



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

February 8, 2015

Theme: God



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 8, 2015

10:00am

Children are always welcome in Worship with their parents/guardians. Childcare is available in the crib/toddler room on the lower level for infants and toddlers. Preschoolers go directly to classes downstairs at 10 am. Grades 6-8 are in Stevenson Hall at 10 am. Grades K-5 will start in the Sanctuary at 10 am, then leave for Bible Village.

PRELUDE

Every Time I Feel the Spirit
Just a Closer Walk with Thee
I Love to Tell the Story
The Original Shepherd's Pie Dixieland Band

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rob Dunlavey

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God all the earth,

People: Sing out your praises to the Lord of all life.

Leader: Come all you people and know the joy of remembering you are a child of God.

People: The love of God is greater than the tongue can tell!

Leader: Bless the Lord everyone bless God's Holy Name!

People: We praise, and worship, and honor, and glorify Your name O Lord!

***OPENING HYMN #12** (*Black Hymnal*)

**I Sing the Mighty
Power of 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

Creator God you have fashioned me from clay and breathed life into me. Words are not adequate to express my gratitude.

You have given me gifts of personality, creativity, and character;

Help me to see those gifts and how much you need me to use them.

You have surrounded me with family and friends..

Help me to receive the gifts of those I know best and love most.

As I awaken to the needs of the world, help me see what you are calling me to do with my life.

In Christ's name we pray....

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

TIME FOR CHILDREN

(Children dismissed to Bible Village during hymn)

CHILDREN'S HYMN #526 *(Black Hymnal)* **We Are Marching in the
Light of God**

ANTHEM

Draw the Circle Wide
Gordon Light, arr. Andrew Donaldson (1999)
Dave Darmofal, piano

SCRIPTURE

John 3:16-21

p. 89 New Testament

SERMON

“Choosing God”
Susan Cartmell

HYMN (seated) #286 (*Black Hymnal*)

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

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.

Leader: Let us pray.

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

The Old Rugged Cross
The Original Shepherd's Pie Dixieland Band

**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 #382** (*Black Hymnal*)
Love

Come, We Who

God's Name

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

A Gaelic Blessing
John Rutter (b. 1945)

POSTLUDE

When the Saints Go Marching In
Reprise on The Old Rugged Cross
The Original Shepherd's Pie Dixieland Band

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

- 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: Rob Dunlavey

Deacons: Lee McNally, Joanne Seiden

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

Altar Guild: Val Kistler

Flowers: Christine Arren

Flower Delivery: Joanne Seiden

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.

A special thanks to The Original Shepherd's Pie Dixieland Band. They are a group of serious amateur musicians, located west and north of Boston, who enjoy playing Dixieland music together with digressions into blues, swing, ragtime, and jazz. We are most grateful to all members of the band for their joyful and uplifting arrangements of old hymns.

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The Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister
The Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister
The Rev. Jamie Klopotoski, Youth Minister

Bobby DeRegis, Director of Music Ministries
Valerie Becker, Director of Youth Music
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is Open and Affirming Sunday: On February 13, 2000, our congregation made a covenant to be a church for everyone, promising to welcome and affirm individuals and groups that have been historically marginalized or excluded from the life and ministry of the church, specially naming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions. Today we celebrate with some special musical offerings from the chancel choir and ONA displays and those yummy rainbow cookies in Coffee Hour.

Gardening Team Meeting February 8: If you're ready to "think Spring", come to a brief meeting of the **Gardening Team** in the Reception Room following the service today, February 8th to talk about and plan for what we can do to make our church properties look attractive and welcoming. You don't need a green thumb just a willingness to participate.

Faith Circle Book Club: The Faith Circle Book group will begin on Thursday, Jan. 29. The group will run from 10:30-12:00 for 9 weeks (not including Feb. school break). We will be reading, The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World by Reverend Desmond Tutu. Looking forward to the book and our discussions. If you would a copy of the book, Christine Weitzel can order them and the cost is \$15.00. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Christine Weitzel at cweitzel@verizon.net

February Delegation Send-Off: All are invited to a brief Send-Off gathering for the church's February 11-22nd delegation to Santa Maria Tzeja on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 7-8 pm at Dave/Caryl Johnson's (505 Great Plain Ave.) Travelers include co-leaders Brenda Metzler and Fred Moder; Bill, Theresa, and Spencer Garrett; Will Meehan; Susan McNeice; Sunny Robinson; and Scott and Joene Pike. Delegation Welcome-Back: Sunday, February 22, 6:30 pm (Johnson's/505 Great Plain Ave.). Come hear the travelers' stories, hot off the trail!

Friendly Society: Check to see if you've put March 5, 1:15 on your calendar for a glimpse of farm life in a q & a with Barbara Case whose son has a farm in Pennsylvania. What kind of farm is it? What hours do they keep? What happens in the winter? How did this Needham son get into farming? No doubt you'll have questions of your own.

