



FOCUS

May 2013 | Vol. 36 Issue 5

Sunday Worship In May

Theme:
Legacy



May 5

*A Simple Meal
Around the Table*
Rev. Heike

May 9

Healing Service

May 12

*Your Legacy -
Treasure in Heaven*
Rev. Susan

May 19

The Church
Rev. Heike

May 26

Inspirational Leaders
Rev. Jamie

A Message from Rev. Heike Werder

Welcome to the month of May and to a new sermon series on "Legacy". As we are in the midst of our Capital Campaign, we have been thinking about what previous generations of church members have left us in this building. We are also thinking about what our legacy will be when we hand things over to the generations that follow us. As we get older, we can't help but think about our own, personal legacy. How will people remember me? What can I leave behind that will make a difference?

I recently read an article in the New York Times titled, "The Stories That Bind Us". In the article the author suggests that "the single most important thing you can do for your family may be the simplest of all: develop a strong family narrative." The author also says that children "that know a lot about their families tend to do better when facing challenges".

I loved reading this article because it reminded me how important it is to tell stories and talk to our kids about the families they have come from. I think the

same is true for a church community: we keep telling our story as covenant people and followers of Jesus because the more we know, the stronger we will be when we have to face life's challenges.

On May 5th I will start off our sermon series by taking a look at the legacy of a Simple Meal around the Table. On May 12th, Rev. Susan will be preaching on Your Legacy - Treasure in Heaven. On May 19, as we celebrate Confirmation and the Feast of Pentecost, I will preach on the legacy of the Church, and on May 26, Rev. Jamie will preach on the legacy that Christian leaders of the past have left behind for us, and the legacy that we can all pass on to future generations.

There is much to learn from the stories we tell each other and our children. Just remember, the more we know, the stronger we will be.

Blessings,
Heike.

Church Artists Visualize Renovation

During April and May, a group of artists from the church will help us to understand the appearance of our church

after the Capital Campaign renovations have been completed.

In this drawing, Rob Dunlavey imagines the new, ADA-compliant entrance at the corner of Great Plain Avenue and Linden Street.

New images will be available weekly in "Constant Contact" emails and will be posted on the bulletin board near the Narthex. Look for them.

Remember, the church is aiming for 100% participation in the Capital Campaign and is requesting your pledge by May 31.





Come see
THE PRODIGAL CLOWN!!
 Saturday May 4th, 4:00pm

The kids in Joyful Noise and Hallelujah Choir have been working very hard to put together our spring musical: The Prodigal Clown! It's a wonderful retelling of the story of the prodigal son set in a circus. There's singing and dancing, as well as a great message for the whole family. Our production will be held on Saturday **May 4 at 4pm** on the stage in Fellowship Hall. **It's free and open to the public**, so we hope many of you will join us that afternoon!

We will also be selling DVD's of the production for \$15. If you're interested in ordering, please let me know! Here is a list of the kids participating in the show: Mia Allen, Olivia Allen, Leyna Blume, Charlotte Bolivar, Nora Brown, Josie George, Nina Johnson, Maria Libby, Nathaniel Malia, Maya Massey, Annabelle Miller, Violet Miller, Chloe Misiak, Elena Oberle, Katherine Rock, Liam Salerno, and Lucy Ward.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU UNDER THE BIG TOP!

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

I hope you can join us for the Prodigal Clown musical on Saturday, May 4th at 4 pm in Fellowship Hall. The music, dance, costumes, actors and actresses are superb. It is a show not to missed. We will have refreshments sold at intermission, and you will be able to order a DVD of the show.

I truly hope everyone will make an effort to attend. It will reinforce the importance we place on our youth and be very rewarding to them to have a warm and appreciative audience. A program booklet will be available with the show sponsors. I hope each of you will thank these generous businesses and individuals by patronizing them. The cost of the show is minimal thanks to their generosity.

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.

June issue deadline:
Thursday, May 23rd.

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Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton,
 Pastor Emeritus

GUATEMALA SERV-A-THON

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all who sponsored a worker at our annual community-service fundraiser on April 27th. And thanks to the two teams of volunteers who tackled projects at: the church (spreading gravel and washing windows); and the Needham Community Farm (helping to build a shed).

