



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

United Church of Christ

November 20, 2016

Thanksgiving Sunday

Ingathering of Pledges

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Students begin in worship with their parents and will be dismissed to Stevenson Hall by the ministers. Students in grades K-2 can be picked up in the Green classroom. Students in grades 3-5 can be picked up in the Blue classroom. Childcare is available for toddlers and pre-K children during worship in the Red classroom.

PRELUDE

Adagio
W.A. Mozart

CELEBRATION MUSIC

Ave Verum Corpus
W.A. Mozart
*Performed by The Friendly Chimers
Crosby Goshgarian, Director*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

OPENING PRAYER

from the Book of Common

Prayer

Almighty and gracious Mother and Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Many Names; through Jesus Christ our companion on the journey, Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #419 (Black, New Century Hymnal)**

Now Thank We All Our God

Reception of New Members and Renewal of Church Covenant

Today we welcome as part of our Covenant

John and Kim Runyon

Chris and Rachel Busby and their children, Katherine, Anna, and Tess

ANTHEM

Canticle of Thanksgiving
Dale Wood
Youth and Chancel Choirs

Stewardship Update

The Salerno Family

A SELECTION OF READINGS

“Thanks” By W. S. MERWIN

Listen

with the night falling we are saying **thank you**
we are stopping on the bridges to bow from the railings
we are running out of the glass rooms
with our mouths full of food to look at the sky
and say **thank you**
we are standing by the water thanking it
standing by the windows looking out
in our directions

back from a series of hospitals back from a mugging
after funerals we are saying **thank you**
after the news of the dead
whether or not we knew them we are saying **thank you**

over telephones we are saying **thank you**
in doorways and in the backs of cars and in elevators
remembering wars and the police at the door
and the beatings on stairs we are saying **thank you**
in the banks we are saying **thank you**
in the faces of the officials and the rich
and of all who will never change
we go on saying **thank you thank you**

with the animals dying around us
taking our feelings we are saying **thank you**
with the forests falling faster than the minutes
of our lives we are saying **thank you**
with the words going out like cells of a brain
with the cities growing over us
we are saying **thank you** faster and faster
with nobody listening we are saying **thank you**
thank you we are saying and waving
dark though it is

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that God will choose as a dwelling for Her name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to the priest, ‘Today I declare to God that I have come into the land that God swore to our ancestors to give us.’ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the God, you shall make this response before God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my mother; she went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there my ancestors became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Holy One, the God of our ancestors; He heard our voice and saw our

affliction, our toil, and our oppression. God brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and God brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O God, have given me.' You shall set it down before God and bow down before God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Holy One your God has given to you and to your house.

HYMN #3 (Black, New Century Hymnal)

Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works
In solidarity with the Indigenous People of Standing Rock

SERMON

Jim Mitulski

Call to Prayer

President John F. Kennedy's Thanksgiving Proclamation from 1963

read by Kristin Mollerus

A Proclamation

Over three centuries ago, our forefathers in Virginia and in Massachusetts, far from home in a lonely wilderness, set aside a time of thanksgiving. On the appointed day, they gave reverent thanks for their safety, for the health of their children, for the fertility of their fields, for the love which bound them together and for the faith which united them with their God.

So too when the colonies achieved their independence, our first President in the first year of his first Administration proclaimed November 26, 1789, as "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God" and called upon the people of the new republic to "beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions... to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue . . . and generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best."

And so too, in the midst of America's tragic civil war, President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November 1863 as a day to renew our gratitude for America's "fruitful fields," for our "national strength and vigor," and for all our "singular deliverances and blessings."

Much time has passed since the first colonists came to rocky shores and dark forests of an unknown continent, much time since President Washington led a young people into the experience of nationhood, much time since President Lincoln saw the American nation through the ordeal of fraternal war--and in these years our population, our plenty and our power have all grown apace. Today we are a nation of nearly two hundred million souls, stretching from coast to coast, on into the Pacific and north toward the Arctic, a nation enjoying the fruits of an ever-expanding agriculture and industry and achieving standards of living unknown in previous history. We give our humble thanks for this.

