

## Sunday Worship In January

Theme:  
**Christian  
Community  
in Rites and  
Sacraments**



**January 13**  
*Baptism*  
Rev. Susan

**January 20**  
*Confirmation*  
Rev. Jamie  
Annual Meeting  
Hearing after  
Worship

**January 27**  
*Membership*  
Rev. Susan  
Annual Meeting  
after Worship

## A Message from the Senior Minister - Rev. Susan Cartmell

When I go to yoga, the teacher often starts the class by inviting us to set our intention for the hour. I have done yoga off and on for years but whenever the teacher says this, it seems to take me by surprise. I think back on all my unconscious intentions. I remember 15 minutes ago, my "intention" was to grab my yoga mat and get into the car in time to make this class. 10 minutes ago my intention was to find a parking place. 5 minutes ago my intention was to put my mat near someone who was not too good at yoga, so I would not feel foolish.

Now that I can relax and think more consciously about my intention I feel stymied. What is my intention for this yoga class?

- To relax for an hour?
- To make it through the class?
- To push myself enough but not too much?

- To learn how to breathe more deeply?
- To let go of the worries and distractions I live with?
- To be at peace?

On New Year's Day I was thinking about this idea of setting your intention. If you develop the habit of setting it for an hour of yoga, could you not do it for the New Year? The problem with New Years is that I feel tempted to make lofty goals. It is easy to forget that life is a journey and we take it one step at a time.

Perhaps we should enter this New Year like someone who is laying out a mat on the floor of a yoga studio. Barefoot, we wonder what we will do with this time we have. Maybe as we bow our heads we can set some meaningful intentions for 2013.

Peace...Susan

## JANUARY WORSHIP THEME: CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN RITES AND SACRAMENTS

Our January topic focuses on the rites and sacraments in our church, and how they shape us as people of God.

**Jan. 13 - Baptism.** We are all welcomed into the church through the Sacrament of Baptism. We have that in common with Jesus who started his faith journey by going into the River Jordan to be baptized there by John. This sacrament is a powerful symbol of God's blessing. Because we think of it as a sacrament primarily for children, we may overlook the fact that our whole journey of faith is influenced by the symbols of Baptism and what they mean. Nathaniel Johnson will be baptized. Rev. Susan will preach.

**Jan. 20 - Confirmation** - Rev. Jamie did her senior thesis at Harvard Divinity School on the topic of Confirmation, and she wrote a confirmation curriculum to go with her paper. She has some clear and definite ideas about the importance of confirmation and why it is such a significant step in the life of our youth. Come hear her ideas on Jan 20.

**Jan. 27 - Membership.** Rev. Susan will examine the Biblical idea of covenant and talk about how the covenant we make when we join a United Church of Christ transforms our lives, and makes a difference to the church. We will receive new Members this day.

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

Now that Advent has passed and the Christmas Concert and Christmas Eve services are over, I can relax a bit and ponder the music of the season and how it came alive in our church.



The Christmas Eve services were amazing to behold- great numbers in attendance, wonderful singing, and many happy faces. It was so heart-warming to hear the sounds of Silent Night sung by a full church so richly and yet so delicately. How terrific it was to see our children come together in the Pageant. It was great to see new young faces looking in awe at the angels on the altar and the congregation illuminated by candlelight.

Thank you to our Joyful Noise, Halleluia, and Shepherd's Staff Choirs. Your music added an incredible dimension to the services. Thank you to Jannatha Coffin-Malia for her hard work with the junior choirs. What a treat it was to hear them sing.

Thank you to our Chancel Choir members and our sponsors for the Christmas Concert. Without all of you, this concert would not have been possible. I must say our Chancel Choir outdid themselves again- their hard work, dedication, and skill was very apparent.

Thank you to our musicians and folks who worked behind the scenes- hours of practice, publicity, phone calls, moving pews, baking and cleaning up: these gifts of time and talent made the music so much more melodious.

My wish for the New Year is that we can continue our music, our fellowship, and our lives of faith and hope together, in perfect harmony.

## TRIP OF A LIFETIME

April 22- May 2  
Trace the path of the Apostle Paul by visiting the archeological sites for the churches he founded. The trip includes Corinth, Ephesus, Capadocia, Istanbul and several days in Athens.



