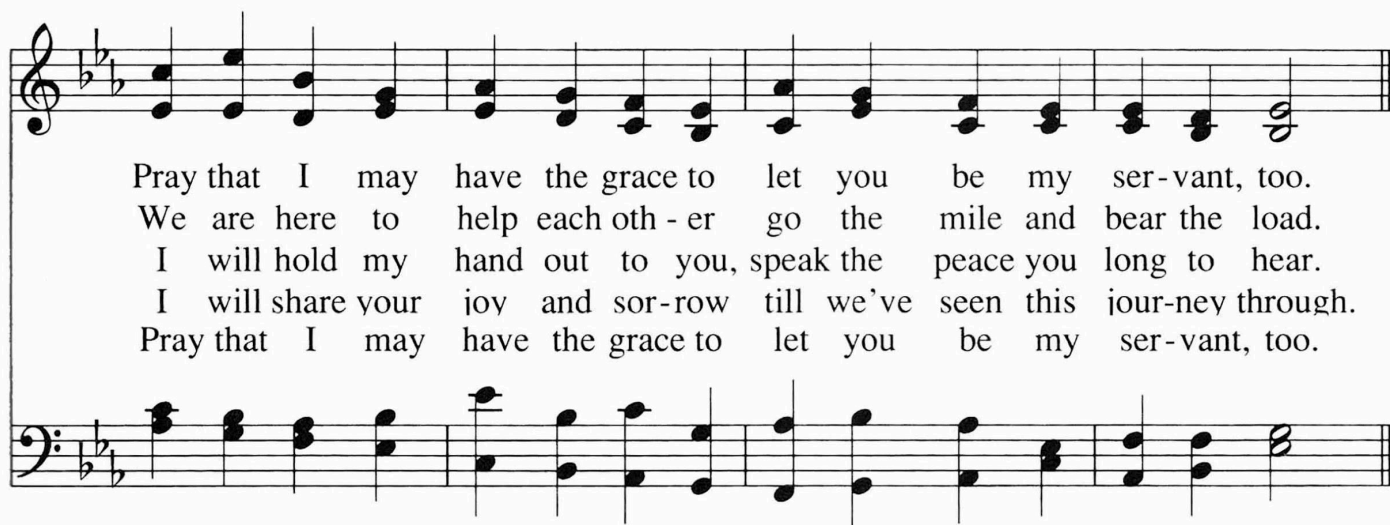
You may notice we do not collect an offering during our worship service but there are multiple ways to give if you desire. You can leave a cash or check offering in the collection plate in the foyer outside the sanctuary. Paypal, credit, or debit card donations can be made online at: www.NeedhamUCC.org/giving

Thank you for your generous gifts to support the work of our congregation and our ministry partners in our community and around the world.

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?



1 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor-row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.