



# FOCUS

April 2014 | Vol. 37 Issue 4

## Sunday Worship In April Theme: Transformation

**April 6**  
Personal  
Transformation  
*Rev. Heike*

**April 13**  
Palm Sunday  
Societal  
Transformation  
*Rev. Heike*

**April 17**  
Maundy Thursday  
*Rev. Heike*

**April 20**  
Easter  
*Rev. Heike*

**April 27**  
Community  
Transformation  
*Rev. Heike*

## A Message from Rev. Heike Werder

### TRANSFORMATIONS: PREPARE FOR CHANGE!

From my study window, I have a good view of my front yard. Even though we have had about two days that tell us spring is coming, my yard looks pretty beaten up. It is very hard to imagine that in a few weeks spring flowers will come out of the ground and the grass will turn green again (well, after a solid dethatching). Even though it does not look like it yet, flowers and grass are preparing for new growth and are readying themselves to emerge.

There is something about this time of year that provides an uplifting sense of newness, a feeling of hope. Yesterday's challenges of bundling up, winterizing the yard and all the things that required protection from the harsh New England winter have dissipated. Those tasks are no longer needed and outdoor activities are very close to resuming. In many ways, true transformation is about to happen.

As we observe change from our natural, out-of-doors environment, maybe there is a transformation waiting for us internally. With spring coming, maybe we somehow ascertain changes within ourselves as well. The things that may have bogged us down previously don't seem to matter quite so much. Maybe the hope of spring is helping us to change that which needs changing. Maybe there is a new start in all of us - not just our natural world.

The sermon theme for the month of April is Transformation. It is quite an appropriate theme for the month when our faith story takes us into the darkest moments of Jesus' life and then into the most hopeful aspects of our Christian faith.

Christ came to transform his world 2000 years ago. Everyone he met was changed. And Christ is still changing us today, still changing our lives. I want to explore with you what it means to live a transformed life - as people of faith and as a society.

I plan to offer sermons on the theme of transformation as we make our way toward Easter. I will preach on personal transformation (April 6), on societal transformation (April 13; Palm Sunday), on the biggest transformation of all: Easter (April 20), and on the transformation of community after the resurrection (April 27).

Please join us for worship as we prepare ourselves to be changed.



## CALLING ALL SOUP MAKERS!

Calling on all soup makers for Maundy Thursday Dinner! We will be gathering for a simple soup dinner on the evening of Maundy Thursday at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to contribute a home-made soup for our supper together, please email Rev. Heike at [revheike@needhamucc.org](mailto:revheike@needhamucc.org) or call 781-444-2510.

The dinner will be followed by the Worship service led by the Deacons at 7 pm in the sanctuary!

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

April is going to be a musically exciting month here at The Congregational Church of Needham. On April 3rd, member Teresa Winner Blume will lead a choral clinic for the Chancel Choir and the Canton Choral Society as we perform Gabriel Fauré's Requiem together. Teresa is on the voice faculty of Gordon College and holds a Master's of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music. All the elements of excellent choral pedagogy will be discussed and demonstrated. This will make for a spectacular performance of the Requiem on May 3rd.

On Sunday, April 6th at coffee hour, please come and meet our wonderful new Youth Music Director, Valerie J. Becker. Valerie holds a Master's of Music degree from Boston University, and has been on the music faculty at Winsor School for over 30 years. Valerie has written her philosophy of music for young singers, and is included in this edition of FOCUS. Please take the time to read this inspiring and thoughtful composition. Parents and children are invited and encouraged to personally speak to Valerie, youth choir members, and members of the Music Team. Come look for the music table in Fellowship Hall!



On Wednesday, April 23rd The Friendly Society will host a demonstration and explanation of the Casavant pipe organ in our sanctuary. Come see, hear, and discover more about the King of Instruments! Further information is included in this edition of FOCUS.

## Outreach

### Church-wide Hunger Relief Events

Did you know that 1 in 5 children struggle with hunger, and 1 in 6 families face food insecurities in the U.S.? Since Christmas time, the Outreach Committee has been focusing some of its funding efforts on hunger relief organizations. Now it's time for the congregation to get involved!

A series of opportunities in April & May have been coordinated for you to learn about the issue of hunger and to actively make a difference -- in Needham, in Boston, and more broadly. Activities are appropriate for all ages -- there's something for everyone!

**\* Experiential event:** We'll launch the series with a lunch-and-learning event after church on Sunday, April 13, an experiential session that will enlighten your thinking about hunger and present some important voices in our area's fight against food insecurity.

**\* Volunteer opportunity:** A 2nd annual volunteer effort at Pilgrim Church in Dorchester is planned for Saturday, May 3. Families and individuals will carpool to Pilgrim Church to help prepare and serve a free mid-day meal to in-need members of the community. Please sign up near Heike's office.



**\* Movie Night:** The award-winning PBS film "A Place at the Table" with Jeff Bridges will be shown one evening in May (date TBD). Follow the journey of food insecurity and the serious implications that hunger poses in America.

**\* Can drive:** Over the course of May, this year's Confirmants will be leading a can drive ending on Youth Sunday, June 1st, as food pantries are most in-need of donations during non-holiday periods.

Stay tuned for more details!

## 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).

May issue deadline:  
**Thursday, April 24th.**

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# *My approach to music education for children, Valerie Becker, Youth Music Director*

Music has been an integral part of my life since the age of four, so it has never seemed like a job. It is my passion and I want to share and instill that passion in others. I have been very blessed in working with some of the world's most gifted musicians and teachers. They have been my inspiration throughout my life.

