



FOCUS

September 2013 | Vol. 36 Issue 7

Sunday Worship In September

Theme:
Vocation & Call

September 1
Lay Service

September 8
*Welcome Back
Sunday*
"Called into
Community"
Sermon on
Abraham & Sarah

September 15
"Here I AM Lord"
Sermon on
Samuel

September 22
"Your Voice is
Needed"
Sermon on
Esther

September 29
Called to Be a
Good Neighbor
Sermon on
The Good Samaritan

A Message from Rev. Susan Cartmell

VOCATION IS WHERE YOUR DEEP GLADNESS MEETS THE WORLD'S DEEP NEED"
Parker Palmer

A Quaker named Parker Palmer was a university professor in his thirties when he began to realize that he was unhappy with his life. He could not quite figure out what was wrong, because he had pursued a career that he thought would make him happy. But if he was honest, he had to admit that he did not feel very happy. So over the next several years as he pondered his options, he decided to change careers, and become a full-time writer. It was a small change, but a significant one.



The Quakers have a saying "Let your life speak". By this, they mean- don't try to will yourself into the life you think you should be leading, but listen to the deepest channels of your intuition, and try to discern where you are being led.

This month our theme for Sunday worship is Vocation. It is a very big theme in the Bible. The word vocation comes from the Latin word for voice. Over and over the people of the Bible hear a call from God. This month we will read the stories of Abraham, and Samuel and Esther, and question how it was that they heard God's voice so clearly. By listening to God we may be able to gain a deeper sense of purpose- whether we decide to change jobs, or simply find more meaning in the way we do the jobs we already have.

Finding your vocation is not like finishing graduate school or achieving the goal of landing a job. It is much more like a process of self-discovery, in which you un-wrap a gift, and that gift is your best self. "It is like receiving a gift, the treasure of the true self I already possess." (Parker Palmer).

Whatever age you find yourself, and whatever stage of life you currently enjoy, I invite you to consider the question "Who am I?" and to think about that question with new interest, and a deep sense of wonder.

Peace,
Susan

WORSHIP THEMES FOR THE 2013-14 PROGRAM YEAR

September - Vocation & Call

October - Faith: Our UCC Statement of Faith Comes to Life

November - Forgiveness: The Prodigal Son

December - Family: The Birth of Jesus

January & February - Evil & Good: The Seven Deadly Sins

March - Healing: Healing Stories of Jesus- Can We Really Be Healed Today?

April - Transformation: How Do We Experience Real Change?

May - Stewardship- A Way of Life: Feeding of 5000 in John's Gospel

On Vocation and Call by Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister



As a child, I had all kinds of ideas about what I wanted to do with my life. A chef on a cruise ship was just one of many ideas but it was high on the list. The problem was, East Germany did not have any cruise ships.

When I started attending Leipzig Theological Seminary in Germany, I did not think that it would lead me into ordained ministry. I assumed that my studies would lead to a career in teaching. When I came to the US and attended Bangor Theological Seminary, I still was not sure, where my path would lead me.

All I knew was that I wanted to serve God and the church. The church had been an integral part of most of my life that it seemed natural to “stick” with the church.

My time at Bangor offered me a variety of experiences at the school and within small communities of faith where I could see how people lived out their faith. As my faith was deeply enriched by these experiences, it dawned on me that this is what I wanted to do with my life: to serve a church by serving its people – caring for them in the midst of joy and sorrow, celebrating worship with them, working with every age group represented. But was that what God was calling me to do with my life?

Well, the simple answer is ‘yes’ because I still want to serve God and the church. There has never been a doubt about that. Being a minister in a congregation has allowed me to do all of the things I envisioned I would do, and more. I love the saying, “comfort the afflicted, and afflict the comfortable.” Even though the saying was not said in a religious context, it is what Jesus did. He affirmed and cared for the afflicted, and he confronted the comfortable (those in power). Following Jesus’ ministry is what we are called to do: to comfort and to challenge – sometimes ourselves and each other, or our community, or our society, or the world we live in. That is exciting and a little scary all in one, but it is the only way to “live into the Kingdom of God”.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

Following the decision by the US Supreme Court to legalize marriage for all people, and strike down the DOMA law, Susan Cartmell and Peggy O Connor would like to invite the church to their wedding.

