

Sunday Worship In October



Theme:

**Who was Jesus?
Rabbi, Healer,
Revolutionary,
Savior...**

October 7

*Jesus' the Rabbi
His Friends Called
him Teacher. How
does he teach us
today?*

Rev. Heike

October 14

*Jesus the Healer
How does Jesus'
healing ministry
affect us?*

Rev. Susan

October 21

*Jesus the
Revolutionary*

*A friend of the poor,
Jesus addressed the
power system. His
life challenges us to
follow his footsteps.
Celebrate the 25th
Anniversary of the
Guatemala Project
- Rev. Susan*

October 28

*Jesus the Savior
What does salvation
mean to people
today?*

Rev. Susan casts a
vision for a modern
view of salvation.

Annual Giving Campaign 2013

Sowing the Seed for the Future



Our annual stewardship campaign is upon us and our goal is to have all pledges in by October 12. This year we hope to raise \$425,000 in pledges to support our worship services, music programs, youth initiatives, outreach efforts and education. Please think prayerfully about what you can give to the church, and make your pledge today.

Your 2012 and Its Impact

Pledge dollars are THE deciding factor in how far our budget will go each year. We ask each household to consider pledging \$2,500. You may e-mail your pledge to pledge@needhamucc.org or call the church at 781-444-2510.

A Message from the Senior Minister - Rev. Susan Cartmell

This week we launch our **Stewardship Campaign – Sowing the Seeds for the Future**. This fall we have had 15 new families come to church.

When I reported this number to the Deacons and the Board at our September meeting, they shared my sense of excitement. New families are here to sign their children up for Bible Village, our Sunday School program and for our strong and growing programs;

- 35 for Sr. High Youth Group the first night in September
- 20 attended Nate's class on the Bible
- 25 signed up for the Mother Daughter Retreat

Every family I talk to, comes looking for a church that welcomes all people, and put faith in action. Everything we do all year is supported by the pledge campaign that we run in October. Again, this year, we have an online appeal. We ask each family to pledge \$2500. That covers our costs and sustains the programs that make this church thrive. Since we started asking for this goal of \$2500 we have had 68 families give at that level or higher. Not everyone can give at this level, but many of you give more. Our goal this year is to have 75 families give at this sustaining level.

Your gift sows the seeds for the future. Your pledge sows seeds of faith in the next generation through our programs for children and youth. Your pledge sows seeds of mercy and justice through our ambitious outreach programs. Your pledge sows seeds of inspiration through music, education and pastoral care. I believe we are growing because the world is searching for churches, like ours, churches that make the Bible's message relevant to our lives, today.

I hope you will give this decision your prayerful consideration.

Theme for the Year

Who is Jesus and How Does He Touch My Life?

This year all of our worship themes will explain and touch on the over-arching theme – *Who is Jesus and How Does He Touch My Life?* We started the year talking about Neighbors. In October we will look at the many faces of Jesus – Rabbi, Healer, Revolutionary & Savior. As the year unfolds we will look at the ways Jesus' teachings and stories touch our lives and make a difference each day.

Music Ministry News by Dr. Bobby DeRegis, Director of Music

Welcome to Jannatha Coffin-Malia, our new Director of Youth Music



We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Director of Youth Music, Jannatha Coffin-Malia. Jannatha is a trained singer, voice teacher, actress, and dancer. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Florida State University, Tallahassee. She continued her studies at Emerson College, earning her Master of Arts in Theatre Education. Jannatha is the owner of Lights Up Performing Arts Studio in Mansfield where she teaches voice, piano, and acting to over 40 students. She is a native of Maine, and spent Summers on Hough's Neck where her aunt and uncle were ministers at the Hough's Neck Congregational Church. A lifelong Congregationalist, Jannatha is a member of The Congregational Church of Mansfield where she serves as the congregation's ONA representative. She lives in Mansfield with her husband Scott and four year old son Nate. Jannatha has a wonderful vision for our youth music program. Her warmth and

positive energy will ensure the continuation and growth of our youth choirs.

A very special thanks to those who gave of their time and input to the youth music director search: Meriel Conroy, Chris Cuddy, Cici Hunt, Robert Kennedy, Carolyn MacGregor, Lynn McClelland, Stephanie Oddleifson, and Reverend Susan.