Scholars from The Society for Biblical Studies will lead this trip. Sites include Acropolis, Parthenon, Areopagus, Library of Hadrian, Issa Bey Mosque, and several Byzantine Churches.

Talks will explain the political, social and economic backdrop for the earliest communities of disciples, and how they came to found the first churches.

This trip explores and explains one of the key moments in history so we can better understand what happened and why it changed the world for centuries. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity speak to one of our experienced travelers - Susan Cartmell, or Rein Verschoor-Kirss. There is also more information on our website at <http://needhamucc.org/serve/mission-trips>.

### FEBRUARY IS ONA ANNIVERSARY MONTH

Our church voted to become an Open and Affirming church on Sunday, February 13, 2000. In recognition of our vote and pledge, the ONA banner will be displayed in the sanctuary during February. On Sunday, February 10, we will mark the 13th anniversary of that vote with some special music and words in worship. Let's celebrate what we have accomplished and ask what else we can do to live out this promise.

### 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](mailto:office@needhamucc.org).

February issue deadline:  
**Thursday, January 24.**

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# Youth Ministry News with Rev. Jamie Green, Youth Minister

## Superbowl Subs

Super Bowl Subs is coming Sunday, February 3!! Your Super Bowl menu is taken care of courtesy of the Senior High Youth Group. This popular fundraiser is back again to help take the work out of your Super Bowl food preparation. The sandwiches will be expertly made and sold by the Senior High Youth Group to help raise funds for their mission trip this summer to Vermont.



Order forms will be available at Coffee Hour on January 20 and 27 and also online at <http://needhamucc.org/learn/youth-groups/>. Subs will be ready for pickup on Sunday, February 3 after worship. Ordering ahead of time is

highly recommended so that you are sure to get the type of sandwich you want.

## Valentine's Babysitting



The Senior High Youth Group is hosting a Babysitting Night on Saturday, February 9th (the Saturday before Valentine's Day). Kids age 3 through grade 6 can be dropped off and picked up any time between 4pm-10pm at the church for just \$20 for the first kid and \$10 for additional kids. Dinner, snacks, a movie, and several fun activity stations will be set up for the kids. Families must pre-register by February 5th. Registration forms are available at the church or online at <http://needhamucc.org/learn/youth-groups/>.

<p><b>January 13</b>                  Sunday School for all ages during worship (K-1 Story, 2nd-3rd Art, 4th-6th Cooking)</p> <p>JH Youth Group 5-6:30pm                  SH Youth Group 7-8:30pm</p>	<p><b>January 20</b>                  Childcare during worship. Children encouraged to stay in worship.</p> <p>11am: Order your Superbowl Subs after worship</p> <p>No JH Youth Group                  No SH Youth Group</p>	<p><b>January 27</b>                  Sunday School for all ages during worship (K-1 Art, 2nd-3rd Cooking, 4th-6th Story)</p> <p>11am: Order your Superbowl Subs after worship</p> <p>JH Youth Group 5-6:30pm                  SH Youth Group 7-8:30pm</p>
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## Church Group News and Special Events

### ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY

The Environmental Ministry Team took an inventory of the "green" books in our church library. Feel free to borrow them and also to recommend any resources you might be familiar with that we can add to our inventory.

- Green Bible
- The Ethics of What We Eat
- In Defense of Food
- Animal Vegetable Miracle
- Serve God, Save the Planet
- Local Flavors (cookbook)
- The Creation
- Soil Not Oil...scts 200s, 300s, 500s
- Food Inc. DVD
- Troubled Waters DVD

### CAPES, COLONIALS, AND RANCHES WEATHERIZATION WORKSHOPS

Green Needham Collaborative is offering a series of one-hour workshops addressing the unique weatherization opportunities and challenges for three common types of houses in Needham - capes, colonials and ranches. Wednesday, January 16 at 7 p.m., the presentation will focus on Weatherizing Capes. Thursday, January 17, at 7 p.m. the focus will be on Weatherizing Colonials and Ranches. Each session will be led by experienced energy advisors from Next Step Living. All are welcome to come either night to learn more about their home's weatherization options. Workshop will take place at the Needham Historical Society, 1147 Central Ave.

