

Board Members
Moderator - Jackie Allen, Clerk - Keith McClelland
<u>Term Ends 2018</u> Michael Normile, Blair Wentworth, Sharmon Priaulx
<u>Term Ends 2019</u> Jim Conroy, Diane Rees, Kristin Mollerus
<u>Term Ends 2020</u> Howard Sesso, Kenneth Allen, Barbra Morton, Amanda Angel

Deacons
<u>Term Ends 2018</u> Lee McNally, Charlie Baker, Claudia Darmofal, Susan Lively, Kirby Salerno
<u>Term Ends 2019</u> Rick Devereux, Dibby Moder, Scott Stewart, Carol Miller, Jean Veigas
<u>Term Ends 2020</u> Kevin Blume, Paul Brown, Jane Clayton- Matthews, Sue Cotton, Lucy Slosser

Our current pledge amount for 2017 is \$357,404.00. This represents a budget shortfall of \$66,859.00 for the year.

3/5/2017 Collections* = \$2,985
3/5/2017 Worship Attendance = 105 People

Please contact the church office 781-444-2510 or office@needhamucc.org to find out how you can give electronically.

*Collection amount does not include additional pledges received electronically.



2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off!

Saturday, April 1

@ 5:00 PM

Tickets on sale in Fellowship Hall Mid March. See Rev. Heike or Maddie Downer for more information.

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 781-444-2510, ext. 106	Church Administrator Danielle Jurdan Office@needhamucc.org 781-444-2510, ext. 101
Associate Minister The Rev. Heike Werder RevHeike@needhamucc.org 781-444-2510, ext. 105	Office Assistant Cindy Sullivan Office2@needhamucc.org 781-444-2510, ext. 100
Director of Children & Youth Ministries Madelyn Downer Youth@needhamucc.org 781-444-2510, ext. 104	Bookkeeper Suzanne Leslie Finance@needhamucc.org 781-444-2510, ext. 113
Music Director Valerie Becker musicdirector@needhamucc.org	Development Consultant Irma Bauer-Levesque
Organist/Accompanist Sangyoung Kim	Handyman Bill Donovan
	Housekeeper Sanira Alchaar

The Congregational Church of Needham
1154 & 1180 Great Plain Avenue
Needham, Massachusetts 02492
www.needhamucc.org
Facebook: Congregational Church of Needham UCC
Twitter @needhamucc Instagram: needhamucc
781-444-2510 office@needhamucc.org
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus



An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

March 12, 2017 10:00 a.m.

**The Second Sunday in Lent
Letting Go and Letting Love**

LOVE
by George Herbert

LOVE bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lack'd anything.

A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:
Love said, You shall be he.'
I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
I cannot look on Thee.
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.'
And know you not, says Love, Who bore the blame?
My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat.
So I did sit and eat.

PRELUDE Ricercar *Johann Pachelbel (1653 - 1706)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

OPENING PRAYER from Enriching Our Worship 1
Let us pray together

Holy Wisdom, in your loving kindness you created and restored us when we were lost: inspire us with your truth, that we may love you with our whole minds and run to you with open hearts, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #198 (Black, New Century) Lift High the Cross

TIME FOR CHILDREN- Guatemala Partnership
Children leave for Bible Village after Time for Children

ANTHEM A Psalm of Penitence *Gabriel Faure (1845 - 1924)*

PRAYER OF ENCOURAGEMENT Dibby Moder

O God, our Creator,
You surround us with possibilities for new life.
With every season the earth is transformed,
With every morning we awaken to new potential.
You created natural cycles that offer continuous renewal.
The tides ebb and flow,
The moon waxes and wanes,
New life emerges each spring.
May we open ourselves up to rebirth in every moment.
As signs of spring emerge from the earth, may we be inspired by its beauty to embrace our own beautiful potential.
As each new morning dawns, may we be enlightened by Christ's example to show us how you want us to live.
And with each breath we take, may we be transformed by your loving Spirit as it fills us, renews us, and leads us closer to you.
As we sit together in silence, help us to let go of what holds us back and to let in your promise of new life.

