

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.



PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 29, 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

Lenten Prelude on Three Hymntunes
Charles Callahan (b.1950)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joanne Seiden

L: Let us come into God's house

P: **Let us listen for God's voice.**

L: Like the Hebrews, let us listen in the wilderness.

P: **Like the disciples let us listen by the sea.**

L: Like Mary, let us listen at the manger and the cross.

P: **Like Jesus let us listen to the voice of Abba, our Father in Heaven.**

***OPENING HYMN # 213 (*Black Hymnal*) Hosanna, Loud Hosanna**

OPENING PRAYER

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

Loving God, you come to us and urge us to lay our burdens down.

Let us kneel before you now, knowing you can hear what is real for each of us.

No wish too small,

No concern too insignificant,

No sadness too profound,

No fear too deep for you to hear.

Amidst a cosmos beyond our imagining, remind us that all that is, has been and will be

You hold in your loving arms.

You are our God. We are your people.

In the silence teach us to pray.

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

Sir John Stainer (1840-1901)

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

The Palms

Jean Baptiste Fauré (1830-1914)

Crosby Goshgarian, bass

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 22

NT. 81-83

SERMON

"Unanswered Prayer"

Susan Cartmell

HYMN # 175 (*Red Hymnal*)
ty!

Ride On, Ride on in Majesty!

MORNING PRAYER

Heike Werder

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

God So Loved the World from The Crucifixion
Sir John Stainer

**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 #193 (Black Hymnal) In the Cross of Christ I Glory
BENEDICTION**

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Peace I Leave With You
Amy Beach (1867-1944)

POSTLUDE

Herzlich tut mich verlangen
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

**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: Joanne Seiden

Deacons: Mary Lou Hughes

Altar Guild: Lee McNally

Ushers: Frank Arren, Todd Barth, Dave Johnson, Jan Rubenstein

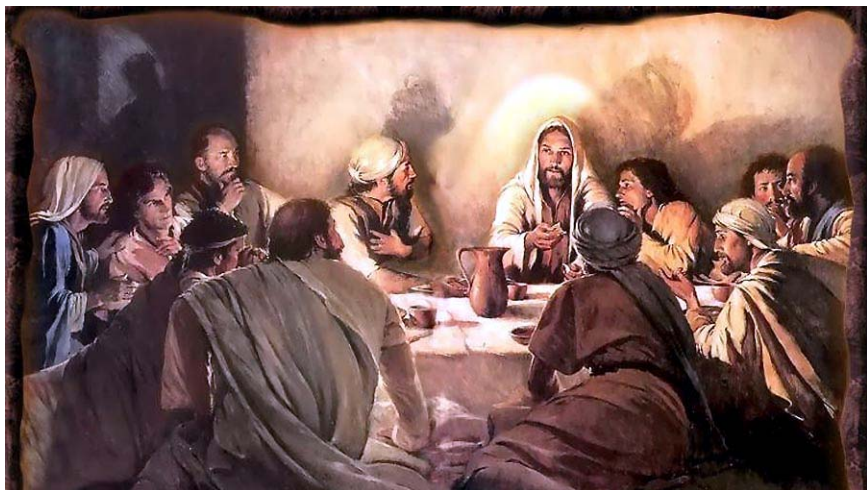
Flowers: Stacy Caswell

Flower Delivery: Amy Kennedy

The flowers on the altar are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Al Hyde and Jack Baldwin, fathers of Deb and John Baldwin.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 2 at 6 p.m.



Join us as we gather to remember the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. We begin the evening at 6pm with a simple soup supper followed by a 7pm candlelight communion service featuring a dramatic reading of the story of Holy Week.

*People who have come to this service once never miss it again.
It is one of the most meaningful services all year.*

A simple soup dinner will be served in Linden Hall at 6 p.m. All are welcome. You can reserve for dinner by calling 781-444-2510.