You are all cordially invited to attend the wedding of Susan and Peggy- Saturday November 9, 2013 at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Dinner and dancing in Fellowship Hall, following the Ceremony.

Please RSVP to the church office- office@needhamucc.org by October 20, if you want to attend the dinner.

We sincerely hope that you will join us for this special occasion.



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.

October issue deadline:
Thursday, September 18.

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Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton,
Pastor Emeritus

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



Greetings! I hope you had a wonderful summer! I am very much looking forward to Sunday School and Youth Group starting on Sunday, September 8th. Calendars and registration forms are available at www.needhamucc.org – I would love ALL kids, new and returning, to have a form filled out for them. Allergy information is ESPECIALLY important! For Youth Group, these forms also count as permission slips for all special events all year! Also online, you can find volunteer sign-ups for Sunday School and Youth Group. I am hoping that each Sunday School family can sign up for 6 times to teach during the whole year, and Youth Group families sign up for 3 spots to chaperone during the whole year.

Here is some basic information about our programming this year!

Sunday School

- Crib/toddler: For infants through 2 years old. Meets at 10am in the nursery.
- Preschool: For all preschoolers. Meets at 10am in Preschool Room on lower level.
- Grades K-6: The first Sunday of the month is Chapel Sunday, meet in Chapel at 10am and then join family for communion in the sanctuary. Other Sundays, start in sanctuary at 10am and then go to Bible village after the Children's Time. Bible Village starts in the chapel for a song and lesson, and then kids go to a different workshop each week- Art, Cooking, Theater, Story, Games, or Science.
- Grades 7-8: Class at 10am in Stevenson Hall.
- Grades 9-12: Youth Lounge at 10am in the Stevenson Hall Youth Lounge

Youth Group

- Junior High (Grades 6-8): Meets 5-6:30pm most Sundays in Stevenson Hall for games, discussions, community service, special events and more!
- Senior High (Grades 9-12): Meets 7-8:30pm most Sundays in Stevenson Hall for games, discussions, community service, special events and more!

Hope to see you at church soon! And please let me know if you need anything or have any questions!! Additionally, thank you all for your well wishes for my wedding. It was fabulous and I extremely appreciate all of your love and support!



Installation Service for Rev. Jamie Green

The Congregational Church of Needham will hold an installation service on Sunday, September 15, at 5:00 p.m. for Rev. Jamie Green. While she has worked at the church for three years as Youth Director, she has now been officially called as Associate Minister for Youth and Children.

The formal installation of a minister in a local UCC Church is a public celebration and ritual that confirms the call of a minister to a church and is a re-affirmation of the covenantal relationship with all the UCC churches in the association and the conference.

Rev. Jamie's installation service is in the sanctuary of the Congregational Church of Needham beginning at 5:00 p.m. The youth-oriented service will include elements of experiential worship and contemporary music. Following the installation service is a pizza dinner in Fellowship Hall.

This is a public event to help celebrate Rev. Jamie's ministry in Needham. Friends and neighbors in the community are invited to attend.

Environmental Ministry Team

The members of the Environmental Ministries Team (EMT) hope you had a great summer!

We would like to invite anyone interested in joining our team to our first post summer meeting on Sept 10 at 7pm in the church library. "Our goal is to transform attitudes and commitments, towards living in harmony and justice with all life and towards preserving earth for future generations. We work through education, worship, building and grounds, discipleship at home and at work, and public ministry."

Please put our next Climate Change Café on your calendars for October 27 after church in Linden Hall. See the Adult Offerings insert for more information.

