



# The Congregational Church of Needham

*An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ*

November 27, 2016

**The First Sunday of Advent**

**Holy Family, Holy Families**

**Celebrating Family Promise Metrowest**

"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us." Albert Schweitzer

*Students begin in worship with their parents and will be dismissed to Stevenson Hall by the ministers.*

**PRELUDE**

Priere

*Leon Boellmann*

**MUSIC FOR GATHERING**

**Prepare ye the way of the Lord!**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

**CONGREGATIONAL GREETING**

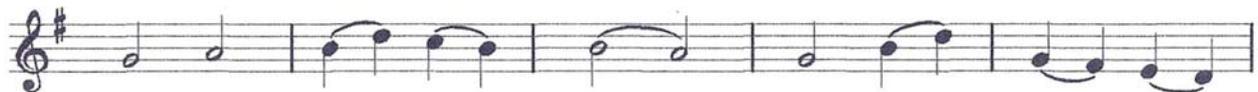
**\*OPENING HYMN**

**Christ Our Light**

## CHRIST OUR LIGHT



1. Christ, our	Light,	so	soon	ap -	pear - ing,	draw - ing
2. Na - tions	shall	wage	war	no	more,	mak - ing
3. Faith - ful	Shep -	herd	of	God's	fold,	seek - ing
4. Come, then	shine	on our	dark -	est	fears,	Christ of



nigh with	fan - fares of	grace,	deep - est	dark - ness
plough-shares	from their	swords.	Earth, sore	wounds of
al - ways	lost and out -	cast,	sets hearth and	ta - ble so
God and	bear - er of	light!	Your new	morn shall

then dis - pel - ling by the ra - diance of God's  
con - flict borne, greets the dawn of peace - ful  
long fore - told, cas - ting sor - row in the  
dry all tears, death's do - min - ion flee - ing like the  
face. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
chords. Glad - ly sing - ing, glad - ly sing - ing,  
past. Hearts re - joic - ing, hearts re - joic - ing,  
night. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Sing, O peo - ple, hope dawns for the hu - man race.  
glad - ly sing - ing, Word of peace be - yond all words.  
hearts re - joic - ing - Hea - ven's home on earth at last!  
Sing, O peo - ple, God's bright realm breaks on our sight!

Words: Jay Emerson Johnson © 2007 (ed., L. W. Countryman, 2008)  
Music: *Hellsley*, melody Augustine Arne (1710-1778)

## INTRODUCTION OF FAMILIES

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Slosser Family  
Eric, Lucy, Tillie, and Nora

*Based on Romans 13:11-2 (from Old Cambridge Baptist Church)*

One: Today we begin our worship and inaugurate this Advent season of expectation and longing by lighting a small flame we call the Candle of Hope. God, as we light this flame, kindle in our hearts a flicker of hope even in the midst of hopelessness.

**All: We trust there is something coming into the world – something coming that we can't see coming.**

One: "Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers."

**All: Rouse us from our slumber when our rest is fitful. Wake us, that we may be alert to the coming hour.**

One: "The night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

**All: Kindle in our hearts a flame of light, O God, even if it is but a flicker of hope. Amen.**

## SELECTION OF READINGS

An excerpt from the poem “the Spirit of Place” by Adrienne Rich (1980)

The work of winter starts fermenting in my head  
how with the hands of a lover or a mid-wife  
to hold back till the time is right

force nothing, be unforced  
accept no giant miracles of growth  
by counterfeit light

trust roots, allow the days to shrink  
give credence to these slender means  
wait without sadness and with grave impatience

here in the north where winter has a meaning  
where the heaped colors suddenly go ashen  
where nothing is promised

learn what an underground journey  
has been, might have to be; speak in a winter code  
let fog, sleet, translate; wind, carry them.

Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus taught them, saying “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the One who is sent, but only God. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Human One. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Human One. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Sovereign is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, the owner would have stayed awake and would not have let the house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Human One is coming at an unexpected hour.

## HYMN

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

- 1. O come, O come, Emmanuel  
and with your captive children dwell.  
Give comfort to all exiles here,  
and to the aching heart bid cheer.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Love to dwell.**
- 2. O come, you Splendor very bright,  
as joy that never yields to might.  
O come, and turn all hearts to peace,  
that greed and war at last shall cease.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Truth to dwell.**

**SERMON**

“Wait Without Sadness and With Grave Impatience”  
Jim Mitulski

**3. O come, you Day spring come and cheer  
our spirits by your presence here.  
And dawn in every broken soul  
as vision that can see the whole.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Light to dwell.**

**4. O come, you Wisdom from on high,  
from depths that hide within a sigh.  
To temper knowledge with our care,  
to render every act a prayer.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Hope to dwell.**

**Call to Prayer**

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

*Concerns and Celebrations*

*Prayers for Our Friends and Families, Our Church, Our Community, and the World.*

*Lord's Prayer (please pray whatever form is familiar to you; many choose to pray Our Father, Our Mother, Our Father and Mother, Our Creator, or Our Maker, or Father/Mother God...debts/debtors or trespasses/those who trespass...)*

**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*

Advent Proclamation  
*Malmin*

**\*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 #104 (Black, New Century Hymnal)**

**We Hail You God's Anointed**

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

**POSTLUDE**

Trumpet Voluntary  
*Purcell*

*\*You are invited to stand*

- 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.

