



FOCUS

March 2014 | Vol. 37 Issue 3

Sunday Worship In March

Theme:
Healing

March 2

Friends and Faith
Rev. Heike

March 5

Ash Wednesday
Rev. Heike

March 9

Many Paths to
Healing
Rev. Heike

March 16

Taking Time to
Listen
Rev. Heike

March 23

Healing Them All
Rev. Heike

March 30

Wanting To Be Well
Rev. Heike

A Message from Rev. Heike Werder

THE HEALING MINISTRY OF JESUS

Our sermon theme for March is Healing and we will explore together the healing stories of Jesus. Have you noticed that wherever Jesus goes, people bring him their sick? Lacking largely in scientific knowledge of medicine, people believed that sickness was caused either by sins of the sick person or of his relations, or that it was punishment for sin. Also, sickness was usually attributed to demons. Another explanation for a person getting sick was that they disobeyed God's law, and illness was God's punishment.

Many sick people were considered unclean, and therefore excluded from community. Many were hidden at home, other had to live far away from any community (lepers), and those being possessed by demons were kept tied up somewhere. From all that I have read, it was devastating to have an illness in Jesus's time. Being excluded from community life meant that you had no means of earning a living, and were reduced to begging at the gates of the town. Maybe family would take care of you, but most of the time, sick people were left to their own devices in hope that someone would have mercy on them.

When Jesus started his ministry, he made it one of his tasks to heal. He had mercy.

When Jesus healed people he restored them to a life worth living. He brought people back into community, and he taught people that exclusion is wrong.



It is interesting to note that nearly one-fifth of the Gospel accounts is devoted to Jesus' healing ministry. Out of the 3,779 verses in the four gospels, 727 relate specifically to the healing of physical and mental illness and the resurrection of the dead. I find it so very interesting that the attention given to the healing ministry of Jesus is far greater than any one kind of experience recorded, including salvation. I guess he must have been really good at it, or people were in great need of healing.

I am going to explore the topic of healing with the healing stories from the gospel of Mark, and ask the question: What is needed to be healed?

Along with the sermon series I intend to read a book by Bruce Epperly, "God's Touch: Faith, Wholeness, and the Healing Miracles of Jesus".

Come and join us for worship, as we begin this reflective sermon series in the season of Lent.

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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE :

Seeking: Choir Members

Positions open: Soprano, alto, tenor, bass. No others need apply.

Physical requirements: Ability to carry light notes part way across Sanctuary.

Experience: No applications accepted from persons who have not sung in car or shower.

Salary: Satisfaction, joy in God's service.

Fringe benefits: Social Security- security of social fellowship with other choir members.

Hours: Sunday mornings, rehearsal evenings, with occasional opportunities for overtime (Christmas, Easter, etc.) at above mentioned salary.

Vacation: Missed rehearsals and services are a matter of personal conscience and ability to return glares and remarks of choir director.

Retirement: No particular age, generally determined by prayer, printed notes too small, robe too heavy, notes too high, organist unable to play notes you sing.

(found over 25 years ago by Bobby in the choir room of First Presbyterian Church, Cazenovia, NY)

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.

April issue deadline:
Thursday, March 20th.

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Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton,
Pastor Emeritus

GABRIEL FAURÉ'S REQUIEM

Saturday,
May 3rd
7:00 pm

Performed by the Chancel Choir of the
Congregational Church of Needham
and the Canton Choral Society



February Delegation Reportback - Sunday, March 9, 11:30 am

Please join the recently returned delegation for a colorful and informative presentation of their experiences in Santa María Tzejá. This is an opportunity for partner families, newcomers and anyone interested to see what our project is all about and how it impacts those who have the

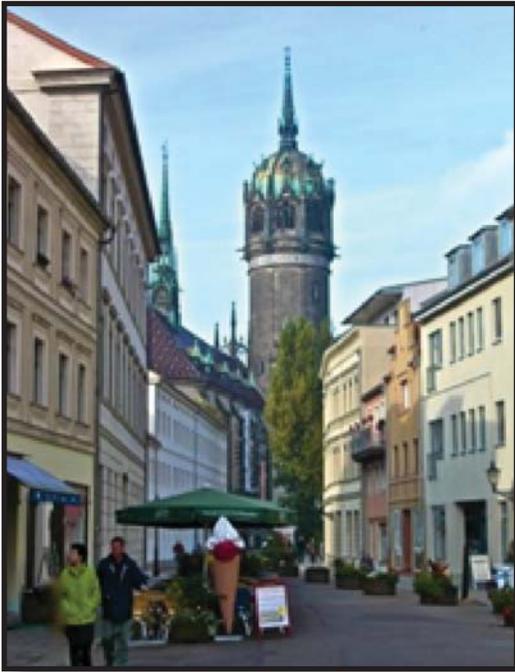
opportunity to go. Light refreshments will be served.

