



## UPDATE FROM THE BOARD

Fellow Congregants,

Here is a report on the Board's April activities.

**Mid-Year Report Meeting June 11.** We plan to hold a congregational meeting to bring you up-to-date on all our activities, and especially financial matters. We have tentatively scheduled this meeting for Sunday, June 11, after worship. A cookout will follow the meeting.

**The Endowment.** The Finance Team has recommended that we consider replacing the current actively-managed, full-service brokerage approach to investing with a lower-cost, passive approach centered in index funds.

The finance team is currently investigating investment managers. If anyone has any questions about or suggestions for this effort, please email the finance team at [financeteam@needhamucc.org](mailto:financeteam@needhamucc.org).

**1180 Great Plain Ave.** The Board met with representatives of Colliers, our broker. They reported ongoing interest in the building and are optimistic that we will be able to lease it at a rate that will at least cover all our expenses,

including loan amortization. Colliers also reported that several parties have expressed interest in purchasing the property. The Board would prefer to lease rather than sell, but will consider selling if we are unable to lease.

The Board also met with representatives of the Cornerstone Fund. The Fund is an affiliate of the UCC, and provides loans to UCC congregations. They are a possible source of long-term financing for 1180 GPA if we successfully lease it.



The ministers and staff plan to move their offices back to 1154 Great Plain Ave sometime this summer.

### Property, Membership, Personnel Teams.

The Board received reports from each of these revitalized teams. Each is making progress on its assigned tasks. Each would welcome additional members. If you would like to contribute to the life of the church, please contact Dianne Rees for property, Amanda Angel for membership, and Barbra Morton for personnel.

Yours in Christ,  
The Board.

## OUTREACH GIVING

The Outreach committee made the following grants this month:

\$8000 of a \$24,000 annual donation to Our Church's Wider Mission, which is the national United Church of Christ outreach fund. They support a variety of domestic and international mission efforts in health, education, agricultural development, refugee aid, and emergency relief.

\$1000 to support The ONA Coalition, and their invitation for Bobby Jo Valentine to perform his music at the UCC's General Synod this summer.

\$1000 to Out Metrowest, whose mission is enriching the LGBTQ community in Metrowest Boston

through activities for middle and high school youth, education to the community, and advocacy.

Finally, 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](mailto:Walshbrown1@gmail.com).

# SUPPORT GROUP & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

9:00am, Mondays - May 1, 8, 15, 22

Our Cancer Support Group will meet every Monday morning, except on holiday Mondays or school vacations. Come, if you need an extra hug or prayer said for yourself or a family member.

## COMMUNITY DINNERS

6-7pm, May 2 & June 6  
Linden Hall

Dinners coincide with monthly Baby Basics distribution. Volunteers are welcome to join in our effort to provide a healthy dinner for our guests and members of the church.

Volunteers are welcome to help set up, serve, visit and eat with our Baby Basics families, and clean up. Please contact Rev. Heike or Diana Conroy.

## THURSDAY LUNCH WITH REV. HEIKE

Noon-1pm, May 4 & June 1  
1180 Great Plain Ave.

We all eat but it's much more fun to eat together! Join us for a Rev. Heike simple soup lunch on the first Thursday of the month. Most soups are vegetarian based and they are always nut and lactose free! Everyone is welcome. \$3 donation requested to cover the cost of the lunch.



## WOMEN'S RETREAT

Friday, May 19 - Saturday, May 20

For 24 hours, you will have your meals prepared for you, walk on the beach, meditate, connect with other women, sing your heart out, and try your hand in art journaling about the spiritual moments in your life that were/are the most meaningful ones to you.

There is room and still time to sign up. Please contact Rev. Heike if you are interested in going and want to sign up.



## FOCUS

Contributions are welcome.  
Please submit materials by  
e-mail to [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org).