### FROM THE DEACONS

On Thurs. Dec. 20th the church held the first "Blue Christmas" Healing Service designed for those who are grieving, lonely, or feeling anxious about the holiday season.

Similar Healing Services will be held throughout the winter on the third Thurs. of the month, led by Rev. Susan. These services are a way for us to provide support outside of the typical Sunday service.

The Board of Deacons helps minister to the spiritual needs of the Congregation. If you are interested in learning more about us, please contact Robert Kennedy or ask any of the Deacons at the next Sunday service.

## Church Group News and Special Events

### FAMILY PROMISE METROWEST ANNUAL WALKATHON



## Walk Away Homelessness!

Join Our Church's Walk Team!  
A Great Family Outreach Event!

**SATURDAY, FEB. 9th**

**Indoors at the NATICK MALL**

Registration at 8:00 AM  
Walk Begins 8:30 AM  
Wrap up & Prize Drawing 10:00 AM

More information and sign up will be available during January Coffee Hours  
or contact Barbra Morton at [bgmort@comcast.net](mailto:bgmort@comcast.net)

COME & WALK - JOIN OUR CHURCH GROUP TO WALK TOGETHER  
BE A SPONSOR - TOGETHER WE CAN "WALK AWAY HOMELESSNESS"

Last year we had a team of 7 represent our church. Let's have a larger group this year! Great opportunity for all ages to come together to fight homelessness.



**Guatemala Partnership**

#### New Resource for Guatemala Partner Families!

Some of you have been wondering about topics to bring up in writing to your partner family in the village. Easy answer! Our partnership's website has ideas and resources you can use. So "drop in" and take a look around. Web: [www.guatemalapartners.org](http://www.guatemalapartners.org)

If you are writing in English and have yet to turn in your letter, PLEASE SUBMIT RIGHT AWAY so it has time to be translated before the February delegation departs. As always: Email letter & photo to [davebjohnson@verizon.net](mailto:davebjohnson@verizon.net). We'll also keep an eye out for goodies dropped off in

the church office/Guatemala mail box.

Let's send the 51st delegation off with a full mailbag again!

#### School/ Medical Supplies for Guatemala:

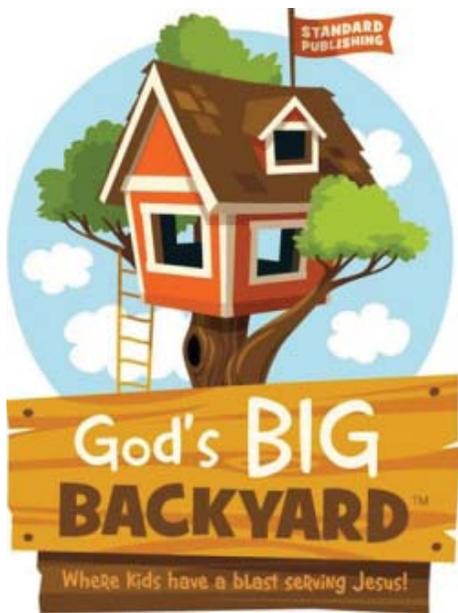
The February delegation needs supplies for the schools and the health clinic in our sister village, Santa Maria Tzeja. Please drop off your donations on Sunday, January 20 and 27 in the collection boxes located in the narthex, the parking lot entrance and near Fellowship hall. See the list below for suggestions. Contact Brenda Metzler with any questions ([bmetzler7@verizon.net](mailto:bmetzler7@verizon.net)). Thank you!

School Supplies Needed  
Crayons

White School Glue  
Pencils  
Pens  
Erasers  
Pencil Sharpeners  
Markers  
Watercolor paints  
Scissors  
Books in Spanish - For Children or Adults  
Basketballs, Volleyballs, Soccer balls (deflated for packing)

#### Medical Supplies Needed

Children's Tylenol or acetaminophen (tablets)  
Children's Tylenol or acetaminophen (liquid)  
Children's Ibuprofen (liquid)  
Children's Vitamins  
Toothpaste  
Dental Floss  
Adult Multi-Vitamins  
Triple Antibiotic Ointment



# April VBS

**April 16-19**  
**8:30 am- Noon**

This April's theme is **"God's Backyard: Serving friends, family, neighbors and community"** where kids will create crafts, play exciting games, participate in meaningful, community service, sing upbeat songs, and make delicious snacks.

