



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

November 1, 2015

Theme: Gifts of the 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, November 1, 2015

10:00am

*Children are always welcome in Worship with their parents/guardians.
Pre-K children are invited to the nursery throughout the service.
Students in grades K-8 will begin in their classes and join their families in the Sanctuary for Communion.*

PRELUDE

Communion
Richard Purvis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kirby Salerno

Leader: In all our weakness and strength,
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,

People: We come to be your people, O God.

Leader: Strong in faith and eager with questions,
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,

People: We come to be your people, O God.

Leader: Filled with saintly determination
yet mindful of our human limitations,

People: We come to be your people, O God.

Leader: Made strong in your endless love for us,
we know ourselves to be yours and yours alone.

People: May we truly become your people today, O God.

***OPENING HYMN # 439** (*Black Hymnal*)

**A Mighty Fortress
Is Our God**

OPENING PRAYER

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

**Holy One, we come from the busy-ness of our daily lives -
from the hubbub of our work and play
from the hue and cry of the world around us,
we come to worship you.**

**In this hour, we long to meet you,
to feel your presence surrounding us,
enveloping us, loving us.**

**We long to settle into silence,
laying aside our worries and our cares,
aware of your presence around us,
before us, behind us, within us.**

Come, Lord Jesus, hear our prayers ...

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debt, debtors)

Prayer Response

Almighty Father Hear Our Prayer

David H. Williams

ANTHEM

Blessed Are the Dead Who Die in the Lord
Carl Schalk (b. 1929)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 7: 24-30

NT, p. 40

SERMON

“Gift of Growth”
Heike Werder

HYMN (seated) # 346 (*Black Hymnal*)

**Bread of the World,
in Mercy Broken**

OFFERTORY

Concerns and Celebrations

Anthem

Help Us Accept Each Other
John Ness Beck (1930 - 1987)

**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

ORDER FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

All Saints Remembrance

Communion Prayer

Prayer Response

**Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you Lord!**

Distribution of the Bread and Cup:

Music for the Bread and Cup:

294 (Black Hymnal) There's a Spirit in the Air

295 (Black Hymnal) I Sing a Song of the Saints of

God

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us
at your table by granting us the presence of Christ.
Strengthen our faith. Increase our love for one another. Send
us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the
power of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

***CLOSING HYMN # 299** (*Black Hymnal*)

For All the Saints

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Peace I Leave You
David H. Williams

POSTLUDE

Passepied
JS Bach (1685-1750)

****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: Kirby Salerno

Deacons: Sunu Yeh, Carol Oberle

Communion Servers: Kirby Salerno, Frank Luppino, Lee McNally

Altar Guild: Jean Veigas, Val Kistler

Ushers: Jim Leighton, Phil Gotwals, Rich Weitzel, Robert Kennedy

Flowers: Janet Rubenstein

Flower Delivery: Jean Veigas

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving of
memory Robert Treen by his daughter and son-in-law,
Jane and Adam Brand.*

COMMUNION

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of every month in our church. Along with Baptism, it is one of two sacraments in the United Church of Christ.

At Holy Communion we remember that Jesus ate with his disciples on the last night before he died. In that upper room he transformed the Passover meal something new. As he broke the bread that night he reminded them that it was a symbol for his own body which was broken for all of us. As he lifted the cup of wine he told them that it was a symbol of the covenant- which had come from Abraham and Moses - between us and God.

So when we eat the bread and dip it into the cup we remember that God loved us so much that God sent Jesus. Through Christ we came to know God even better. At this table, through faith, we believe Christ joins us and comes to be our host.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey you are welcome at this table. We offer children instruction in the sacrament of Holy Communion in the second grade. We leave it to families to decide if their children will take the communion, but everyone is welcome at any age. If your child will not be taking communion but would like a short blessing, please tell one of the ministers.

When you come forward the minister will give you the bread and say - "The Bread of Heaven for you". Many people respond saying, "Amen" or "Thanks be to God". Dip the bread into the cup of grape juice. As you do, the Deacon will say, "The cup of salvation for you." Again you may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God." You are encouraged to eat the bread soaked in the juice right away, and then return to your seat down the side aisle.

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. You must be present to vote. Proxy votes not accepted. 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

*The Congregational Church of Needham
1154 Great Plain Avenue
Needham, Massachusetts 02492
Telephone 781-444-2510
E-mail: office@needhamucc.org
www.needhamucc.org*

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, November 1st immediately following the service: Special congregational meeting in the Sanctuary to ratify the financial terms of the separation agreement. You must be present to vote. Proxy votes not accepted.

Stewardship Update: Thank you to everyone who has sent their pledges in. We currently have \$82,837 pledged. Your pledges are the basis of our church budget. If you have not yet sent in your pledge please do so by November 8th either by filling out a form and mailing it or dropping it off in the Narthex, calling the office at 781-444-2510 or email to pledge@needhamucc.org. Thank you.

Thermostat Notice: We are currently the new heating system. Please do not touch any of the thermostats in the building especially in the Sanctuary.

Reception of New Members: On November 15, 2015 the membership team is planning to take in new members. A notice has gone out to all those who have indicated that they are ready to join our community. If for any reason you have not been contacted but feel ready, please contact Rev. Heike at revheike@needhamucc.org or 781-444-2510 or contact Debbie Brennan at 781-444-1925 to let her know. The membership ceremony takes place before church in the chapel, and during the announcements, new members will be introduced.

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!

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.

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

Noah's Ark Preschool: Noah's Ark Preschool is in the process of enrolling children for the 2016-2017 school year! We offer priority enrollment to members of the Congregational Church of Needham, as availability exists, now through November 20th. We invite you to call us to receive information about our program and to schedule a time to come in for a tour!

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. 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.

Chairs! Chairs! Chairs!: Now that the chapel renovation is completed, we need to give everyone a lovely place to sit. Twelve chairs have already been purchased through the generosity of the Chapel Committee and twelve more are on order. Now we need your help to reach the goal of sixty more chairs. You may purchase one for \$175 which can include a plaque denoting a memorial or tribute. This is a fine way to honor a family member, celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion. Other monetary donations are welcome and will be applied to additional chairs. Checks and inscriptions can be sent to the church office. Thank you, The Chapel Committee

CALENDAR November 1st—November 14th

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| Sunday, Nov. 1st | 10:00 am 11:15 am 11:30 am 11:45 am 5:00 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 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>1180 GPA</i> Friendly Society Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i> |
| Sunday, Nov. 8th | 10:00 am 11:30 am 11:40 am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm | Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Pageant Meeting Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i> JH Youth Group SH Youth Group Dinner |
| Monday, Nov. 9th | 8:30 am 7:00 pm | Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Finance Team Meeting |
| Tuesday, Nov. 10th | 7:00 pm | Board Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> |
| Wed., Nov. 11th | | Office Closed |
| Veteran's Day | | |
| Thurs., Nov. 12th | 10:30 am 7:00 pm | Faith Circle Book Club, <i>1154 Reception</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i> |
| Saturday, Nov. 14th | 9:30 am | Village Fair |