June issue deadline:  
**Wed. May 24th**

Rev. Jim Mitulski  
Interim Senior Minister  
[revjim@needhamucc.org](mailto:revjim@needhamucc.org)

Rev. Heike Werder  
Associate Minister  
[revheike@needhamucc.org](mailto:revheike@needhamucc.org)

Maddie Downer  
CE & Youth Director  
[youth@needhamucc.org](mailto:youth@needhamucc.org)

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

Danielle Jurdan  
Administrator  
[office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org)

Cindy Sullivan  
Office Assistant  
[office2@needhamucc.org](mailto:office2@needhamucc.org)

Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton  
Pastor Emeritus

The Church Board  
[board@needhamucc.org](mailto:board@needhamucc.org)

Jackie Allen, Moderator  
[moderator@needhamucc.org](mailto:moderator@needhamucc.org)

The Deacons  
Susan Lively, Chair  
[emaildeacons@needhamucc.org](mailto:emaildeacons@needhamucc.org)

To provide feedback about any  
aspect of the church, email  
[feedback@needhamucc.org](mailto:feedback@needhamucc.org)

## ADULT ED / FAITH EXPLORATION OPPORTUNITIES

### BIBLE STUDY

11:30am - Sundays, Reception Room

Join us for weekly Bible Study immediately after church in the Reception Room. For more information or to be on the mailing list to receive weekly summaries, please contact Sunu Yeh at dormouse99@gmail.com.

### INTERFAITH BOOK GROUP

7 pm on May 3

We are reading together: **Toxic Charity - How Churches and Charities Hurt those they Help (And how to Reverse it)** by Robert D. Lupton

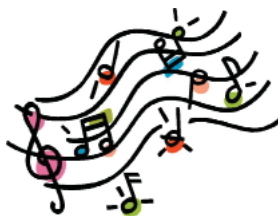
This discussion is open to the public but especially geared toward all who are interested in giving to those in need in a meaningful, uplifting and caring way.

### MEDITATION GROUP

11:30am on May 7, June 4 & 25

Sue Findlay and Stephanie Oddleifson will lead a group in mindful meditation in the Chapel.

## NEEDHAM SUMMER SINGERS



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 children who also enjoy making music? That's what the newly formed Needham Summer Singers is all about. The group, which will hold rehearsals and a performance at the Congregational Church of Needham, is a community program offered by the church. Needham Summer Singers is open to children ages 7 - 14 from Needham and communities in the Boston area and will run from 9am - 2pm from August 21 - 25. The program will include choral singing, music literacy, movement and percussion.

Directing the program is Valerie J. Becker, A lifelong musician, Ms. Becker has worked closely with some of the world's finest singers and instrumentalists, including singer Kathleen Battle, cellist Yo Yo Ma and violinist Midori. She is also a recording artist. Most recently Ms. Becker directed the North East District Treble Choir, a group of 98 young women, in rehearsal and a performance at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School.

Ms. Becker is looking forward to this week of music making because it will bring children together who have a common goal and foster new friendships. "I want children to love singing and know that they can accomplish anything they want to," Becker says, "The bar is always going to be high because the more that they can do, the better they're going to feel about what they can accomplish."

The deadline for registration is June 2, 2017. The cost is \$300 and registration forms are available from the church office or on [www.needhamucc.com/nss](http://www.needhamucc.com/nss). To learn more about this program please contact the office at [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org) or 781-444-2510.

If you have children ages 3-6, check out Superhero Central VBS running the same dates and times! <http://www.needhamucc.org/vbs>.

## MAY & JUNE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Easter: A Season of Resurrections**

- May 7 - Children's Communion Sunday with Ms. Maddie Downer
- May 14 - Honoring Mothers and Bible Sunday with Rev. Jim
- May 21 - Celebrating the Friendly Society with Celebration Banquet - Special Guest Rev Jill Small - Park Ave Congregational Church, Arlington, MA
- May 28 - Ascension Sunday with Rev. Jim

### **Pentecost and Pride: Many Gifts, One Spirit**

- June 4 - The Feast of Pentecost : The Rite of Confirmation and Youth Sunday with Rev. Heike
- June 11 - MA Race Amity Day with Guest Preacher Rev Ryan Eller, Mid-Year Ministry Celebration
- June 18 - Honoring Fathers with Rev. Jim
- June 25 - Choir Celebration Sunday with Rev Jim