Yet, as our power has grown, so has our peril. Today we give our thanks, most of all, for the ideals of honor and faith we inherit from our forefathers--for the decency of purpose, steadfastness of resolve and strength of will, for the courage and the humility, which they possessed and which we must seek every day to emulate. As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them. Let us therefore proclaim our gratitude to Providence for manifold blessings--let us be humbly thankful for inherited ideals--and let us resolve to share those blessings and those ideals with our fellow human beings throughout the world.

Now, Therefore, I, John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America, in consonance with the joint resolution of the Congress approved December 26, 1941, 55 Stat. 862 (5 U.S.C. 87b), designating the fourth Thursday of November in each year as Thanksgiving Day, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 28, 1963, as

a day of national thanksgiving.

On that day let us gather in sanctuaries dedicated to worship and in homes blessed by family affection to express our gratitude for the glorious gifts of God; and let us earnestly and humbly pray that He will continue to guide and sustain us in the great unfinished tasks of achieving peace, justice, and understanding among all men and nations and of ending misery and suffering wherever they exist.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this fourth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-eighth.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Focus today on gratitude.

Heike and Jim will ask for your Thanksgivings after which Heike will offer a concluding prayer.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

In each of our pews today is a black friendship book which we encourage you to fill out and pass to the person next to you during the offering. If you have been with us before, just put down your name, but if you are new today, please let us know who you are. Thanks!

Offertory Anthem

Come Ye Thankful People Come
Joel Raney

**Doxology*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

***CLOSING HYMN #594 (Black, New Century Hymnal)**

How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

BENEDICTION

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

POSTLUDE

Fugue
Johann Pachelbel

****You are invited to stand***

Join us this afternoon for the Interfaith **Thanksgiving Service at First Baptist Church** down the street at on Great Plain Ave. **at 4 pm** along with our Jewish, Muslim, Bahai, Unitarian Universalist, United Methodist, Presbyterian, Evangelical, Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Christian Scientist, Quaker and others neighbors. Sponsored by the Needham Clergy Association of which Heike is the President. Cici Hunt is a featured performer.

Transgender Day of Remembrance Services in Boston tonight: At 6 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral or look up Boston Transgender Day of Remembrance on Facebook or go to <http://www.masstpc.org/community-events/tdor/> .

- Welcome to all who are here for the first time.
- Please silence your cell phone before attending the service.
- Please Check In on Facebook and let people know you are here.
- You can Tweet or Instagram during the service.
- Please ask an usher if you would like or need a hearing device.

*Thank you to last week's Bible Village volunteer teachers:
Patty Morrison, CiCi Hunt, & Maddie Mollerus*

*Thank you to our Bible Village youth classroom assistants:
Brendan Rock, Katherine Rock, Tillie Slosser,
Emily Mollerus, Liam Salerno, Leyna Blume*

Thank you to Crosby Goshgarian for his work with the Friendly Chimers.

Worship Assistant: Maria Libby

Deacons: Susan Lively, Claudia Darmofal

Altar Guild: Laura Cullen

Ushers: Mike Normile, Janet Jankowiak, Bob Everts, Jim Conroy

Flowers: Jan Rubenstein

Flower Delivery: Joanne Seiden

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Juha Koljonen by his family.

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.

Attendance and Collection

11/13/2016 Worship Attendance = 144 people *11/13/2016 Collection = \$1,685

Please contact the church office 781-444-2510 or office@needhamucc.org to find out how you can give electronically.

* *Collection & Pledge amount does not include additional pledges received electronically.*

REMEMBER PRAY ACT

WORLD AIDS DAY

Memorial Panels from the AIDS Quilt will be on display all week. Visit our website (needhamucc.org) and Facebook page for the updated schedule. All events are at the Congregational Church of Needham 1154 Great Plain Ave in Needham. All events are free and open to the public.

Sunday, November 27th, 11:30 a.m.
Lecture and Discussion with Dr. Anthony Petro, author of "The Wrath of God: AIDS, Sexuality and American Religion".

