



**OUTREACH**



**OUTREACH LAY PREACHING  
5/12 @ 10AM, LIVE ON-SITE & ONLINE  
Connect @ [www.NeedhamUCC.com](http://www.NeedhamUCC.com)**

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

1154 Great Plain Ave, Needham MA 02492 / Tel 781.444.2510 / [www.NeedhamUCC.org](http://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](mailto:revmaddie@needhamucc.org)  
[musicdirector@needhamucc.org](mailto:musicdirector@needhamucc.org)  
[office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org)  
[finance@needhamucc.org](mailto:finance@needhamucc.org)  
[moderator@needhamucc.org](mailto:moderator@needhamucc.org)  
[prc@needhamucc.org](mailto:prc@needhamucc.org)

**May 12, 2024: Sixth Sunday in Eastertide**

**PRELUDE** *Prelude in C* by Krebs Valerie Becker, Organ

**WELCOME** Rev. Maddie Foster

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *Adapted from the Prayer of Saint Francis*

One: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

**MANY: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;**

One: where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;

**MANY: where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.**

One: O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,

**MANY: to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.**

One: For it is in giving that we receive, and it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

***ALL: Let us worship God together, in spirit and in truth, in word and in deed.***

**HYMN** **O For A World** (*see below*)

**TIME FOR CHILDREN** Rev. Maddie Foster

**REFLECTIONS** *Matthew 22:36-40* Diana Conroy  
*James 2:12-18* Georgina Arrieta-Ruetenik

**HYMN** **Enviado** (*see below*)

**SHARING OUR PRAYERS** (“O God, hear our prayer”)

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*(using these or whichever words are closest to your own heart)*

**Our Father/Mother in heaven, holy is your name. Your reign come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## ANTHEM

*The Gift of Love* Hal Hopson

Chancel Choir

*Though I may speak with bravest fire and have the gift to all inspire  
And have not love; my words are vain, As sounding brass and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess and striving so my love profess,  
But not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.  
Come spirit come, our hearts control, Our spirits long to be made whole,  
Let inward love guide every deed, By this we worship and are freed.*

*Amen.*

## PARTNERING IN THE GOOD NEWS

### SINGING OUR THANKS AND PRAISE

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

## SENDING FORTH

## POSTLUDE

*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](mailto: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, typically 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](mailto:RevMaddie@NeedhamUCC.org)**



## **Your offering makes a difference.**

There are many ways to give if you feel called to participate in the ministry of this congregation financially. 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](http://www.NeedhamUCC.org/giving)**

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

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS: May 12, 2024



### **We Need YOU to Teach Sunday School & Youth Group!**

We strive to offer Sunday School, Youth Group, and a Nursery at least twice a month. We rely on the time and talents of volunteers to hold classes. If volunteers are not available, a one-room-schoolhouse may be offered instead, with no nursery care.

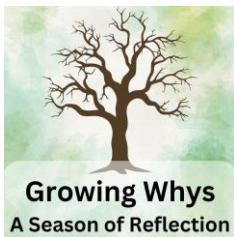
**Sign up at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/CEYouth2324>**

Sunday, May 12:      SS - Needs 1 volunteer              YG - Needs 1-2  
Nursery - Needs 2

Sunday May 19:      SS - Needs 1-2 volunteers              YG - Needs 1-2  
Nursery - Needs 2

Sunday, June 9:      SS - Needs 2 volunteers              YG - Needs 1-2  
Nursery - Needs 2

Sunday, June 16:      SS - Needs 2 volunteers              YG - Needs 1-2  
Nursery - Needs 2



### **Growing Whys: A Season of Reflection**

***Contribute your intention to our “Growing Whys” beginning April 21!***

Our preaching teams have reflected on the “whys” of their ministries within our church community. Now you are invited to set an intention for yourself and the ways you hope to grow in relationship and engage in the life and ministry of the church. Write your intention on the leaf post-its provided during worship and add it to our tree or message the Zoom greeter and they can add one for you. *In the fall, you’ll be invited to reflect on the ways you’ve lived into that intention, or ways you understand your intention in a new way. You may wish to hold on to some symbol, photo, or small token of your intention from your summer months to bring back and share.*





## Send us your photos from Sabbatical Season!

Do you have photos from Lent, Easter, Lay Preaching Sundays, or anything from our life together these last 3 months? We'd love to compile photos together to share with Rev. John. We'll be making a photo album with notes of welcome and appreciation to give to Rev. John at his Welcome Back BBQ. If you have photos – or notes you'd like to share – please email them to [RevMaddie@needhamucc.org](mailto:RevMaddie@needhamucc.org)