Greetings from our Newest Staff Member: Deirdre McCourt

Hello. My name is Deirdre McCourt and I am the new office assistant here at the church. I recently graduated from Boston College where I studied Communication and Theater Arts. I will be in the office Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings and some Sundays.

When I'm not working at the church, I am teaching musical theater and acting at The Performing Arts Connection in Sudbury.

You can reach me via email at office2@needhamucc.org.

From the Music Director: Choir Rehearsal and the Christmas Concert

As we extend a warm welcome to our new youth music director Jannatha Coffin-Malia, I would like to extend an invitation and welcome to all members of our congregation, youth and adults, to participate in one of our many choirs. Joyful Noise Choir, grades K-2, rehearses from 11:30 to Noon most Sunday mornings. Halleluia Choir, grades 3-5, rehearses Sunday morning from 12:00 to 12:45 most Sundays. Shepherd's Staff, grades 6-12, rehearses from 4:00 to 5:00 pm on most Sundays. A calendar will be posted on the bulletin board outside the choir room very soon. Please encourage your children to participate in youth choir. The joy of singing is a precious gift, and what better gift than singing in church! The Chancel Choir rehearses every Thursday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. All are most welcome. We are presently rehearsing for our Christmas concert. Anyone interested in singing for the concert is welcome!

FOCUS

Focus is published monthly. Contributions from members and friends of the Church are invited. Please submit materials by e-mail to office@needhamucc.org.

November issue deadline:
Wed. October 24.

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Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor
Emeritus

Youth Ministry News with Rev. Jamie Green, Youth Minister



*Bible Village Sunday School is off to a great start! Children in grades K-6 have been learning about creation and images of God through cooking, story, art, games, drama, and science

workshops. If you have not yet registered your child (infant through 12th grade) for Sunday School, please do so ASAP. Forms are available at the church and at www.needhamucc.org/learn/sunday-school.

*The Senior High Youth Lounge is gathering every Sunday morning at 10am. Sandra Summers is leading the class in discussion about who God is and how God is understood and imagined.

*The Junior High Youth Group is gathering every Sunday evening at 5pm. We play games, eat snacks, and participate in activities and discussions about a variety of topics.

*The Senior High Youth Group is gathering every Sunday evening at 7pm. We are in the midst of planning our **Haunted House**, which will be open to the public from **5pm-8pm on Saturday, October 27th**. The theme is Haunted Hollywood, featuring a variety of Hollywood-themed horrors. We are in need of the following items (drop off in Rev. Jamie's office):

- Bags of candy
- Flat, white bedsheets
- Old bridesmaid dresses/prom dresses/ball gowns (not to be returned)
- Old costume jewelry
- Carnival/Children's Games: Ring toss, Beanbag toss, etc.

If you ever have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at revjamie@needhamucc.org, 781.444.2510 ext 104, or come visit me in the office on most weekdays from 1pm-6pm.

The Village Marketplace Fair

Save the DATE
Saturday
November 17

9:30am - 3:00pm



Local artists, hand-crafted items, home-made baked goods, and so much more will be featured at this year's Village Marketplace Fair. Many "good old" favorites will be back such as the Used Book Store, the Timeless Treasures, Vintage Jewels, and an auction. The wonderful Cafe will serve lunch all day. Proceeds will benefit the church.

If you would like to volunteer to lend a hand or know of a craftsperson you would like to see participate, please call 781-444-2510. Many hands are needed!

Village Fair Auction News!

The tradition continues! Once again, as part of our Village Fair on **Saturday, November 17, 2012**, we are planning to hold a silent auction. Anyone wishing to donate items or services to the auction, or who is willing to staff the auction tables for a couple of hours during the Fair, please get in touch with Jane Brand at ajbrand@comcast.net, or 781-455-0595. Thank you!

★ 3RD ANNUAL TALENT SHOW

& Stewardship Dinner
Friday, October 12,
6:00-9:00 pm

All pledges will be in by October 12 so let's kick back, celebrate and enjoy the third annual church talent show in Fellowship Hall. Last year's talent show was a blast with lots of fun surprises. Don't miss this year's show — you never know what may happen! Dinner and dessert will be served and everyone who has pledged before or during the dinner will receive a special gift. This event is free and open to all church families.

Please RSVP today to office@needhamucc.org, or call 781-444-2510.

Church Group News and Special Events

Immigration: Why Should Our Community Care?

