



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

October 25, 2015

Theme: Gifts of Community



Our Covenant

We strive to be a joyful, welcoming
Christian Community.

We seek to be faithful in a world torn by suffering, injustice,
oppression, and war,

We are inspired by God, Christ's ministry, and the examples
of other faithful people.

We join together in worship and song, fellowship, study, and
mission, to embrace the risks and challenges of continuing
Christ's ministry.

We struggle to live out our faith in the world by furthering
justice and peace, witnessing to the truth, and proclaiming
God's love and mercy for all people.

As a covenant community we are committed to the belief that all people are created equal before God. In affirmation of the inclusive love of Christ Jesus, we welcome persons of any race, gender, age, sexual orientation, ability and economic circumstance to full participation in our community life and ministry. We strive to reflect these beliefs in the language and content of our worship and in our lives together.



Sunday, October 25, 2015

10:00am

Children are always welcome in Worship with their parents/guardians. Pre-K childcare begins in the nursery at 10 am. Grades 9-12 may stay in the Sanctuary with their parents. Grades K-8 will be dismissed to the chapel and will go to their classrooms from there.

PRELUDE

Prelude on St. Columba
Raymond Haan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Lou Hughes

Leader: God has gathered us to this place,

People: Where we hear those stories which show us what the kingdom of God is like.

Leader: God summons us to this place,

People: Where we can learn how to serve our God without reservation, or hesitation.

Leader: God will send us from this place,

People: To tell others of God's hopes and dreams, so they, too, can choose to follow God.

***OPENING HYMN # 1** (*Black Hymnal*)

**Immortal, Invisible,
God Only Wise**

OPENING PRAYER

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

To You, O God, we lift up our souls.

To You we offer our praise and prayer,

Our worship and thanksgiving,

even our very lives.

Make Your ways known to us.

Show us the path on which we should walk.

Lead us in Your truth and teach us.

For You alone are the God who saves,

the God in whom we trust;

and the One on whom we wait.

Hear our prayer...

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debt, debtors)

Prayer Response

Almighty Father Hear Our Prayer

David H. Williams

ANTHEM

Down to the River to Pray

arr. Sheldon Curry

Shepherd's Staff Choir

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Children leave for Bible Village after Time for Children.

CHILDREN'S HYMN #526 (Black Hymnal)

**We Are Marching In
The Light Of God**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 24: 28-31

NT, p. 86

SERMON

“Gift of Hospitality”
Heike Werder

HYMN (*seated*) # **96** (*Black Hymnal*) **Sun of My Soul, O Savior**
Dear

MORNING PRAYER

Concerns and Celebrations

Call to Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Leader: O Lord, show your mercy upon us.

People: And grant us your salvation.

Leader: O God, make clean our hearts within us.

People: And take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Leader: Let us pray.

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Response

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

OFFERTORY

Anthem

In Bright Mansions Above
arr. Roland M. Carter

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow,

Praise God, all creatures here below,

Praise God above, ye heavenly host,

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

***CLOSING HYMN #388** (*Black Hymnal*)

**Help Us Accept Each
Other**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Peace I Leave You
David H. Williams

POSTLUDE

Chaconne
by Louis Couperin

*~~*You are invited to stand.~~*

- Welcome to all who are here for the first time. Please fill out the blue “Welcome” card in the pews to receive weekly emails or newsletters.
- Please turn off your cell phone before attending the service.
- Please ask an usher if you would like a copy of the sermon, or need a hearing device. Copies of the sermons are also available on the sermon link at www.needhamucc.org, our church website.

Worship Leader: Mary Lou Hughes

Deacons: Stephanie Oddleifson, Susan Lively

Altar Guild: Diana Conroy

Ushers: Rob Blauvelt, Craig Morrison, Chris Nyland, Kevin Ward

Flowers: Nancy Fischer

Flower Delivery: Caryl Johnson

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving
memory of my parents and grandparents by Martha Lamb.*

**Warrant for Special Meeting
Sunday, November 1, 2015**

A special meeting of the members of The Congregational Church of Needham will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the 10 am worship service on Sunday, November 1st, at approximately 11:15 am. There will be one item for this special meeting of the congregation:

Article I: To approve the financial terms of the separation agreement of Rev. Susan Cartmell

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The Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister
Valerie Becker, Director of Youth Music
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister
Madelyn Downer, Director of Children &
Youth Ministries

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Board To the Congregation: Following our communication of October 9th regarding Rev. Susan's letter of resignation, the board met to start planning for the next phase in our church. We met with Rev. Wendy Vander Hart, Associate Conference Minister of the MA Conference, to begin the process of identifying an interim minister, and we discussed plans to reach out to members of the congregation as we all prepare for the upcoming period of transition.

