



CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
OF NEEDHAM

March 16, 2014

Theme: Healing



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, March 16, 2014

10:00am

Childcare is available downstairs in the crib/toddler room for infants and toddlers. Preschoolers, Grades 7-8, and 9-12 go directly downstairs to classes at 10am. Grades K-6 will start in the sanctuary, leave for the chapel after "Time for Children" and then proceed to their workshops downstairs in the main hallway. K-1st in Theater, 2nd-3rd in Games, and 4th-6th in Art.

PRELUDE

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling
Arr. – Dale Wood (1934-2003)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

K.M. Abraham

Leader: God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.

People: God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.

Leader: God embraces the wounded and broken.

People: God knocks down the walls of division and strife.

Leader: God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.

People: God is the light of our lives.

Leader: God is the one who makes all things new.

People: Praise be to you, o God, now and forevermore!

***OPENING HYMN # 397 (NCH)**

**Thank Our God for
Sisters, Brothers**

OPENING PRAYER

K.M. Abraham

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

God of healing, we come with thanksgiving in our hearts for all the goodness and mercy you offer to us in our lives today. When our lives are bruised with tragedy you touch us with your Holy Spirit. When our lives are scarred with suffering you encourage us through the power of the living Christ. When we feel isolated in our recovery you provide us with loving hands and caring presence. We rejoice and give thanks to you for all the possibilities of health and wholeness you provide for us. Embrace us as we pray...

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
Pilgrim Hymanl No. 153

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Lean on Me
Valerie Becker, Piano

CHILDREN'S HYMN (#526)

We Are Marching In
The Light Of God

ANTHEM

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling
Arr. – David Cherwien (b. 1957)
Nate Ramsayer, Tenor

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 5: 1-20

NT, p. 36

SERMON

“Healing the Mind” Heike Werder

HYMN (seated) # 554 (NCH)

**Out of the Depth,
O God, We Call**

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

Excerpts from Concerto for Saxophone

Henri Tomasi (1901-1971)

Emily Verschoor-Kirss, Saxophone

**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 # 513 (NCH)**

By Gracious Powers

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Old Irish Blessing
Denes Agay (1912-2007)
David Darmofal, Piano

POSTLUDE

Emily Verschoor-Kirss, Saxophone

A special thank you to Emily Verschoor-Kirss and David Darmofal for their special gift of music this morning.

**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 Leader: K.M. Abraham

Deacons: Joanne Seiden, Connie Kaufman

Ushers: Mike Normile, Janet Jankowiak, Bob Everts, Jim Conroy

Altar Guild: Diana Conroy

Flowers: Stacy Caswell

The flowers on the altar are given today to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Sid Dimond by his family.

The Congregational Church of Needham

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The Rev. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister

The Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister

The Rev. Jamie Green, Youth Minister

Bobby DeRegis, Director of Music Ministries

Valerie Becker, Dir of Youth Music

The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study

Sunday Group: Join us in the Reception Room at 11:30am. Newcomers are welcome! Contact Sunu Yeh for more information- dormouse99@gmail.com.

Thursday 10:30am group is reading a new book on the 23rd Psalm- **The Lord is My Shepherd** by Rabbi Harold Kushner. Contact Christine Weitzel for information cweitzel@verizon.net

Men's Breakfast – Sunday, March 16 8:15am The Men's Breakfast brings men of all ages and persuasions together once a month before worship in honest and lively discussion touching our faith and our lives in today's complex world. We get together in the Library on the third Sunday of the month and enjoy breakfast fare provided by volunteers. We have always welcomed men of all ages and can always accommodate those with scheduling challenges. Arrive at 8:15am for fellowship and breakfast or by 9:00am for the discussion.

On March 16, we will address the March worship theme of "Healing" by discussing our thoughts and experiences with healing and curing. How do the stories of Jesus' healing and our personal faith complement the nitty-gritties of modern healthcare? Contact Keith McClelland for information kmmlkm@rcn.com.

Friendly Society Program Meeting - Wednesday, March 19, 7:30pm,

Linden Hall Nate Ramsayer, our multi-talented lead Tenor in our church choir, will entertain us with a musical program, including jazz standards and oldies from artists such as Frank Sinatra, Bobby Darin, and Dean Martin. There will also be a sing along.

Nate has been doing a series of classes and lectures on archeology from time to time after church on Sunday. We guarantee that his musical program will be just as entertaining as his lectures have been. Everyone is welcome. Please come and enjoy a musical evening followed by delicious refreshments.