Aug. 2014 Delegation to Guatemala

The group planning to travel to our church's partner village in Guatemala is forming. Travel dates are Aug. 6-17, 2014. If interested contact Caryl Johnson; caryljohnson@gmail.com or Alan Clayton-Matthews; a.clayton-matthews@neu.edu, the co-leaders of this delegation.

Come Fly With Me To Germany! by Rev. Heike Werder, Assoc. Minister

Are you interested in a trip to Germany to explore the life and ministry of Martin Luther? To entice you I will highlight one of the stops on our possible travels in Luther's footsteps.



Castle Church at end of Schlossstrasse

We will be visiting Wittenberg to explore the main attractions.

This sleepy little town in rural eastern Germany doesn't look like the center of a revolution. But the events that played out here in the 16th Century shook the foundations of Christendom.

It was here in Wittenberg, Germany, that Martin Luther lived and preached, and on October 31, 1517, he nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church. The Protestant Reformation had begun.

For such a small town, there is a lot to see:

- The town itself. A charming collection of 16th Century houses and a striking market square.
- The Castle Church. It was on the doors of this impressive church that (allegedly) Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses. Luther's grave is inside.
- The Town Church. Another beautiful Medieval church where Luther preached many sermons.
- Luther's Residence. Martin Luther lived in this converted cloister with his family for many years. Now a museum.
- The Oak Tree planted where Luther burned the Papal Bull.
- Lucas Cranach's Home and art studio. This artist documented much of the Reformation with his portraits and woodcuts.

Other things to see:

- The Castle Museum, in the castle part of the Castle Church building. History of Wittenberg, from prehistoric times through the middle ages and later as a Prussian garrison town.
- Philip Melancthon's House, on Collegienstrasse. Luther's friend and fellow theologian, who contributed enormously to Lutheran doctrine.
- An East German nostalgia museum, Haus der Geschichte, on Schlossstrasse. Rooms furnished in 50's, 60's and 70's DDR style.
- An interesting second-hand shop on Mittelstrasse, crammed with German Army items, WWI to the present.

We might actually stay for a night and two days to explore the town and all it has to offer. Interested? There is room on the sign-up sheet in the hallway.

Friendly Society News

Friendly's next program meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. in Linden Hall. Nate Ramsayer, our multi-talented lead Tenor in our church choir, will entertain us with a musical program, including jazz standards and oldies from artists such as Frank Sinatra, Bobby Darin, and Dean Martin. There will also be a sing along.

Nate has been doing a series of classes and lectures on archeology from time to time after church on Sunday. We guarantee that his musical program will be just as entertaining as his lectures have been. Everyone is welcome. Please come and enjoy a musical evening followed by delicious refreshments.



CHURCH RENOVATION NEWS



Our Capital Campaign pledges are bearing fruit! Here are some recent Church Renovation News Updates.

Our renovation planning is moving along on many fronts. We have hired Jonathan Smith to be our OPM (Owner’s Project Manager) and he has started the process of selecting and hiring a CM (Construction Manager, sometimes called “Contractor”). The progress over the last month has mostly been behind the scenes work by architects, engineers, a lawyer, and various town bodies and officials. The Design Team has started meeting with the church’s abutters to inform them of our plans and seek their input.

An early summer groundbreaking is still expected with completion in approximately 12 months. The

architect has been planning how we will be able to use parts of the building during construction. Creativity and flexibility will be needed!

- The Sanctuary will always be available for Worship.
- The areas used by KASE, Noah’s Ark, and The Center will be available when school is in session.
- Parts of Linden Hall and the choir rooms will be set up as temporary church offices and a small kitchen.
- A large portion of Fellowship Hall will be available for various uses.

The images that were presented at the Annual Meeting and the script that accompanied the presentation are available on our website at <http://needhamucc.org/connect/building-our-future>.

For direct links:

[Click here for the 1/26/14 Annual Meeting Slide Show](#)

[Click here for the script that accompanies the slides](#)

CHURCH DIRECTORY

If you have had any changes to your information that would be in the new Directory (names, address, phone email...) please email that information to office@needhamucc.org or call 781-444-2510. Thank you.

Environmental Ministry Team

CLIMATE CHANGE CAFÉ
March 30, 11:30-1pm - Native Shrubs and Trees

Spring and gardens are on our minds! So, to get us ready to prepare and plant our gardens, the Climate Change Café will feature Betsy Sanders of the Massachusetts Master Gardeners Speakers Bureau. She will speak on the importance of planting native shrubs and trees. Learn about summer flowering trees and shrubs, fall color beyond maples, plants so exotic you’ll never believe they grow right here.