Healing Service
 May 9, 7:00 p.m.



Come if you've had a rough day.

Come if you are worried about a friend, looking for work or praying for a loved one.

Come if you are waiting for medical tests.

Come to lay your burdens down.

Come to light a candle.

GUATEMALA SERV-A-THON

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

Junior High Lock-In

All 6th-8th graders are invited to a Junior High Lock-in, starting Saturday, May 4th at 4pm and lasting until 9am Sunday, May 5th. The evening will begin with watching the Children's Musical Performance of The Prodigal Clown, followed by dinner. Then we will carpool to Target to buy supplies to make Care Packages for those in need who visit our church during the week looking for assistance. The evening will close with games and a movie. In the morning, breakfast will be served. Youth must pay \$10 to attend, and must RSVP by May 1st.



5th grade and 8th grade welcome night:

All 5th graders are invited to visit a Junior High Youth Group meeting on Sunday, May 19th from 5-6:30pm. All 8th graders are invited to visit a Senior High Youth Group meeting on Sunday, May 19th from 7-8:30pm. The meeting will include fun games and special snacks!

Youth Sunday

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 9th for Youth Sunday, when senior high youth lead the morning worship service, featuring messages by the graduating seniors.

Christian Education News

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for August 26-29th! Kids ages 3 to 10 are invited to a week of active, adventurous fun at The Congregational Church of Needham's Vacation Bible School program. The theme is "Everywhere Fun Fair" where kids will create crafts, play exciting games, participate in meaningful community service, sing upbeat songs, and enjoy delicious snacks while learning about how to be a good neighbor to people all over the world. The fee is \$20 per day for morning

activities at VBS from 8:30am-12pm. Lunch bunch will be offered from 12-1pm for \$5 per day. Additional children in each family will receive a 50% discount. Save \$20 if you register by August 1!

Registration forms can be downloaded at www.needhamucc.org/learn/vbs

Bible Sunday



Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 12th- all Kindergartners and 4th graders will be given bibles during the worship service.

Bible Village End of Year Celebration

On Sunday, June 2, 2013, from 11:30am-12:30pm, Sunday School children and families and the church community are invited to Fellowship Hall for an end of year celebration. The Christian Education Committee will provide a delicious lunch, awards will be given out for attendance and special recognitions, Sunday School teachers will be thanked, Bible Village kids will sing their songs from the year, and Preschoolers who will enter Bible Village next fall will participate in a rising up ceremony.



GUATEMALA YARD SALE! Don't miss this huge, treasure-filled annual sale.

WHEN: SATURDAY, MAY 18th, 9 am - 2 pm

WHERE: 505 Great Plain Ave. (Dave and Caryl Johnson's)



ITEMS WANTED: Household goods, children's toys/games/equipment, bicycles, sports equipment, electronics, collectibles, jewelry, books/

DVD's, tools, small furniture, lawn furniture, etc. (no clothing, TV's, or computers/monitors).

DROP-OFFS ON SITE: 5:00 pm Sunday, May 12 to Noon, Friday, May 17 (space allowing) at Johnson's garage (505 Great Plain). If unattended, lift left-side garage door, put items inside.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Call Brenda Metzler (781) 449-5696 or e-mail: bmetzler7@verizon.net.

Guatemala Partner-Family Pool Party!

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, June 22nd (Rain Date June 23rd)

At Dianne and Bill Rees' home (81 Clearwater Dr., Westwood) (More Information to Follow)

1154 Great Plain Avenue
Needham, MA 02492-2202

T: 781-444-2510
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On the web at
needhamucc.org

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Congregational Church
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Men's Breakfast, Sunday May 19th "Sustainable practices in ancient Israel"

The Men's Breakfast brings men of all ages and persuasions together in the Library on the 3rd Sun. 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.

On May 19, Paul Brown will remind us that sometimes what seems new is really quite old in a discussion of sustainable practices in ancient Israel. Join us!