We also agreed a process for ratifying the financial arrangements of Rev. Susan's separation agreement. We would like to ratify these arrangements as soon as possible, and therefore we have established the following meeting dates:

Sunday, October 25th immediately following the service: Informational meeting after church in Linden Hall to summarize the financial terms of Rev. Susan's separation agreement (copies of the separation agreement will not be distributed, so please make an effort to attend this brief informational meeting if you can).

Sunday, November 1st immediately following the service: Special congregational meeting in the Sanctuary to ratify the financial terms of the separation agreement.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EVENT: TONIGHT (Sunday, October 25th, from 6:30-8:00 pm in Linden Hall), the Guatemala Partnership will host Llan Carlos Dávila, a rural Guatemalan mayor and representative of the Diocesan Committee on the Defense of Nature (CODIDENA). He will share his efforts to defend rural communities against environmental and human rights threats from international mining activities, specifically the Canadian-owned Tahoe Resources silver mine. Llan Carlos' stop in the Boston area is part of a national tour sponsored by NISGUA, the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala. This is a must-see event for anyone interested in our church's partnership with Santa María Tzejá, social and economic development in developing countries, global sustainability, or environmental justice. The event includes a dessert buffet. Please join us!

Friendly Society: The Friendly Society will get a jumpstart on Christmas gifts for City Mission kids on Thursday, 11/5. Please join us in making and filling Christmas stockings at a workshop meeting at 1:30 pm at 1180 GPA. It may be a working meeting, but we have a lot of fun. Enjoy Rev. Heike's soup lunch at noon, then stay afterwards.

Village Fair and Silent Auction: It is once again time to start thinking about the Village Fair, and Silent Auction. We are accepting donations for the Auction as of now. This can be items of value, donations of services, donations of area restaurant or store Gift Certificates, or a donation of lessons in your area of

expertise. (Voice and music lessons, tutoring, and cooked or baked goods on schedule are always popular!) Please contact Diana Conroy (781-449-3350 or conroyjd@rcn.com) to arrange for your donation.

Ornaments and old Christmas cards wanted for Village Fair! Garden Fence (Fall and Christmas decorations) and the Environmental Ministries Team are interested in receiving your no-longer-needed gently used silk flowers and greens (appropriate for fall & Christmas), holiday picks, and ornaments (especially sets) to repurpose into new holiday creations. We are also collecting old Christmas cards for the Elf Shop, so the kids can make gift tags out of them. Please leave your items during the week in the box in Danielle's office, and on Sundays in the box in the narthex. Questions? EMT@needhamucc.org or speak with a member of one of the groups. Thank you!

Bible Village: The Sunday School program is looking for intergenerational volunteer teachers! Parents, high school and college students, sage church members, curious and fun people who can show our kids how much God loves them by leading a Bible Village workshop—all are invited to teach! We provide all of the materials and the lessons beforehand. Lessons are straightforward and easy to teach—and our kids are so much fun! Sign-up at: www.tinyurl.com/ChildrenYouthSignUp

Request for Altar Guild Volunteers: The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers. High school students are welcome to join. Please contact Carol Miller at millerc291@verizon.net for more information.

Friendly Chimers: WE NEED YOU! If you can read music, have time to spare after church some Sundays (11:40-12:30) but not on a regular basis, want to try out a new instrument w/out any "strings" attached, the Friendly Chimers could use your help. We often have regular members who are away, so there are holes in our music making. Come join us whoever you're free. It can be a spontaneous and a fun-filled opportunity and a BIG HELP. This past Sunday Alan Clayton-Matthews filled in and had a great time. Just come to the sanctuary after church or contact Joanne Seiden for more information (781-449-6535, jseiden@basiclink.com).

Adult Bible Study, Sunday's @ 11:30 Conference Room: Small group discussion based on reading a few chapters of the Bible at a time. We meet immediately after church, from 11:30 to 12:30 in the reception room. This fall we will continue our study of the minor prophets. Take a look at how God is still speaking to us, even in stories from thousands of years ago! This is a great opportunity to discuss your spiritual questions with other people of faith. Everyone is welcome to drop in and join us. For more information, contact Sunu Yeh at dormouse99@gmail.com.

The Faith Circles Book Group is Back! We will meet Thursday mornings from

October 1st from 10:30-12:00 until November 19th (except for Oct., **22nd**). We will be reading **Mere Christianity** by C.S. Lewis . Please contact Christine Weitzel for more information at cweitzel@verizon.net .

Monthly Luncheons: Please join us on the first Thursday of every month for soup, delicious bread, dessert, fellowship and conversation. Our next luncheon will be served on November 5, 2015 at **12 noon at the 1180 Great Plain Ave.** dining room. All are welcome to attend!

Family Promise Metrowest, From Judy Mongiardo, Network Coordinator- Thank you, Needham Congregational Church! This summer you opened your hearts to the guests of Family Promise Metrowest while they were housed at Fisk United Methodist and First Congregational Churches in Natick., For all who prepared a meal, hosted a dinner, stayed overnight, read to a child, set up rooms, did laundry and more we are ever grateful.