# May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	
	<b>1</b> 9am - Cancer Support Grp 6pm - Confirmation Class	<b>2</b> 10am - Prayer Shawl Knitters 6pm - Community Dinner	
<b>7</b> 8:30am - Choir Practice 10am - Worship - Children's Communion 11:30am - BV Teacher Appreciation Friendly Chimers Bible Study Meditation Group Membership Committee 7pm Guatemala Partnership Meeting	<b>8</b> 9am - Cancer Support Grp 6pm - Confirmation Class 7pm - Finance Team Mtg	<b>9</b> 7pm - Board Meeting	
<b>14</b> 8:30am - Choir Practice 10am - Worship, Honoring Mothers & Bible Sunday 11:30am - Friendly Chimers	<b>15</b> 9am - Cancer Support Grp 6pm - Confirmation Class	<b>16</b>	
<b>21</b> 8:15am - Men's Breakfast 8:30am - Choir Practice 10am - Worship - Celebrating Friendly 11:30am - Friendly Luncheon and Strawberry Festival	<b>22</b> 9am - Cancer Support Grp 6pm - Confirmation Class	<b>23</b>	
<b>28</b> 8:30am - Choir Practice 10am - Worship	<b>29</b> Memorial Day - Church Offices Closed	<b>30</b>	
<b>JUNE 4</b> 8:30am - Choir Practice 10am - Worship - Confirmation & Youth Sunday 11:30am - Bible Study Meditation Group 7pm - Guatemala Partnership Meeting	<b>JUNE 5</b> 9am - Cancer Support Grp 7:15pm - EMT Meeting	<b>JUNE 6</b> 10am - Prayer Shawl Knitters 6pm - Community Dinner	

# 2017

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>3</b> 7pm - Interfaith Book Read - Toxic Charity 7:15pm - EMT Mtg	<b>4</b> Noon - Lunch with Rev. Heike 6:30pm - Music Team Meeting 7:30pm - Choir Practice	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 3pm - Guatemala Chocolate Making 5pm - Youth Grp Babysitting Fundraiser
	<b>10</b> 7pm - Deacon's Mtg	<b>11</b> 7pm - CE Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>17</b> 7pm - Board Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Guatemala Yard Sale
	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	Women's Retreat @ Craigville <b>27</b>
	<b>31</b>	<b>JUNE 1</b> Noon - Lunch with Rev. Heike 6:30pm - Music Team Meeting 7:30pm - Choir Practice	<b>JUNE 2</b>	<b>JUNE 3</b> Youth Sunday Practice
	<b>JUNE 7</b>	<b>JUNE 8</b> 7pm - CE Meeting	<b>JUNE 9</b>	<b>JUNE 10</b>



## First Quarter 2017 Report on Operating Budget

At the Annual Meeting, we adopted an operating budget that was balanced by an expectation that the culmination of the 2017 Stewardship Campaign, plus the generosity of those who regularly give without pledging would provide us with additional revenue of \$79,444. While we are happy to report that an additional \$23,485 was subsequently pledged, we are in fact lagging behind 2016 in revenue collection to date.

As you will see in the table on page 7, we ran an operating deficit of approximately \$30,000 during the first quarter, driven by a \$48K shortfall in revenue and mitigated by \$18K of underspending.

The shortfall in revenue is centered in Pledge / Worship Cash collections (\$12,795 behind) and Rentals (\$18,345 behind). Collected Pledges and Worship Cash are 88% of their YTD budgeted amounts. By comparison, at 3/31/16 we had collected 97% of the YTD 2016 Pledge / Worship Cash budget. We have collected \$7,360 less in Q1 2017 than during the same period last year. Rental income is not actually as far behind as the

pro-rata budget suggests because the full-year budget does not anticipate any rental revenue from the 1180 Great Plain building until September.

Aside from the shortfall in Pledges and Rentals, much of the revenue deficiency could be offset by drawing the full pro-rata budgeted amounts from endowment and non-endowment fund balances. We have not yet drawn these budgeted funds as they have not been necessary to meet cashflow to date.

First quarter underspending is spread across numerous categories but centered in compensation. This is due to low hours in the wage staff and timing difference in the salaried staff. These will come back toward budget over the coming months.

We are watching the revenue and expense closely through the second quarter and look forward to updating you during our June mid-year meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Conroy

## Celebrate the Friendly Society!

Save the date... 93 years of Friendly Society will be celebrated with luncheon and program on May 21st.

