

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

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

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
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



The Congregational Church of Needham

An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

April 9, 2017 10:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday

PRELUDE Cantique de Jean Racine (Psalm 84), Op.11
Gabriel Fauré

INTROIT Hosanna Processional (A Palm Sunday Cannon)
Donald Moore(b. 1937)
Shepherd's Staff

ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

OPENING PRAYER written by Joanna Harader

God of the foolish cross,
tottering down the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey,
You are not the savior we expect.
Your power doesn't look like the power we want our God to demonstrate.
Your wisdom makes no sense to us.
We are happy to join the crowd, waving branches,
But not so sure we want to follow you
into the temple courts
into the upper room
into the Garden of Gethsemane
to the foot of the cross.
Forgive our false assumptions.
Clarify our clouded vision.
Let us relax into the foolishness of your love, your grace.
Hosanna, hosanna.
Save us, we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #216 (Black, New Century)
All Glory, Laud, and Honor

TIME FOR CHILDREN Blessing of the Palms
Children leave for Bible Village after Time for Children

One: Our God is with you..
People: And also with you.
One: Let us give thanks to God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.
It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you

have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way.

Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

One: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the God.
People: Hosanna in the highest! Thanks be to God! Amen

CHILDREN'S HYMN #213 (Black, New Century)

**Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
verse 1**

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna," the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

ANTHEM Greater Love Hath No Man *John Ireland (1879 - 1962)*

SELECTION OF READINGS

Matthew 21: 1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Prayer by Cici Hunt

Please God, I ask you to help me prepare for Easter. While I see signs of new life stirring on our earth, I don't always recognize the new life you offer me.

Let your love shine out from within me. And guide my life in this sacred journey toward the Easter joy that you offer me.

SERMON "No Regrets" Heike Werder

HYMN #222(Black, New Century) My Song Is Love Unknown

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Concerns and Celebrations

Prayer for Syria
Source USCCB.ORG

Almighty eternal God, source of all compassion,
the promise of your mercy and saving help fills our hearts with hope.
Hear the cries of the people of Syria;
bring healing to those suffering from the violence,
and comfort to those mourning the dead.
Empower and encourage Syria's neighbors
and countries throughout the world, including our own,
in their care and welcome for refugees.
Convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms,
and strengthen the resolve of those committed to peace.

O God of hope and Father and Mother of mercy,
your Holy Spirit inspires us to look beyond ourselves and our own needs.

Inspire leaders to choose peace over violence
and to seek reconciliation with enemies.

Inspire the Church around the world with compassion for the people of Syria,
and fill us with hope for a future of peace built on justice for all.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace and Light of the World,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

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

Hosanna to the Son of David Tomas
Luis de Victoria (1558 - 1611)

**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 ##226 (Black, New Century)

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

HOLY WEEK

Wednesday, April 12th

Vespers 7:00 p.m. , Chapel

Thursday, April 13th

Service of Music, Liturgical Drama, Celebration of Holy Communion
"Love's Last Supper"

Service held at **Congregational Church of Needham 7:00 p.m.**

Friday, April 14th

Good Friday Service

Recitation of the Passion narrative from Luke's Gospel.

Service held at **First Baptist Church**

858 Great Plain Ave. 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 16th

Celebrate the Resurrection

Easter Sunday 10:00 a.m.—One Service Only

Easter Egg Hunt 11:15 a.m

Service and Egg Hunt held at **Congregational Church of Needham**

Deacons: Carol Miller, Jean Veigas

Altar Guild: Laura Cullen

Ushers: Alex Cullen, Nancy Lane, Eric Slosser, David Libby

Flowers: Jan Drake

Flower Delivery: Martha Lamb

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and dedicated with love to the Sessos and Ruggieros in our lives and in our memories.

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|--|---|--|
| Sunday April 9th Palm Sunday | 8:30 am 9:30 am 10:00am 11:30 am 4:00 pm 5:00 pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Palm Sunday Processional, <i>Town Green</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> VBS Counselor Training, <i>Youth Room</i> Egg Stuffing Eggstravaganza, <i>Youth Room</i> |
| Monday April 10th | 9:00 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm | Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception Room</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Library</i> Finance Team Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> |
| Tuesday April 11th | 7:00 pm | Board Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> |
| Wednesday April 12th | 7:00 pm | Deacon's Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> Lenten Vespers, <i>Chapel</i> |
| Thursday April 13th | 6:00 pm 7:00 pm | Maundy Thursday, <i>Sanctuary</i> CE Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> |
| Friday April 14th Good Friday | 7:00 pm | Good Friday Service, <i>First Baptist Church Needham</i> |
| Sunday April 16th Easter | 8:30 am 10:00 am 11:15 am | Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Easter Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Easter Egg Hunt |
| Monday April 17th Patriot's Day | | Office Closed |
| Tuesday, April 18th | 8:30 am | Vacation Bible School |
| Wednesday April 19th | 8:30 am | Vacation Bible School |
| Thursday April 20th | 8:30 am | Vacation Bible School |
| Friday April 21st | 8:30 am | Vacation Bible School |
| 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 Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Youth Committee Meeting Death Café Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group Interfaith Dinner Dialogues |



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 |
|--|--|---|---|

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

April 9, 2017



The Congregational
Church of Needham

Events & Announcements

Pastoral Review Committee News

The survey portion of the annual review of the ministers will begin on April 1. If you would like to participate, 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.

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. 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 Book Two was just completed in March. 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 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 Group Meets in the Reception Room at 1154.

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

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.

SAVE THE DATE! 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.

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.

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 workshops will be held in April 11th from 6-8 p.m. and April 23rd at 11:30 a.m. 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

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

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.

Stewardship & Attendance

4/2/2017 Collections* = \$ 1,827

4/2/2017 Worship Attendance = 116 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.