

Offertory Anthem Ave Maria Franz Biebl (1906 - 2001)

\*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 #6(Black, New Century)  
**Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good  
verses 1-5**

**BENEDICTION** Congregational Response: Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!

**POSTLUDE** The Palms Jean Baptiste Faure (1830 - 1914)

Worship Assistant: Dibby Moder  
Deacons: Paul Brown, Sue Cotton  
Altar Guild: Jane Clayton Matthews  
Ushers: David Libby, Alex Cullen, Nancy Lane, Scott Lively  
Flowers: Gail Browne  
Flower Delivery: Carol Brown

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
Edward Cook by his wife, Doris Cook.*

*The roses are given in memory of Betty Baker by her sons  
Sandy, Jonathan, and Charlie Baker.*

*Thank you to Bruce Goody for sharing his gift of music today.*

#### 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.)*

10:00 a.m. – 5

#### 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. Congregants who wish to communicate with this committee may send an email to [prrc@needhamucc.org](mailto:prrc@needhamucc.org). Please do not use email to discuss sensitive or confidential matters; just use the email 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 Priaux  
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

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](mailto:RevJim@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 106

Associate Minister  
The Rev. Heike Werder  
[RevHeike@needhamucc.org](mailto:RevHeike@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 105

Director of Children & Youth Ministries  
Madelyn Downer  
[Youth@needhamucc.org](mailto:Youth@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 104

Music Director  
Valerie Becker  
[musicdirector@needhamucc.org](mailto:musicdirector@needhamucc.org)

Organist/Accompanist  
Sangyoung Kim

Church Administrator  
Danielle Jurdan  
[Office@needhamucc.org](mailto:Office@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 101

Office Assistant & Bookkeeper  
Cindy Sullivan  
[Office2@needhamucc.org](mailto:Office2@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 100

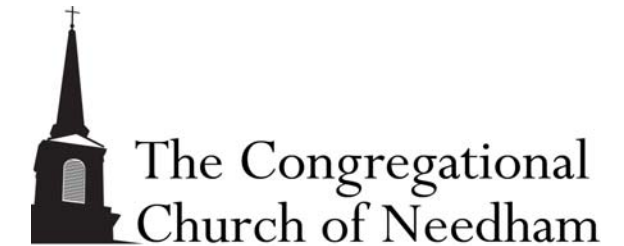
Development Consultant  
Irma Bauer-Levesque

Handyman  
Bill Donovan

Housekeeper  
Sanira Alchaar

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The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

10:00 a.m. – 6



An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

**May 14, 2017 10:00 a.m.**  
**Celebration of Mother's Day**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Bible Sunday**

#### The Lanyard - Poem by Billy Collins

The other day as I was ricocheting slowly  
off the blue walls of this room  
bouncing from typewriter to piano  
from bookshelf to an envelope lying on the floor,  
I found myself in the 'L' section of the dictionary  
where my eyes fell upon the word, Lanyard.  
No cookie nibbled by a French novelist  
could send one more suddenly into the past.  
A past where I sat at a workbench  
at a camp by a deep Adirondack lake  
learning how to braid thin plastic strips into a lanyard.  
A gift for my mother.  
I had never seen anyone use a lanyard.  
Or wear one, if that's what you did with them.  
But that did not keep me from crossing strand over strand  
again and again until I had made a boxy, red and white lanyard for my  
mother.  
She gave me life and milk from her breasts,  
and I gave her a lanyard  
She nursed me in many a sick room,  
lifted teaspoons of medicine to my lips,  
set cold facecloths on my forehead  
then led me out into the airy light  
and taught me to walk and swim and I in turn presented her with a  
lanyard.  
'Here are thousands of meals' she said,  
'and here is clothing and a good education.'  
'And here is your lanyard,' I replied,  
'which I made with a little help from a counselor.'  
'Here is a breathing body and a beating heart,  
strong legs, bones and teeth and two clear eyes to read the world.' she  
whispered.  
'And here,' I said, 'is the lanyard I made at camp.'  
'And here,' I wish to say to her now,  
'is a smaller gift. Not the archaic truth,  
that you can never repay your mother,  
but the rueful admission that when she took the two-toned lanyard from  
my hands,  
I was as sure as a boy could be  
that this useless worthless thing I wove out of boredom  
would be enough to make us even.'

