

New or Visiting Our Church

Welcome to all who are new or here for the first time! If you are interested in learning more about our church, please email Rev. Jim at revjim@needhamucc.org, Rev Heike at revheike@needhamucc.org or call the office at 781-444-2510 to set up a conversation.

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

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.

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.

Board Members

Moderator - Jackie Allen, Clerk - Keith McClelland

Term Ends 2018 Michael Normile, Blair Wentworth, Sharmon Prialux

Term Ends 2019 Jim Conroy, Diane Rees, Kristin Mollerus

Term Ends 2020 Howard Sesso, Kenneth Allen, Barbra Morton, Amanda Angel

Deacons

Term Ends 2018 Lee McNally, Charlie Baker, Claudia Darmofal, Susan Lively, Kirby Salerno

Term Ends 2019 Rick Devereux, Dibby Moder, Scott Stewart, Carol Miller, Jean Veigas

Term Ends 2020 Kevin Blume, Paul Brown, Jane Clayton- Matthews, Sue Cotton, Lucy Slosser

10:00 a.m. – 5

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.

Open and Affirming Statement

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.

(This statement adopted in 1998, reflects the welcome of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people and their friends and families.)

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

Evening hours are also available by appointment.

*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

Office Assistant
Cindy Sullivan
Office2@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 100

Bookkeeper
Suzanne Leslie
Finance@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 113

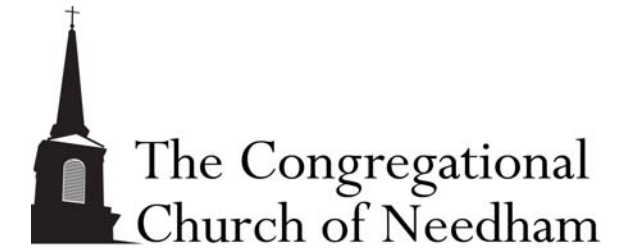
Development Consultant
Irma Bauer-Levesque

Handyman
Bill Donovan

Housekeeper
Sanira Alchaar

The Congregational Church of Needham
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www.needhamucc.org
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Twitter @needhamucc Instagram: needhamucc
781-444-2510 office@needhamucc.org
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

10:00 a.m. – 6



An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

April 23, 2017 10:00 a.m.

The Second Sunday of Easter

We awaken in Christ's body
as Christ awakens our bodies,
and my poor hand is Christ, He enters
my foot, and is infinitely me.

I move my hand, and wonderfully
my hand becomes Christ, becomes all of Him
(for God is indivisibly
whole, seamless in His Godhood).

I move my foot, and at once
He appears like a flash of lightning.
Do my words seem blasphemous? — Then
open your heart to Him

and let yourself receive the one
who is opening to you so deeply.
For if we genuinely love Him,
we wake up inside Christ's body

where all our body, all over,
every most hidden part of it,
is realized in joy as Him,
and He makes us, utterly, real,

and everything that is hurt, everything
that seemed to us dark, harsh, shameful,
maimed, ugly, irreparably
damaged, is in Him transformed

and recognized as whole, as lovely,
and radiant in His light
he awakens as the Beloved
in every last part of our body.

-Symeon the New Theologian - (Turkey - 949-1022) published in
The Enlightened Heart: An Anthology of Sacred Poetry,
edited by Stephen Mitchell

10:00 a.m. – 1

PRELUDE

Pilgrim's Chorus from Tannhäuser
Richard Wagner transcribed by Franz Liszt

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

OPENING PRAYER

O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.
And your glory all the day long.

Let us pray together

Almighty and everlasting God, Mother and Father of us all, who in the Easter mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that we who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in our lives what we profess by our faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

* **OPENING HYMN #233** (*Black, New Century*)

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Children leave for Bible Village after Time for Children

CHILDREN'S HYMN #236 (*Black, New Century*)

Halleluja

ANTHEM

I Thank You God
Lloyd Pfautsch (1921 - 2003)

by e.e. cumings

i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

SELECTION OF READINGS

Psalm 16

read responsively, reader and congregation
Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

10:00 a.m.— 2

I say to God, “You are my God; I have no good apart from you.”

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the nobles, in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose someone else to worship multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

God is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

I bless God who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep God always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Gospel John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the religious authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw Jesus. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen Jesus.” But Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later the disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then Jesus said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered Jesus, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Beloved of God, and that through believing you may have life in this name.

HYMN #244 (*Black, New Century*) **O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing**

Verses 1-4

sing alleluias before verse 1 and after verse 4

SERMON

Jim Mitulski

HYMN #244 (*Black, New Century*) **O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing**

verses 5-6

sing alleluias before verse 5 and after verse 6

10:00 a.m.— 3

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

Hallelujah Chorus
G.F. Handel (1685 - 1759)

**Doxology*

tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

***CLOSING HYMN #241** (*Black, New Century*)

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

BENEDICTION

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

Congregational Response Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!

