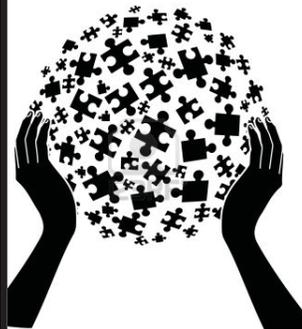


Sunday Worship In November



Theme:
Wholeness

November 4
Honesty
Living with Integrity
Rev. Susan

November 11
Sabbath
Living with Balance
Rev. Susan

November 18
Gratitude
Living with
Thanksgiving
Rev. Susan

November 25
Spirituality
Living with God
Rev. Heike

A Message from the Senior Minister - Rev. Susan Cartmell

When we started our monthly sermon topics we never imagined how the program would grow, and bring new life into our worship services. This year some of you asked for a year-long theme, so we have decided that our whole theme for the year is-

Who is Jesus and How Does His Life Touch Mine?

Each of the monthly topics connects to the year-long theme. In November, our worship topic is Wholeness. Jesus told his followers- *Be ye perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.* (Matthew 5:48) Lots of people found this a difficult passage. Especially in recent times, most of us rankle at the idea that anyone would strive to be perfect. Much of the time we feel so far from perfect. We take comfort from the idea that no one can be perfect. So what is Jesus saying in this passage? Scholars think that the passage has been poorly translated. A better translation would be - *Be ye whole in the same ways that your Heavenly Father is whole.*

What people admired about Jesus was not his perfection, but his ability to be the best Jesus he could be. In October, we talked about who Jesus was, and this month we will look at those qualities in his life that we can emulate.

Each month our topics in worship will illustrate the theme- **Who is Jesus and How Does His Life touch Mine?**

Looking Ahead: December's Topic is Love.



Stewardship Campaign 2013

Sowing the Seed for the Future

One of the definitions of Stewardship is *"the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving."* Your stewardship pledge provides the sunshine and water for the caring mission of our congregation and plants the seeds that support the exploration our faith and extend our caring reach to our church family, local neighborhood and greater worldwide community.

We would like to Thank you if you have sent your stewardship pledge in for the 2013 year. If you have not yet sent in your pledge, please send it as soon as possible. Forms are available at the church or online at

<http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1103615275471-189/2013Stewardship-WebPledgeForm.pdf>

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

Thanksgiving and Christmas Concert News



As the leaves turn shades of orange and brown, the air becomes colder and daylight shorter, so approaches our Interfaith Thanksgiving service and annual Christmas concert. Singers, please feel free to join the combined choirs of all the houses of worship on Wednesday, November 21st at St. Joseph's Church on Highland Ave. We will rehearse from 6- 6:45 pm, and celebrate a service of Thanksgiving at 7. All are invited to participate. On Sunday, December 2nd, please join us at 5 pm for our Christmas concert, where the chancel choir and soloists will perform Camille Saint-Saens Christmas Oratorio with harp, strings, and organ. There will also be anthems and carols of the season, followed by a lovely reception in Fellowship Hall. We hope you

will join us and enjoy the sounds of this wonderful and joyous season. We are also looking for sponsors for the concert. If you would like to be a sponsor or make a memorial gift in memory of a loved one, please contact me (drderegis@verizon.net) or the church office.

Village Fair & Marketplace

9:30am-3:00pm
Saturday November 17

11:00am-1:00pm
Sunday November 18



We are happy to announce the Village Fair & Marketplace Sat, Nov. 17 with special hours for our church family, Sunday Nov. 18! It includes a lineup of vendors selling their unique items, such as handmade jewelry, pottery and artwork.

Back this year - the luncheon café offering succulent lobster rolls and other international selections, timeless treasures, vintage jewelry, used books sale, and the popular Elf Shop for children to shop for their family members.

Proceeds will support the church's operating budget. Please contact Danielle Jurdan at office@needhamucc.org or call 781-444-2510 for more information or to rent a table.