The fee is \$20 per day for morning activities at VBS from 8:30-noon. Lunch bunch will be offered from noon-1 for \$5 per day. Additional children in each family will

receive a 50% discount. Register by April 1 for a \$20 discount.

For more information or to register, call the church office at 781-444-2510 or visit <http://needhamucc.org/learn/vbs>



**FEBRUARY 2, 2013**

Mark your calendars for the return of Voices Rising, the wonderful women's chorus, making their seventh appearance at our church on Sat., Feb. 2, 2013 at 3:30pm. While presenting a concert of superior quality, the chorus mixes humor with serious offerings. This year's concert is "Songs for a Winter's Night." Selections will include musical settings of poems by Frost and Wylie, favorites by Tori Amos and Gordon Lightfoot, and a few old chestnuts of the season. Tickets are available online at [www.voicesrising.org](http://www.voicesrising.org) - Priority Seating \$30; General Admission \$22 / \$18 in advance; Students/Seniors \$10; Children 5 and under \$5.

It is always a hit for the Needham community and surrounding areas. Come - and tell your friends!



**Healing Service**  
**January 17th**  
**7:00.-7:30 p.m.**

Rev. Susan will lead a monthly healing service in the chapel every third Thursday. Join us for the service if you would like to light a candle or ask for a prayer for yourself or someone you know. This service is open to the church and the community. Bring a friend from another faith tradition or no faith at all. Everyone is welcome.

January's Healing Service Theme  
"Healing the Past : Start the New Year with Fresh Purpose"



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**On the web at  
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 **Like us on  
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Congregational Church  
of Needham UCC

**Men's Breakfast, Sunday January 20  
"New Year - New Hope"**

The Men's Breakfast brings men of all ages and persuasions together once a month before worship in honest and lively discussion touching our faith and our lives in today's complex world. 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 January 20, Inauguration Day – remembering that "hope" was an original Obama campaign theme – we will discuss how we can reflect our personal faith back into the world both to give hope and to advance the issues we care about. 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

# Adult Education - January & February 2013

by Rev. Heike Werder, Assoc. Minister

JANUARY 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5
6	<b>7 *Cancer Support Group *From Jesus to Christ</b>	8	9	10	11	12
<b>13 *The Return of the Chaos Monster * Family Support Group</b>	<b>14 *Cancer Support Group *From Jesus to Christ</b>	15	16	<b>17 Healing Service</b>	18	19
20	<b>21 *Cancer Support Group</b>	22	23	24	25	26
<b>27 * Family Support Group</b>	<b>28 *Cancer Support Group *From Jesus to Christ</b>	29	30	31		

## "THE RETURN OF THE CHAOS MONSTER" Sunday, January 13, 11:30 to 1 p.m.

Prof. Gregory Mobley presents: "The Return of the Chaos Monster" The backstory behind this backstory, an ancient account of creation that was known to the Biblical writers and which appears under the surface and between the lines of Genesis and many other Biblical passages. This story is one of the world's oldest stories and one of its most persistent. A word of warning: come prepared for dragons.

The Biblical story of creation is central to both Judaism and Christianity, and continues to hold an often unconscious grip on our everyday thinking as we seek to make sense of our lives. Every time we talk about "Adam and Eve" and "forbidden fruit" or imagine the Edens of our dreams and fret about what serpents might lurk in them, we consciously or unconsciously open the file of Genesis. We might say that the Creation narrative is a "backstory" to a myriad of other stories.

Gregory Mobley is Professor of Christian Bible at Andover Newton Theological School. He is an ordained American Baptist minister, author of books on Samson, biblical heroes, Satan, among other odd topics that have special appeal to oddballs, iconoclasts, and people like him, who love the Bible and stories.

## FROM JESUS TO CHRIST

**Monday, January 7, 14, 28, and Feb. 4; 6:30PM**  
Dinner with program starting at 7 p.m.

Dinner, Video Series, and Discussion: From Jesus to Christ

This video series explores the life of Jesus and the

origins of Christianity. This series, originally shown on PBS, takes viewers back two thousand years to the time and place where Jesus once lived and preached. What are some of the key events that occurred after Jesus' death, and who were the men and women whose belief, conviction, and martyrdom created a major movement that transformed the Roman Empire in the space of only 300 years. Rev. Heike Werder will lead the discussion.

