



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

United Church of Christ

February 14, 2016

Theme: Who We Are—An Open and Affirming Church



Our Covenant

We strive to be a joyful, welcoming
Christian Community.

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

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

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

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

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



Sunday, February 14, 2016

10:00am

*Children are always welcome in Worship with their parents/guardians.
Pre-K children are invited to the nursery throughout the service.
Students in grades K-8 should go directly to Stevenson Hall. Students in grades 9-12 may join us in Stevenson Hall or remain in the Sanctuary with their parents.*

PRELUDE

Musette
Jean-Francois Dandrieu(1682 - 1738)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

You are Welcome Here
from Sing! Prayer and Praise Book
Cici Hunt - Guitar

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alex Cullen

Leader: Our faith calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

People: Our faith calls us into covenant with God.

Leader: Our faith calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

People: Our faith calls us to practice God's love and justice.

Leader: Our faith calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

People: Our faith calls each of us to love God with our heart, mind, and soul.

Leader: Our faith calls us to journey with God.

OPENING PRAYER

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

God, source of all life, we pray:

Fulfill your promise and bless us with your presence.

Without you we cannot live as a new creation.

Only you lead us into the truth.

Only you broaden our horizon and our heart

So that we can accept each other with empathy and without prejudice

Whatever our culture and tradition,

Our gender or sexual orientation,

Our age and education,

Our ability and economic circumstance may be.

Transform us, we pray, so that we may become more human,

More open, more friendly, more loving toward all our neighbors and all your creation.

Be with us as we work for justice and pray for love ...

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

5 Fold Amen

Michael Norton

ANTHEM

For All the Children
David Lohman(b. 1949)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthian 13: 1-13

NT, p. 165

SERMON

Sustained by Love: Being Open and Affirming
Heike Werder

HYMN (seated) #564 (NCH)

We Are Not Our Own

MORNING PRAYER

Concerns and Celebrations

Call to Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Leader: O Lord, show your mercy upon us.

People: And grant us your salvation.

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

People: And take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Response

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

OFFERTORY

Anthem

Namaste
Mark Hayes(b. 1953)

**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 # 391 (NCH)**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Benediction
Kurt Nystedt(1915 - 2014)

POSTLUDE

Festival Postlude
by Domenico Zipoli (1688 - 1726)

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

NCH stands for New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal) and PH stands for Pilgrim Hymnal (Red Hymnal).

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

Worship Assistant: Alex Cullen

Deacons: Rick Devereux, Joanne Seiden

Ushers: Alex Cullen, Frank Luppino, Nancy Lane, Eric Slosser

Altar Guild: Mary Barber

Flowers: Joanne Seiden

Flower Delivery: Martha Lamb

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Carson Joseph Leifur Oberle by Carol and Mark Oberle and family.

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

Valerie Becker, Music Director
Sangyoung Kim, Accompanist
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Bible Study, Sunday's @ 11:30 Conference Room: Are you interested in deepening your understanding of the Bible? Everyone is welcome to try out Adult Bible Study. We meet on Sundays immediately after church from 11:30 to 12:30 in the reception room. This winter, we will be studying Paul's epistle to the Romans, for what should be a wonderful discussion about faith. Contact Sunu Yeh at dormouse99@gmail.com for more information. Please drop by and try us out!

JR High: Winter Retreat - REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 2/14

Our winter tubing retreat for students in grades 6 - 8 will take place Friday, March 11 - Sunday, March 13. We will meet at the church on Friday afternoon and carpool to Camp Cody in New Hampshire; we will meet parents back at the church for pickup on Sunday afternoon. The registration deadline has been extended to Feb. 14th - we have a good group of students already and would love to include more! If your student would like to join us, please submit a registration form - available on the CE & Youth bulletin board!

Lunch & Learn—Japan and Its Christian History—Sunday Feb. 21, 11:30am

Join us for this wonderful program presented by Yuzo Dort. Lunch will be available

Faith Circle Book Club: The Faith Circle Book group will meet on Thursdays, for a total of 8 sessions from 10:30-12:00. We will meet on Feb.25, March 3, 17, & 24th If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Christine Weitzel at cweitzel@verizon.net

Club 3-4-5: February Meeting

+ Thursday, February 25; 6:30-7:30 pm

We'll have a super fun time with a superhero-themed meeting. Wear a costume if you have it!