**PRELUDE** In The Garden *arr. by Brent Olstad*  
Bruce Goody, Flute

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

**CONGREGATIONAL GREETING**

**OPENING PRAYER** “Mother’s Day Prayer”  
by Rev. Jane Sommers, UMC Discipleship Ministries

**Let Us Pray Together:**

**This day we gather with eager hearts, hungry for your Word, yearning for the joy you promise in love. O God, together we hold a vision of your kingdom, a people of prayer and open hearts, a loving Body of Christ eager to learn and eager to share. You bless us, O God, and shine upon us with the mercy of your salvation. And your Good Earth has yielded its increase through those who have brought us great blessing.**

**On this day of celebrating your love, we lift to you those who have given us life, those who have loved us, those who have blessed us, and those who have taught us, our mothers. May your blessing pour out upon the woman who gave us birth, and those beautiful, strong women of faith who have been mothers to us along our journey.**

**We praise you, O God, for your gift of motherly love, both gentle and fierce, both strong and humble, both kind and true. Where we have been so blessed, we give our grateful praise, for you have provided loving hands that have worked so hard in raising us, cared enough to correct us, blessed us in ways we cannot have fully known as children.**

**We call forth your compassion upon every mother who has unknowingly caused pain and suffering. And, so we lift to you our mothers, so imperfect, also so wounded by this world.**

**We bless our mothers this day, no matter what they have done or left undone. We do this because we believe in your healing, and we believe in your love and we believe that you love every mother, good or bad; and we stand together with all mothers in solidarity, for we all are in need of your grace. Where we have failed because we did not know better, help us to forgive ourselves. Where we have seen your face in any woman who has been to us a mother, in her face we have seen your light and your love and we give thanks -- for where they have loved, they have kept your word and blessed us.**

**We lift to you the heart of every mother who has watched her child die of hunger, every mother who had been a victim of abuse, every woman who stands in protest against a world that massacres her children and renames them "collateral damage." We lift to you the prayer of every mother who has ever loved and lost.**

**We lift to you our Mother Earth. We lift to you our Mother Church. We lift to you, O God, your mother's heart; and although we cannot fully express our gratitude, help each one of us to be your blessing of love, a blessing straight from your heart. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN #320** (*Black, New Century*)  
**Deep in the Shadows of the Past**

**TIME FOR CHILDREN**

*Children leave for Bible Village after Time for Children*

10:00 a.m.– 2

**Blessing and Distribution of Bibles**

*This morning the following students receive Bibles to inform and illuminate their continued spiritual journey.*

Tess Busby, Charlotte Rachel Bolivar, Hadley Reed Gibbons\*,  
Caroline Helen Mahar, Lilly Meyi\*, Emma Pretorius, Amelie Anna Rijnbout  
*\*in absentia*

*We lift up Judi Stewart and Sue Turner  
who taught our Fourth Grade Bible class this spring.*

*Celebration of Mothers and Motherhood  
The children will bring every woman present a flower.*

**CHILDREN’S HYMN #327**(*Black, New Century*) **Jesus Loves Me**

**ANTHEM** No Greater Gift *Ruth Elaine Schram (b1956)*

**SELECTED READING**

Reflection on the Meaning of Resurrection **Dibby Moder**  
Member, Board of Deacons

Mothers Day Proclamation by Julia Ward Howe, Boston, 1876

Arise then...women of this day!  
Arise, all women who have hearts!  
Whether your baptism be of water or of tears!  
Say firmly:

"We will not have questions answered by irrelevant agencies,  
Our husbands will not come to us, reeking with carnage,  
For caresses and applause.

Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn  
All that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We, the women of one country,  
Will be too tender of those of another country  
To allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the voice of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with  
Our own. It says: "Disarm! Disarm!

The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."  
Blood does not wipe our dishonor,  
Nor violence indicate possession.

As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil  
At the summons of war,  
Let women now leave all that may be left of home  
For a great and earnest day of counsel.

10:00 a.m.– 3

Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.  
Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means  
Whereby the great human family can live in peace...  
Each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar,  
But of God –

In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask  
That a general congress of women without limit of nationality,  
May be appointed and held at someplace deemed most convenient  
And the earliest period consistent with its objects,  
To promote the alliance of the different nationalities,  
The amicable settlement of international questions,  
The great and general interests of peace.

John 14:1-14

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Parent's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the One who sent me except through me. If you know me, you will know the One who sent me also. From now on you do know that one and have seen that one.’ Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the One who sent you, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the One who sent me. How can you say, “Show us the One who sent you”? Do you not believe that I am in that One and that One is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the One who dwells in me does these works. Believe me that I am in that One and that One is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the One who sent me. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the One who sent me may be glorified in the Beloved. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

**HYMN** (*see insert*) **She comes with mother’s kindness**

**SERMON** Jim Mitulski

**HYMN #610**(*Black, New Century*) **My Eyes Have Seen the Glory**

**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!*

10:00 a.m.– 4

**Vacation Bible School | August 2017**

**SUPERHERO CENTRAL**

Have you always wanted super powers? Wouldn't it be fun if you could save the world?



At VBS: Superhero Central, we'll learn about all the super powers we already have! Love, Friendship, Hope, and Faith all work together to make the world a better place!

Our days will be filled with lots of fun arts and crafts, games and playground time, cooking class and snack time.

Students will bring brown bag lunches. Gluten-free snacks will be provided.

**August 21 - 25, 2017**

**NEW TIME: Drop-off at 9:00 AM; Pick-up at 2:00 PM**

Rates:

Get one day free when you sign up for the whole week!

\$30/day or \$120/week for the first child

Family discount:

\$20/day or \$80/week for additional children

Registration opens May 14<sup>th</sup>!

VBS: Superhero Central is open to children ages 3-6.

Children must be toilet trained.

Have a student age 7 - 14? Check out Sensational Summer

Singing program offered at the Congregational Church of

Needham at the same time!

If this program is cost-prohibitive for your family, please reach out to Maddie Downer, our youth director, regarding scholarships at [youth@needhamucc.org](mailto:youth@needhamucc.org). Please put "VBS Scholarship" in the subject line.



Sunday May 14th <b>Mother's Day Bible Sunday</b>	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am TBD	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service-Bible Sunday, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Family Fellowship Movie Night, <i>AMC Framingham</i>
Monday May 15th	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Library</i>
Tuesday May 16th	7:15 pm	Immigration Justice Task Force, <i>Library</i>
Wednesday May 17th	7:00 pm 7:15 pm	Board Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> EMT Meeting
Friday May 19th		Women's Retreat, <i>Craigville Conference Center</i>
Saturday May 20th	9:00 am	Women's Retreat, <i>Craigville Conference Center</i> Guatemala Partnership Yard Sale, <i>Johnson's Home</i>
Sunday May 21st	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am  11:45 am 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Friendly Lunch, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Youth Committee Meeting Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group
Monday May 22nd	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Library</i>
Tuesday May 23rd	7:00 pm	Outreach Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Sunday May 28th <b>Memorial Day</b>	8:30 am 10:00am 11:30 am 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group
Monday May 29th		Memorial Day, <i>Office Closed</i>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS**

