

Sunday, May 31, 2015

10:00am

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

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 stay in Worship. Grades K-5 will start in the Sanctuary at 10 am, then leave for Bible Village after Confirmation.

PRELUDE

Herzlich tut mich verlangen
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mike Ellis

Leader: Come, people of God; Christ has set us free.

People: We gather today, to celebrate life.

Leader: Come, people of God; gather at the well.

People: We gather to learn about the Bible.

Leader: Come, people of God; rejoice in the freedom that faith provides.

People: We come to sing our praises to God.

***OPENING HYMN # 26** (*Black Hymnal*) **We Worship You, God**

OPENING PRAYER

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

**We thank you, O God, for the gifts of our lives –
The freedom to pursue our dreams;
The freedom to worship as we choose;
The freedom from want;
The freedom to choose our life's path;
The freedom to influence others.**

**Forgive us when we forget all the gifts you have given us.
Forgive us when we squander this freedom we have.
Forgive us when we choose to dwell in prisons of our
making.
As we pray, awaken us to the possibilities in our lives...**

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Choral Response

Let Us Break Bread Together
arr. Kenon Renfrow (b. 1965)
Bruce Goody, flute

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

(Children leave for Bible Village after the rite of Confirmation.)

Invitation

Questions of the Candidates

The Covenant of the Congregational Church of Needham and the
Statement of Welcome

Blessing of the Confirmands

Congregational Welcome

**We welcome you into full membership in this congregation. We
promise you our continuing friendship and prayers. We promise to
share with you the joys and labor of the church of Jesus Christ. By
the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in
God's knowledge and love. By the grace of God, may we be open to**

your gifts, as together we strive to live as a community that celebrates Christ's new life. Amen.

HYMN #526 (*Black Hymnal*)

**We Are Marching In the
Light of God**

ANTHEM

Geistliches Lied- Lass dich nur nichts nicht dauren
Johannes Brahms, Op. 30
Sung in German

tr: Let nothing ever grieve you with sorrow. Be still, what
God decrees will comfort you, my soul.

Do not worry today about tomorrow, for the One who takes
care of all will give you that which is yours.

In all things be consistent, stand firm. Whatever God ordains
is best. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 5: 1a, 13-16a, 22-25
NT, p. 177

SERMON

“The Heart of Freedom”
Heike Werder

HYMN (seated) # 351 (*Black Hymnal*)

**I Was There to Hear
Your Boring Cry**

MORNING PRAYER

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

The Gift of Love
Hal Hopson (b. 1933)
based on 1 Corinthians 13

**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 # 401** (*Black Hymnal*)

**O God in Whom All
Life Begins**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Peace I Leave With You
Amy Beach (1867-1944)
John 14:27

POSTLUDE

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
arr. Brent Olstad (b. 1943)
Bruce Goody, flute

*A special thanks to Bruce Goody for sharing his musical talents
with us this morning.*

****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: Mike Ellis

Deacons: Claudia Darmofal

Altar Guild: Chris Arren

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

Flowers: Chris Arren

Flower Delivery: Amy Kennedy

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my two wives, Laura P. Broad and Nancy S. Broad by Russell S. Broad, Jr.

*The Congregational Church of Needham
1154 Great Plain Avenue
Needham, Massachusetts 02492
Telephone 781-444-2510; Fax 781-444-3580
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
Kristen Hydingler, Interim Youth Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY: Adult Education: Bach and The Lutheran Legacy 11:30am Linden Hall: Join us for a documentary about how Luther shaped the music of Bach.

Do you like to get dirty? Do you like to garden? Or maybe you are just looking for a service opportunity....: if so, please join us at the **Needham Community Farm** on **Saturday, June 13th or Saturday, July 11th from 9am-12pm**. The Outreach Committee has created this opportunity to support our giving theme of aiding the fight against hunger in our local community. The Needham Community Farm's mission is to deepen our community's connection to nature and the food system by providing farm based education and increasing access to healthy produce. The Needham Community Farm donates all fresh produce to the **Needham Community Council Food Pantry**, servicing 200 Needham Families a month. If interested, please sign up at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0844A8AA23A2FD0-outreach. Questions, please contact Heidi Wiesel at Heidi.wiesel@gmail.com or 781-467-9503.