Greetings from our Newest Staff Member: Paul Drummond

Hello. My name is Paul Drummond and I am the new Building Manager and Skilled Handyman at the church. I have experience with large-scale facilities and their maintenance and upkeep.

When I'm not working at the church, you can find me at home with my beautiful 3 month old daughter.

You can reach me through the church administrator at office@needhamucc.org. Please put **Building Manager** in the subject line.

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.

December issue deadline:
Wed. November 21.

Rev. Susan Cartmell
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Rev. Jamie Green
Youth Minister
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Deirdre McCourt
Office Assistant
office2@needhamucc.org

Doris D. Cook,
Volunteer Office Asst.

Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

Youth Ministry News with Rev. Jamie Green, Youth Minister

Elf Shop: The Youth Groups are currently collecting wrapping paper, small items and trinkets for the Elf Shop, a special place for kids to buy and wrap presents for their families at the Village Fair. Donations can be put in the box in Rev. Jamie's office.



Giving Tree: Be on the lookout for the giving tree near the end of November. This tree will have 85 ornaments on it representing 85 moms and children from the Elizabeth Stone House, a domestic abuse shelter in Boston. Each ornament will have information about each person's wish list, sizes and preferences. Please take an ornament, purchase gifts, and drop off at the church by December 16th. All presents must be new and unwrapped.

Winter Retreats: It's time to start turning in deposits for our winter retreats. A \$50 deposit per person by Nov. 18th to reserve your spot (checks made out to Congregational Church of Needham). Please bring or mail in your deposits (leave them in Rev. Jamie's mailbox or mail to 1154 Great Plain Ave, Needham)

Senior High Winter Retreat: Jan 4-6 at Round Hearth, Stowe, in Vermont. Leave Needham Friday 3:30pm, arrive in Stowe Friday evening. Meals and winter activities on Stow Mountain on Saturday (in addition to downhill and cross country skiing and snowboarding, we will offer: snowshoeing, snowman building, hanging out in the lodge by the fire playing card games and board games, having tons of fun!). Breakfast and worship and leave Stowe on Sunday morning to arrive in Needham by early evening. Total Cost: \$200.00 (plus \$39 for equipment rentals, plus \$39 for lessons). DEADLINE: Need \$50 deposit by Nov 18 to reserve your spot.

Junior High Winter Retreat: March 1-3 at Cody Outdoor Center in New Hampshire. Leave Needham Friday afternoon, arrive Cody Friday evening. Meals, programming and small groups on Saturday, along with TUBING at King Pine Mountain. Breakfast, Worship and leave Cody on Sunday to arrive in Needham by mid-afternoon. Total Cost: \$150.00. DEADLINE: Need \$50 deposit by Nov. 18 to reserve your spot!

Christian Education News

Advent Workshop: Sun, Dec 2, 2-4pm
Create edible winter creatures, sandart masterpieces, Christmas cards, advent wreaths and unique ornaments. Enjoy caroling and cookies, too!
Admission: \$5/family. A pizza dinner will be offered after the Advent Workshop and before the Christmas Concert. If you would like to stay, please RSVP to Rev. Jamie at 781-444-2510 or revjamie@needhamucc.org.

Christmas Pageant: Preparations for our Christmas Pageant, our biggest event of the year, are now underway. Youth minister Rev. Jamie Green will be directing this year's pageant which features more than 100 costumed performers! Be sure to sign-up for a part in the pageant by December 9th. Casting sheets are available here: <http://needhamucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/casting-sheet.pdf> or on the Christian Education Bulletin Board. We have lots of space for participants of all ages, from kids to adults. Pageant Rehearsals are on December 16 and 23. Each rehearsal includes lunch for the cast after church in Linden Hall at 11:30am

and pageant practice from noon-2pm in the sanctuary. Dress Rehearsal takes place on December 24 at 2pm followed by a snack break in Fellowship Hall. The Pageant begins at 4pm. Contact Rev. Jamie at revjamie@needhamucc.org.