*The Congregational Church of Needham
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E-mail: office@needhamucc.org
www.needhamucc.org*

The Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister
The Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

Bobby DeRegis, Director of Music Ministries
Valerie Becker, Director of Youth Music

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY: FED UP movie and discussion, March 29, 2015: “FED UP” is the film the food industry doesn’t want you to see and it will change the way you eat forever. The film focuses on the real causes of obesity in the US, presenting evidence showing that large quantities of sugar in processed foods are an overlooked root cause of the problem. On **March 29th at 11:30am** we will watch part two of the movie “FED UP” with discussion to follow. We have invited members of the Needham Community Farm and the Farmer’s Market to join us in our discussion. All are welcome!

Wednesday Connect Announcement: We have a project started to make a labyrinth and we hope you will learn more about it and how you can be involved. For more information talk to Carol Miller and Barbara Livingston.

30 Day Prayer Challenge: Starting in March I invite you to take the 30 Day Prayer Challenge. You are invited to pray for one thing every day for the whole month.

What should I pray for?

- ◆ Think of someone who needs a prayer.
- ◆ Think of a situation that might be troubling you or someone you love.
- ◆ Think of an issue or cause you believe could benefit from prayer.

I think you will be surprised!

Religious Experience Surveys March 29 at 8:30am: Exploring MyReligion.org is run by a group of professors, graduate students and researchers at Boston University. Their goal is to understand how our spiritual minds work. Our members will have an opportunity to take the survey and then participate in a follow up discussion. On March 29 at 8:30am, come for breakfast and participate in a discussion. By taking the survey you will receive enlightening feedback and graphs and be able to compare your experience with others from Needham UCC. In return for participating in the survey the organization will make a \$20 donation on your behalf. This is brought to you by Dr. Wesley Wildman and Boston University.

Calling all Soup Makers for Maundy Thursday Dinner, April 2, 2015!: We will be gathering for a simple soup dinner on the evening of Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to contribute a home-made soup for our supper together, please e-mail Rev. Heike at revheike@needhamucc.org or call 781-444-2510.

Friendly Society April 9th at 1:15pm, 1180 Great Plain Ave.: The Friendly Society invites you to join in an informal presentation (rescheduled) "Touring at the MFA" on **Thursday, April 9**. Our guide Joanne Seiden will talk about her preparation for a tour of accessibility groups, and we'll imagine being on a tour

as well. **Meet at 1180 Great Plain, dining room, at 1:15.** Questions can be directed to Joanne (Jseiden@basiclink; 781-449-6535).

Communion Workshop – April 11 – 10 a.m. – noon: Calling All First and Second Graders and older kids who have not taking the Communion Curriculum. Join Rev. Susan at the church for a program for children and their parents as we prepare for First Formal Communion Sunday May 3.

Who is this program for?

You if you have a child in first or second grade

You if you are a child in 1st or 2nd

Elementary school parents and their children who have not taken the communion workshop

Register today by sending an e-mail to revsusan@needhamucc.org. She will reserve a spot for you.

The Family Promise will host their 6th Annual Walkathon Saturday April 11th: Please join us by registering to walk with our Team or sponsoring one of our walkers. Visit the Family Promise website www.familypromisemetrowest.org for more information or stop by our coffee hour table to learn how you can support Family Promise Metrowest's largest fundraiser of the year. Susan Kirk [su-sanckirk@comcast.net](mailto:susanckirk@comcast.net).

February Delegation's "Reportback" on Its Trip, April 12, 11:30 am: Please join the travelers from the recent February delegation to Guatemala for their 'Reportback' to our church community, Sunday, April 12th, 11:30 am, in Linden Hall. Adult and youth travelers to our sister community of Santa Maria Tzeja will share their photos and impressions in a lively and informative presentation. Come share the energy and spirit engendered on both sides of the partnership. Light refreshments will be served.

Celebration & Farewell Supper, April 12, 4-6 p.m. Fellowship/Linden Hall: Come join us on April 12 at 4 p.m. to say farewell to and celebrate Rev. Jamie Klopotoski. All are welcome.

New Grief Group : Grief does not end with a funeral. When you lose someone you love it takes a long time to adjust to the change. Whether the grief you experience is a death or other loss, sometimes it helps to know you are not alone. Living with someone who has memory loss is a grief process. Often it helps to be with others who have some similar experiences. If you would be interested in joining a prayer support group for those who are grieving please speak to Rev. Susan or send her an e-mail – revsusan@needhamucc.org.