Easter Egg Candy Needed: The Youth Groups are in the midst of planning their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 20th at 10am. We are in need of bags of individually wrapped candy with NO NUTS (No: Reeses, Butterfinger, Payday, Almond Joy, Snickers, etc.) Please drop off candy in the box outside of Rev. Jaime's office by April 13th. Thanks!

EASTER PLANT DONATIONS – Please consider making a donation this Easter season to the Flower Fund in honor of loved ones. We are grateful for the flowers/plants that decorate our church and will acknowledge your generous offering in the Easter Sunday Bulletin. Unless you indicate otherwise, the flowers/plants that are used will be offered to our chancel choir to take home after the service as a symbol of appreciation for their gift of music. Thank you for your consideration. Please contact the church office at office@needhamucc.org to make a donation today!

LIBRARY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP: The Library Committee has added new books to the collection over the past several years and identified older books for possible discard. We don't want to discard books which may have special importance to the congregation. So, stop by the book cart at coffee hour and let us know if we are planning to discard an item that would be missed. Maybe the author has a relationship to the church – a former minister perhaps? Maybe there are references to Needham. Give us the benefit of our organizational memory before we move these books to the upcoming yard sale. For a catalog of our books, see www.librarything.com, search for NCCUCC in the search box and click on members.

Climate Change Café – Sunday, March 30 11:30-1:00pm

Native Trees and Shrubs – Spring gardens are on our minds! So, to get us to prepare and plant our gardens, the Climate Change Café will feature Betsy Sanders of the Massachusetts Master Gardeners Speakers Bureau. She will speak on the importance of planting native shrubs and trees. Learn about summer flowering trees and shrubs, fall color beyond maples, plants so exotic you'll never believe they grow right here. Why is this topic important? Choosing native plants allows developed landscapes to coexist with nature, rather than compete with it. Learn why native plants reduce maintenance, need less water, and need no pesticides or fertilizers. Native plants provide food and shelter for native insects, birds, amphibians, and mammals.

Adult Ed – Translating the Bible Sunday March 23, 11:30am

Professor Greg Mobley from Andover Newton will offer a lecture on "How to Translate the Bible". It promises to be an interesting session. One small mistake or way of thinking can change our understanding of the text. For example: Was Jesus a carpenter or stone mason? The King James version translates Jesus' profession to be a carpenter, but there was no wood available in the region. So, what is true? Please join us in Linden Hall. Lunch will be available.

CALENDAR for March3 – March27

Sunday March 16th	<p>8:45 am Men's Breakfast & Discussion, <i>Library</i> 9:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> 10:00am Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> 11:30am Adult Ed, <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Joyful Noise/Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Friendly Chime Ringers Rehearsal, <i>Sanct.</i> 12:00 pm Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> 5:00 pm JH Youth Group 7:00 pm SH Youth Group</p>
Monday March 17th	<p>9:00am Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Rm</i></p>
Wednesday March 19th	<p>7:00pm Youth Committee Meeting 7:30pm Friendly Event – Nate Ramsayer, <i>Sanct.</i> Music Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i></p>
Thursday March 20th	<p>10:30am Bible Study, <i>Reception Room</i> 12 noon Lenten Lunch with Rev. Heike, <i>Library</i> 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Rm</i></p>
Saturday March 22nd	<p>10:00am First Formal Communion Workshop</p>
Sunday March 23rd	<p>9:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Joyful Noise, Hallelujah, Shepherd's Staff Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Friendly Chime Ringers Rehearsal, <i>Sanct.</i> 10:00am Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> 11:30pm Adult Ed, <i>Library</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> 6:00 pm JH/SH Dogeball Tournament, <i>Trampoline Park</i></p>
Monday March 24th	<p>9:00am Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Rm</i> 6:00pm Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i></p>
Tuesday March 25th	<p>7:00pm Christian Education Committee</p>
Thursday March 27th	<p>10:30am Bible Study, <i>Reception Room</i> 12:00pm Lenten Lunch with Rev. Heike, <i>Library</i> 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i></p>



April Vacation Bible School ***April 22-25***

Kids ages 3 to 10 are invited to a week of active, adventurous fun at The Congregational Church of Needham's VBS program.

THEME: "Weird Animals"

Fee: \$25 per day for morning activities (8:30-12)
Lunch Bunch offered from 12-1pm for \$5 per day

Additional children in each family will receive 50% discount
AND save \$20 if you register by April 1st!

Download a registration form at
www.needhamucc.org/learn/vbs