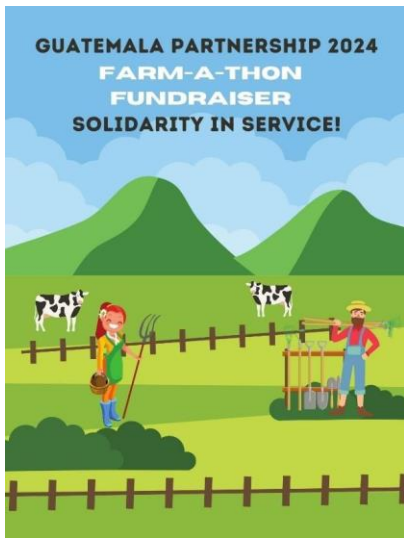
## NEXT SUNDAY - Rev. John Returns



**SAVE THE DATE: Welcome Back BBQ for Rev. John! (And Confirmation! And Pentecost!)**

*Sunday, May 19 @ 11:11, Fellowship Hall*

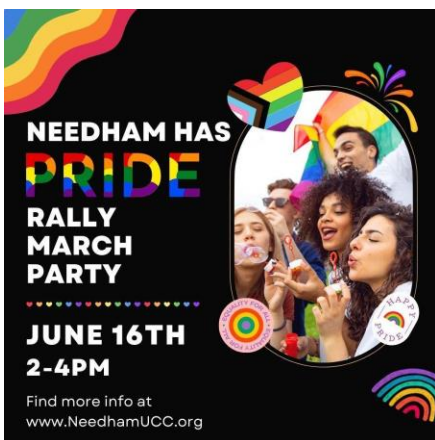
Join us for worship and fellowship on Sunday, May 19 when we welcome Rev. John back from sabbatical (and celebrate Confirmation and Pentecost!) with a big BBQ! Can you help with setting up? Email [RevMaddie@NeedhamUCC.org](mailto:RevMaddie@NeedhamUCC.org)



## Guatemala 'Farm-a-Thon' Fundraiser *Saturday, June 1st, 9am-Noon*

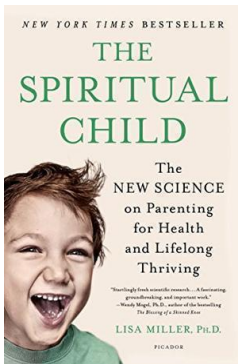
ALL are invited to join our third annual 'Farm-a-thon' fundraiser at the Natick Community Organic Farm. We are seeking volunteers from both the Congregational Church of Needham and the First Congregational Church of Natick to collaborate in this event. ALL funds raised by participants will support education and development in Santa María Tzejá. Participants will raise pledges from family and friends to support their day of volunteering. As we approach the summer, this is a great way to celebrate our earth and support our friends both globally and locally.

TO REGISTER for this event: Contact Brenda Metzler at [bmetzler7@verizon.net](mailto:bmetzler7@verizon.net). TO DONATE to the Needham Team: 1) Send in a check payable to the Congregational Church of Needham, memo: "Guatemala Farm-a-thon"; or 2) Donate online via PayPal at [www.NeedhamUCC.org](http://www.NeedhamUCC.org); Select 'Guatemala Farm-a-thon' from the drop-down menu. Thank you.



## NEEDHAM HAS PRIDE: Join us for a "family-sized" RALLY! MARCH! & PARTY! *Sunday, June 16 @ 2-4pm*

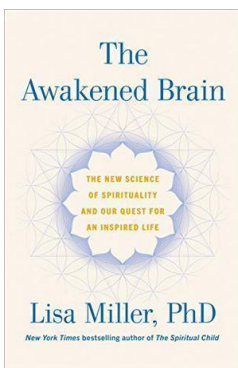
beginning at First Parish in Needham, UU, 23 Dedham Ave ending at The Congregational Church of Needham, UCC, 1154 Great Plain Ave, Needham gathers for a "family-sized" celebration to show love for, support of, and pride in our LGBTQ+ neighbors, especially queer families and the youngest among us. Please wear your favorite all-ages-friendly Pride outfit and bring your signs of support!



## Summer Reading Groups: The Spiritual Child & The Awakened Brain

You're invited to join the Christian Education committee and our friends at Wellesley Hills Congregational Church in two reads this summer. *The Spiritual Child* will be offered to parents of young children, while *The Awakened Brain* is offered to folks across the lifespan. Both groups will have the opportunity to meet via Zoom to chat about what you've uncovered in your reading.

Parents reading *The Spiritual Child* will meet on the second Tuesdays at 7pm (June 11, July 9, August 13) and folks reading *The Awakened Brain* will meet with Rev. Maddie on the third Tuesdays at 7pm (June 18, July 16, August 20). Dr. Miller will join us in Wellesley (and on Zoom) in September to discuss her work.



***“Hundreds of books discuss parenting issues, but *The Spiritual Child* is a special resource with a focus on fostering children’s spiritual lives. Perceptive, thought-provoking, and heavily researched, this is a valuable book for anyone interested in spiritual development in children, adolescents, and families.” – Gretchen Rubin, #1 NYT best selling author of *The Happiness Project****

**“Dr. Miller is a consummate scientist who refuses to accept one of our culture’s most pervasive and damaging assumptions: that science and spirituality are at odds. She unequivocally shows that spirituality heals.”—Larry Dossey, MD, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Healing Words***





## Annual Ministerial Review Survey Coming Soon

The Ministerial Review Team is preparing to send out its annual surveys for both ministers. Rev. Maddie's will be available on Sunday May 19, and Rev. John's will come out shortly after his return. Links to the surveys will be provided in weekly emails and Sunday bulletins, and hard copies will be available in the church office. Your feedback is very important to the ongoing growth and well-being of our Ministers and our Congregation, so we highly encourage you to participate.



## Looking for Grocery Shoppers:

The Outreach Committee works with Baby Basics in supplying protein grocery items on a bimonthly basis. When the families come to pick up their diapers, we also give them 8 cans of tuna, 2 large cans of chicken, 2 large jars of peanut butter and 2 bags of dried beans. We usually provide for 10-13 families.

Could you help us every other month or whatever time works for you to help us gather these items? Please reach out to Sue Cotton at [mscotton59@gmail.com](mailto:mscotton59@gmail.com) to be added to the list of shoppers. Thank you.

## **O FOR A WORLD**

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done with justice and praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared, and equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

## **ENVIADO SOY DE DIOS**

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,  
to make of all the earth a better place to live.

The angels are not sent into our world of pain  
to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;  
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today!