



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

September 27, 2015

Theme: The Gifts of Community



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
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.

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.



Sunday, September 27, 2015

10:00am

*Children are always welcome in Worship with their parents/guardians. Pre-K childcare begins in the nursery at 10 am. Grades 6-12 may stay in the Sanctuary with their parents. Grades K-5 will be dismissed to the chapel and will go to their classrooms from there.
Grades K-1: Story; 2-3 Science; 4-5 Cooking*

PRELUDE

Priere a Notre-Dame
by Leon Boellmann

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mike Ellis

Leader: Friends in Christ, welcome to this hour of worship.

People: We have come to worship the living God!

Leader: Even if you're tired and worn out—

People: We will worship God with all our heart.

Leader: Lay down the heavy things you are carrying—

People: For God hears our prayers.

Leader: Listen to what Jesus wants to tell you—

People: We are listening with an open heart.

Leader: Friends, let us worship together the Living God!

***OPENING HYMN # 43** (*Black Hymnal*)

**Love Divine,
All Loves Excelling**

OPENING PRAYER

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

Meet us, Lord, on the road to faith.

Guide us on the path toward our destination.

Renew our strength as we continue to walk with each other.

Walk with us to show us the way.

Open our eyes, so we see the signs of your presence around us;

Open our hearts, so we may receive your peace and love;

and empower us to pass on to others the grace you have shared with us so freely. Hear us as we pray ...

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response #591 (*Black Hymnal*)
Song

This Is My

Verse One

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Children leave for Bible Village after Time for Children.

CHILDREN'S HYMN #526 (*Black Hymnal*)

We Are Marching In
The Light Of God

ANTHEM

Love Never Ending
by Aaron Zinter

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 8: 1-11

p. 96, NT

SERMON

“The Gift of Acceptance”
Heike Werder

HYMN (*seated*) # 502 (*Black Hymnal*)
Embracing

Dear God,

Humankind

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

Come, I Pray Thee

by Franklin Ashdown (born 1942)

**Doxology*

Praise God from whom all blessing flow,

Praise God, all creatures here below,

Praise God above, ye heavenly host,

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

***CLOSING HYMN #37** (*Black Hymnal*)

**Our God, to Whom
We Turn**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

A Blessing
by James Chepponis

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune
by Gordon Young

- 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: Kirby Salerno, Susan Lively

Altar Guild: Chris Arren

Ushers: Rob Blauvelt, Craig Morrison, Chris Nyland, Kevin Ward

Flowers: Chris Arren

Flower Delivery: Mary Lou Hughes

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Bill and Nancy Fischer in loving memory of their parents.

The flowers in the Narthex are given by Crosby and Flo Goshgarian in loving memory of Crosby Goshgarian Sr.

*The Congregational Church of Needham
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The Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister
Valerie Becker, Director of Youth Music
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister
Madelyn Downer, Director of Children &
Youth Ministries

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Bible Study, Sunday's @ 11:30 Conference Room: Small group discussion based on reading a few chapters of the Bible at a time. We meet immediately after church, from 11:30 to 12:30 in the reception room. This fall we will continue our study of the minor prophets. Take a look at how God is still speaking to us, even in stories from thousands of years ago! 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.

Monthly Luncheons: Please join us on the first Thursday of every month for soup, delicious bread, dessert, fellowship and conversation. Our next luncheon will be served on October 1, 2015 at **12 noon at the 1180 Great Plain Ave.** dining room. All are welcome to attend!

Friendly Society: FOOD, FOOD, FOOD! Come to Friendly Society's **October 1st 1:30 pm meeting at 1180 GPA** to hear about the Needham Community Farm. Did you know that some of the food ordinary people grow is donated to the Food Pantry at the Needham Community Council? That the NCF president is part of our church community? We'll also share favorite recipes (Maybe there'll be some tastings, too.) and sample the Needham Congregational Church herbal tea that Rev. Heike and The Gardening Team (Debbie Wentworth) put together. Join us and bring your friends!

Bible Village: The Sunday School program is looking for intergenerational volunteer teachers! Parents, high school and college students, sage church members, curious and fun people who can show our kids how much God loves them by leading a Bible Village workshop—all are invited to teach! We provide all of the materials and the lessons beforehand. Lessons are straightforward and easy to teach—and our kids are so much fun! Sign-up at: www.tinyurl.com/ChildrenYouthSignUp

The Faith Circles Book Group is Back! We will meet Thursday mornings from October 1st from 10:30-12:00. until November 19th (except for Oct., **22nd**). We will be reading **Mere Christianity** by C.S. Lewis . Please contact Christine Weitzel for more information at cweitzel@verizon.net .