Thursday, December 1st
Celebration of Remembrance
6:00 pm - The PBS Film "Wilhemina's War"
7:00 pm - Discussion and refreshments
7:30 pm - Interfaith Candlelight Service of Singing, Prayer, Sharing of Memories, Reflection and Commitment. People with HIV are encouraged to attend.

Sponsored by
The Congregational Church of Needham,
First Baptist Church of Needham and
First Parish Unitarian Universalists of Needham

Rev. Jim Mitulski's Office Hours

Please contact the church office to schedule an appointment during his office hours of Tuesday & Wednesday 2-6pm; Thursday 2-5pm

*If these times do not work for you please contact the office for alternate availability.

Staff

Interim Senior Minister
The Rev. Jim Mitulski
RevJim@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 106

Associate Minister
The Rev. Heike Werder
RevHeike@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 105

Director of Children & Youth Ministries
Madelyn Downer
Youth@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 104

Music Director
Valerie Becker
musicdirector@needhamucc.org

Organist/Accompanist
Sangyoung Kim

Church Administrator
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Handyman
Bill Donovan

Housekeeper
Sanira Alchaar

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The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

Calendar November 20-December 4

Sunday, November 20th	8:15 am 9:15 am 10:00am 11:30am 11:45am 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Once In a While Choir Rehearsal, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>1154 Reception Room</i> Friendly Chimers, <i>Sanctuary</i> Youth Committee Meeting Community Thanksgiving Service, <i>First Baptist Church</i> Thanksgiving Youth Group Family Potluck
Monday, November 21st	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception Room</i>
Tuesday, November 22nd	7:00 pm	Outreach Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Thursday, November 24th Thanksgiving		Office Closed
Friday, November 25th		Office Closed
Sunday, November 27th 1st Sunday of Advent	9:15 am 10:00am 11:30am	Once In a While Choir Rehearsal, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>1154 Reception Room</i> Friendly Chimers, <i>Sanctuary</i>
Monday, November 28th	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception Room</i>
Tuesday, November 29th	7:00 pm	CE Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Wednesday, November 30th	7:00 pm	The End of Night Book Discussion, <i>Chapel</i>
Thursday, December 1st World Aids Day	6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Holy Homework, <i>Youth Room</i> PBS film "Wilhelmina's War" on HIV/AIDS, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Film Discussion and Refreshments, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> World AIDS Day Remembrance Interfaith Service, <i>Chapel</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Sunday, December 4th	10:00am 11:30am 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Guatemala Meeting, <i>Library</i> Bible Study, <i>1154 Reception Room</i> Friendly Chimers, <i>Sanctuary</i> Holiday Concert, <i>Sanctuary</i> Family Christmas Party

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us on Sunday, December 1st for a forum with Dr. Anthony Petro at 11:30 : Author of the award winning *After the Wrath of God: AIDS, Sexuality and American Religion* (Oxford University Press, 2015.) Petro is Assistant Professor of Religion at Boston Professor and he will be the kickoff speaker for activities for World AIDS Day on December 1st. He will talk to us about how religion and politics joined forces to ensure that a disease went unchecked for nearly a decade in the 1980's until a group of activists joined forces to overcome prejudice and stigma with compassion. That stigma lingers today in public policy and in health care, and among church people. Here is an interview with him in a history journal <http://notchesblog.com/2015/10/27/aids-sexuality-and-american-religion-an-interview-with-anthony-petro/> and one from Religion Dispatches <http://religiondispatches.org/how-aids-changed-the-way-american-christians-talk-about-sexuality/>

UPDATE: Advent book discussion "The End of Night": Wed Nov 30th, light dinner 6:30, discussion 7pm in the Chapel: We are headed into the darkest time of the year and Advent season, preparing ourselves for Christmas, when light plays a large physical and spiritual role. It's the perfect time of the year to read a book about darkness...but what does darkness mean to us with all the artificial light in our age? Purchase *The End of Night* by creative nonfiction writer Paul Bogard from the book sale shelf near the Chapel, or order a copy from the library system. Prepare to read your favorite passage and explain why it is. Join together for a light dinner, then the book discussion on the first Wednesday in Advent. Led by Revs. Jim and Heike, sponsored by the Environmental Ministries Team.