First Formal Communion: The Congregational Church of Needham offers a special program for 1st and 2nd graders to learn about communion and then they are invited to participate in their first formal communion. (All children are always welcome to participate in communion, but this is a special occasion for 1st and 2nd graders to learn about and celebrate communion). This year, we will offer a communion workshop for 1st and 2nd graders and their parent(s) on Saturday March 23rd from 10-11:30am. Childcare will be available for children not in 1st or 2nd grade. First Formal Communion will be celebrated on Sunday April 7th during worship. Please mark your calendar for these special days! (Also, 3rd-5th graders who have not yet participated in a communion workshop and formal communion are welcome to attend!)

Church Group News and Special Events

Immigration: Why Should Our Community Care?

Those of us from the church who attended the Needham Diversity Summit on October 13th, heard two remarkable Needham residents speak in the opening plenary session, one of whom was born in Burma and the other in India. They both spoke positively about their experience as immigrants in our community, but had some thoughts about how we might be more welcoming of people who come from other parts of the world to live in Needham. This town has an increasing number of immigrants and we as people of faith who hear every Sunday that everyone is welcome in our church community, have a faith-based mandate to deepen our understanding of how to be welcoming to immigrants.

One great way to pursue this deeper understanding is to attend the forum set for November 29, 7:30 PM at the Broadmeadow School on the theme: Immigration: Why Should Our Community Care? You will hear outstanding speakers and have a chance to raise questions and enter the discussion. 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. 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 discover how all of us working together can make a significant difference with this important issue.

ONA News



OPEN AND AFFIRMING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Congregational Church of Needham, UCC joins WAGLY to Support LGBTQ Youth

The ONA Ministry Team has signed on with WAGLY, the West Suburban Alliance of GLBTQ Youth, to be a supportive congregation. The Alliance is in its second year of serving 25-40 youth and straight allies each week. Our ONA Ministry Team will provide an annual donation of at least \$100, provide refreshments in turn, attend some events, and advertise these events at our church. The church will be listed on the WAGLY website. We are pleased that we have found a specific community organization with whom we share an interest for support and advocacy and which is already doing the good work. There are over a dozen congregations that have joined this effort so far. See the ONA Team to become involved in this new opportunity.

“Creating Safe and Respectful Environments for Everyone - Addressing Bullying with Stories and Strategies”

Don't Miss It!

We hope many of you will attend the bullying series each Sunday through November 18. Hear personal stories of bullying, how bullying looks in its many forms and learn strategies to deal with bullying. Sessions include a light lunch. Please see



which ages are invited to which sessions. Please sign up ahead of time in Coffee Hour, on the ONA Bulletin Board or by calling the office.

OCT 28 - Session #1

Adults, High School and Middle School ages invited
Film: “Let’s Get Real” - 35 minutes - This film examines a variety of issues that lead to taunting and bullying.

Panel Discussion:

- Missy Sturtevant - Minister of CE, Memorial Congregational Church, UCC, Sudbury, Social Worker, GLBT Youth Program

Coordinator.

- Fred Moder - Social Worker specializing in Behavioral Health, member of our church

NOV 4 - Session #2

Adults and Late Teens invited
Personal Story told by Zac - A Bullying Survivor
A Boston University student will present his incredible story. He'll offer ideas on how to deal with bullying.

NOV 11 - Session #3

Adults, High School and Middle School ages invited
Film: “Bullied” - 40 minutes - powerful film from the Southern Poverty Law Center - A student, a School and the Case that make history.

NOV 18 - Session #4

Adults, High School and Middle School ages invited
Film: “What Do You Know?” - 13 minutes - What young people today already know about sexual orientation and gender identity.