Friendly Chimers: Friendly Chimers invites anyone interested in a fun, hands-on musical experience to join them in their rehearsals, starting Sunday, Feb 8, at 11:30 am in the sanctuary. Prerequisites: be able to keep time, enjoy being in a group. For information, contact Joanne Seiden 781-449-6535; jseiden@basiclink.com.

Youth Choir: Do you know a child that likes to sing? We would love to have

more students join our youth choirs.

FACT: One of the only activities that activates, stimulates, and uses the entire brain is Music.

FACT: Research shows that music is to the brain as physical exercise is to the human body. Music tones the brain for auditory fitness and allows it to decipher between tone and pitch.

Please consider this opportunity for your children!

Rehearsals are on Sundays throughout the year.

Joyful Noise—9:15-9:45 am

Hallelujah Choir—11:30-12:00 pm

Shepherd's Staff—12:00-1:00pm

Each choir will sing for the congregation 4-5 times throughout the year, culminating with Youth Sunday on June 7.

Adult Bible Study: Sunday 11:30 Conference Room: Everyone is welcome to join the Bible Study group that meets after church. This is a great opportunity to discuss your spiritual questions with other people of faith. Last year, we read through Luke and Isaiah by discussing just a few chapters a week. Currently we are reading about the early church in the book of Acts. If you have been wondering what Bible Study is like, check us out! For more information, contact Sunu Yeh at dormouse99@gmail.com.

Sunday School Volunteers Needed! Be an assistant teacher or lead a workshop (like science, art, theater, games). Please visit our online sign up sheet (just go to www.needhamucc.org/sundayschool and click on Volunteer Sign Up under Important Links) or contact Rev. Jamie for more information. Just a friendly reminder that all Sunday School families are encouraged to sign up for ANY 7 spots for the whole year. If you don't have kids in the program, we would still LOVE your help!

Valentine's Babysitting: There's still time to register- please sign up by Feb. 13! On Saturday, February 14, the Senior High Youth Group will babysit your kids (potty-trained, ages 3 and up) at the church -- drop off/pick up between 4 PM and 10 PM . Cost is \$20 for the first kid and \$10 for each additional kid. Dinner, snacks, activities, and a movie showing are included. Register online at www.needhamucc.org/babysitting. Contact Rev. Jamie for more info.

Lenten Challenge for Kids: During Lent, beginning Feb. 22, kids of all ages are encouraged to memorize Psalm 23. Each Sunday, kids can visit Rev. Jamie to recite a verse and receive a colorful, inspirational rubber bracelet. Kids will receive handouts in Sunday School today with more information or you can visit www.needhamucc.org/lent

"Not Your Average Talent Show" Concert on Saturday, March 21st, 4:00

pm: On Saturday, March 21, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm, the Guatemala Partnership will celebrate spring's arrival with a concert and silent auction to benefit education in our church's partner village of Santa María Tzejá.

The show will include performers from both the church and the wider community who are donating their diverse talents. The auction will include select Guatemalan goods and crafts brought back by recent Partnership delegations as well as other goods. More information to follow. Musical contact: Cici Hunt/cicihunt@gmail.com. General contact: Alan Clayton-Matthews a.clayton-matthews@neu.edu .

CALENDAR February 8th—February 19th

Sunday, Feb. 8th	9:00 am 9:15 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 12:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Joyful Noise Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Field Trip to Mayan Exhibit Adult Ed: Rev. June Cooper, <i>Linden Hall</i> Gardening Team Meeting, <i>Reception Room</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Junior Youth Group Valentine Party Senior High Youth Group Valentine Party
Monday, Feb. 9th	9:00 am 7:30 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Immigration Justice Task Force, <i>Library</i>
Tuesday, Feb. 10th	7:00 pm 7:15 pm	Guatemala Send Off, <i>Johnson Home</i> (505 Great Plain Ave) EMT Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Wed. Feb. 11th	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Wednesday Connect, <i>Linden Hall</i> Board Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Thursday, Feb. 12th	10:30 am 7:30 pm	Faith Circle Book Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
Saturday, Feb. 14th	3:00 pm	Junior/Senior High Youth Group Babysitting
Sunday, Feb. 15th	8:15 am 9:00 am 9:15 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 12:00 pm	Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Joyful Noise Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Adlt Ed: Future of Race in America, <i>Linden Hall</i> Friendly Chime Ringers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
Monday, Feb. 16th		President's Day—Office Closed
Wed., Feb. 18th	6:00 pm 7:30 pm	Wednesday Connect, <i>Linden Hall</i> Music Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Thursday, Feb. 19th	1030 am 7:30 pm	Faith Circle Book Club, <i>Reception Room</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>