

First Formal Communion Participants

Mia Allen
Kiersten Blume
Bella George
Caroline Mahar
Robert Mahar
Miles Salerno

Please join us for a special coffee hour following the service to thank our teachers, shepherds, chaperones, and committees that minister to our children and youth.

Worship Assistant: Ken Allen
Deacons: Carol Miller, Dibby Moder
Communion Servers: Sue Cotton, Claudia Darmofal, Rick Devereux
Altar Guild: Diana Conroy, Carol Miller
Ushers: Jim Leighton, Phil Gotwals, Rich Weitzel, Robert Kennedy
Flowers: Gail Browne
Flower Delivery: Joanne Seiden

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory our grandparents, Nora and James Tuohy and Theresa and Patrick Guttilla by Nick and Carolyn Guttilla.

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.)

Opening Prayer Adapted as a Call to Worship from Doug Gay in Baker, J., Gay, D., & Brown, J. (2003) Alternative Worship. London:SPCK

Our Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving was created from the thanksgivings of our First Formal Communion workshop participants.

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 pprc@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
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 & Bookkeeper
Cindy Sullivan
Office2@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 100

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

10:00 a.m. – 6



The Congregational Church of Needham

An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

May 7, 2017 10:00 a.m.
First Formal Communion
Good Shepherd Sunday

PRELUDE

Prayer
Ludwig van Beethoven

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Heike and Madelyn Downer, MDiv

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

OPENING HYMN #8(Black, New Century)

Praise to the Living God

OPENING PRAYER

One: We believe in the God of Life:

All: The world maker, the star lighter, the sun shiner, the beauty maker;

One: We believe in the risen Jesus:

All: the cross bearer, the tomb raider, the hell-harrower, the death defier; embracing resurrection as the first-born from death. We believe in life.

One: We believe in the Easter Spirit:

All: the life-giver, the breath bringer, the body lover, the church birther; enabling communion with Jesus the Living One. We believe in life.

One: We believe in the God of Life:

**All: world-maker, cross bearer, life-giver;
Trinity of hope leading creation to its liberation.
Alleluia! Let us worship God!**

ANTHEM

Sing a Song Unto the Lord
Naomi King Walker
Joyful Noise and Hallelujah Choirs

SELECTED READING

John 10:1-10 NRSV

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of

10:00 a.m. – 1

them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

HYMN #485(Black, New Century) O Love That Will Not Let Me Go
verses 1 & 2

SERMON Madelyn Downer, MDiv

A resurrection testimony given by Madelyn Downer, MDiv exploring John 10:1-10 and Acts 2:42-47.

HYMN #485(Black, New Century) O Love That Will Not Let Me Go
verses 3 & 4

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 Psalm 23
Philip R. Dietterich

***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

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer and Lord's Prayer
(use whatever form is comfortable for you)

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Bread and Cup
EVERYONE is welcome to receive the Bread and Cup. You don't need to be a member of this church or any church. Come forward at the direction of the usher. Pick up a piece of bread, gluten or

non-gluten, and dip it in the cup. If you are not sure what to do, ask, and we are glad to explain. The cup contains grape juice.

Children of any age may receive if their parents are comfortable, or you may bring them forward and we will give them a simple blessing. Everyone is welcome, without exception. If you would like communion brought to you, let the usher know and we are happy to bring it to you in your seat.

Communion Music
You are welcome to sing these hymns during communion

For Everyone Born

1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
with wis - dom and grace di - vid - ing the pow - er,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver -
for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's
for young and for old, the right to be
for just and un - just, a new way to
for ev - ery - one born, the right to be

Refrain
And God will de - light when we are cre -
head. fair. long. live. free.

a - tors of jus - tice and joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,
God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,
jus - tice and joy.

Let Us Break Bread Together #330 (Black, New Century)

Communion Prayer
Holy God, we thank you for your open invitation to the biggest table in the world.
We give thanks for our families who teach us what it means to love you.
We give thanks for our friends and the community that loves us.
We give thanks for Jesus who came to show us how much you love us.
We give thanks for our church, for Sunday School, for Choir, And for all the ways we can praise you.
We give thanks for this meal which feeds us and connects us to every other person.
Who has ever taken and ever will take Communion.
We give thanks for your holy love, God, which does not end or judge.
We offer these prayers of thanksgiving in the name of Jesus, our brother. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #247(Black, New Century) My Shepherd Is the Living God**

BENEDICTION Rev. Heike and Madelyn Downer, MDiv.
Congregational Response Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!

POSTLUDE Hosanna!
Amy Webb

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 14th!

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. Please put "VBS Scholarship" in the subject line.



Sunday May 7th	8:30 am 10:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service-First Formal Communion, <i>Sanctuary</i>
First Formal Communion	11:30 am	Mediation Group w/ Sue Findlay, <i>Chapel</i> Membership Committee Meeting, <i>Library</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Bible Village Teacher Celebration, <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
	5:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Monday May 8th	9:00 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Library</i> Finance Team Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Tuesday May 9th	7:00 pm	Board Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Wednesday May 10th	7:00 pm	Deacon's Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Thursday May 11th	7:00 pm	CE Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Sunday May 14th	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	Board Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
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	8:15 am 8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 11:45 am 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

May 7, 2017



The Congregational Church of Needham

Events & Announcements

Today: Partner-Family Letters Available at Coffee Hour

Partner-family letters (brought back by the February delegation) have been translated and are for available pick-up in Coffee Hour today. Please stop by the Guatemala table to get yours.

An Evening of Cool Music to Support Family Promise Saturday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. with Reception to Follow

Laura Vecchione celebrates the release of her third album, *Love Lead*, with a benefit concert supporting Family Promise Metrowest. The concert will take place in the historic firehouse building located at 14 Summer Street in Natick, now home to The Center for the Arts. Please contact Soomi Lee leespiano88@gmail.com and Jenni Haynes jennihaynes@comcast.net about getting a group together to attend.

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 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 or call 781-444-2510 to reserve you spot.

We are also asking for sponsorship of the event. If would you like to give money 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: davebjohnson77@gmail.com.

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.

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!

Christian Education & Youth Ministries

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

04/30/2017 Collections* = \$1,829

04/30/2017 Worship Attendance = 121 people

Stewardship & Attendance

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.

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.