Faith Exploration Book Group: Hello Everyone-- I wanted to invite you to join our Fall Faith Circles book discussion group. We will be meeting 8 Thursdays this Fall from 10:30-12:00 to discuss the book, [Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence](#). I think it will be a great book for discussion and will foster some interesting conversations. The group starts Thursday, **October 6 and ends Dec. 1**. If you would like a copy of the book, please let me know and I can get you one for \$20. Please let me know if you are planning on attending for the duration or for only a few sessions, either is fine. Any questions, please let me know. Christine Weitzel.

A Musical Opportunity to Begin the Holiday Season: The church's annual Holiday Concert will be held **Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 p.m.** with a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall. The Music Team encourages you to support this event—provided by Music Director Valerie J. Becker, the Chancel Choir, and the Friendly Chimers. You may make a donation, specify a memorial, honorarium, or remembrance and your name will be listed in the concert program. Invite your friends and neighbors and support this fun event with your presence and your monetary donation. Checks may be made payable to the Congregational Church of Needham with "Holiday Concert" noted on the memo line. Thank you, The Music Team

Once in a While Choir: The choir will sing on **Sunday, December 4th at the 10 AM service**. We will give the Senior Choir that Sunday morning to rest their voices for the concert later that day. We will have two rehearsals prior to **Dec. 4th, Sundays, November 20th and 27th at 9:15 AM in fellowship hall**. One of these Sundays, some of the youth may be rehearsing with Valerie, so you can drop them off and come in and sing with the rest of us. We will have our final rehearsal at 9 AM on the morning of December 4th, when we sing during the service. We will focus on two songs, one that we know, "Raise Your Voices," and we will learn a new one, "Joseph and Mary's Boy," by the group, Alabama. This is an intergenerational choir, and open to the young and the younger, 4 to 94. You can sit with your families in church, and come up to sing the two times during the service.

The Once in a While Choir is, as you might imagine, a group of people who love to sing, but are unable to participate every week. Even if you can't read music, come! If you can only make it to one of the two rehearsals, come! If you want to have an uplifting and fun musical experience, we'll see you at rehearsals!

Leadership Needs/Opportunities: The Guatemala Partnership is looking for individuals to co-lead our church's delegations to Santa María Tzejá.

You would:

Plan logistics of travel to Guatemala.

Coordinate tasks with your co-leader and other trip organizers and interpreters.

Plan and lead orientation and in-country activities of adult and youth delegates.

Meet with committees of community representatives of Santa María Tzejá.

Learn "on the job" with experienced trip leaders.

If you think you might be interested, find out more in an informal meeting with current trip leaders to be scheduled in January after the holidays. Current trip leaders are: Alan Clayton-Matthews, Bill Garrett, Caryl Johnson, Brenda Metzler, and Fred Moder. Contact Brenda with interest/questions: bmetzler7@verizon.net

An Invitation from the Guatemala Ministry Team: Have you ever wondered what our church's partnership with Guatemala is all about? If so, or if you have any questions, please come to any of our monthly meetings to see what work is going on. Hope to see you there! And if you'd like to be on our E-mail list for meetings/agenda/minutes, please advise Brenda Metzler: bmetzler7@verizon.net

The team that hosts the Community Dinners once a month in conjunction with Baby Basics diaper distribution could use your help! : A number of our guests are unable to stay for the dinner, but do appreciate being able to bring a nutritious meal home. We could use your food storage containers to stretch our budget. Please make sure that they are super clean, intact, and not stained in any way. The appropriate sized ones are those that would hold 2-3 servings, and are sturdy. Our guests usually have to juggle a little one, and a carton of diapers so a sturdy container is a must. No paper-board please- those can't be reused. Baby Basics diaper distribution and the Community Dinners are always held on the first Tuesday of the month except in the rare case of a holiday falling on that day (as the 4th of July will in 2017.) Many thanks in advance, and if you would like more information about the Community Dinners, please email Diana Conroy (conroyjd@rcn.com)