Faith Circle Book Club: The Faith Circle Book group meets Thursdays. The group will run from 10:30-12:00 for 9 weeks. We will be reading, The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World by Reverend

Desmond Tutu. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Christine Weitzel at cweitzel@verizon.net

Friendly Chimers: Friendly Chimers invites anyone interested in a fun, hands-on musical experience to join them in their rehearsals, 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 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 the office 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!

Lenten Challenge for Kids: During Lent, kids of all ages are encouraged to memorize Psalm 23. This Sunday, kids can visit Rev. Heike 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

Guatemala 'Servathon' Coming Up April 11 -- 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 .

Guatemala Yard Sale (May 16th): Save the Date and Your Donations:

As you do your spring cleaning, please set aside any items in clean, working condition that you would like to donate to the Guatemala Yard Sale (no clothing). Children's gear, toys, and current sports equipment in good condition are especially desirable. And of course, household items, collectible or vintage items, jewelry, artwork, electronics (no TV's or computers), books, games, bikes, outdoor furniture, or small indoor furniture items are also welcome. The May FOCUS will have more details, but please hold your items until the week before the sale (May 11). For any questions or to volunteer, please contact Brenda Metzler at: bmetzler7@verizon.net.

August 2015 Delegation To Guatemala: The August delegation to visit our sister community of Santa Maria Tzeja is beginning to form. The dates for this trip will be August 5-16, 2015. If you are interested or have questions about this church outreach program, contact: Alan Clayton-Matthews, a.clayton-matthews@neu.edu or Caryl Johnson, caryljohnson@gmail.com. The Guatemala Partnership website is <http://www.guatemalapartners.org/home/>

An Inspired 'Not Your Average Talent Show': This recent fundraiser was a hugely enjoyed by all who attended. As well as revealing the breadth of musical and artistic gifts of families and individuals in our church community, the event raised nearly \$3,000 in funds for primary and middle-school education in Santa Maria Tzeja. The partnership is deeply grateful to musical director Cici Hunt for her vision and organizational talents, to all the performers and accompanists, and to the many others who worked to make this show and silent auction such a special event.



Holy Week and Easter Events

AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF NEEDHAM

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND
Dinner 6:00pm, Worship 7:00pm

Tonight we gather to remember the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. The celebration recalls not only the Last Supper, but Jesus' last commandment to his disciples: "Love one another as I have loved you."

Join us this evening at 6pm for a simple soup supper followed by a 7pm candlelight communion service featuring a dramatic reading of the story of Holy Week.

**EASTER WORSHIP & EASTER EGG
HUNT, APRIL 5TH**

9:00am Worship - Family Service
10:00am Easter Egg Hunt, 11:15am
Worship - Communion Service

Jesus has risen! Hallelujah! Celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord. Two services will be offered, 9am and 11:15am. A celebratory Easter Egg Hunt will commence at 10am.

CALENDAR March 29th—April 9th

Sunday, March 29th Palm Sunday	8:30 am 9:00 am 9:15 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 12:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Religious Survey Breakfast & Discussion, <i>Conference & Reception Room</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Joyful Noise Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Adult Ed: FED UP, <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Shepherd Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Junior High Youth Group Easter Egg Prep Senior High Youth Group Easter Egg Prep Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Monday, March 30th	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Thursday, April 2nd Maundy Thursday	10:30 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:30 pm	Faith Circle Book Club, <i>Reception Room</i> Maundy Thursday Supper, <i>Linden Hall</i> Maundy Thursday Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
Sunday, April 5th Easter	8:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:15 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship– Family Easter Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Easter Egg Hunt Worship-Communion Service, <i>Sanctuary</i>
Monday, April 6th	9:00 am 6:00 pm 7:15 pm 8:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i> Youth Committee
Tuesday, April 7th	10:00 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters, <i>Conference Room</i> Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> Deacon's Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Wednesday, April 9th	6:00 pm	Wednesday Connect, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Thursday, April 9th	10:30 am 1:15 pm 7:30 pm	Faith Circle Book Club, <i>Reception</i> Friendly Society, <i>1180 Great Plain Ave.</i> Chancel Choir, <i>Choir Room</i>