Check out these Courses offered through the Needham Community Ed program:

1. Climate Reality by Quentin Prideaux
2. Solar 101 by Green Needham Collaborative
3. Green Products for you and your Home by Jennifer Gibbs

See their course catalog at The NCE Fall 2013 Adult Ed Catalog is here, at http://rwd1.needham.k12.ma.us/community_education/documents/AE/AE_F13_cat.pdf or call 781-455-0400 x 235

Members: Isabell Wells (co-chair), Anne Hayek (co-chair), Caryl Johnson, Carla Virschoor-Kirss, Carol Brown and Jennie Haynes.

Thank you!

SAY CHEESE!

We are currently collecting pictures for our updated Church Directory. Send a great photo of you and your family to the church office at office@needhamucc.org. The last directory was filled with fun shots of individuals and families at home, during the holidays and on vacation so send them in!

If you don't have one - don't worry! We'll be collecting images all summer and, in the fall, and we will have some picture taking sessions several Sunday's after worship.



August Delegation Report Back
Sunday, September 22 at 11:30 am (Linden Hall)
 The August delegation was large in numbers of people and they were inspired by the spirit of the people of Santa Maria Tzeja. Come hear what the travelers have to say about their experiences, learn what they did, and see if they visited your partner family. Join us for refreshments and photographs in Linden Hall on Sunday, September 22 immediately after Coffee Hour.

SAVE THE DATE: Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)! Limited Engagement!
 Sunday, October 20 (7 pm), &
 Monday, October 21 (7 pm).
 At the Needham Congregational Church, Fellowship Hall.

See a light-hearted adaptation of all the bard's classics in a two-act tour-de-force (farce?), starring Joshua Scharback and two of his professional actor colleagues. Ticket prices are \$40 per person/ \$25 per student. Enjoy complimentary refreshments and enjoy newly acquired Guatemalan crafts and donated items that will be available for purchase. Sponsored by the Guatemala Partnership of the Congregational Church of Needham. All proceeds will benefit education and community development in our partner village, Santa María Tzejá.

Join the February 2014 Delegation to Guatemala
 Brenda Metzler is seeking youth and adult travelers to join the February 12-23, 2014 delegation to Santa María Tzejá. Tickets need to be purchased soon, preferably in September, so please contact Brenda with your interest or questions @ (781) 449-5696 or via e-mail: bmetzler7@verizon.net. You'll receive an information sheet on trip details and cost. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind opportunity

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

The Chancel Choir begins rehearsing again every Thursday--- Junior choirs and Friendly Chime Ringers begin to rehearse on Sundays--- piano and organ have been recently tuned---choir room has been cleaned and polished---- What is going on? It must be September at the Congregational Church of Needham! We plan to start off the Fall music season in full swing. We have a lovely new choir room and music office located in Linden AB, just off Fellowship Hall. We are already preparing for the Christmas Concert on December 8th at 5 pm, where Antonio Vivaldi's rarely heard and relatively unknown Introduction and Gloria will be performed. We will sing the Fauré Requiem with the Canton Choral Society in the Spring. We welcome Elizabeth Sterling as our new soprano soloist. We welcome all members and music lovers to participate in the music ministry at the church, whether in choir or as an instrumentalist or chime ringer.

If you would like to know more about our music program and what it offers, please contact me at the church or via email- drderegis@verizon.net. I so look forward to seeing you soon either in worship or the choir room- or possibly both!

FRIENDLY SOCIETY POT LUCK SUPPER



Our annual pot luck supper will be held on Wednesday, September 18, at 6:00 p.m. in Linden Hall. Rev. Heike will entertain us with a talk about her summer trip to Greece and Turkey. All members of the church are welcome. If you are not a member of Friendly and would like to attend the supper, please call Doris Cook at (781) 444-5591 or email her at DorisCook2@aol.com.

