



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

United Church of Christ

February 7, 2016

Theme: Who We Are



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 7, 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-5 will begin in their classrooms and join their families in the Sanctuary for Communion. Students in grades 6-12 should go directly to the kitchen to help make Super Bowl Subs!*

PRELUDE

Aria
GB Pergolese (1710 - 1736)
Guest Flutist - Bruce Goody

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Crosby Goshgarian

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

People: Our faith calls us to journey to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.

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

People: Our faith calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

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

People: Our faith calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.

Leader: Our faith calls us to journey with God.

People: Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

***OPENING HYMN # 28 (NCH)
OPENING PRAYER**

For the Beauty of the Earth

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

Holy One, there is no real chill to unkindness or neglect.

There is no real weight to the problems we carry about.

There is no real dimness to a closed mind or an empty heart

Yet when our faith is real and true –

Love for others warms us with faith's fire,

**God's guidance and forgiveness removes burdensome weights
from our spirits,**

An inspired wisdom illuminates our outlook,

And a desire to do what is right and just releases us to action.

**In gathering to worship in community, we affirm our faith as
a real power in our lives.**

Hear us as we pray...

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

5 Fold Amen

Michael Norton

Installation of Deacons

PRESENTATION

COVENANT

QUESTIONS OF LEADERS AND OFFICERS

Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name?

I am, with the help of God.

Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

I do, relying on God's grace.

QUESTION FOR THE CONGREGATION

Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able please rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to honor your leadership and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

LAYING ON THE HANDS FOR THE DEACONS

ANTHEM

Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel
traditional arr Roger Emerson
Joyful Noise and Hallelujah Choirs
Dave Darmofal - Pianist

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 21: 15-19

NT, p. 111

SERMON

“Sustained by Love: Caring for the Earth”
Heike Werder

HYMN (seated) #564 (NCH)

We are Not Our own

OFFERTORY

Concerns and Celebrations

Anthem

Ne Never Failed Me Yet
Robert Ray (b. 1927)

**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

ORDER FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Prayer Response

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

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Music for the Bread and Cup:

332 (NCH) As We Gather at Your Table

179 (NCH) We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

***CLOSING HYMN # 562 (NCH)**

Take My Gifts

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Benediction
Knut Nystedt(b. 1915)

POSTLUDE

Dance of the Blessed Spirits
CW Gluck (1714 - 1787)

**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: Crosby Goshgarian

Deacons: Susan Lively, Sunu Yeh

Communion Servers: Frank Luppino, Scott Stewart

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

Altar Guild: Mary Barber, Jane Clayton-Matthews

Flowers: Martha Lamb

Flower Delivery: Mary Lou Hughes

The flowers on the altar are given in celebration of Dick Unsworth, and in loving memory of Joy Unsworth, on their birthdays, February 7 and 1, from the Slosser family.

COMMUNION

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

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

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

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

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



FEB. 10TH SERVICE

7:00 PM

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

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting Summary

All three articles on the warrant were passed. Two members volunteered for the open Youth Board positions. The slate, as approved, is given below. The proposed 2016 budget was passed without change. Copies of the 2015 Annual Report, which includes the 2016 budget, are available in the church office. Outgoing Moderator David Dirks and Deacons Chair Carol Oberle received a well-deserved standing ovation for their service.

zOfficers:

Moderator— Jacqueline Allen

Clerk— Keith McClelland

Treasurer— Jennifer Connors

Collector— Carla Verschoor-Kirss

Assistants: Connie Kaufmann
Debbie Wentworth

Board: Christine Weitzel

Len Chang

Carl Madsen

Mike Normile

Jason Johnson

Blair Wentworth

Sharmon Prialux

Jim Conroy

Diane Rees

Kristin Mollerus

Deacons: Stephanie Oddleifson

Sunu Yeh

Joanne Seiden

Lee McNally

Sally Fitzgerald

Frank Luppino

Charlie Baker

Kirby Salerno

Claudia Darmofal

Susan Lively

Rick Devereux

Dibby Moder

Scott Stewart

Carol Miller

Jean Veigas

CE:

Laurie Davis

Sue Cotton

Elizabeth Meyi

Molly Pretorius

Trish Marinilli

Caryl Johnson

Rob Dunlavey

Youth:

Nancy Tegeler

Mark Oberle

Ray Suarez

M.E.Sesso

Dave Johnson

Philip Hardebeck

Heidi Wiesel

Outreach:

Mike Boyd

Jen Cusack

Jenni Haynes

Amy Massey

Lynn Gotwals

Bill Rees

Fred Moder

Hiroko Hardebeck

SUPER BOWL SUBS: Available for pickup and purchase after church!

If you have ordered your subs in advance, you can pick them up after church in Fellowship Hall. Payment via cash or check is accepted! We will also have subs and chili available for purchase - if you have not ordered yet, it's not too late to go home with some delicious Super Bowl fare! All proceeds go toward the youth ministry's mission trip!

Send-Off for February Delegation, February 9, 7:00 pm: All are invited to attend a brief gathering at Dave and Caryl Johnson's home (505 Great Plain Ave.) to send off the travelers on our church's delegation to Guatemala and our partner village of Santa María Tzejá. We'll bring back lots of experiences and impressions to share at the March 6th, 11:30 am 'Reportback' presentation in Linden Hall. Please save the date and plan to join us!

Ash Wednesday Service, Feb. 10, 2015: You are cordially invited to attend an Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm in the chapel. Rev. Heike and Maddie Downer (M.Div.) will lead us in a worship experience that ushers in the season of Lent. All are welcome.

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!

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. 11, 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: Our February Meetings

- + **Thursday, February 11; 6:30-7:30 pm**
Join us for a Valentine's Day Party with cupcakes, crafts, and games!
- + **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!*** Learn to skip the drying cycle on your dishwasher and air-dry your dishes. Be a vegetarian for at least two days each week.

JR High: Plaster Fun Time—Saturday, February 13th, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

We still have plenty of space available for our Plaster Fun Time party! This is a free activity for our youth group members - Maddie just needs to know if you're coming! Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 10.

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!

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.

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 milerc291@verizon.net for more information.



We would like to thank Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center for donating furniture and Marks Moving and Storage for donating their moving services and delivering all of the furniture to the new church administrative offices!

CALENDAR February 7th—February 21st

Sunday, Feb. 7th	8:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 11:40 am	Confirmation Parents' Meeting, <i>Chapel</i> Sub Making Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Super Bowl Sub Pick—Up, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i> Confirmation Mentor Meeting, <i>Chapel</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i>
Monday, Feb. 8th	8:30 am 6:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Tuesday, Feb. 9th	7:00 pm	Guatemala Send Off, <i>Johnson's Home</i> (505 Great Plain Ave.)
Wed., Feb. 10th	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> <i>Deacons, 1180 GPA</i>
Thursday, Feb. 11th	10:30 am 12:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Faith Circle Book Club, <i>1154 Reception</i> Lenten Lunch, <i>1180 GPA</i> Club 3-4-5 Meeting, <i>Stevenson Hall</i> Chancel Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Saturday, Feb. 13th	4:00 pm	Junior High Youth Group Plaster Funtime, <i>Plaster Funtime (Needham St., Newton)</i>
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
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> Adult Ed on Christianity in Japan, <i>Linden Hall</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i>

A Note to Parents: The best place to find out about upcoming events is the CE & Youth bulletin board (by the main stairwell) and weekly emails! If you are not receiving the weekly CE & Youth emails, please email Maddie at needhamuccyouth@gmail.com