Needham and the surrounding suburbs have an increasing number of immigrants living with us. Do they feel welcome? What are their needs and how can we help them? And how are they related to the wider population of immigrants in our country who are facing discrimination and, in some places, open hostility? In our church service every Sunday we hear, "Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!" In a church that cares about its community and the world beyond, those words have a wider meaning.

Save the date!--November 29, 7:30 PM at the Broadmeadow School. Our church's Immigration Justice Task Force, now expanded to include other faith communities and groups, will co-sponsor with the Needham League of Women Voters, a program that will bring immigration questions home to us. The theme for the evening says it: "Immigration: Why Should Our Community Care?" Debbie Remick, an experienced LWV moderator, will guide our thinking. Speakers will be Eva Millona of the state-wide immigration coalition, MIRA; a representative of the Student Immigration Movement; and Sandy Robinson, Director of the Needham Community Council. Come with your friends and your questions to this important community-wide meeting.

Family Promise Network (formerly Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality)

Family Promise Network provides a way for you to become a part of the solution to homelessness. As a support congregation in this network we provide help in Natick to The First Parish Congregational Church, UCC and the Fiske Memorial United Methodist Church when they are host churches. A host congregation furnishes clean, safe, overnight lodging and nutritious meals for three to five families. As a support congregation we help at these two churches four or five times a year. We provide dinner and/or family time support one or two nights during

the host church's week. Recently our church volunteered during a host week in June at the Natick Congregational Church and for the two host weeks in August at Fisk Methodist Church. We will be supporting First Parish Natick Congregational again in December. If you want to get involved in this program and want more information, please contact Barbra Morton who coordinates the program for our church. Her e-mail is bgmort@comcast.net

Please check the Outreach and Community Bulletin Boards at the church for upcoming Family Promise Network fundraising events.

[Important News From
Family Promise Networks](#)

October Brings Awareness of All God's Children!



October is National Bullying Awareness Month, Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender History Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Hispanic American Heritage Month and more! We encourage you to look up these topics online to learn about and support them. Check the ONA Bulletin Board for information about LGBT History Month (and links to 31 LGBT icons), National Coming Out Day (October 11) and Spirit Day (October 19) on which people pledge to "go purple" to take a stand against bullying.

Bullying Series - "Creating Safe and Respectful Environments for Everyone - Addressing Bullying with Stories and Strategies."

Save the dates of October 28, November 4, 11 and 18 for our important adult education series on bullying. Hear personal stories of bullying, how bullying looks in its many forms and, learn strategies to deal with bullying. We will hear from several informative speakers and see three short films followed by discussion. Please see the Adult Education pamphlet to sign up.

DHCD (Dept. of Housing and Community Development) has instituted highly restrictive eligibility requirements for families to receive emergency shelter. Families are being forced

- to live in uninhabitable situations i.e.: cars, train stations, floors...
- show third party proof of such a living situation to be eligible for emergency shelter (previously a family's risk of having to live in such a situation met the eligibility requirement)

There are reports that

- when families living in these situations come back to apply for housing, caseworkers are filing reports of suspected abuse and neglect

(51A) on these families with the Dept. of Children and Family Service

- there is an increased number of families being wrongfully denied or "strung along" by caseworkers continually asking for more information

There will be a Public Hearing on Thursday, October 25 10 a.m. at Gardner Auditorium, State House, Boston. If enough voices are heard at the public hearing, in conjunction with other advocacy work being done, there is a good chance that changes will be made to these new regulations. Please attend this Public Hearing if you can. Without everyone's voice, the regulations will remain in effect.

Church Group News and Special Events

The Friendly Society News

The next Friendly Board meeting will be held on Monday, October 1, at Doris Cook's house, 295 Manning Street, at 7:30 p.m. Please let Doris know if you are unable to attend. (781) 444-5591

The next regular meeting of Friendly will be held on Wed., October 17, at 7:30 p.m. in Linden Hall. We are happy that Kay Taylor will do flower arranging for our entertainment. Kay is an expert, and we are all looking forward to a delightful evening. Refreshments will be served as usual.

Because the church fair will be held on November 17, we have changed the date of the Christmas stocking meeting to Wednesday, November 28, at 1:00 p.m. in Linden Hall. The meeting will take place after lunch.

FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons In-Care committee continues to provide support for our own John Allen in the next phase of his ordination process. John grew up in our church, and is now a senior at Union Seminary in New York City. He is also a recent recipient of the Hurlbert Award in preaching. He is in the care of the Metropolitan Boston Association of the United Church of Christ.