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

Friendly Society News

On Wednesday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m. the Friendly Society is planning an exciting program when the Pollard Middle School Band will play for us. Following the entertainment, strawberry shortcake will be served. Everyone is welcome



address

stamp

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

ADULT PROGRAMMING May & June 2013

MAY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2 Lunch	3	4 Prodigal Clown Musical
5 Mission 4/1 Earth Care Sunday	6 Cancer Support Group	7 Community Dinner	8	9 Healing Service	10 Women's Retreat	11 Women's Retreat
12 Mother's Day Dirt Documentary	13 Cancer Support Group	14	15	16	17	18
19 Confirmation	20 Cancer Support Group	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

MAY IS WALK/BIKE TO CHURCH MONTH!

Why not dust off your two-wheeler, pump up its tires, and pedal to church?

MISSION 4/1 ACTIVE EARTH CARE SUNDAY Sun. May 5 - 11:30am

Come and join us for an active Earth Care Sunday. After church during coffee hour the Environmental ministry team will host a table for the writing of advocacy letters on environment concerns to elected officials, local and national newspaper.

We also welcome **Sharon Soltzberg**, a biologist and Horticulture expert, who will answer questions about trees and sustainable landscaping. She will be available for questions also during lunch.

We also hope that you will be able to participate in **plant swapping**. As you share the bounty of your garden, you might be able to pick up something new.

Following the lunch, we will go outside to do some gardening ourselves around the church including trimming bushes and trees, and planting annuals. Please bring your tools and wear appropriate clothing.

How are we doing with Mission 4/1 in terms of hours, letters, and trees? As of April 28, our church members have completed 212 hours of active earth care, planted 92 trees, and written 20 letters. Nationwide, as of May 1st, 116,010 hours have been spent gardening, 20,111

trees have been planted, and 15,531 letters have been written.

As we count our active earth care hours, bikers are encouraged to report their hours as well. They are part of the tally!

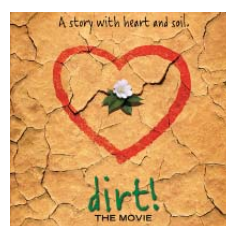
WOMEN'S RETREAT ON CAPE COD - DIFFERENT WAYS TO PRAY

Friday May 10 - Saturday May 11

All women of the church are invited to attend our annual Women's Retreat! This year, we will base our retreat on Anne Lamott's book on prayer, "Help, Thanks, Wow" and we will practice some creative ways around prayer. It will be more hands-on than just words. And of course, there is the fellowship that makes our time together so wonderful and spiritual.

The cost is \$ 98.00 for one overnight and three meals. The absolute deadline to sign up is May 5, 2013.

E-mail Rev. Heike if you plan to attend at revheike@needhamucc.org.



DIRT

Sunday May 12 - 11:30am

Join us in watching DIRT: THE MOVIE. It is a film that takes a humorous look at the glorious and unappreciated ground beneath our

**ADULT PROGRAMMING
May & June 2013**

JUNE 2013						
Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2	3 Cancer Support Group	4 Community Dinner	5	6 Lunch	7	8
9 Computer Programs for Free	10 Cancer Support Group	11	12	13 Healing Service	14	15
16 Father's Day	17 Cancer Support Group	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Cancer Support Group	25	26	27	28	29
30						

feet. Lunch will be available.

"COMPUTER PROGRAMS FOR FREE"
Sunday June 9, 2013 - 11:30 to 1 p.m.
 presented by Keith McClelland

Keith will present an Adult Education program on how to save money and reduce your computer's vulnerability using Linux and Open Source software. Keith writes: "Our computers are vital to our lives today. To most people this means that Microsoft or Apple products are vital as well. There is another realistic option, however, that saves money and nearly eliminates the threats from computer viruses, worms, and bots."

Keith will explore with us some other options - quality Open Source Applications in place of the "usual."

These Open Source products are absolutely free and are worthy alternatives to expensive commercial software. This is one case in which it's not true that "you only get what you pay for."

Furthermore, the internal details of Linux make it virtually unsusceptible to the security vulnerabilities that are so much in the news today.

Keith McClelland will touch on the history of modern computer software and explain the practical advantages and disadvantages of moving into the Open Source world. Come learn what it's all about and whether it's the right move for you on June 9, 2013 at

11:30 am in the Library. Lunch will be provided.

FELLOWSHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Healing service
 May 9 and June 13, 7 p.m. in chapel

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

Lunch with Rev. Heike
 Thursday and May 2nd and June 6th

Monthly lunches are the 1st Thursdays of the month. We will meet in the Library for lunch and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

Community Dinners
 Tuesday May 7 and June 4; 6 to 7 p.m., Linden Hall.