LAST CALL: SIGN-UPS FOR FEBRUARY 2016 DELEGATION: Brenda Metzler and Fred Moder will co-lead the church's upcoming delegation to Guatemala (February 10-21, 2016). We are seeking adults and high school youth to join us on this transformative journey of cultural exchange, friendship, faith, and adventure. Total cost is approximately \$1,500. Sign-ups will close in late September, since airline tickets must be purchased early. Please speak with Brenda or Fred ASAP, or send e-mail with your interest/questions to:

bmetzler7@verizon.net.

Request for Altar Guild Volunteers: The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers. High school students are welcome to join. Please contact Carol Miller at millerc291@verizon.net for more information.

Family Promise Metrowest, From Judy Mongiardo, Network Coordinator- Thank you, Needham Congregational Church! This summer you opened your hearts to the guests of Family Promise Metrowest while they were housed at Fisk United Methodist and First Congregational Churches in Natick., For all who prepared a meal, hosted a dinner, stayed overnight, read to a child, set up rooms, did laundry and more we are ever grateful.

Our next support week is **Nov. 22-28 with First Congregational Church Natick.** Contact Heidi Wiesel heidi.wiesel@gmail.com or Susan Kirk susanckirk@comcast.net

KEEP THE PROMISE: AN EVENING OF FOOD TASTING TO BENEFIT FAMILIES WHO ARE HOMELESS: NOVEMBER 7, 2015

Hosted by: Temple Shir Tikva, 141 Boston Post Road, Wayland

7:00PM - 11:00PM: Tickets go on sale September 8. Last year's event was sold out. Visit our website to purchase tickets and to learn more about this event , www.familypromisemetrowest.org or call the office at 508-318-4820. Come join the fun and help raise funds and awareness for Family Promise Metrowest and our Day Center Shelter and Transitional Housing Program.

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

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.

Boiler Replacement Campaign: Make a tax deductible contribution towards the efforts for energy efficiency in our church at 1154 Great Plain Ave. With the addition of our 3 new boilers, we change our heat efficiency from 60% to 96%. With our other energy saving efforts, we hope to reduce our carbon footprint 25% by 2020! We have the potential to save \$10,000- \$15,000 each year! Any contributions may be earmarked for the "Boiler Replacement Campaign". If your employer has a matching program, please consider requesting a contribution match from them. Send your contribution to Danielle in the church office.

The Furniture Team needs your help. The church has lots of wonderful new space to furnish and put to work for church programs. Monetary and in-kind donations are welcome: **MOST WANTED FURNITURE LIST:** Two large conference tables and chairs, Nichols & Stone college arm chairs, Pair of modern upholstered chairs, Pair of traditional upholstered chairs, Loveseat, FIVE 60" round folding tables. Items must be in very good condition. Upholstered pieces can be in need of slipcovers. Please contact Judi Stewart at jmgstewart@verizon.net with photos and dimensions or call 781-449-3999. The furniture team would like to look at all furniture prior to donation.

LED Bulb Donations to Continue: If you are out shopping for energy efficient LED bulbs for your home, please consider purchasing one or two for the church. Please leave bulbs in the donation box located near the mailboxes in the church office. Check out the EMT bulletin board for more information about LED bulbs.

Chairs! Chairs! Chairs!: Now that the chapel renovation is completed, we need to give everyone a lovely place to sit. Twelve chairs have already been purchased through the generosity of the Chapel Committee and twelve more are on order. Now we need your help to reach the goal of sixty more chairs. You may purchase one for \$175 which can include a plaque denoting a memorial or tribute. This is a fine way to honor a family member, celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion. Other monetary donations are welcome and will be applied to additional chairs. Checks and inscriptions can be sent to the church office. Thank you, The Chapel Committee

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.

CALENDAR September 27th—October 11th

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| Sunday, Sept. 27th | 10:00 am 11:30 am 5:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm | Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Junior High Youth Group Youth Group Dinner Senior High Youth Group |
| Monday, Sept. 28th | 8:45 am | Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> |
| Tuesday, Sept. 29th | 7:00 pm | Christian Education Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> |
| Wed., Sept. 30th | 7:00 pm | Outreach Meeting , <i>Library</i> |
| Thurs., October 1st | 10:30 am 12:00 pm 1:30 pm 7:00 pm | Faith Circle Book Group, <i>1180 GPA</i> Lunch with Heike, <i>Library</i> Friendly Society Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> Chancel Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i> |
| Sunday, October 4th | 10:00 am 2:00 pm 5:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm | Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> All Church Meeting Junior High Youth Group Youth Group Dinner Senior High Youth Group Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i> |
| Monday, October 5th | 8:45 am 7:15 pm | Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i> |
| Tuesday, October 6th | 6:00 pm 7:00 pm | Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> Deacon's Meeting, <i>Library</i> |
| Thurs., October 8th | 10:30 am 7:00 pm | Faith Circle Book Group, <i>1180 GPA</i> Chancel Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i> |
| Sunday, Oct. 11th | 10:00 am 11:30 am 5:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm | Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Junior High Youth Group Youth Group Dinner Senior High Youth Group |