

**Guest Musicians Willie Sordillo and Zoë Krohne
start off our 17th ONA Anniversary Celebration**

Willie Sordillo is a jazz saxophonist and music coordinator of the Thursday Night Jazz Worship at Old South Church in Boston. Zoë Krohne sings regularly at the Old South Jazz Worship as part of the Willie Sordillo Ensemble featuring Zoë Krohne. They frequently perform in churches across the state and have led music programs for state-wide ONA celebrations. They use their music to give voice to issues of peace, human rights and justice.



**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

Associate Minister
The Rev. Heike Werder
RevHeike@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 105

Director of Children & Youth Ministries
Madelyn Downer
Youth@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 104

Music Director
Valerie Becker
musicdirector@needhamucc.org

Organist/Accompanist
Sangyoung Kim

Church Administrator
Danielle Jurdan
Office@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 101

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781-444-2510, ext. 100

Bookkeeper
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781-444-2510, ext. 113

Development Consultant
Irma Bauer-Levesque

Handyman
Bill Donovan

Housekeeper
Sanira Alchaar

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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 19, 2017 10:00 a.m.
The Third Sunday in Lent
Letting Go and Letting Love**

PRELUDE The Doors are Open *Willie Sordillo*

ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Heike

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

OPENING PRAYER

God, meet us at the wells
where we are lonely
where we are forgotten
where we are hurt by others
and give us to drink of the grace that brings life again

God, speak to us in the trying places
where mistakes are made
where the prejudices live
where our histories are broadcast
and give us to drink of the forgiveness that brings peace again

God, renew all that we are and have been
fill us with a new future
inspire us with recreation
pull us into resurrection
and give us to drink from the promise of heaven. Amen

**OPENING HYMN #18 (Black, New Century)
Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer**

TIME FOR CHILDREN
Children leave for Bible Village after Time for Children

**CHILDREN'S HYMN #525 (Black, New Century)
This Little Light of Mine
Vs. 1 & 2**

ANTHEM I Dream of a Church *Mark Miller*

Board Members
Moderator - Jackie Allen, Clerk - Keith McClelland
<u>Term Ends 2018</u> Michael Normile, Blair Wentworth, Sharmon Priaux
<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

Parish and Pastoral Relations Committee

Committee Members: Tom Mollerus, Fred Moder and Diana Conroy

The Parish and Pastoral Relations Committee is a standing committee chosen by the Board and Deacons that seeks to support and maintain an open and healthy relationship between the pastor/s and members of the congregation. The committee does not seek to take the place of communications between the congregation and the pastoral staff, but rather to help those people who need advice and assistance in talking to the pastors. Congregants who wish to communicate with this committee may send an email to pprc@needhamucc.org.

Please do not use email to discuss sensitive or confidential matters; just use the email to establish contact with the committee, and to set up an appointment for a telephone or in-person meeting.

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

3/12/2017 Collections* = \$5,738
3/12/2017 Worship Attendance = 104 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.

PRAYER OF ENCOURAGEMENT

God of mercy, hear the prayers of your thirsting people:

For every time we have attributed your miracles in our lives to our own hands alone -
For every time we promised to trust you but turned to our own way when your response did not come soon enough or in the way we expected -
For the many opportunities to extend forgiveness that we have refused -
For each way we put our own understandings above your wisdom -
For each time we resist your command to be reconciled with those who believe differently from us -
For our silent sins, our quiet acts of violence, and our indifference to the suffering round us -
We ask for forgiveness and for you to quench our thirst with your grace. Remake us into vessels of tenderness and compassion...

TIME OF SILENCE (two minutes of silence for meditation)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

Because of God's great love for us,
we have peace with God and access to God's grace
all through Jesus Christ who offers us the living water that quenches the deep longing of our souls. In this we know we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

SELECTION OF READINGS John 4: 5-42 (NRSV)

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one

you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

HYMN #326 (Black, New Century) Crashing Waters at Creation

SERMON "More Than Water"
Heike Werder

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

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 Draw the Circle Wide
Gordon Light (lyrics)
Mark Miller (music)

*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 #485 (Black, New Century)
O Love, That Will Not Let Me Go

BENEDICTION Rev. Heike

Congregational Response Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!

