



# The Congregational Church of Needham

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

December 4, 2016  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Communion Sunday**

*On Communion Sunday's students attend Bible Village first and then join Worship for communion.*

## **PRELUDE**

Hari No Umi  
*Michio Miyagi*  
*Bruce Goody - flute, Jonathan Moretz - guitar*

## **MUSIC FOR GATHERING**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

## **CONGREGATIONAL GREETING**

## **INVOCATION**

after Matthew 11: 3-5

Holy God,  
We long for your peace, and trust in your promise;  
we hear your call to turn toward you,  
to change our lives and welcome you in.  
Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom  
and our hearts with your peace,  
that our worship together  
may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all.  
In the Name of the One who is coming, we pray. Amen!

**\*OPENING HYMN #101** (*Black, New Century Hymnal*)

**Comfort, Comfort O My People**

## **INTRODUCTION OF FAMILY**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Based in Isaiah 11

One: Today we light the candle of Peace and, oh God, how we need it. It is but a flicker, burning alongside the candle of Hope. Still, we light its flame in defiance of all the voices in our world and in our own heads that say that violence and destruction are the answers to our insecurities.

**All: Witnessing to another way, we read again the ancient words: “The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.”**

One: Help us turn from our warring ways as a people and as a nation, O God, so that the words of the prophet might also be true of us: “They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Divine as the waters cover the sea.”

**All: “On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.” O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, God with us, revealed in us. Amen.**

## ANTHEM

Quiet Evening With Counter Melody  
*Unknown and Gruber and Mohr*  
*The Once in Awhile Choir*

## SELECTION OF READINGS

A Selection of Readings from the Bible for the Second Sunday of Advent

### Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of these roots. The spirit of God shall rest there, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of God. God’s delight shall be in the fear of God. She shall not judge by what her eyes see, or decide by what her ears hear; but with righteousness she shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of God, and God’s dwelling shall be glorious.

### Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the reign of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Sovereign, make these paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham and Sarah as our ancestors’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham and Sarah. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

SERMON

"Annoying Prophets"  
Jim Mitulski

*Response*

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo (repeat)**

**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*

Joseph and Mary's Boy  
Cook, Whitley and Shedd (Alabama)  
The Once in Awhile Choir

**\*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*

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION**

*Prayers of the Community and Lord's Prayer - in whatever form is familiar to you*

*God is with you AND ALSO WITH YOU*

*Let us lift up our hearts WE LIFT THEM UP TO GOD*

*Let us give God thanks and praise IT IS A GOOD AND JOYFUL THING TO DO*

*It is a good and joyful thing to do, always and everywhere to give God thanks and praise. There we join our voices with all of creation, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of God's many names*

***Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

*Words of Institution*

*Prayer of Consecration*

*Invitation to Holy Communion*

*EVERYONE is welcome to come forward and receive the bread and grape juice, in memory of Jesus, as a sign of God's love for you, as a sign of our love for each other.*

*Parents decide at what age children begin receiving the bread and cup; please bring them forward for blessing regardless.*

*Indicate to the usher if you would like communion brought to you.*

*Deacons are available at the far side at the front during communion for personal, private confidential prayer; just walk up to them and tell them what you want them to pray about with you.*

*Communion Hymns*

*#116 (Red, Pilgrim Hymnal) Angels We Have Heard on High*  
*#137 ( Red, Pilgrim Hymnal) Away in a Manger*

*Communion Prayer*

**\*CLOSING HYMN #112 (Black, New Century Hymnal)**

**Keep Awake, Be Always Ready**

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

**POSTLUDE**

Duo No. 7

*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

*Bruce Goody - flute, Jonathan Moretz - guitar*

*\*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.

*Thank you to Bruce Goody and Jonathan Moretz for sharing their gift of music today.*

*Worship Assistant: Dave Johnson*

*Deacons: Sunu Yeh, Rick Devereux*

*Communion Servers: Scott Stewart, Lee McNally, Joanne Seiden*

*Altar Guild: Denice Koljonen, Jean Veigas*

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

*Flowers: Connie Kaufman*

*Flower Delivery: Martha Lamb*

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Binna Mann by her family.*

### **Family Promise**

A big, wonderful thank you to our congregation for supporting Family Promise so generously last Sunday. We received \$525 in gift card donations that I will bring to Family Promise on Dec. 6 along with the Giving Tree gifts, wrapping paper, and 47 lovingly handmade and filled stockings from Friendly.

Family Promise will be hosting a holiday party with all the families who been part of Family Promise over the years and each child will be given their own stocking. Please let me know if you might like to join me for the delivery to the Natick Day Center Tuesday morning. Blessings, Susan [susanckirk@comcast.net](mailto:susanckirk@comcast.net)

## Wednesdays In December

**December 7:** Prayer and Reflection. A quiet candlelight, prayer service.

**December 14:** A conversation in the manner of Let's Talk, Let's Listen. How are we doing as a community? How are we feeling about the past? The present? the future?

**December 18 at 7 pm:** Joining forces with First Baptist Church- at their church- 7 pm Blue Christmas- a contemplative service recognizing that sometimes the Holidays can be hard. Combing with our friends at FBC as part of our ongoing relationship deepening with them.

### Attendance and Offerings

11/27/2016 Worship Attendance = 147 people \*11/27/2016 Collection = \$10,269

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 December 4—December 25

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> Youth Group 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
Monday, December 12th	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i>
Tuesday, December 13th	7:00 pm	Board Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Wednesday, December 14th	7:00 pm	Vespers, <i>Chapel</i>
Thursday, December 15th	12:00pm 6:00 pm 7:30 pm	Advent Lunch, <i>1180 GPA</i> Holy Homework, <i>Youth Room</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Sunday, December 18th	8:15 am 10:00am 11:30am 12:00pm	Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>1154 Reception</i> Pageant Rehearsal
Monday, December 19th	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i>
Wednesday, December 21st	7:00 pm	Vespers, <i>Chapel</i>
Thursday, December 22nd	12:00pm 7:30 pm	Advent Lunch, <i>1180 GPA</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Saturday, December 24th <b>Christmas Eve</b>	4:00 pm 9:00 pm	Christmas Pageant, <i>Sanctuary</i> Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, <i>Sanctuary</i>
Sunday, December 25th <b>Christmas Day</b>	10:00am	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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)

**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 ([conroyid@rcn.com](mailto:conroyid@rcn.com))

**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.

**Pastoral Review Committee News:** As was mentioned in the November Focus, the pastoral review committee (a subcommittee of the deacons) is working with each of the ministers with their annual review. Currently the committee is working with the ministers to finalize their goals. Once finalized, the goals will be shared with the congregation. If anyone has any questions regarding the annual review process of our ministers, please reach out to any of our committee members who are Charlie Baker, Claudia Darmofal, Susan Lively, Carol Miller, Kristin Mollerus (Board Member) and Scott Stewart.

## Youth News

**Stay Connected: Follow @NeedhamUCC on instagram** for updates on church life, particularly from our family ministries including Christian Education and Youth Ministries!

**Senior High Holy Homework** : Join us for fellowship, homework, and dinner! The first and third Thursday of each month. This month December 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)***

#### **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>



# Christmas Concert

Sunday  
December 4th  
4:00 pm

Come celebrate with  
the Chancel Choir and  
The Friendly Chimers  
as we perform  
new arrangements  
of timeless pieces

Congregational Church of Needham  
1154 Great Plain Ave.

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