TIME OF SILENCE
(two minutes of silence for meditation)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

O God, your love is everywhere, it surrounds us. When we open our hearts and let your Spirit blow through us, we are transformed, inspired and filled with your love. Amen.

Gospel John 3: 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the reign of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the realm of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to Jesus, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Human One, the Child of God. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Beloved be lifted up, that whoever believes may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that God gave the Beloved, so that everyone who believes may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Beloved into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through the Beloved.

HYMN #207 (Black, New Century) Just as I Am

SERMON Rev. Jim Mitulski

Canticle **Let My Prayer Rise Up**
from Holden Evening Prayer, sung by the Choir

**Let my prayer rise up, like incense before you,
the lifting of my hands, like an offering to you.**

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 Surely he hath borne our griefs *Antonio Lotti (1667 - 1740)*

***Doxology** text by Isaac Watts (1710)
tune: Hamburg by Lowell Mason (1825)

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN #193 (Black, New Century)
In the Cross of Christ I Glory

BENEDICTION Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

Congregational Response Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!

POSTLUDE Sinfonia 4 *J.S. Bach (1685 - 1750)*

Worship Assistant: Liam and Kirby Salerno
Deacons: Jane Clayton-Matthews, Kirby Salerno
Altar Guild: Denice Koljonen
Ushers: Alex Cullen, Nancy Lane, Eric Slosser, David Libby
Flowers: Nancy Fischer
Flower Delivery: Joanne Seiden

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God in fond remembrance of Thomas Luby by Bill and Nancy Fischer and Thomas M. Luby, his wife Jennifer and their children.



**Celebrating 30
Years Together**

1987 – 2017



Upcoming Events

Date	Activity	Additional Details
March 12	Attend the February Delegation Report Back	Linden Hall 11:30 a.m.
April 8	Help Raise Funds by Supporting the Guatemala Partnership Servathon: <i>each worker is sponsored, donating their day to the betterment of not one, but two communities!</i>	8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Contact Nancy Lane for details
By May 1	Reserve Your Spot to Attend the 60th Delegation: <i>This is a one of a kind opportunity to receive heart-felt hospitality while staying in the village.</i>	Upcoming dates: August 2 – 13 2017 Contact Alan Clayton-Matthews for additional information
May 6	Sign Up for Our Mayan Chocolate Making Workshop (yum!)	Church Kitchen 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. See the sign-up sheet or contact Theresa Garrett for details
May 20	It's the BIG Yard Sale: <i>Make this fundraiser successful by donating items for sale, working a shift at the sale or simply stopping by to shop</i>	Johnson's 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Contact Brenda Metzler for more details
June 10	Annual Partnership Social: <i>Kick off summer with an outdoor cookout. Its time to kickback and just have fun</i>	The Johnson's 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
September 10	Welcome Back Coffee Hour	11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall
September 23	Partnership Founders Dinner & Talent Show	Fellowship Hall time tbd
October 22	Fall Concert featuring Soomi Lee	Church

Sunday March 12th	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 3:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Guatemala Report Back, <i>Linden Hall</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Islam Workshop at Old Baptist Church in Cambridge
Monday March 13th	9:00 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception Room</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Library</i> Finance Committee Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Tuesday March 14th	7:00 pm	Board Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Wednesday March 15th	7:00 pm	Lenten Vespers, <i>Chapel</i>
Thursday March 16th	10:30 pm 12:00 pm 7:00 pm	Faith Circle Book Group, <i>1154 Reception Room</i> Lenten Lunch, <i>1180 GPA</i> Maddie's Community Office Hours (k-8),
Saturday March 18th	9:00 am	Youth Group Tubing @ Nashoba
Sunday March 19th	8:15 am 8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 1:30 pm	Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Mindfulness w/ Sue Finlay, <i>Linden Hall</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Junior/Senior High Movie Matinee, <i>Legacy Place</i>
Monday March 20th	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception Room</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Library</i>
Tuesday March 21st	7:00 pm	Book Discussion-March Book 2, <i>First Parish Needham</i>
Wednesday March 22nd	2:30 pm 7:00 pm	Maddie's Community Office Hours Lenten Vespers, <i>Chapel</i>
Thursday March 23rd	12:00 pm	Lenten Lunch, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Saturday	9:00 am	Church Retreat, <i>1154 GPA</i>



SPRING VBS

Tues., April 18 - Fri., April 21

8:30 AM - Noon
Lunch Bunch - extended
program, pick up by 1:00 PM

Got questions? Email youth@needhamucc.org
or call (781) 444-2510.