Join us as we host a monthly community supper for the Baby Basic families. Contact Rev. Heike to find out how you can participate. Sponsored by the Outreach Committee.

BUILDING THE FUTURE



CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

Sixty years ago, members of this church envisioned a new sanctuary. They worked together and sacrificed to make it happen. Their legacy to us is this beautiful space, where we worship every week. In this campaign we have an opportunity to envision a new church building which will be our legacy to the families who follow us.

On Sunday, up to 350 people join in our church services, go to classes and participate in meetings. Throughout the week, our church building hosts adult education, cancer and adult transition support groups, community dinners, local meetings, weddings, baptisms and funerals.

And through all this, we put our covenant into action and engage in the world.

Our covenant has a bold and noble vision. Our building needs to reflect that vision:

- We envision a church where people are welcome – and they know it and feel it.
- We envision a community where people are good stewards of the earth.
- We envision a faith rooted in the Biblical traditions but relevant today.
- We inherited a church from people who believed in the future. Now we have a chance to build a church for our children and for theirs.

The “Building the Future” renovations present a vision for the Congregational Church Of Needham we think you’ll find exciting and inspiring.

We’re committing to raise \$4.1 million to make all this happen. This sounds like a lot, but through the generosity of a few donors, we are already on our way. We will need your commitment to help make this vision a reality.



We are a church centered around the values in our covenant. Our church building is an expression of those values. As we conduct our capital campaign, please give your prayerful consideration to our church, what it means to you and the difference it makes in the world today. Join us in making this vision a reality through your generous support.

Together, as a community of faithful people, we can make this vision a reality.

Our Pledge to Build for the Future

Return this card to the church via the collection at worship, mail or email to pledge@needhamucc.org



BUILDING THE FUTURE
THE CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

We will give the following total amount*:

\$ _____ by May 31, 2018

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- Please contact me about electronic giving options.
- Please contact me about giving through a stock transfer.
- Please contact me about adding the church to my will.



*** How Much Do I Give?** To reach this goal we need every pledging family to give an amount equal to their pledge- in addition to their pledge - for 5 years. i.e. If you give \$2000 a year for your annual pledge then we hope you will consider giving \$10,000 to the capital campaign spread out over 5 years.

What will Change?

Today's Building	Our Future Church
<p>Today, most people enter our church through the parking lot door and climb a short flight of steps to get to the Sanctuary or Chapel. Our only handicap accessible entrance is on Linden Street at the opposite end of the buiding from the Sanctuary.</p> <p>We have many doorways and it can be confusing for those unfamiliar with our building.</p>	<p>The new plans include an inviting new entrance on the corner of Great Plain Avenue and Linden Street.</p> <p>There is also an equally inviting entrance from the parking lot, with an elevator making it easy to get to the main floor as well as the CE area on the ground floor.</p> <p>Prominent central doors make it easy to find your way.</p>
<p>Our Sanctuary and meeting Halls are at opposite ends of our building. This can make navigating from place to place confusing for our newcomers and visitors.</p>	<p>The Sanctuary will open to a new Meeting Hall in an inviting, glass-rich atrium, with windows to Great Plain Avenue and a modern kitchen.</p>
<p>Our building does not accommodate those needing handicap accessibility.</p>	<p>Both new entrances will be fully handicap accessible, Our bathrooms will also be handicap accessible.</p>
<p>The building floor plans are not intuitive and our meeting rooms are not easily accessible or multi-functional.</p>	<p>The room layout provides for new conference/class rooms for a variety of needs. Our crib-toddler room will be closer to the Sanctuary. A modern kitchen will open to Fellowship Hall, with an informal cafe.</p>
<p>To access the playground, children have to cross the driveway which is not safe.</p>	<p>We'll have a new playground that doesn't require our children to cross a busy driveway.</p>
<p>Our building is not energy efficient: old windows and doors leak air. We have two very old heating systems, wasting thousands of dollars in heat.</p>	<p>We'll have a green building with energy efficient windows and an efficient heating system that meets today's standards and is more cost effective.</p>