All members of the church are cordially invited to Friendly's October meeting on Wednesday, October 16, at 7:30 p.m. when Gary Landgren, "Honky Tonk Piano Man" will entertain us with music, including ragtime, swing, and early jazz. There will also be a sing-along to many memorable songs. So please save October 16 on your calendar and join us for an informal and lively presentation, followed by delicious refreshments.

THE ORDINATION OF JOHN ALLEN



On September 29, 2013 we will celebrate John's ordination into Christian ministry. A celebratory service will begin at 3 pm. Dr. Barbara Lundblad, Joe R. Engle Professor of Preaching at Union Theological

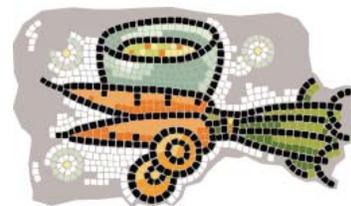
Seminary will give the sermon. Everybody is invited to attend this joyous occasion.

John grew up in our church. After he finished High School here in Needham, John attended Davidson College in NC. After graduating college, he enrolled at Union Theological Seminary to pursue a Master of Divinity. At Union John was awarded the Hudnut Preaching Prize and the Muilenburg Prize in Biblical Studies. He graduated in May of 2013, and has been chosen as one of two Pastoral Residents at the Wellesley Village Church where he will serve the next two years.

Community Dinners

Our Community dinners on the first Tuesday of every month are a wonderful way to connect with our neighbors and friends. We have gotten to know a number of the Baby Basics Families. Many of you have volunteered the day of the dinner. Outreach has supported the program from the very beginning. We will continue our monthly dinners, and here is how you can help:

1. Shop for the meal (coordinate with Rev. Heike).
2. Setting up the room.
3. Help serve the meal.
4. Have dinner with old and new friends.
5. Provide a dessert.
6. Clean up after the meal.



Please contact Rev. Heike (revheike@needhamucc.org) if you are interested in volunteering.



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Men's Breakfast, Sunday September 15th "Checking In & Going Forward"

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

On September 15, we will look forward to the new church year! Join us!

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

address

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

**ADULT PROGRAMMING
September & October 2013**

SEPTEMBER 2013						
Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3 Community Dinner	4	5 Lunch with Heike	6	7
8 Welcome Back Sunday Bible Study College Freshman Parent Potluck	9 Cancer Support Group	10	11	12 Bible Study	13	14
15 Bible Study Dead Sea Scrolls Rev. Jamie Installation	16 Cancer Support Group	17	18	19 Bible Study	20	21
22 Bible Study Dead Sea Scrolls	23 Cancer Support Group	24	25	26 Bible Study	27	28
29 Bible Study Dead Sea Scrolls Ordination of John Allen	30 Cancer Support Group					

Welcome to another exciting year of Adult Education courses at the Church! We hope you are able to make room on your calendar to stay for lunch and a lecture/class. Unless otherwise noted, Adult Ed classes begin with lunch (\$3 per person) at 11:30 am. Classes end by 1 pm.

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday's at 11:30am or Thursday's at 10:30am

This fall Rev. Susan will offer a new Bible Study Group based on the book- "Saving Jesus from the Church" by UCC minister Robin Meyers. His provocative book is full of common sense as it casts new meaning on traditional ideas about faith. His book is available on Amazon or in the church bookstore at a discount.

We will offer 2 groups to study this book
Sundays at 11:30 a.m. - facilitator - Sunu Yeh
Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. - facilitator - Christine Weitzel

Please contact the church office - office@needhamucc.org to reserve a place in one of these groups or to order a book. For more information contact Sunu (dormouse99@gmail.com) or Christine (crweitzel@verizon.net), or Rev. Susan (revsusan@needhamucc.org).

COLLEGE FRESHMAN PARENT POTLUCK

Sunday September 8 - 5:30 p.m.