Christmas Pageant Signups : We're telling the story again! Will you help us remember the birth of Jesus by participating in our annual Christmas pageant? We need a cast of all ages to serve as narrators, the Holy Family, the Wise People, Shepherds, Angels, animals and more! We also need a stage crew to help behind the scenes. You must be able to make 1 rehearsal on either Dec. 11 or 18 from 12-2 (attending both is okay too!) as well as the rehearsal and family service on Christmas Eve (2pm rehearsal, 4pm service). Signup by submitting a Christmas pageant casting sheet to Maddie Downer, CE & Youth Director, by Dec. 4! Questions? Email Maddie: youth@needhamucc.org

The Giving Tree is Back! : This year our Giving Tree will benefit multiple organizations including Family Promise and Elizabeth Stone House.

There are 3 ways you can participate this year! You can:

1. Take a tag from the tree and purchase gifts as requested by children and parents. Please make sure to record your name and email address next to the appropriate line on the clipboard next to the tree!
2. Donate toys for children of all ages to be distributed among Elizabeth Stone House, Cradles to Crayons, and Family Promise as needed. An assortment of gifts is needed as these unmarked donations will enable parents to "shop" for their gifts from a selection of donations.
3. Donate a gift card to TJ Maxx, Marshall's, Homegoods, Target, Macy's, Toys R Us or DSW to allow parents to shop for their own gifts. These will be distributed between Family Promise and Elizabeth Stone House.

Bring in all unwrapped donations by Sunday, December 4!

Youth News

Senior High Holy Homework : Join us for fellowship, homework, and dinner! The first and third Thursday of each month. This month: Dec. 1 and 15. 6:00-8:00 PM in the youth room

Junior High Youth Group: Most Sundays from 5:00 - 6:30 PM. We meet for discussion, activities, and group games. Our regular meetings are on hiatus until after the pageant - join us at the all youth events and Christmas pageant!

All Youth Events (Grades 6-12)

Family & Friends Potluck Today! 5:00 pm

Bring a favorite side dish to share with the group!

Christmas Party Sunday, December 4, 5:00-6:30

Bring a wrapped gift (weird, used, or homemade!) for our yankee swap!

Fantastic Beasts & Where to Find Them—Date and Time TBA (the weekend of December 9th)

The selected showtime will be announced as soon as showtimes are available from the theater for this weekend. We will meet in the lobby 30 minutes prior to showtime. Students will need to arrange rides to/from the theater and purchase their ticket in advance.

Upcoming Family Fellowship Opportunities

Epiphany Party

Mark your calendars now to join us in celebrating Epiphany on Friday, January 6 from 6:30-8:30. Come for any/all of the evening. We will serve pizza and salad as well as King Cake. We'll have singing and blessings and fun activities for all ages. Go through your closets and bring any gently worn coats you may have as we will be collecting coats for One Warm Coat. And... if you want to dress to impress, wear your shiniest outfit! We're celebrating the kings arriving underneath that brilliant, shining star after all! RSVPs are not required but are helpful --Email Maddie at youth@needhamucc.org

Christian Education/Sunday School

Volunteer teachers needed. It takes a village! We need teachers for all of our classes! Sign up to teach at: <http://www.tinyurl.com/SignUp2Teach>

The Church Bylaws identify the officers of the church. They are a Moderator, a Clerk, a Treasurer, and a Collector. Officers are elected for one-year terms at each Annual Meeting.

Church Moderator– Jacqueline Allen
Clerk– Keith McClelland
Treasurer– Jennifer Connors
Collector– Carla Verschoor-Kirss
(assisted by Connie Kaufman and Debbie Wentworth)

The Board is responsible for the overall administrative life of the church including buildings, finances, personnel and the overall health of the church.