Our storybook-themed VBS will offer kids the chance to be brave princesses, adventurous knights, and to explore the continuing story of God's people through arts and crafts, theater, singing, and games. Vacation Bible School is open to students in Pre-K (toilet trained) through grade 5.

VBS DATES are Tuesday, April 18 - Friday, April 21 from 8:30 AM - Noon; Lunch Bunch extended program, pick up by 1:00 PM. Registrations will be accepted until Sunday, March 12, 2017.

Payment is due by April 1, 2017. Students may be wait-listed if program capacity is reached. The cost is \$25 for your first child, \$15 per additional sibling and \$5 for lunch bunch. Scholarships are available. If cost would prevent your student from participating in VBS, please reach out to Maddie at youth@needhamucc.org.

April VBS Registration Form: Please fill out one per child.

Child Name: _____ Grade: _____ Birthday: (mm/dd/yy) _____

Requested friend(s)/sibling(s) in same class: _____

T-shirt Size (All sizes are Youth sizes): S M L XL

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone(s): _____

Email Address(es): _____

Emergency Contact Name & Number (other than parent(s) listed above): _____

Special needs/medications/allergies: _____

Please check all of the sessions you would like your child to attend.

Tuesday April 18

VBS 8:30am-noon
 Lunch: noon-1pm

Wednesday April 19

VBS 8:30am-noon
 Lunch: noon-1pm

Thursday April 20

VBS 8:30am-noon
 Lunch: noon-1pm

Friday April 21

VBS 8:30am-noon
 Lunch: noon-1pm

Forms and fees can be dropped off at or mailed to:
The Congregational Church of Needham, attn: VBS
1154 Great Plain Ave, Needham, MA 02492

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

March 12, 2017



The Congregational
Church of Needham

Events

TODAY! Guatemala Reportback: March 12, 11:30 am, Linden Hall

The church's delegation to Santa Maria Tzeja has just returned from a very memorable and inspiring trip, as Clark and Kay Taylor accompanied us to celebrate the 30th year of our partnership. Please join us for the Reportback presentation on March 12th, 11:30 am, in Linden Hall. We have wonderful stories and photos to share, along with a new idea to enhance our relationship and benefit the village. If you've ever thought about going on a delegation or simply want to know more about the partnership, this will reveal the experience in full color! Light refreshments will be served.

TODAY! Islam Workshop

Sunday, March 12 at 2pm at Old Cambridge Baptist Church

Join a teach-in led by the Muslim Justice League (MJL), a Boston-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization advocating for human and civil rights and civil liberties that are threatened under national security pretexts. Topics will include:

- The anticipated "Muslim registry" and revised "Muslim ban"
- Potential attempts to silence and criminalize Muslim civil society (including, for example, new "terrorist" designations)
- Existing policies and campaigns that have targeted and harmed Muslim communities for years
- Actions allies can take to meaningfully challenge state persecution of Muslim communities

Admission is free, but attendees are asked to register in advance. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/muslim-justice-teach-in-tickets-32299256947>

TODAY! Climate Change Film Opportunity

Sunday March 12, at 3 p.m.

The powerful 90-minute climate change film, *Time to Choose*, will be shown March 12th at First Parish in Needham, 23 Dedham Ave. The film will be followed by a discussion of concrete steps to address climate change and a chance to browse informational tables from local groups. This free event is sponsored by First Parish in Needham and Green Needham Collaborative, as well as Metro West environmental groups, houses of worship and local League of Women Voters.

Faith Circle Book Group meets in the Reception Room at 1154.

We will be reading **Man's Search for Meaning** by Viktor E. Frankl and will meet on Thursday, March 16 from 10:30-12:00 to discuss.