Why is this topic important? Choosing native plants allows developed landscapes to coexist with nature, rather than compete with it. Learn why native plants can reduce maintenance, need less water, and need no pesticides or fertilizers. Native plants provide food and shelter for native insects, birds, amphibians and mammals.

THERE IS NO BETTER TIME TO GO SOLAR!
 Now that Needham has been accepted into the

Solarize Mass program, residents have an incredible, limited-time opportunity to have solar electric panels installed at substantially discounted prices.

After a thorough vetting process, the Solarize Needham Team has selected Astrum Solar as Needham’s “One Trusted Installer.” Homeowners and businesses who sign contracts with Astrum Solar by June 30 will be eligible for the special discounts. Options will be available for outright purchase and for no-money-down arrangements. To learn more, please come to the “Meet the Installer” night on Wednesday, March 5th, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Powers Hall in Needham Town Hall.

At this event the Solarize Needham Team will formally introduce Astrum Solar’s Needham representatives and will explain in detail what Astrum Solar has to offer. The goal for the night will be to answer any and all questions.

Can’t get to the meeting? Check out the Solarize Needham website at www.solarizeneedham.org or contact “Solar Coach” Artie Crocker at solarcoach@solarizeneedham.org

Youth Ministry News with Rev. Jamie Klopotoski, Youth Minister

Bible Village Singing: Sunday, March 16

The Bible Village kids (grades K-6) will be singing in church on Sunday, March 16. We have been practicing our special song for several weeks and can't wait to share it with the congregation!

New Curriculum for 7th-8th grade Sunday Class!

Beginning March 2 until April 27 (with the exception of March 9 and April 20), the 7th and 8th graders will be watching part of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe until the movie is finished. Mallory Livingston will be leading the class each week at 10am. During each session, students will participate in a meaningful discussion about the Christian themes that can be identified in the movie. Special thanks to Sandra Summers (a member of our church, and seminary student at Andover Newton Theological Seminary) for help writing the curriculum!

Sign up to teach Sunday School: The Christian Education Committee is looking for some lovely volunteers to help teach Sunday School this Spring. Do you like cooking? Do you like telling stories? Do you like art, theater, science or games? Then you should sign up to be a workshop teacher in Bible Village! You can stay in the Sanctuary for worship to hear the sermon and come to class by 10:45am. All materials are in the classes, and all prep work is done. The Bible lesson is even already taught! All you do is lead the kids in a special activity that supports the



bible lesson. And you teach the SAME workshop lesson each week, just to different age groups. It's fun, easy and rewarding!

We especially need volunteers for:

Games or Theater: March 9, March 16

Story or Science : March 23, March 30, April 13

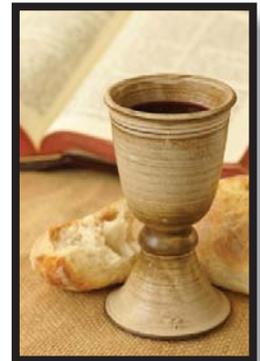
Theater, Art or Games: April 27, May 11, May 18

Sign up here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4FAAAC2BAA8-201320141>

or contact Rev. Jamie at revjamie@needhamucc.org.

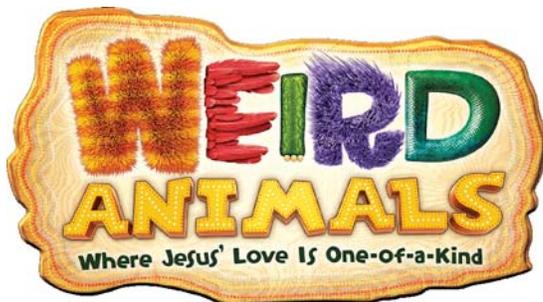
First Formal Communion: In

our church, we offer 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 22nd from 10-11:30am**. Childcare will be available for children not in 1st and 2nd grade. First Formal Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, April 6th 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!) Please RSVP by emailing revjamie@needhamucc.org



Vacation Bible School

**Tuesday, April 22 - Friday, April 25
8:30am-noon**



Kids ages 3-11 are invited to a week of active, adventurous fun at The Congregational Church of Needham's April Vacation Bible School program from Tuesday, April 22 through Friday, April 25, 8:30am-noon. The theme is "Weird Animals: It's okay to be different- Jesus loves us all" where kids will create crafts, play exciting games, participate in meaningful community

service, sing upbeat songs, and enjoy delicious snacks.

The fee is \$25 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. Scholarships are also available.