**May 14, 2017**



The Congregational  
Church of Needham

**Events & Announcements**

**Annual Guatemala Yard Sale: Sat., May 20th, 9-2, 505 Great Plain Ave.** -- Donations (and Volunteers) Needed: We are seeking items in clean, working condition (no clothing), including: Kitchen and household items, collectible or vintage items, jewelry, children's gear, toys/games/puzzles, sports equipment, DVD's, books, artwork, bikes, electronics (no TV's or computers), tools, garden supplies, outdoor furniture, or small indoor furniture items. Drop-Off Your Items beginning at 5:00 pm, Sunday, May 14th thru Noon, Friday, May 19th at Dave and Caryl Johnson's garage (505 Great Plain). (Donate early in the week to make sure we have space.) Please lift the left-side garage door and put donations inside. For questions or to volunteer, please contact Brenda Metzler at: [bmetzler7@verizon.net](mailto:bmetzler7@verizon.net) or (781) 449-5696. Thank you, and join us for fun and treasures at the sale on May 20th!

**Save the Date: May 21, 2017**

**Celebrating 93 years of the Friendly Society**

We are planning a luncheon and program with plenty of Strawberry Short Cake. Please RSVP with Danielle at [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org) or call 781-444-2510 so we may adequately prepare for food and seating.

If would you like to donate toward the luncheon in honor or memory of a loved one, we would be delighted to accept. Sponsorship flyers are located in the Narthex. Please fill them out and place them with your donation in the offering plates, send or drop them off at the office. Thank you!

**Partner-Family Letters Due June 4!**

Partner-family letters (and scholarship donor letters) are due by Sunday, June 4, in order to get them all translated and ready for the August delegation to deliver.

Please mail them to: [davejohnson77@gmail.com](mailto:davejohnson77@gmail.com).

**Save the Date! June 11th Congregational Update and Barbeque. Details to come soon!**

**Bible Study Group Sundays at 11:30 a.m., Conference Room**

We are currently reading the book of Genesis a few chapters at a time.

We are at chapter 17 and will continue meeting until the end of June, then start up again after Labor Day with another section of the Bible. We love having new people come try us out!

#### **Chancel Choir**

Please come sing with us! Chancel choir rehearsals for the months of May & June 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.

#### **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](mailto:info@babybasicsinc.org) for more details. For more information on our program, visit [www.babybasicsinc.org](http://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](mailto:musicdirector@needhamucc.org) if you're interested! To register go to <http://needhamucc.org/nss/>

## **Christian Education & Youth Ministries**

#### **Bible Village Sings in Church**

Sunday, June 4, we will celebrate the children, youth and Confirmation class. Our Bible Village students will lead the congregation in singing, "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing".

#### **August Vacation Bible School: Super Hero Central**

August VBS will be offered to students in Pre-K and Kindergarten. We will learn how Jesus is a super power. Lots of games, crafts, and other fun activities.

Students will bring brown bag lunches, snacks will be served.

Please register online at [www.needhamucc.org/learn.VBS/starting](http://www.needhamucc.org/learn.VBS/starting) May 2nd.

Dates: Monday August 21– Monday August 25

Times: Drop Off at 9am / Pick Up at 2pm

#### **CE and Family Ministries Calendar:**

Sunday, May 14 Bible Village Sunday School, Bible Sunday

Sunday, May 21 Bible Village Sunday School

Sunday, May 28 Bible Village Camp Sunday

Sunday, June 4 Celebration of Children, Youth & Confirmation

Sunday, June 11 Bible Village Camp Sunday, All Church Picnic

Sunday, June 18 Bible Village Camp Sunday

**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**

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](mailto:revjim@needhamucc.org), Rev Heike at [revheike@needhamucc.org](mailto: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](http://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.

## **Stewardship & Attendance**

5/7/2017 Collections\* = \$1682

5/7/2017 Worship Attendance = 120 people

April Electronic Pledge Amount: \$12,992.15

Please contact the church office 781-444-2510 or [office@needhamucc.org](mailto: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.