The Deacons would also like to extend our best wishes and sincere thanks to Jennifer Sutherland for her many years of service. We wish the Sutherland family all the best in their new home in Texas!

Community Dinners

Food is a wonderful way to reach out to our neighbors and friends. We would like to try something new: serving a free monthly dinner to our neighbors and each other. Here is how you can help:

1. Cook a main dish at home; recipes provided.
2. Help shop for additional items salad, drinks, dessert.
3. Help set up Linden Hall.
4. Help serve dinner to everyone who comes.
5. Have dinner with your friends, or meet new people from our church's neighborhood.
6. Stay and help clean-up.

We hope to hold our dinners on the first Tuesday of every month, starting in

October. Please call Rev. Heike 781-444-2510 if you would like to help.



The Environmental Ministry Team will have our next meeting Tuesday October 2, 2012 at 7pm in the Reception Room at the Church.

Outreach News

“Called as partners in Christ’s service called to ministries of grace, We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.

May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend, Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.”

Jane Parker Huber, 1981 “Called As Partners in Christ’s Service”, New Century Hymnal

October 7th is Neighbors In Need Sunday! Please consider contributing to the **Neighbors In Need Offering** this year. **Envelopes** are located in the pews in the **Sanctuary** and in the rounder in the Narthax

The committee had their first meeting of the fall on Wednesday, September 19.

Discussion

A discussion took place about ways to pursue the committee goals of congregation awareness and involvement in outreach. The following tentative schedule was proposed.

September- support Reverend Heike’s community dinner initiative that will be held on the first Tuesdays of

the month

October- Support involvement and participation in The Guatemala Partnership Anniversary activities.

November- Work with youth groups on gift giving project for holidays

January- Sponsor speaker as fundraiser for Capital Campaign

February- Support Family Promise Network Annual Walkathon. Encouraging families to become part of church walking team.

March- Hold an intergenerational outreach event

Allocations Voted On

\$19,000 - Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM carries out the ministry and mission of the UCC, locally, nationally and internationally)

\$1,000 - Walker School Annual Fund

\$500 - Community Servings

\$300 - Speaker Honorariums for Immigration Task Force Forum

Please check our bulletin board for updates and information about our work and projects!

You Are Invited to the Guatemala Partnership Forum And Ice Cream Social on Saturday, Oct. 20th



The Guatemala Partnership will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the partnership between Santa María Tzejá and the Needham Congregational Church with a forum on “Building a Transnational Community” on Saturday, October 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church.

“**Dessert, Dancing and Despedida**” with games for children, and ice cream sundaes and dancing for all will be Saturday evening from 7 to 9 p.m.

The goal of the forum is to share ideas that promote social justice, discuss the impact this unique partnership has had on our communities and explore where the partnership is headed in the coming years.

The forum’s general session, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., focuses on celebrating a transnational community between people of different cultural, ethnic, economic and political backgrounds. Speakers are:

- **Paula Worby**, associate director of the Multicultural Institute in Berkeley, CA. She worked more than a decade with the UN High Commission for Refugees in Guatemala.
- **Ross Lohr**, director of the Newton Tanzania Collaborative. Since 2006, the NTC has worked to improve educational opportunities for Tanzanian children through participatory development initiatives and relationship building between schools and communities in the United States and Tanzania
- **Jim Wallace**, a founder of the Cambridge Sister City Project. Since 1987, the city of Cambridge and San José las Flores in El Salvador have worked together for human rights, social justice and cultural exchange
- **Clark Taylor**, retired professor from the College of Public and Community Service at UMass Boston, co-founder of the Guatemala Partnership, author of several books about politics and rebuilding community in Guatemala and a member of the Needham Congregational Church.

Attendees will have a choice of three themes, each offering three sessions. Sessions will be at 10:15 a.m., 11:45 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.:

- Building a transnational community
 - Celebrating a 25-year partnership: Santa María Tzejá perspective
 - Celebrating a 25-year partnership: Needham Congregational Church perspective
 - Anticipating the next 25 years in a maturing transnational community
- Promoting peace and justice
 - External Threats and the Response of a Courageous Community
 - Standing in Solidarity
 - Immigrants by Choice?
- Experiencing Santa María Tzejá
 - A Virtual Visit to the Village
 - Guatemala’s Markets and Crafts
 - Rehearse for the Despedida (Farewell Celebration)

The program is designed for broad appeal—from people who have visited the village to people who wish to learn more about Guatemala and the partnership between the Needham Congregational Church and Santa María Tzejá. The forum is designed to appeal to people of middle school age and older. Forum registration of \$15 includes snacks and beverages and lunch. A registration table will be set up during Coffee Hour Sept. 30, Oct. 7 and Oct. 14. Or you can register on line at www.guatepartnershipforum.EventBrite.com.