Our next support week is **Nov. 22-28 with First Congregational Church Natick.** Contact Heidi Wiesel heidi.wiesel@gmail.com or Susan Kirk susanckirk@comcast.net

KEEP THE PROMISE: AN EVENING OF FOOD TASTING TO BENEFIT FAMILIES WHO ARE HOMELESS: NOVEMBER 7, 2015

Hosted by: Temple Shir Tikva, 141 Boston Post Road, Wayland

7:00PM - 11:00PM: Tickets go on sale September 8. Last year's event was sold out. Visit our website to purchase tickets and to learn more about this event , www.familypromisemetrowest.org or call the office at 508-318-4820. Come join the fun and help raise funds and awareness for Family Promise Metrowest and our Day Center Shelter and Transitional Housing Program.

Boiler Replacement Campaign: Make a tax deductible contribution towards the efforts for energy efficiency in our church at 1154 Great Plain Ave. With the addition of our 3 new boilers, we change our heat efficiency from 60% to 96%. With our other energy saving efforts, we hope to reduce our carbon footprint 25% by 2020! We have the potential to save \$10,000- \$15,000 each year! Any contributions may be earmarked for the "Boiler Replacement Campaign". If your employer has a matching program, please consider requesting a contribution match from them. Send your contribution to Danielle in the church office.

LED Bulb Donations to Continue: If you are out shopping for energy efficient LED bulbs for your home, please consider purchasing one or two for the church. Please leave bulbs in the donation box located near the mailboxes in the church office. Check out the EMT bulletin board for more information about LED bulbs.

Used Book Sale- Please donate gently used books, CDs and DVDs to the Village Fair Used Book Sale. Donations can be left in the 1180 building during the week and in the church library on Sunday.

CALENDAR October 25th—November 5th

Sunday, Oct. 25th	10:00 am 11:15 am 11:30 am 11:40 am 6:30 pm	Worship Service/Communion, <i>Sanctuary</i> Informational Meeting, <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i> Guatemala Event, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Monday, Oct. 26th	8:30 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i>
Tuesday, Oct. 27th	7:00 pm	CE Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Thursday, Oct. 28th	10:30 am 7:00 pm	Faith Circle Book Club, <i>1154 Reception</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Sunday, Nov. 1st	10:00 am 11:15 am 11:30 am 11:45 am 11:40 am 5:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Congregational Meeting, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i> JH Youth Group Youth Group Dinner SH Youth Group Guatemala Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Monday, Nov. 2nd	8:30 am 7:15 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Tuesday, Nov. 3rd	10:00 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Prayer Shawl, <i>1180 GPA</i> Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> Deacon's Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Wed., Nov. 4th	7:00 pm	Youth Committee Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 5th	10:30 am 12:00 pm 1:30 pm 7:00 pm	Faith Circle Book Club, <i>1154 Reception</i> Lunch w/ Heike, <i>Library</i> Friendly Society Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>



Family Promise Metrowest

a community response to families who are homeless

FAMILY PROMISE WEEK – OCTOBER 18-25 DID YOU KNOW?

Family Promise Metrowest opened its doors in October, 2008 with 13 host and 8 support congregations and 750 volunteers.

Since then we've sheltered 85 families, including 189 children.

Our network now includes 18 host congregations, 32 support congregations, 55 business partners, and 2,500 volunteers from across the Metrowest community

In 2014 alone Family Promise volunteers provided:

- 10,335 meals at a value of \$31,005;
- In-kind donations valued at \$77,083
- 30,507 volunteer hours, valued at \$533,791

FPM is one of over 190 affiliates across the country uniting communities to help children and families who are without a home. Together 6,000 congregations and 160,000 volunteers have served 600,000 people since 1988.

Family Promise Metrowest has grown beyond our shelter program to also include:

Transitional Housing: This program provides a chance to move into independent housing with ongoing case management and subsidies to ensure there long term sustainability. It doubles the number we serve.

Steps to Success: Families often come to Family Promise having lost their ability to strategize about their future—to create goals, to dream. This comprehensive vocational planning initiative will allow families to reach their highest earning potential.

Affordable Housing: Family Promise Metrowest is collaborating with local developers, realtors, government, and nonprofits in Natick to expand the stock of affordable housing.

Did you know that one out of every four people who is homeless is a child? Or, that families with children make up 40% of the people in this country who are homeless? Family homelessness is a national problem.

*The week of October 18-25 is Family Promise Week. Our local Affiliate, Family Promise Metrowest, is one of 192 programs across the country uniting the faith community to help children and their families who are homeless. Family Promise Week will raise awareness about the issue as well as celebrate the service of our congregation and others to serve our brothers and sisters in need. You can participate in Family Promise Week by signing up to volunteer, telling others about Family Promise Metrowest, or attending our celebratory concert, Sweet Sounds for Kids on Sunday afternoon, October 25 3:30-5 PM at Energy Fitness in Natick. For more information please go our website:
www.familypromisemetrowest.org*