Register ONLINE at www.needhamucc.org/vbs



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On the web at
needhamucc.org

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Congregational Church
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Men's Breakfast, Sunday March 16 "Healing & Curing"

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 March 16, we will address the March worship theme of "Healing" by discussing our thoughts and experiences with healing and curing. How do the stories of Jesus' healing and our personal faith complement the nitty-gritties of modern health care?

Contact Keith McClelland (kmm1km@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 - March & April 2014

MARCH 2014						
Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2 Bible Study Bible History 101	3 Cancer Support Group	4 Prayer Shawl Knitters Community Dinner	5 Ash Wednesday Service	6 Bible Study Lenten Lunch with Heike	7	8
9 Bible Study Bible History 101	10 Cancer Support Group	11	12	13 Bible Study Lenten Lunch with Heike	14	15
16 Bible Study	17 Cancer Support Group	18	19	20 Bible Study Lenten Lunch with Heike	21	22
23 Bible Study Translating the Bible	24 Cancer Support Group	25	26	27 Bible Study Lenten Lunch with Heike	28	29
30 Bible Study Climate Change Cafe	31 Cancer Support Group					

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: SING, MEDITATE, PRAY

Wednesday March 5, 7pm

Let us worship together in the tradition of Taizé with prayers, readings, and meditation times in the chapel,

BIBLE HISTORY 101

Sunday March 2 & March 9, 11:30am

Presented by Nate Ramsayer

Many of us learn Bible stories as children, but by now, how many do you actually remember? This class will be a fun, interactive way to reacquaint yourself with that blue book sitting in front of you in the pew (or on your bookshelf at home). Join biblical scholar and archaeologist Nate Ramsayer as he guides church members through the history of ancient Israel, how events and people fall in chronological order, and what material and textual evidence exists for these classic tales! Two Sundays in March: March 2nd, and March 9th, 11:30-1:00. Lunch will be provided for a minimal fee!

TRANSLATING THE BIBLE

Sunday March 23, 11:30am

Presented by Greg Mobley

Ever wonder why there are so many different translations of the Bible? Greg Mobley, professor at Andover Newton Theological Seminary, is presently working on a Biblical translation for a new commentary, and will give us a close up view of what goes into the decisions a translator makes.

BIBLE STUDY

Consider joining one of our Bible Study Groups!

Thursday Group - 10:30 - noon.

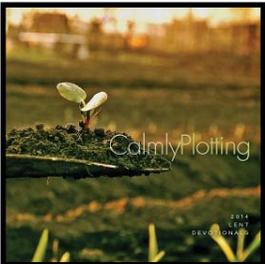
Led by Christine Weitzel.

They are discussing a new book, The Lord is My Shepherd. Check out the book - a wonderfully insightful classic by Rabbi Harold Kushner. Find out more from Christine - cweitzel@verizon.net.

APRIL 2014

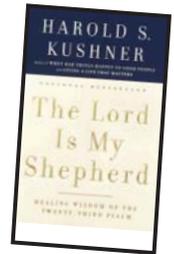
Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
		1 Prayer Shawl Knitters Community Dinner	2	3 Bible Study Lenten Lunch with Heike	4	5
6 Bible Study	7 Cancer Support Group	8	9	10 Bible Study Lenten Lunch with Heike	11	12
13 Palm Sunday Bible Study	14 Cancer Support Group	15	16	17 Bible Study Maundy Thursday	18 Good Friday	19
20 Easter Sunday	21 Patriot's Day Church Closed	22	23	24 Bible Study	25	26
27 Bible Study	28 Cancer Support Group	29	30			

Sunday Group - 11:30 - 12:30 after church - This group will be reading the gospel of Luke one chapter each week to look deeper into the life and teachings of Jesus. For more information, please e-mail Sunu at dormouse99@gmail.com.



LENTEN LUNCH WITH HEIKE
March 6 - April 10, Noon

Please join us for a delicious soup lunch every Thursday during Lent in the library. Rev. Heike will be reading from the "Calmy Plotting" UCC 2014 Lenten Devotional each week.



COMMUNITY DINNER - EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
March 4 & April 1 - 6pm

We gather for our next community dinner on March 3, 2014. Everybody is welcome to join us for dinner, not just Baby Basics families and volunteers. If you like to help with dinner prep, set up and clean up, please contact Rev. Heike. Otherwise just come! Dinner starts at 6 pm and ends around 7 pm. Help with clean-up is always appreciated! Our next Community Dinner will be April 1st.

SAVE THE DATE - WOMEN'S RETREAT

MAY 9-10, 2014

It is not too early to clear your calendar for the annual women's retreat! Rev. Heike has made the reservation with Craigville Conference Center in Centerville, MA on Cape Cod. We will be staying in the Manor overseeing the ocean. All women are invited to attend!