The “Dessert, Dancing and Despedida” is free and for all ages. Ice cream sundaes will be provided, as will games for children. If possible, bring a dessert to share.



Recruiting for February 2013

Delegation: Space is still available for adults/youth to join the church’s February 2013 delegation to Guatemala. Travel dates are **February 13-24**. Don’t delay in speaking with leader Brenda Metzler, since tickets (for travel during school vacation) must be purchased in late September/early October. Please contact Brenda (bmetzler7@verizon.net or 781-449-5696) for details or questions.

Adult Education by Rev. Heike Werder, Associ. Minister



**Fall Adult Education Classes Start on
September 16, 2012**

When I was a child, I always wanted to grow taller, at least taller than my sister. In our home, the doorway to our kitchen became the measuring frame. Our mother would stand us with the back to the doorframe, put a book on our heads, level it, and mark our height. Since I was the younger sister it took the teenage years to surpass my sister - although by only a half inch. Our growth was measured like this for years, and it was fun to see what progress my sister and I made over the year (although it stopped too soon at around 5'2" for me).

I could not make myself grow. My parents provided healthy food, made sure I got to bed at a decent hour, made sure I had the various inoculations recommended by the doctor. They couldn't really make me grow either. They could only provide what was needed for growth.

All of life is about growth – physical, intellectual, and spiritual. There was a time when I was much younger I thought that if I'd learned this or that, I would be done with it. Come to find out that some kind of growth always takes place if we allow it to happen. To me it seems that not a day goes by without a lesson learned to a task mastered.

Spiritual growth is all that and more, I think. How do we grow spiritually? How do we grow in faith? I cannot force myself to grow spiritually and in faith. I can take responsibility for seeking opportunities that will help me grow. I can participate in activities that open me up to new perceptions and dimensions of living the gospel. I can spend time in intentional prayer and meditation. The possibilities are endless.

Some of the gospel stories are about sowing seeds. We can plant seeds, but we cannot make them grow. We can provide the right conditions, but we don't really make them grow.

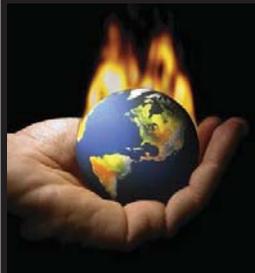
Spiritual growth and growth in faith

happen with God's grace, over time. We need the support of Christian community. We need to seek spiritual nourishment. We need to take responsibility for ourselves. We need rest for our souls. We need to know we are beloved by God.

Our Adult Education program seeks to nourish those seeds. I hope that you find the time to join us in the opportunities offered after church and during the week. If you have any ideas for programs or speakers, please let me know.

See you in class.

**CLIMATE
CHANGE
CAFE**



Trends in the Rise of Greenhouse Gases and the Effects of Climate Change from an Economist's Perspective

Join us

**Sunday October 14, 2012
11:30am**

Linden Hall

The Congregational Church of Needham
Presented by the Environmental Ministry Team

- What is the current and future economic impact of the rise in greenhouse gases?
- What can be done about it?
- What's the cost of rising sea levels in the Boston area and how will they affect the way we live and work?



Presenter:

**Dr. Alan
Clayton-Matthews**

Director of Quantitative Methods in the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs
Department of Economics
Northeastern University





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Men's Breakfast, Sunday October 21: "How Can Shared Faith Support Opposing Politics?"

Men's Breakfast, Sunday October 21. The Men's Breakfast is a lively time of fellowship and vigorous, honest talk once a month before worship. We get together in the Library on the third Sunday of the month and enjoy breakfast fare provided by volunteers. We have always welcomed men of all ages and can always accommodate those with scheduling challenges. Arrive at 8:15 AM for fellowship and breakfast or by 9:00 AM for the discussion.

On October 21 we will consider the upcoming election with a discussion of how people can share faith yet find little common ground in our politics. Join us!

Contact Keith McClelland (kmmlkm@rcn.com) for more information.

address

stamp

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