Adult Education: Stepping Back Into Church History: On Sunday, June 7th at 11:30, join us for The Reformation Continues, how the Protestant Reformation informed and changed the centuries that followed.

School Supply and Medical Supply drive for Guatemala: The Confirmation Class of 2015, as their service project, is collecting supplies for the school children in our partner village in Santa Maria Tzeja. We don't think twice about pencils and paper, but in other places in the world they make a huge difference! There are collection boxes in the Narthex. Please bring items to church throughout the month of May! We hope that you will support us in our efforts. Thank you - The Confirmation Class 2015.

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.

Your Legacy?: Have you considered leaving the church in your will? For more information contact Len Chang. adelennig@verizon.net. Thanks for considering this important way to light the path for others who follow.

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.

Adult Bible Study: Sunday 11:30 Conference Room: Gospel of John. We will meet in the reception room from 11:30-12:30 after church to continue our study of the book of John. This is a great opportunity to discuss your spiritual questions with other people of faith. Everyone is welcome to drop in and join us. 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!

Registration for the 2015/2016 school year at The Center is now open: The Center is an after school drop-in program for 6th (and returning 7th/8th) graders. With staff supervision, we hope that youth grow in confidence and respect for themselves and others, develop lasting friendships, learn to make positive choices, and pursue new interests. For more information, visit www.myyouthcenter.org or call 781-453-4078 or email info@myyouthcenter.org.

Confirmed
Today
May 31, 2015



Christopher M. Amato
James B. Allen
Timothy B. Andre
Daniel Borah
Milo Baker—Durante
Jack H. Cruickshank
Rose I. Evans
George T. Gworek
Gabriella J. Heaney-Secord
Brendan Rock
David B. Yeh

Warm thanks to the Confirmation Mentors

Mary Lou Andre
Suzanne Barth
Rob Dunlavey
Mike Normile
Rein Verschoor-Kirss

TJ Andre
Mike Boyd
Martha Lamb
Jamie Turner

John Baldwn
Diana Conroy
Lee McNally
Jean Veigas

CALENDAR May 31th—June 7th

Sunday, May 31st Confirmation Sunday	8:00 am 9:00 am 9:15 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 12:00 pm 5:30 pm	Confirmation Breakfast, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Back in Church History, <i>Linden Hall</i> Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Shepherd's Staff Choir, <i>Choir Room</i> Junior High / Senior High Youth Group Pizza Party
Monday, June 1st	8:45 am 7:15 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Tuesday, June 2nd	10:00 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> Deacons Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Wed., June 3rd	7:00 pm	Youth Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 4th	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Lunch with Heike, <i>Linden Hall</i> Chancel Choir, <i>Choir Room</i>
Sunday, June 7th Youth Sunday	8:30 am 9:00 am 9:15 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 12:00 pm 4:00 pm 7:00 pm	Youth Sunday Worship Band Practice Youth Sunday Speakers Practice Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Back in Church History, <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i> Hallelujah Choir rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Shepherd's Staff Choir, <i>Choir Room</i> Junior High/ Senior High Youth Group End of Year BBQ Guatemala Meeting, <i>Library</i>



Need a Babysitter?

We are compiling names of Needham UCC youth willing to hang out and wear out your kids while you're at work or play. Need someone to watch them the last week in August since there's no VBS? Looking for someone with a car who can pick up your child from camp throughout the summer? Be on the lookout for a list of youth willing to help you out!

Senior High In-house Day of Service

Thursday, June 25, 8am-7pm, at the church

Come in your painting gear and prepare to give parts of the church a touch up! Snacks and dinner will be provided. Please bring your own lunch. Bringing \$15 helps offset the cost of supplies and food. Please RSVP to Kristen Hydinger via email (youth@needhamucc.org) by June 20.



The Congregational Church of Needham

Our 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 missions, 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.

Welcoming 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.