Moderator - Jackie Allen
Clerk - Keith McClelland

<u>Term Ends 2017</u>	<u>Term Ends 2018</u>	<u>Term Ends 2019</u>
Christine Weitzel	Blair Wentworth	Jim Conroy
Ken Allen	Sharmon Priaulx	Diane Rees
Carl Madsen		Kristin Mollerus
Michael Normile		
Howard Sesso		

Our Congregational Bylaws provide for four (4) additional Committees elected by the congregation - Deacons, Outreach, Christian Education and Youth. In 2017, we will be electing new members for the members whose terms are expiring for all of these Committees and the Board.

The Deacons are responsible for the spiritual life and well-being of the church.

Chair - Frank Luppino
Vice Chair - Susan Lively

<u>Term Ends 2017</u>	<u>Term Ends 2018</u>	<u>Term Ends 2019</u>
Frank Luppino	Charlie Baker	Rick Devereux
Stephanie Oddleifson	Claudia Darmofal	Carol Miller
Sunu Yeh	Susan Lively	Dibby Moder
Joanne Seiden	Kirby Salerno	Scott Stewart
Lee McNally		Jean Veigas
Sally Fitzgerald		

The Board invites its current members to serve on Ministry Teams to assist in the work of the church. Those current teams are Finance, Stewardship, Nominating, Personnel/Human Resources and Property/Building and Grounds.

The Property/Buildings and Grounds Team is currently looking for interested people to join Rev. Jim, Danielle Jurdan, Blair Wentworth, Christine Weitzel, Rick Devereux, Paul Brown and Anne Hayek on this important team. Please contact the office at 781-444-2510 or office@needhamucc.org for more info or to join.

The Finance Team supports the Board in overseeing the Church's financial affairs. The Team oversees the investment of the endowment fund. It develops annual budgets for review and approval by the Board and the Congregation, and tracks expenses against the budget.

Chair– Carl Madsen
Treasurer- Jennifer Connors
Members
Jim Conroy, Trish Marinilli, Carol Oberle

The Altar Guild's purpose is to prepare the Sanctuary for Sunday morning worship, i.e., by hanging the antependium, lighting the candles, and preparing communion.

Members– Jane Clayton-Matthews, Diana Conroy, Laura Cullen,
Denice Koljonen, Carol Miller, Diane Myers,
Sherrill Salisbury, Jean Veigas

The Ushers help ensure a smoothly running church service. As the churchgoers arrive, the ushers will act as doorkeepers, greeting each person with a smile, shaking hands, and handing out bulletins. They are also available to answer visitors' questions and extend extra help in seating those who need the assistance. The ushers also help the ministers prepare for the service, collect the offering and assist with emergencies.

Contact– Eric Slosser

The Christian Education (CE) Committee, according to the current bylaws of the church, oversees the Christian education of the congregation. The current practice of our CE Committee is to administer the Christian education of our children and youth. Up to twelve (12) members may be elected to serve on this Committee.

<u>Term Ends 2017</u>	<u>Term Ends 2018</u>	<u>Term Ends 2019</u>
Laurie Davis	Elizabeth Meyi	Trish Marinilli
Sue Cotton	Molly Pretorius	Caryl Johnson
		Rob Dunlavey

The Outreach Committee advocates to the church and it's members about important issues relating to social justice in our church, community, city state and the world. They provide opportunities to volunteer and guide us in financial giving. We aim to give 15% of our income from pledges to the church to Outreach financial giving. So far this year, they have distributed over \$40,000 to groups like Baby Basics, the Needham Community Council's Ride for Food, City Mission of Boston, OUT Metrowest, Family Promise of Needham, Step Up Needham and PFLAG. Their current emphasis has been on food insecurity and homelessness. In 2017 they will be addressing diversity and racial justice issues.

Up to nine (9) members may be elected to serve on the Outreach Committee. The remaining Outreach Committee meetings this year will be October 25 and December 6th.

Co Chair - Jen Cusack
Co Chair- Lynn Gotwals

<u>Term Ends 2017</u>	<u>Term Ends 2018</u>	<u>Term Ends 2019</u>
Mike Boyd	Heidi Wiesel	Bill Rees
Jenni Haynes		Fred Moder
Amy Massey		Hiroko Hardebeck

The Youth Committee of the church is responsible for the ministry to the Junior and Senior High School age youth of the church. Up to six (6) members may be elected to serve on the Youth Committee.