## PRAYER MADE VISIBLE

**Sunday, February 3, 10, & 24; 11:30am - 1:00pm**

Prayer Made Visible - A Hands On Spiritual Practice Buffet: 3 sessions...3 experiences presented by Rev. Peggy O'Connor

These classes are for the following people:  
Those who can't sit still long enough to get past the Lord's Prayer.  
Those who fumble with words and/or don't think they can pray.  
Those whose prayers feel inadequate.  
Those whose minds wander when they try to pray.  
Those who say they will pray for others but then forget to do so.  
Those whose prayer life feels like an item on their to-do list.  
Those who are bored with saying the same old prayers.  
Those who want to have a new prayer/spiritual experience.  
Those who want to go a little deeper.

## **Session 1: ICONS (Feb. 3)**

Make your own icon and discover a doorway to prayer. Various sizes of boards, glue, images, and paint will be provided. You may bring your own images/picture(s) to use as well.

FEBRUARY 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
<b>3 *Prayer Made Visible *Faith Circle</b>	4	<b>5 Community Dinner</b>	6	<b>7 Lunch</b>	8	9
<b>10 *Prayer Made Visible * Family Support Group</b>	11	12	13	<b>14 Lenten Lunch</b>	15	16
17	18	19	20	<b>21 Lenten Lunch</b>	22	23
<b>24 *Prayer Made Visible * Family Support Group</b>	25	26	27	<b>28 Lenten Lunch</b>		

**Session 2: PRAYING IN COLOR (Feb. 10)**

This is an active, meditative, and fun way of praying. If you can doodle...draw a line...write a name...you can do this. Markers, colored pencils, paper supplied. NO artistic skills required.

**Session 3: PRAYER BEADS (Feb. 24)**

Make a prayer bracelet to wear or a short string of beads to carry. The finished product will help remind you to pray during the day. Cord and beads provided.

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES**

**Faith Circle**

If you feel rushed, get overwhelmed by all the demands of life, or want to find a way to create a quiet space in your busy life consider joining a Faith Circle.

A Faith Circle is a group of 7-10 church members who don't necessarily know each other, but who agree to meet together regularly. Each Faith Circle will be led by trained leaders. Each group meeting will offer some readings or inspirational excerpts from a variety of modern spiritual writers with sharing time to be followed..

Rev. Susan Cartmell is leading a faith circle the first Sunday of every month (Reception Room);

**Family Support Group**

Rev. Susan Cartmell leads this group for all who struggle with family issues; 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month (Reception Room)

**Cancer Support Group**

Rev. Susan Cartmell leads this weekly support group on Monday morning, from 9 to 10:15 a.m. (Reception

Room)

**FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**Monthly Lunches**

Monthly lunches are the 1st Thursdays of the month and weekly during the upcoming season of Lent; 12 noon to 1 p.m., Library

**Community Dinners**

Community Dinners are 1st Tuesday of the month; 6 to 7 p.m., Linden Hall. Looking for a local outreach opportunity for the whole family? We are hosting a community supper once a month for the Baby Basic families. You can help by making a dessert, setting up in the afternoon, serving dinner, or helping with the clean-up. And of course, you are invited to just come and have dinner with your church family. The community dinner is sponsored by the Outreach Committee of our church.

**OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**Paul's World & Mission Trip**

Explore the Biblical Backgrounds and Christian Origins during a trip to Greece and Turkey; 22 April - 2 May, 2013, and maybe add 5 additional days to explore early Christianity in Istanbul and Cappadocia

For more information visit our website at <http://needhamucc.org/serve/mission-trips> .

Please contact Rev. Susan Cartmell if you are interested in going on this journey. Deadline for deposits: January 23, 2013 (\$ 200.00) Payment in full: February 11, 2013 Cost: \$ 3,885.00 from NYC; extended trip add: \$ 1,293.00 Go to: [www.sbsedu.org](http://www.sbsedu.org) for more information