Discussion led by Kim Westheimer
- Director of Welcoming Schools Program of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC)

Church Group News and Special Events



Friendly Christmas Stockings!

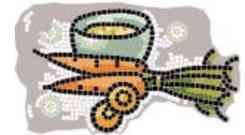
Friendly's outreach project of filling Christmas stockings will be held on Wednesday, November 28, after lunch, at 1:00 p.m. in Linden Hall. All women of the church are invited.

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. John will be joining the deacons at their monthly meeting in November.

Community Dinners

November 6th is this month's free monthly dinner for our neighbors and each other. Here is how you can help:



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

We will hold our dinners on the first Tuesday of every month, Please call Rev. Heike 781-444-2510 if you would like to help.

Outreach News

“We humbly lift up prayers of blessings upon the earth that the Holy One has provided for us. May we sow and harvest the land in a way that is pleasing to God. May we use what the earth has produced to bless those in need who come to us with outstretched hands.”

(from UCC Mission prayers and devotions)

The following is a summary of information from the Outreach Committee's October meeting.

Circle of Hope clothing collection

Chairperson Kristin Mollerus and Pam Putprush will be working with the 7th and 8th grade church school class on a clothing drive for the Circle of Hope Project in Needham. The classes are collecting new and gently used Adult and Children's outerwear (coats, boots, hats, scarves) and clothes which the Circle of Hope will distribute to those in need at organizations such as Rosie's Place, Women's Lunch Place and Project Hope in Greater Boston. Collection boxes will be near our sanctuary and parking lot entrances from 10/28 through 11/11. Thank you for helping keep so many people warm this winter.

Capital Campaign Speaker

Guest Speaker: Len Chang from the Capital Campaign Committee spoke to the committee about the progress of the campaign.

The Outreach Committee has offered to support Capital Campaign efforts by financing or contributing the cost of hiring a speaker of interest for the church community.

Community Dinner Support

The first community dinner was very successful and well attended by members of the church and families from the Baby Basics Program. The Outreach Committee will be supporting the expansion of this program by allocating \$200 per month to help cover expenses. The next dinner will be November 6 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Guatemala Celebration Forum

The Outreach Committee congratulated the Guatemala Committee on its twenty-fifth celebration and supported their celebration forum by providing lunch to Saturday's forum attendees.

Outreach Allocations

Needham Community Center - \$100

Woman's Lunch Place - \$2,000

Needham Community Council - \$2,000

Capital Campaign by Rev. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister

Dear Friends,

I want to answer some questions that I have been hearing about the church's capital campaign.

What is happening?

We are in the middle of the "quiet" phase of the campaign. In many organizations this phase is the silent phase, but very little is completely silent in a church. There is nothing secret about the campaign, so I want to be sure you all know what is happening.

Why haven't we heard more about the campaign this fall?

The Board has wisely decided that we should put our energies into the fall stewardship campaign. By the time we finish that it will be Thanksgiving, so before long we will be enjoying the Christmas concert and planning the pageant. But we promise that we will launch the more public phase of the campaign after the holidays.

Why is this taking so long?

One reason it is taking so long is because our ministry always takes precedence over the on-going needs of fund-raising.

What has been happening recently?

1. All summer our design team worked with the architect- Colin Smith. The team includes- Jackie Allen (Board) Keith McClelland, Mark Oberle, Kirby Salerno (chair), & Judi Stewart.
2. Our Capital Campaign Team – Amanda Angel, Frank Arren, Dave Darmofal, Len Chang, and Alex Cullen has worked throughout the spring and summer, too.
3. The Board and Deacons are organizing events in January- where people can visit in your home and hear about the campaign.

Will this be like past campaigns where it drags along but not much happens?

No! You have my word that this campaign will produce results. We have a great deal to do in our building to bring it into this new century. We will proceed quite soon after we raise the money.

Why should we care about the capital campaign?