Friendly Society rose out of the ashes of the January 1924 church fire and has been providing service and fellowship in the church ever since.

Did you know that in the 1920's Friendly took charge of providing church suppers, ran the Church Fair, installed the first telephone, supported African missionaries as well as Native American schools, inaugurated the first Kindergarten in Needham, and held clothing drives for the homeless? And that was just the beginning!



In the 1930's Friendly brought in speakers to inform church members of the trouble brewing in Europe, supported Girl Scouting, held the first of many Rummage Sales, provided frequent church suppers, produced plays and musicals with the men's club, and even had some members show up at their meeting scheduled on the night of the "Hurricane of '38".

The 1940's saw servicemen's suppers, with entertainment and home cooked meals. China and flat wear was purchased for the church kitchen, a movie projector and screens were purchased for the Sunday School classes, baby clothes were sewn for City Missionary Society and 40 Christmas stockings were filled, beginning a tradition that has continued as our November meeting until just last year.

Come join us as we remember our long and strong history and enjoy our traditional May dessert of strawberry shortcake. Hope to see you there !

Please RSVP with Danielle at [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org) or call at 781-444-2510.

		PRO RATA BUDGET 3 Months	3/31/2017 ACTUAL TO DATE AMOUNT	Year-to-date Favorable (Unfavorable)
<b>Income</b>				
Actual Pledged as of 1/1/17	344,319.00			
Unpledged, Estimated Giving	79,444.00			
Total 2017 Pledges	423,763.00	105,940.75	94,495.77	(11,444.98)
Collection of Prior Year Pledges			2,759.00	2,759.00
Worship Cash Collections	13,000.00	3,250.00	1,899.92	(1,350.08)
Interest: Checking	40.00	10.00	8.10	(1.90)
Income from Endowment	180,000.00	45,000.00	35,000.00	(10,000.00)
Rentals	198,500.00	49,625.00	31,280.45	(18,344.55)
Other Fund Raisers - Church Fair	9,500.00	9,500.00	9,500.00	0.00
Endowment - Konesky Gift for Child. Choir Dir.	5,000.00	1,250.00	0.00	(1,250.00)
Transfer from Temp Restrict Fund Bal	32,731.00	8,182.75	0.00	(8,182.75)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>862,534.00</b>	<b>222,758.50</b>	<b>174,943.24</b>	<b>(47,815.26)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Benevolence Giving (15% of 2017 Pledges & Worship Cash)	65,000.00	14,459.35	14,459.35	0.00
Interim Minister Compensation & Benefits	147,989.00	36,997.25	32,619.48	4,377.77
Associate Minister Compensation & Benefits	102,550.00	25,637.50	25,934.63	(297.13)
Youth Minister Compensation	30,000.00	7,500.00	8,181.83	(681.83)
Total Minister Compensation & Benefits	280,539.00	70,134.75	66,735.94	3,398.81
Other Staff Compensation	255,629.00	63,907.25	54,896.80	9,010.45
Christian Education	12,850.00	3,212.50	1,169.04	2,043.46
Worship Ministry	5,000.00	1,250.00	1,986.66	(736.66)
Total Music	33,750.00	8,437.50	7,483.44	954.06
Total Parish Administration	35,550.00	8,887.50	7,539.73	1,347.77
Total Building Maintenance	85,650.00	21,412.50	20,873.88	538.62
Special Projects	11,500.00	2,875.00	792.00	2,083.00
Other	3,900.00	975.00	1,068.63	(93.63)
1180 Great Plain Ave	29,667.00	7,416.75	8,047.07	(630.32)
Loan Interest:Needham Bank	43,500.00	10,875.00	11,248.22	(373.22)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>862,535.00</b>	<b>213,843.10</b>	<b>196,300.76</b>	<b>17,542.34</b>
Operating Surplus or (Deficit)	(1.00)	8,915.40	(21,357.52)	(30,272.92)

# OPPORTUNITY FOR SPONSORSHIP



needhamucc.org or call 781-444-2510.

To make this celebration special, the organizing committee is seeking sponsors. If you wish to contribute, please fill out a sponsorship sheet, available in the Narthex or at the church office.