Lenten Carbon Fast! As people of faith, it is our responsibility to be wise stewards of God's Creation. As part of Lent, the Environmental Ministries Team will suggest actions each week that will reduce your production of climate changing pollution and help to preserve God's gift of the earth for future generations. More information is posted on the EMT bulletin board and on the church website.

Tips for the week! Strive to use NO disposable bottles during Lent. Make one trip this week more environmentally friendly by biking, walking, taking public transportation, or carpooling.

SR High: Monster Mini Golf—Sunday, February 28, 5:30-8:00 pm

Meet at the church at 5:30 pm to carpool to Monster Mini Golf in Norwood. Students will return to the church by 8:00 pm for parent pickup.

Guatemala Partnership February Delegation Report March 6

The February delegation has arrived in Santa Maria Tzeja our partner village and will be participating in the communities Sunday church service today. They will bring back lots of experiences and impressions to share at the March 6th, 11:30 am 'Reportback' presentation in Linden Hall. Light refreshments will be served. If you or a family member plan to join a delegation or you are interested to hear their impressions of this trip save the date and plan to join us!

Altar Flower Donations: Whether to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion, an opportunity awaits to accommodate your wishes. Please find an Altar Flower Donation Form in the circular rack in the Narthex. You may complete it and put it in the manila envelope provided in the rack. The Flower Team looks forward to acting on your behalf.

Bible Village: New Class Structure & Teachers Needed!

Last week, our Sunday School classes began dividing up a bit differently. Grades K-2 are now together and they are the "Salt" group. Grades 3-5 are together; they are the "Light" group. We are still using the workshop format to guide our students in faith formation. We have many spots available to teach and shepherd these groups - please sign up at:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0844a8aa23a2fd0-spring>

Friendly Chimers: If you've ever wanted to make music but have no real music-making experience, consider joining FRIENDLY CHIMERS! Prerequisites include being able to 1) keep time 2) learn two notes (one for each hand) 3) regularly attend rehearsals (11:40-12:30 after church every Sunday) 4) enjoy playing with others 5) be patient with yourself and fellow Chimers. If you're interested, contact Joanne Seiden (781-449-6635, jseiden@basiclink.com). WE NEED YOU!

Request for Altar Guild Volunteers: The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers. High school students are welcome to join. Please contact Carol Miller at mil-lerc291@verizon.net for more information.

Notice: Reverend Heike's email address is revheike@needhamucc.org if you are using revheike@needhamcongregational.org that email address is no longer in service.

Notice: For information on if the church is open during times of inclement weather please check the website (www.needhamucc.org) or call the church office (781-444-2510) and select option 7.

LUNCH & LEARN

JAPAN & ITS CHRISTIAN HISTORY

PRESENTED BY YUZO DORT

**SUNDAY,
FEB. 21ST
11:30AM**



CALENDAR February 14th—March 1st

Sunday, Feb. 14th	10:00 am 11:30 am 11:40 am	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i>
Monday, Feb. 15th		President's Day—Office Closed
Tuesday, Feb. 16th	7:00 pm	Finance Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Thursday, Feb. 18th	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Lenten Lunch, <i>1180 GPA</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Sunday, Feb. 21st	8:15 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 11:40 am	Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Lunch & Learn - Japan and Its Christian History, <i>Linden Hall</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i>
Monday, Feb.. 22nd	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Tuesday, Feb. 23rd	7:00 pm	Outreach Meeting, <i>1180 Dining Room</i> CE Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 24th	7:00 pm	Music Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Thursday, Feb. 25th	12:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Lenten Lunch, <i>1180 GPA</i> Club 3-4-5 Meeting, <i>Stevenson Hall</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Sunday, Feb. 28th	10:00 am 11:30 am 11:40 am	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Lunch & Learn—Outreach, <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i>
Monday, Feb.. 29th	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Tuesday, March 1st	10:00 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters, <i>1180 Dining Room</i> Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> Youth Committee Meeting