1. As people of faith we believe our building should be not just open to all people but accessible to everyone.
2. As stewards of creation we believe our church should be much more ecological.
3. As members of a vibrant church, we want our building to reflect the vitality at the heart of who we are.
4. As an open and affirming church we believe our building should say "welcome" not just in our words but in our architecture.
5. We hope to achieve all these goals and more.

What can we do for the capital campaign between now and January?

1. Let us know if you would like to host an event in your home.
2. Let us know if you would like to serve on the Capital Campaign Committee.
3. Pray for our church.



Guatemala Partnership 25th Anniversary Celebration Gratitude



The Guatemala Partnership wants to thank everyone who participated in the 25th anniversary celebration last weekend—the speakers from near and far, the thoughtful folks who attended and enriched our sessions, the generous people who supported our silent auction, and the lively families who danced, laughed and ate ice cream at the Ice Cream Social and Despedida. 'Muchas gracias' to all!



Adult Education by Rev. Heike Werder, Assoc. Minister

November & December Adult Education Classes



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

November 4, 11, and 18
11:30 to 1 p.m.

NOV. 4 - Film: Corey Johnson - a gay Massachusetts high school football player comes out to his team.

Presentation: by a Boston University student who is a survivor of bullying.

NOV. 11 - "Bullied": a film intended for Middle and High School followed by activities and discussion. The focus is on bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

NOV. 18 - "What Do You Know?": suitable for ages 6-12. The film focuses on what that age group know about sexual orientation and gender identity.

NIA/YOGA

Monday 11/26, 12/3, 10 & 17: 7-8 p.m.

De-stress between Thanksgiving and Christmas with a weekly session; Leaders: Carol Oberle (yoga) and Jane Clayton Matthews (NIA); Fellowship Hall. NIA is a fusion of dance, martial arts and healing arts. Along with yoga, participants will improve flexibility, strength, agility, and stability. Bring a yoga mat and water bottle to the class. Drop-in but you can let us know if you are coming.

Biblical Archaeology

December 9 & 16

Join Nate Ramsayer as he discusses the archaeological process and the significance of finds that have been made over the last hundred or so years, where the biblical stories are supported and where they deviate.

Environmental Ministry News

Our rack was full! Bicycle rack, that is! Take advantage of the beautiful weather and our bicycle rack and ride to church.

Check out our bulletin board for an article from the Needham Times about the green businesses and houses of worship who were honored on a plaque which is mounted at the town hall. Our Church, represented by Anne Hayek, was among the honorees.

Did you know that we have green compost

buckets in our kitchens? Anyone who works in the kitchen can place their fruit and vegetable scraps and coffee grounds in them and then the contents can be transferred to the large composter outside the kitchen in the alleyway.

We continue to collect your used cell phones for the **Cellphones for Soldiers** organization. Look for the yellow box on the shelf over the coat racks.

Wanted: anyone interested in becoming a steward of God's creation. The Environmental Ministry Team will be meeting on Nov. 6 at 7:15pm. Please join us!"

The Village Fair & Marketplace News

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!

Village Fair Book Sale!

Please donate your gently used, unwanted books, CDs and DVDs to the Village Fair Used Book Sale. Donations can be left in the church library. We will also be looking for help with sorting books and working on the day of the sale.

Please contact Jenni Haynes to volunteer or with any questions at jennihaynes@comcast.net or 781-453-9572.

Village Fair Timeless Treasures!

Donations of gift quality items are being accepted for the **Timeless Treasures shop**. Contact Chris Arren (781-449-9748) to arrange for pick up or delivery at her home. Smaller items can go directly to Rev. Jamie for the Elf Shop, or bundle them into the Timeless Treasures donations, and we will sort them. Thank you!



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Men's Breakfast, Sunday November 18 "What are you thankful for"

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 November 18 we will discuss what we are thankful for and how to respond faithfully to those blessings. Join us!

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

address

stamp

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Needham, Massachusetts 02492-2202