POSTLUDE

Hosanna!
Théodore Dubois

Worship Assistant: Heather Salerno

Deacons: Sue Cotton, Carol Miller

Altar Guild: Diana Conroy

Ushers: Rob Blauvelt, Craig Morrison, Valerie Kistler

Flowers: Jan Drake

Flower Delivery: Amy Kennedy

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our grandparents and Uncle Dave—Kristen and Tim Mollerus.

10:00 a.m.— 4

students total and need at least 8 confirmed by Tuesday, April 18.

This trip will count for 15 hours of community service learning which can be combined with other Needham UCC Youth Ministries service opportunities to fulfill your 30 hour requirement for Needham High School. We are in need of 2 male chaperones who can stay overnight from 9p - 7a. Rutland is about an hour away from Needham. Please talk to Maddie if you're available - even for one night! We have lots of High School boys interested in this trip!

Please email Maddie at youth@needhamucc.org if you have any questions or can support our students by chaperoning this trip. If you have not been getting the youth ministry weekly emails, please let Maddie know and you will be added to the distribution list.

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

Stewardship & Attendance

4/16/2017 Collections* = \$4,229
 4/16/2017 Worship Attendance = 350 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.

Our current pledge amount for 2017 is \$367,804.00. This represents a budget shortfall of \$56,459.00 for the year.

Sunday April 23rd	8:15 am 8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 11:45 am 3:00 pm 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Mindfulness w/ Sue Findlay, <i>Linden Hall</i> Communion Workshop, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Youth Committee Meeting Death Café, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group Interfaith Dinner Dialogues, <i>Presbyterian Church in Needham</i>
Monday April 24th	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Library</i>
Tuesday April 25th	7:00 pm	Book Discussion—March Book 3, <i>1154 GPA</i> Outreach Meeting
Wednesday April 26th	7:00 pm	Book Discussion—Men and Feminism, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Sunday April 30th Earth Day	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service & Baptism, <i>Sanctuary</i> "She's Beautiful When She's Angry" Film, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group
Monday May 1st	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Confirmation, <i>Library</i>
Tuesday May 2nd	10:00 am 6:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Wednesday May 3rd	7:00 pm 7:15 pm	Interfaith Book Read— Toxic Charity, <i>Linden Hall</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Thursday May 4th	12:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Lunch with Heike, <i>1180 GPA</i> Music Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Saturday May 6th	3:00 pm 5:00 pm	Guatemala Chocolate Event Youth Group Babysitting Fundraiser
Sunday May 7th First Formal Communion	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 5:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service-First Formal Communion, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Bible Village Teacher Celebration Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

April 23, 2017



The Congregational
Church of Needham

Events & Announcements

TODAY: Interfaith Potluck Dinner at 6:30 pm on April 23
 BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH CONVERSATIONS AND SHARING OUR STORIES ON RACE AND RACISM POTLUCK DIALOGUE DINNER

Co-sponsored by the Needham Clergy Association & the CMM Ruah Interfaith Spirituality Program, and held at the Presbyterian Church of Needham, 1458 Great Plain Ave.

As we share our own stories in small groups and listen closely to others, we will work to bridge gaps in understanding and developing empathy. The program will be facilitated by Karlene Griffiths Sekou, an upcoming graduate with a M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School. She has worked at Judson Memorial Church in NYC, an active leader with Black Lives Matter, and a nationally sought after speaker and panelist. We welcome you & friends, associates and family members! Please let us know what you would like to bring for the vegetarian potluck meal: appetizer, main dish, salad, beverage, dessert.
 Please RSVP to: info@coopmet.org

Interfaith, Intergenerational Common Read April 25 7:00 p.m.
 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. You have plenty of time to read it even if you have never read a graphic novel. Be adventurous! Take a risk! The date for Book Three is as follows: **Book Three, April 25th at 7 pm** (Congregational Church of Needham)

Men and Feminism Book Discussion April 26 @ 7:00 p.m.
 Many men describe themselves as feminists because they affirm the equality of women. Come join Rev. Jim in a discussion for men about feminism on Wednesday **April 26 @ 7:00 p.m.** Pick up a copy of Men and Feminism by the Chapel which we will also be using and start it, but you don't have to have finished it.

Faith Circle Book Reception Room at 1154—April 27 @ 10:30 a.m.

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.

Join the August 2017 Delegation To Guatemala

Adults and youth who are interested in joining the 60th delegation to Santa Maria Tzeja (August 2-13) should contact

Alan Clayton-Matthews: a.clayton-matthews@neu.edu or

Bill Garrett: wgarrett@MIT.EDU by MAY 1st.