On May 21, 2017 we will celebrate our Friendly Society and its 93 years of faithful presence and service in our worship service that day, with a luncheon and program after church. Everyone is invited. Please RSVP to the office at office@

You can sponsor the event in honor and/or memory of a loved one. You will be named in the luncheon program. Please talk to Rev. Heike if you have any questions.

## PRIDE WORSHIP, PARADE AND FESTIVAL JUNE 10 - STRONGER TOGETHER



It's almost that season. The 47th annual Boston Pride Day is Saturday, June 10.

Each year, the Massachusetts Conference UCC organizes a Boston Pride contingent of all ONA churches state-wide. Spectators enjoy cheering for our marching group, with our 100 participants, rhythm instruments, chanting and dancing. The message of Extravagant Welcome in the UCC for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions brings cheers and tears from the crowd.

There will also be a Pride Worship Service at Old South Church, UCC in Boston, before the Pride parade. Information on that will be available soon. A festival of vendors follows the parade. People may partake of any or all of the activities on Pride Day.



We'd like to spark some previous marchers and first-timers from our church to observe Pride this year. It really is a wonderful time and fun for all ages. In the past we have commissioned and blessed our church's marching contingent to go out to stand strong together for affirmation of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions. How about making people's day by chanting this "revised" UCC greeting?

No matter who you are  
No matter what you do,  
You're welcome in our churches,  
'Cause God loves you

Sign up! Please contact Kathie Carpenter at [kacarp@comcast.net](mailto:kacarp@comcast.net)



**Servathon Gratitude** Thank to all of you whose pledges supported the volunteer workers again in this year's Servathon. Together we raised a lot of funds for the community of Santa María Tzejá, while enjoying a day of working together on projects at the church and the Needham Community Farm. Also we hope everyone enjoys how much nicer Needham Junction looks after we picked up bags of litter. A wonderful win-win- for both communities.

### UPCOMING EVENTS :

**27th Annual Guatemala Yard Sale**  
-- Sat., May 20th, 9 am -2 pm, 505  
Great Plain Ave.

Don't miss this opportunity to DONATE your items, to VOLUNTEER, and to SHOP at one of Needham's largest yard sales! Please join us in this fun community-building activity that recycles your 'treasures' and raises funds for education in Santa María Tzejá.



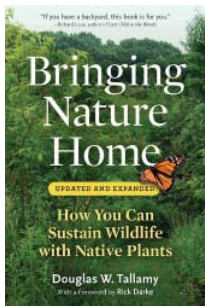
Donations (and volunteers) are needed. We are seeking items in clean, working condition (no clothing), including: Kitchen and household items, collectible or vintage items, jewelry, children's gear, toys/games/puzzles, sports equipment, DVD's, books, artwork, bikes, electronics (no TV's or computers), 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 the sale on May 20th!

**Annual Guatemala Social, Saturday, June 10, 6 - 8 pm**  
Please join us for a BBQ at the Johnson's (505 Great Plain Ave.) and help us celebrate the 30th anniversary of our partnership with Santa María Tzejá. Look for an Evite in early May!



## ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRIES TEAM NEWS ... EARTH STEWARDSHIP FOR OUR LIVES TODAY...



April, May and June are planting and growing seasons for gardens of flowers, vegetables, bushes and trees. If you are interested in planting native and supporting native wildlife, read *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy.

It's a great resource for information about natives

all over the country and the wildlife they support. It's important to realize that not just any tree or bush will encourage local wildlife and insects which the birds rely on for food. Did you know that forsythia is native to china and it provides no benefit to local wildlife. Try a spicebush. It has yellow flowers like forsythia and later, berries for wildlife.

Many local nurseries, like Russell's in Wayland, sell natives and many offer neonicotinoid free plants. Neonicotinoids are pesticides that not only kill insects on the developing plant but any insect such as the bees, who use the flowers of the plant as a source of pollen.

There will be a sale of native plants on May 13, 9-4 at 240 Beaver St, Waltham. It is sponsored by Grow Native Massachusetts. Their website offers info on native plant nurseries, native and invasive plants, useful resources, various programs and local related organizations across the state. [www.grownativemass.org](http://www.grownativemass.org) "We recognize that native plants create the foundation for healthy ecological communities, and know that our world – both locally and globally – is threatened by a decrease in native plant populations and the proliferation of invasives."