POSTLUDE One Love Bob Marley

Thank you to our guest musicians Willie Sordillo and Zoë Krohne

*Worship Assistant: Alan Clayton-Matthews
Deacons: Dibby Moder, Sue Cotton
Altar Guild: Jane Clayton-Matthews
Ushers: Mike Normile, Janet Jankowiak, Bob Everts, Jim Conroy
Flowers: Nancy Fischer
Flower Delivery: Martha Lamb*

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Sid Dimond by his loving wife Joan.

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 Walters, <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 March 25th	9:00 am	Church Retreat, <i>1154 GPA</i>
Sunday March 26th	8:30 am 10:00am 11:00am 11:30 am 5:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service Rev. Irene Monroe -ONA Sunday, <i>Sanctuary</i> Youth Committee Meeting Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Junior High Youth Group
Monday March 27th	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception Room</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Library</i>
Tuesday March 28th	7:00 pm	Outreach Meeting Maddie's Community Office Hours
Wednesday March 29th	7:00 pm	Lenten Vespers, <i>Chapel</i>
Thursday March 30th	12:00 pm	Lenten Lunch, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Saturday April 1st	5:00 pm	Chili Cook-Off, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Sunday April 2nd	8:30 am 10:00am 11:30 am 5:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Quarterly Board/Deacon Lunch Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Junior/Senior High Youth Training



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 <input type="checkbox"/> VBS 8:30am-noon <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch: noon-1pm	Wednesday April 19 <input type="checkbox"/> VBS 8:30am-noon <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch: noon-1pm	Thursday April 20 <input type="checkbox"/> VBS 8:30am-noon <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch: noon-1pm	Friday April 21 <input type="checkbox"/> VBS 8:30am-noon <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch: noon-1pm
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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

March 19, 2017



The Congregational
Church of Needham

Church Retreat – All Our Voices, All Our Visions March 25, 9am-5pm

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 to run simultaneously for any parents who wish to attend! To register, go to <http://needhamucc.org/connect/all-our-voices-all-our-visions-all-church-retreat-kids-camp-day/>.

ONA INTERVIEW 11:30am - March 26th, Linden Hall

ONA celebrates our 27th anniversary in March. The Rev. Irene Monroe will be our guest preacher on 3/26. ***An African-American lesbian feminist public theologian, she is known nationwide and does a weekly Monday*** segment, "All Revved Up!" on WGBH (89.7 FM), and a weekly Friday segment "What's Up?" on NECN. She's also a Huffington Post blogger and writes a weekly column in the Boston LGBTQ newspaper Baywindows. After worship, she and Rev. Jim will share an in-depth interview.

SAVE THE DATES! April 6 and May 21 for a CELEBRATION OF FRIENDLY SOCIETY

FRIENDLY SOCIETY, as current members have known it, will close this chapter of it's remarkable history after the May 21 meeting. Plans are being considered to continue the spirit and some activities of Friendly by other church women and Reverend Heike. Stay tuned.

April 6, Thursday, about 1:20 - Friendly Society invites former and current members to an afternoon meeting of reminiscences about Friendly Society through the years. Come share your stories, photos, and memorabilia. We plan to put together Friendly's story in a church-wide celebration of Friendly Society on May 21. Please make a special effort to attend and bring along friends who used to be active in Friendly. Place: 1180 GPA, Time: after the last Lenten soup lunch and cleanup. (Come join us for Heike's famous soups and warm fellowship at 12 pm.)

May 21, Sunday, 10 am and 11:30 am – Everyone-- Friendly members, church members and friends-- is invited to join in a celebration of Friendly Society at church. Come hear the Friendly Chimers play during the service (Be sure you're here by 10 am.), be part of the recognition of Friendly Society dur-

ing church and afterwards join us for lunch and our well-loved strawberry short-cake for dessert. Music tributes will also be a part of this festive occasion.

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

Easter Flower Donations

Due by April 10th

Offering envelopes are available in the pews and in the main office for 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.

Please return offering envelopes from the pews to the office to Danielle Jurdan's mailbox in the office by April 10th.

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 March and April will be at 8:30 on Sunday morning in the sanctuary. We would love to have you be part of our choir!

Christian Education & Youth Ministries

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.

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

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 Saturday, March 25, time TBD. Reach out to Maddie if you are interested in playing/singing!

New or Visiting Our Church

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

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.