<u>Term Ends 2017</u>	<u>Term Ends 2018</u>	<u>Term Ends 2019</u>
Nancy Tegeler	M.E. Sesso	Dave Johnson
Mark Oberle		Philip Hardebeck

The Parish Care Ministry Team makes visits and phone calls to those who are ill or need assistance, and send monthly birthday cards.

Contacts: Rev. Heike and Martha Lamb

The Environmental Ministry Team leads efforts to help members strive to be stewards of God's creation by informing, transforming and living the "green" way. The team offers educational opportunities, and promotes ideas that encourage people to live on God's earth in harmony with all creatures. The team also works on the implementation of "Green Congregation" action steps as defined by the Mass Conference in our church community and building.

Co Chair - Anne Hayek

Co Chair- Isabel Wells

The Guatemala Partnership Team oversees the Church's relationship with its Guatemalan partner village, Santa Maria Tzeja.

Co Chair- Brenda Metzler

Co Chair- Alan Clayton-Matthews

Co-Chair- Bill Garrett

Co-Chair- Caryl Johnson

The ONA (Open and Affirming) Ministry Team assists the church to live its promise of full inclusion of all people in all aspects of church life and ministry – people of every race, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, ability and economic circumstance. The Team creates programming and communication on all aspects of the ONA covenant. The church adopted its ONA covenant in February 2000.

Chair- Kathie Carpenter

The Music Team works together with the Director of Music Ministries and the Director of Youth Music to enable, grow, and develop the Church's music programs.

Chair- Lynn McClelland

The Prayer Shawl Ministry comprises of a group of knitters and crocheters who create beautiful shawls to symbolize the warmth of God's love during difficult times. They meet on the first Tuesday of the month from 10am-noon to knit shawls to be given to members of the congregation and community. Ministers bless the shawls when they are completed.

Contact—Debbie Wentworth

The Gardening Team makes our church grounds look attractive and welcoming. Notices go out when a project is coming up and anyone who is available and interested is most welcome to join. There are no demands, just time for fellowship.

Contact—Debbie Wentworth

The Flower Team enhances our Sunday services by coordinating the weekly flower arrangements on our altar and by decorating our church for both the Christmas and Easter seasons. Each member is assigned one month per year for contacting existing donors of altar flowers or recruiting new ones. These flowers can be in remembrance of a loved one or in celebration of a group or occasion.

Contact- Debbie Wentworth

The Friendly Society membership is open to all women of the church. Program meetings are held monthly from September—December and April-May as occasions to enjoy each other's fellowship. In addition it supports Walker School students at Easter and City Mission youngsters at Christmas in various ways.

Contact- Joanne Seiden

The Friendly Chimer Ringers are a group who enjoy making music together. Additional requirements are: ability to count and keep time, learn to read your notes and attend rehearsals after church service. Contact Valerie Becker if interested in joining.

The Cancer Support Group is a group of people living with cancer and those who support them. Meetings are with Minister Rev. Heike Werder weekly on Mondays from 9-10:30am. Prayer, meditation, moral support and inspirational discussion are all part of the program.

The Men's Breakfast group meets monthly before Sunday worship. Join this diverse group of men from all walks of life and age ranges at 8:15am for fellowship and breakfast and at 9am for a discussion on a myriad of topics of interest to the group. This is an open group for anyone to attend.

Contacts– John Baldwin and Rob Dunlavey

The Faith Circle Book Group chooses an inspirational book to read and discuss together. They pick one book in the fall and one in the spring. It is a great way to meet people in the congregation, strengthen your spiritual connection to God and spend some time doing something positive for yourself.

Contact: Christine Weitzel

The Sunday Bible Study group is a small discussion group who reads a few chapters of the Bible at a time. They meet immediately after church from 11:30-12:30. They take a look at how God is still speaking through stories from a thousand years ago. Everyone is welcome to drop in and join.

Contact: Sunu Yeh