### May is Walk/Bike to Church month!

Spring has sprung and resurrection of the natural world is everywhere you look. Soak in the beauty of Creation by walking or biking to church on Sunday morning (as you are able). If you live too far to go the whole distance, why not be inspired by Palm Sunday this year and park and walk from the Common? Active transportation is also good for health and good for the climate!

## Welcome Baby Program

The Outreach Committee is working with Circle of Hope to provide baby necessities for 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 off donations. Look for the poster with the yellow ducks! We will get them to Circle of Hope and the new Mom's by Mother's Day. They will appreciate any size donation.



### About

Through the Welcome Baby Program, Circle of Hope packs and delivers "Welcome Baby Bags" to Moms with newborn babies living in one of the shelters we serve. Each diaper bag contains essential items like baby blankets, bottles, wipes, onesies, baby wash, ointment, and a thoughtful handwritten note of congratulations and support from Circle of Hope. These items are critically important to homeless mothers as they move through various shelters, ride public transportation, or live their daily lives out on the street. The fully stocked bag provides a consistent and efficient way to keep the baby clean and healthy. Receiving the gift is often special for the mother as well, as this might be the only new item she receives upon the birth of her baby.

### Get Involved

For those interested in supporting the Welcome Baby Bag program at Circle of Hope, hosting a collection drive to gather the contents of the Welcome Baby Bags is a great place to start. See page 2 for a list of items you can collect. For more information on supporting the Welcome Baby Program, contact Carolyn at [Carolyn@circleofhopeonline.org](mailto:Carolyn@circleofhopeonline.org).

### Welcome Baby Bag Contents Each bag contains the following items:

- 2 Sleepers
- 3 Onesies
- 3 Socks
- 1 Crib blanket
- 1 Hat
- 1 Bib
- 2 Face cloths
- 1 Towel
- 1 Receiving blanket
- 1 Container baby wash
- 1 Tube diaper cream
- 1 Container baby wipes
- 1 - 2 Baby Bottles
- 1 Card





The Congregational  
Church of Needham

1154 Great Plain Avenue  
1180 Great Plain Avenue  
Needham, MA 02492-2202

T: 781-444-2510  
[office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org)

On the web at  
[needhamucc.org](http://needhamucc.org)

On the twitter  
[@needhamucc](https://twitter.com/needhamucc)

Like us on  
**Facebook**  
Congregational Church  
of Needham UCC

## Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Sunday, May 21st

On Sunday, 5/21, the Men's Fellowship Breakfast will welcome all church men to breakfast.

The Men's Breakfast brings men of all ages and persuasions together in the Library on the 3rd Sunday of the month before worship in honest and lively discussion touching our faith and our lives in today's complex world. We welcome men of all ages and accommodate those with scheduling challenges. Arrive at 8:15 AM for fellowship and breakfast or by 9:00 AM for the discussion.

Contact: John Baldwin ([jsbaldwin@comcast.net](mailto:jsbaldwin@comcast.net)) or Rob Dunlavey ([rob@robd.com](mailto:rob@robd.com)) for more information.

address

stamp

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF  
NEEDHAM  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
1154 Great Plain Avenue  
Needham, Massachusetts 02492-2202



# August VBS

Mon., August 21 - Fri., August 25

NEW TIME! drop-off at 9am Pick-up at 2pm

Got questions? Email [youth@needhamucc.org](mailto:youth@needhamucc.org) or call (781) 444-2510.

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.

VBS: Superhero Central is open to children ages 3-6. Children must be toilet trained.

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

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

August 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.

Mon. 8/21  
 9am-2pm

Tues. 8/22  
 9am-2pm

Wed. 8/23  
 9am-2pm

Thurs. 8/24  
 9am-2pm

Fri. 8/25  
 9am-2pm

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

# Youth News

May 2017

@ the Congregational Church of Needham

Maddie Downer, CE & Youth Director

## Fruits of the Spirit



This month we begin our "Fruits of the Spirit" unit exploring Galatians 5:16-26. This unit will continue through the end of the school year. Our Sunday School classes will extend beyond Youth Sunday to June 18. Memorial Day weekend, along with June 11 and 18 will be one-room "camp" Sundays with large-group games for fellowship building and fun crafts. If the weather's nice, we'll have Sunday School on the playground! We will still have our Bible Village lesson, just outside!