We will be reading **Faithful** by Alice Hoffman and will meet on Thursday, April 27 from 10:30-12:00 to discuss.

If you have any questions or concerns or need help obtaining a copy of the book, please email Christine Weitzel at cweitzel@verizon.net. Thanks so much and look forward to seeing you soon.

Interfaith, Intergenerational Common Read

You are invited to join the Congregational Church of Needham, UCC, First Baptist Church in Needham, and First Parish of Needham Unitarian Universalist for a joint book reading of *March*, by Representative John Lewis. *March* is the story of the Civil Rights Movement in three parts, and each Book will be discussed at a different congregation. You have plenty of time to read it even if you have never read a graphic novel. Be adventurous! Take a risk! Book One's reading was completed in February and dates for Book Two and Book Three are as follows:
Book Two, March 21st at 7 pm (First Parish in Needham);
Book Three, April 25th at 7 pm (Congregational Church of Needham)

2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off—Saturday, April 1 @ 5:00 p.m.

Are you a chef or a taster? Do you make a mean pot of chili and want to join the contest? Be a judge or chef at our great Chili Cook-Off! Tickets on sale in Fellowship Hall beginning in Mid March. Call the office, email office@needhamucc.org or speak with Rev. Heike.

Guatemala 'Servathon' Coming Up April 8th

Sponsors/Workers Needed: The Guatemala Partnership is seeking sponsors and volunteer workers for our day of community-service work at the church and around Needham. Please consider supporting a volunteer who may ask for your pledge. For questions or to work, please contact Nancy Lane at: nrlane6@hotmail.com.

FAMILY PROMISE Walkathon, Saturday, April 8

Family Promise's largest fundraiser of the year. To **REGISTER TO WALK** with our 'Needham Congregational Church' team or to **DONATE** go to

<http://www.familypromisemetrowest.org>. Walkathon Team Formation and Fundraising *through the month of March*. Please stop by our coffee hour table.

Support Week First Congregational Church Natick, *April 30-May 7* There will be a Training at The Dover Church, *Tuesday, March 7* for those interested in volunteering who have not yet attended a training.

Thank you, Susan Kirk susanckirk@comcast.net

Interfaith Book Read: May 3, 2017 7:00PM

Toxic Charity— How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help

by Robert D. Lupton

Mission/Outreach/Benevolence groups of churches, temples, religious communities and anyone interested in giving to those in need in meaningful, uplifting and caring ways while minimizing any unintended negative effects of heartfelt charity.

Date: May 3, 2017

Time: 7 to 8:30 pm

Where: Congregational Church of Needham, 1154 GPA

Please come to the group having read the book. This event is free and open to the public, but we ask you to RSVP to the office at the Congregational Church of Needham (office@needhamucc.org or at 781-444-2510) to allow us to plan for seating and snacks. Books are available at Amazon.com

Announcements

Flower Team Opportunity

The Flower Team is looking for a special someone to take responsibility for our altar flowers for a month during the year. This person will coordinate the donation of these arrangements. In addition we decorate the church for Easter and Christmas - the most festive seasons of the year. This is a great time of fun and fellowship. If you think you might be interested contact Debbie Wentworth at bmwfac@comcast.net to find out more.

Chancel Choir

Please come sing with us! Chancel choir rehearsals for the month of January and February will be at 8:30 on Sunday morning in the sanctuary. We would love to have you be part of our choir!

Christian Education

Communion Workshop Open to students in grades 2 and above

Would your student like to learn more about Communion? Why is it bread and grape juice? Why do the ministers say what they do before we eat it? Find out at the Communion Workshop!

The workshop will be held in April and we will decide the day based on those who are interested - if your child would like to participate, send Maddie an email at youth@needhamucc.org. We will take a doodle poll to find out which day/s will work best for those interested!

SPRING VBS

Sign up for Spring VBS: Kids of the Kingdom!

Our storybook-themed VBS will offer kids the chance to be brave princesses, adventurous knights, and to explore the continuing story of God's people through arts and crafts, theater, singing, and games. Vacation Bible School is open to students in Pre-K (toilet trained) through grade 5.