*Worship Assistant:* Eric Slosser      *Deacons:* Rick Devereux, Susan Lively  
*Altar Guild:* Jane Clayton-Matthews    *Ushers:* Rob Blauvelt, Craig Morrison, Valerie Kistler  
*Flowers:* Janet Rubenstein    *Flower Delivery:* Jean Veigas

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in thankfulness  
for our dear family and friends by the Darmofal family.*

*Thank you to last week's Bible Village teachers  
Gretchen Lanka-Allen, Alan Clayton-Matthews, and Heather Salerno*

*Thank you to Katherine Rock for leading us in song during Children's Chapel.*

**REMEMBER PRAY ACT**

**WORLD AIDS DAY**

Memorial Panels from the AIDS Quilt will be on display all week. Visit our website ([needhamucc.org](http://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

**AIDS Quilt Viewing Hours**

November 27 1:00-3:00pm

Monday, November 28—Friday, December 2 4:00-8:00pm

Saturday, December 3 10:00am-3:00pm

### **Attendance and Offerings**

11/20/2016 Worship Attendance = 144 people  
\*11/20/2016 Collection = \$2,958

Please contact the church office 781-444-2510 or  
[office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org) to find out how you can  
give electronically.

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

### **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](mailto:RevJim@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 106

Associate Minister  
The Rev. Heike Werder  
[RevHeike@needhamucc.org](mailto:RevHeike@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 105

Director of Children & Youth Ministries  
Madelyn Downer  
[Youth@needhamucc.org](mailto:Youth@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 104

Music Director  
Valerie Becker  
[musicdirector@needhamucc.org](mailto:musicdirector@needhamucc.org)

Organist/Accompanist  
Sangyoung Kim

Church Administrator  
Danielle Jurdan  
[Office@needhamucc.org](mailto:Office@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 101

Office Assistant  
Cindy Sullivan  
[Office2@needhamucc.org](mailto:Office2@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 100

Bookkeeper  
Suzanne Leslie  
[Finance@needhamucc.org](mailto:Finance@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 113

Handyman  
Bill Donovan

Housekeeper  
Sanira Alchaar

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781-444-2510 [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org)  
*The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus*

## Calendar November 27-December 11

Sunday, November 27th  <b>1st Sunday of Advent</b>	9:15 am 10:00am 11:30am  1-3 pm	Once In a While Choir Rehearsal, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Forum with Anthony Petro, <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>1154 Reception Room</i> Friendly Chimers, <i>Sanctuary</i> Aids Quilt Viewing
Monday, November 28th	9:00 am 4-8 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception Room</i> Aids Quilt Viewing
Tuesday, November 29th	4-8 pm 7:00 pm	Aids Quilt Viewing CE Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Wednesday, November 30th	4-8 pm 7:00 pm	Aids Quilt Viewing The End of Night Book Discussion, <i>Chapel</i>
Thursday, December 1st  <b>World Aids Day</b>	10:30am 12:00pm 4-8 pm 6:00 pm  6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Faith Circle Book Group, <i>1154 Reception Room</i> Lunch with Heike, <i>1180 GPA</i> Aids Quilt Viewing 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>
Friday, December 2nd	4-8 pm	Aids Quilt Viewing
Saturday, December 3rd	10am- 3pm	Aids Quilt Viewing
Sunday, December 4th	9:00 am 10:00am 11:30am  4:00 pm 5:00 pm	Once In A While Choir Rehearsal, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> 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
Monday, December 5th	9:00 am 7:00 pm 7:15 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception Room</i> Finance Team Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Tuesday, December 6th	10:00am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Prayer Shawl, <i>1180 GPA</i> Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> Outreach Meeting,
Wednesday, December 7th	11:30am 7:00 pm	Friendly Christmas Luncheon, <i>Linden Hall</i> Vespers, <i>Chapel</i>
Thursday, December 8th	12:00pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Advent Lunch, <i>1180 GPA</i> CE Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Sunday, December 11th	10:00am 11:30am 12:00pm	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>1154 Reception Room</i> Pageant Rehearsal

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today: Join us on 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 University. 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!

**Friendly Society will hold its CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON on Wednesday, Dec 7, at 11:30 am in Linden Hall.** Longtime friends Pam and Bruce Goody will delight attendees with songs of the season. Pam was the lead alto in our choir for many years and is now the Director of Music and Choir Director of Christ Episcopal Church. Bruce is an accomplished flutist and often participates in our Sunday worship services. We are fortunate that they have prepared a special program for us. ALL are welcome to join in this Christmas celebration. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall after church on 11/20 and 11/27. If you won't be able to buy a ticket then but want to attend, please contact Patty Stewart ([Pattys-place@hotmail.com](mailto:Pattys-place@hotmail.com), 339-222-2784.) Deadline for reservations is 12/1.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!

**2017 CALENDARS TO SUPPORT SANTA MARIA TZEJA:** NISGUA Calendars to benefit our partner village in Guatemala will again be available after worship every Sunday in December. Find us at the Guatemala table to buy one for yourself or as a gift: \$18 each or 2 for \$30.

## 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)**

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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