Your child has started a whole new adventure in life, and he or she is all set, more or less. But you are

beginning a whole new adventure too. Let's come together for a potluck on Sunday evening September 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the Library. Share stories of the drop-off, and share ideas about what this new adventure will look like from a parent's perspective. Hosted by Rev. Susan, who said "goodbye" to three young adults as they embarked on college careers, with varying degrees of success.

UNDERSTANDING THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

September 15, 22 & 29 at 11:30am & October 13* Presented by Nate Ramsayer

Claimed by many as the greatest archaeological discovery of the 20th century, the Dead Sea Scrolls have fascinated the minds of scholars and laypeople for over 60 years. What exactly are these ancient texts? Who wrote them? Why are they so popular? What insights have they given us into ancient Israel? Join biblical scholar and archaeologist Nate Ramsayer as he leads church members down the path of discovery into the world of the Qumran community, its history, and what lies inside these treasured fragments of Hebrew scripture. Classes will be Sept. 15th, 22nd, and 29th from 11:30-1:00. Lunch will be provided for \$3.00.

****PLUS**—join us on Sunday, October 13th for a field trip to the Boston Museum of Science's exhibit Dead Sea Scrolls: Life in Ancient Times, where Nate will accompany church members to see some of the actual scrolls themselves, along with thousands of artifacts from ancient Israel! Don't miss out! Please RSVP to revheike@needhamucc.org.

ADULT PROGRAMMING SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2013

OCTOBER 2013						
Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	1 Community Dinner	2	3 Lunch with Heike	4	5
6 Bible Study Christianity in the 21st Century	7 Cancer Support Group	8	9	10 Bible Study	11	12
13 Bible Study FIELD TRIP Dead Sea Scrolls @ MOS	14 Columbus Day	14	16	17 Bible Study	18	19
20 Bible Study Minor Prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures	21 Cancer Support Group	22	23	24 Bible Study	25	26
27 Bible Study Climate Change Cafe	28 Cancer Support Group	29	30	31		

**CHRISTIANITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY:
DISCERNING THE FUTURE THROUGH THE PAST**
Sunday October 6, 11:30am

Christopher Evans, professor at BU's School of Theology will lead this informative class on "Christianity in the 21st Century: Discerning the Future through the Past". By providing a brief look into important themes in American religious history, the class will look at how recent shifts in American religious behavior might impact Christianity's development in the decades ahead. Chris has also just published a new book Histories of American Christianity: An Introduction. Check it out on Amazon.

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS FIELD TRIP
Sunday October 13, Museum of Science

We are taking a Field Trip to the Museum of Science to see the "Dead Sea Scrolls". Rev. Heike has made a group reservation for 16 people for 1:30 p.m. The cost as of now is \$ 29.50 per person. If you let me know by September 22 that you wish to go, we can accommodate pricing for children and seniors. After church we will have lunch and then carpool to the Museum.

**THE MINOR PROPHETS OF THE HEBREW
SCRIPTURES**
Sunday October 20, 11:30am

Help me welcome back Professor Greg Mobley of Andover Newton Theological School as he presents another wonderful lecture at our church, this time on the Minor Prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures.

CLIMATE CHANGE CAFE
Sunday October 27, 11:30am

The Environmental Ministry Team is sponsoring a Climate Change Café. Anne Dorfman, the Needham RTS director speaking to us about our transfer station, their recycling efforts and what their future plans are to continue to help make Needham a greener community.

**FELLOWSHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH
OPPORTUNITIES**

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 September 5 & October 3

Food builds community. We all have to eat, but we don't have to eat alone. Everyone is cordially invited to have a simple lunch at the church on the first Thursday of every month and weekly during the time of Advent and Lent. Soups are vegetarian based (most of them) but always lactose and nut free.

Everyone is welcome!

Community Dinners
Tuesday October 1 & November 5
6 to 7 p.m., Linden Hall

Sponsored by the Outreach Committee.