## Introducing Worship Widgets

We are inviting children into the sanctuary once per month on Family Sundays. This month, our Family Sunday will be Sunday, May 7. We have offered (and will continue to offer) Children's Bulletins (now packaged in "Worship Kits") on Family Sundays. This month, we will also put out a basket of Worship Widgets. Working along the same idea as other fidget toys, these are intended to make the worship space more accessible to those of us with extra energy. If you're an adult who is feeling anxious, you're welcome to take one too! Please make sure to return the worship widgets on your way out of the sanctuary.

## BIBLE VILLAGE SINGS IN CHURCH - SUNDAY, JUNE 4!

On 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." Students will practice this song each week between now and Sunday, June 4. Students can also listen at home to practice. Please be at church by 9:45 on Sunday, June 4 so we can practice before worship begins.

## AUGUST VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SUPERHERO CENTRAL!

Our August VBS will be offered to students in Pre-K and Kindergarten. (Please note: Pre-K students must be toilet trained.) We will learn how loving like Jesus is a super power! Lots of games, crafts, and other fun activities will be offered. Students will bring brown-bag lunches; snacks will be served. Please register online at [www.needhamucc.org/learn/VBS/](http://www.needhamucc.org/learn/VBS/) starting May 2nd.

Dates: Monday, August 21 -  
Friday, August 25, 2017

NEW timing for August VBS: Drop-off at 9:00 AM, Pick-up by 2:00 PM.

Students ages 7 - 14 are invited to look into Valerie's Summer Singers chorus offered at the same time!



## CE & Family Ministries Calendar

**Sunday, May 7:**

Family Sunday, First Formal Communion,  
Teachers' Reception

**Sunday, May 14:**

Bible Sunday, Bible Village Sunday School

**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



## Coming next year.....

### October 2017: Need/Nourish Retreat

Jr & Sr High students are invited to come together for this overnight retreat at the church. Maddie will lead students in exercises and education on poverty, hunger, and food insecurity. Using large group discussion, small group activities, worship, and community exercises, students will learn about poverty but put their knowledge to use in a food desert shopping exercise, prepare meals on a SNAP budget, and work with each other to support local support programs. Students will collect non-perishable foods during September and August in worship. A follow-up trip to the Dedham Food Pantry and Boston Food Bank will be offered.

\$40/participant includes program materials, meals (dinner Friday; breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday), and t-shirt.

### 2017-2018 Community Service Learning at Needham UCC

If you are a high school student interested in doing your community service learning (CSL) through Needham UCC, please reach out to Maddie by email or phone. Whether you are interested in education, social justice work, or would like to experience an assortment of service opportunities, we can work together to make your CSL experience a faithful learning opportunity.

# Youth Ministries Calendar

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IrM3V1gUSYsL07Oo8Dj\\_jda49ur\\_Kh9vRF12yf1J19s/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IrM3V1gUSYsL07Oo8Dj_jda49ur_Kh9vRF12yf1J19s/edit)

Date	Jr High	Sr High	
Saturday May 6th	Babysitting Night (Youth arrive at 4pm)		
Sunday May 7th	Jr High Youth Group 5:00-6:30 (Mural)	Youth Band Practices 6:15-6:45	SR High Youth Group 6:30-8 (Games & Youth Sunday planning)
Saturday, May 13th	Hiking at Blue Hills -- 1:00 - 4:00 pm We'll meet at church at 1pm, head out for a hike and return by 4pm. Bring sunscreen and water! (No hiking if there's rain.) RSVP by Thursday, May 11!		
Sunday May 14th	Family Fellowship Movie Night at the AMC - Framingham Show & time TBA		
Sunday May 21st	Jr High Youth Group 5:00-6:30	Youth Band Practices 6:30-8pm	SR High Youth Sunday rehearsal
Sunday June 4th	Youth Band rehearses at 9:00 AM Youth lead worship at 10:00 AM		
Saturday June 10th	SR High @ Dedham Food Pantry 7:30 - 11:30 AM		
Sunday June 11th	Welcome Summer! Congregational cookout Join together with the wider congregation to celebrate the beginning of summer,		