Tuesday, April 18 - Friday, April 21

9:30 AM - Noon; Lunch Bunch extended program, pick up by 1:00 PM

Register by Sunday, March 12, 2017.

Scholarships are available. If cost would prevent your student from participating in VBS, please reach out to Maddie at youth@needhamucc.org.

VBS: Volunteers needed!

Volunteers are needed to help with all aspects of VBS - checking students in and

out, preparing snacks, setting up classrooms, teaching, and shepherding. Whether you like cooking, games, crafts, or are up for anything, your help is needed! 2 adult volunteers (18+) are needed for each day of VBS. Students in grades 6 through 8 can participate in VBS as volunteer counselors in training. Students in grades 9 through 12 can sign up as counselors and are paid \$25/day. Please contact Maddie at youth@needhamucc.org if you are interested in participating as an adult volunteer, volunteer CIT, or High School counselor.

Youth Ministries & Announcements

Junior High Youth Group meets most Sundays from 5:00 - 6:30 PM.

Senior High Youth Group meetings are Sunday night.

Please join us from 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Junior and Senior High Youth Groups schedule for March:

Sunday, March 5 and Sunday, March 26: regular youth group programming

Our **Senior High Snow Day Tubing @ Nashoba**

March 18 9:00a.m.—3:00 p.m

Email Maddie at youth@NeedhamUCC.org by March 12!

Saturday, March 25 Community Building Retreat at Needham UCC.

Workshops and Camp Day for kids of attendees. High school students will serve as counselors.

Youth Band has an additional opportunity to come together this year in March!

If you are a junior or senior high school student who would like to participate, youth band will practice during the last 15 minutes of JR High and the first 15 minutes of SR high youth group on Sunday, March 12, and an additional practice will be scheduled on Saturday, March 25, time TBD. Reach out to Maddie if you are interested in playing/singing!

For updates on church life, our family ministries, Christian Education and Youth Ministries follow us at:

@NeedhamUCC on Instagram

Congregational Church of Needham UCC on Facebook

@needhamucc on Twitter

www.needhamucc.org

New or Visiting Our Church

Welcome to all who are new or here for the first time. Please silence your cell phone before attending the service. You can Check In on Facebook and let people know you are here. Feel free to Tweet or Instagram during the service. If you would like or need a hearing device an usher will be able to assist you.

Children's Childcare is offered for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers in the Nursery located downstairs during the service. After Time For Children, students are dismissed to their classrooms for Bible Village. On Communion Sundays, students attend Bible Village first and then join the Worship Service for Communion.

ALL OUR VOICES... ALL OUR VISIONS

Come together with your church family for a day of spiritual renewal and community building with facilitator Suzanne Ehly. We will be hosting a kids camp (registration on back) to run simultaneously for any parents who wish to attend,

SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH FROM 9AM-5PM



Suzanne Ehly, Artist-in-Residence, and Faculty in Voice, Body, and Culture at Episcopal Divinity School, is also a professional performer, an experienced teacher, workshop and retreat leader – a hybrid scholar/performer/activist. At EDS she teaches the course Unleashing Our Voices: Voice, Identity and Leadership; co-teaches the Foundations and Preaching courses, and has been invited by faculty colleagues to guest teach in Liturgical Practicum, Spirituality, and Theological Writing courses.

Name _____

Contact Phone: _____ **Email address:** _____

Church Member Y N I attend Worship _____ a month I attend church events _____ a month

Allergies or dietary restrictions _____

Name _____

Contact Phone: _____ **Email address:** _____

Church Member Y N I attend Worship _____ a month I attend church events _____ a month

Allergies or dietary restrictions _____

KIDS CAMP!

SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH

9AM-5PM

Community Building Weekend at Needham UCC!

Workshops & Camp Day for kids of attendees

Register kids ages Pre-K (potty trained please) through 5th grade.

If a current Registration is not on file for your child, we will email you for additional information.

Child Name: _____
Birthday:(mm/dd/yy) _____
Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____
Email Address(es): _____
Child Name: _____
Birthday:(mm/dd/yy) _____
Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____
Email Address(es): _____