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

Toxic Charity— How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help by Robert D. Lupton

This read is for 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. Join us on May 3, 2017 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Congregational Church of Needham.

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 in the church library and at Amazon.com.

Sign-Up by April 30 for Mayan Chocolate-Making Workshop - May 6, 3:00 - 4:30 pm

As part of the 30-year anniversary of our church's partnership with Santa María Tzejá, we are holding a chocolate-making workshop on Saturday, May 6, from 3:00 – 4:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Adults and children are invited to experience how Mayans make chocolate from scratch, and sample different types and flavors from around the world. If you did not receive an Evite for this event, feel free to sign up on the Guatemala Partnership bulletin board, or contact Theresa Garrett to register: theresagarrett@comcast.net. (And if you have an old-fashioned meat grinder to lend, contact Brenda Metzler at 781-449-5696, since we'll be grinding cacao beans by hand).

SAVE THE DATE! May 21

CELEBRATION OF FRIENDLY SOCIETY

FRIENDLY SOCIETY, as current members have known it, will close this chapter of its 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.*

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

The Community Dinner

The Community Dinner team thanks everyone for their contributions of re-usable containers. They have been much appreciated by our guests. Please continue to bring your surplus containers in- they can be left in a bag labelled "Community Dinner Take-Out" or something like that, and left in the kitchen. Please make sure they are SUPER CLEAN (like run through the dishwasher) and intact. If you have questions about anything to do with the Community Dinners, please don't hesitate to call or email Diana Conroy (781-449-3350) (conroyjd@rcn.com)

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!

New Directory 2017

We will be issuing a new member directory this year. If you did take any family pictures this Easter or during the vacation week, please send them into the church office so it can be used in the directory.

Pastoral Review Committee

If you would like to participate in the annual review of the ministers, please contact Danielle in the church office and request an electronic or paper copy of the interim senior minister survey and/or the associate minister survey. In order to have your answers considered, you must submit your signed survey(s) by May 1. If you have questions, please contact a member of the Pastoral Review Committee: Charlie Baker, Sue Cotton, Claudia Darmofal, Susan Lively, Carol Miller, Kristin Mollerus and Scott Stewart.

Outreach Committee

The committee is working with Circle of Hope to provide baby necessities to new mothers living in shelters on Mother's Day. We have placed a box in the church corridor, outside the chapel where you can drop donations. We will transport them to Circle of Hope before Mother's Day. They will appreciate any size donation. Their suggestions include onesies, towel, face cloth, baby bottle, receiving blanket, baby wipes, hat, bib, crib blanket, sleepers, baby wash. Please contact Carol Brown with any questions. Walshbrown1@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities for Baby Basics

Back up Driver(s) needed to pick up/drop off diapers

When: Pick up diapers first Monday of every month and have them delivered into South Boston by 5 pm as needed.

Where: Pick up at a warehouse in Needham and deliver them to the South Boston Community Health Center in South Boston.

How often: Once a month (may be alternate months for back up drivers depending on # of diapers needed that month)

What's needed: A car/truck/van large enough to fit 15+# of cases of diapers. (If you're not sure how many you can fit, reach out and we can talk about it.) The staff @ the warehouse and the SBCHC usually help w/ loading/unloading of diapers but volunteers should be able to move them independently if needed.

Why: We rely on our diaper drivers to pick up/deliver the diapers so that we can provide these free diapers to our working, low-income families.

Interested in helping? Contact Baby Basics at info@babybasicsinc.org for more details. For more information on our program, visit www.babybasicsinc.org. Thanks!

PS – We are also looking for help with pr/social media, database management & more. Not sure how you can help? Take your skills + diapers. Email us and let's talk. Thanks!

Youth Music

Sensational Summer Singing!

Opportunities to learn and perform outstanding choral music all in the span of one week don't come along very often but they will this summer in Needham. What better way to end an enjoyable summer than by spending time with other kids who also enjoy making music? That's what we'll do at the Congregational Church of Needham! This choir which is open to children ages 7 – 14 will run from 9am – 2pm from August 21 – 25. The program will include choral singing, music literacy, movement and percussion. Please contact Valerie Becker, Program Director, at musicdirector@needhamucc.org if you're interested!

Stay tuned for a special vacation bible school for children ages 3-6 that will run during this summer singing program.

Christian Education & Youth Ministries

Summer 2017 Mission Trip

Global Getaway at Heifer Farm, Rutland, MA

The High School Youth Group's annual Summer Mission Trip is heading to Heifer Farm in Rutland, MA beginning Wednesday, June 21 through Friday, June 23. This trip is open to those currently in grades 9-12.

A deposit of \$50 is due by Tuesday, April 18 to hold your students' place. Checks should be made out to "Congregational Church of Needham" with "SR High Youth Fund" in the memo line. A registration form will need to be completed along with Heifer's waivers and forms. We have space for 12