Music touches the soul in a very unique way. It is in our everyday lives, in everything that we do. Everyone benefits from having music in his or her life. Music awakens curiosity, encourages risk taking, builds teamwork, community, cooperation, and collaboration, and teaches respect and patience. By exploring different facets of music there are opportunities to enhance and expand life skills such as connection with others, confidence, pride and joy. Music is math. Music is language, science, history and more!

Knowing my students is also very important to me. Taking an interest in their likes and dislikes makes our relationship both in and out of the classroom or rehearsal a more fulfilling one. A teacher does not know everything and must be willing to listen and think about thoughtful suggestions and comments from their students.

The students that are in my classroom are active musicians! Regardless of their age or their level of ability, I truly believe that all my students can succeed in exploring and discovering the richness and beauty of music. It is important to encourage

them in a caring, positive, supportive and safe environment and to make the study of music engaging, fulfilling, and enjoyable.



I want to introduce children and young adults to choral singing and instill in them, a life-long passion for choral music. Singing in a chorus is a wonderful way to be involved in a very accessible art form. It is probably the most popular form of public participation in the arts and many people will be involved in a chorus either in school, their church or their community at some point in their lifetime. Singers contribute to an artistic product that is greater than who they are and that result is something of great beauty. I believe that when children are exposed to choral singing early in their lives, they will stay involved with choral singing throughout their lives.

Ultimately, I want my students to be proud of who they are, what they can accomplish and to have a desire to be a responsible citizen in both their school and their community. Music encourages compassion, gentleness and sensitivity. Their success is a tribute to their work to be the best that they can possibly be. I don't want my students to settle for less; on the contrary, I encourage them to be their best.



## Friendly Society News

ORGAN APPRECIATION  
101

Did you ever want to know more about our church organ? Please join the Friendly Society for an evening of light-hearted entertainment on and about the organ in a unique program by Dr. Robert DeRegis (Bobby), our Director of Music Ministries. The program will take place on Wednesday, April 23, at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. As we all know, the breadth and depth of the music in our church is a gift and celebration. We welcome everyone to come and enjoy this most beautiful and majestic of instruments.

Refreshments will follow this musical evening.

## Easter Plant Donations

Please consider making a donation this Easter season to the Flower Fund in honor of loved ones. We are grateful for the flowers/plants that decorate our church and will acknowledge your generous offering in the Easter Sunday Bulletin. Unless you indicate otherwise, the flowers/plants that are used will be offered to our chancel choir to take home after the service as a symbol of appreciation for their gift of music.



Please return the Flower Offering envelope or contact the office at [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org).

## Environmental Ministry Team



### Go Solar or Divest from Fossil Fuels for Earth Day

Last July, the UCC General Synod voted overwhelmingly to call for divesting

from and the reduction of fossil fuels at all levels, from individual worshippers to church endowments to the national pension funds. Our very own UCC Mass Conference sponsored this resolution.

At our church, we are actively investigating solar energy for our electrical use, to be installed in conjunction with the renovation. This is an opportune time with the town focus on the Solarize Needham program. Fossil fuels are used to fire most New England power plants, and due to transmission losses, these plants have to produce 200-300% of the

electricity needed to meet our demand, so clearly this would be a great reduction for our congregation. Individual residents are encouraged to join Solarize by June. However, only 10% of residences in New England are deemed appropriate for solar. If you are part of the other 90%, what can you do? Besides energy efficiency and conservation measures, one new opportunity has arisen: green investing. A first mutual fund, Green Century Equity, will have stripped from their portfolio all fossil fuel companies by April 1.

Earth Day is Tuesday, April 22. Why not check out Solarize or green investing as an Earth Day action this year?

For more information:

<http://macucc.org/news/detail/239>

<http://solarizeneedham.org>

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2014/01/26/getting-carbon-out-your-portfolio-tricky/7kXPQFKtecjnc7BxnquWCO/story.html>

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2014/01/26/getting-carbon-out-your-portfolio-tricky/7kXPQFKtecjnc7BxnquWCO/story.html>

<http://greencentury.com>

## 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



### Guatemala 'Servathon' Sponsors/Workers Needed (April 12):

The Guatemala Partnership hopes to be able to count on your support as Sponsors and/or Volunteer Workers for our day of community-service work projects at the church and in the wider community (April 12th). Please contact Nancy Lane at: [nrlane6@hotmail.com](mailto:nrlane6@hotmail.com), if you are able to work on this fundraiser, and/or please support the volunteer workers who may ask for your pledge in the next few weeks. The proceeds support education and community development in our sister village of

Santa María Tzejá. Thank you.

**Guatemala Yard Sale (May 17th) -- Save the Date and Your Donations:** As you do your spring cleaning, please set aside any items in clean, working condition that you would like to donate to the Guatemala Yard Sale (no clothing). Children's gear, toys, and current sports equipment in good condition are especially desirable. And of course, household items, collectible or vintage items, artwork, electronics (no TV's or computers), books, games, bikes, outdoor furniture, or small indoor furniture items are also welcome. The May FOCUS will have more details, but please hold your items until the week before the sale (May 12th). Please contact Brenda Metzler at: [bmetzler7@verizon.net](mailto:bmetzler7@verizon.net), for any questions or to volunteer.

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

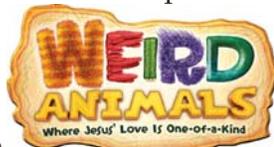
### Easter Egg Hunt Candy Needed by April 13th:

Please drop off bags of INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED candy with NO NUTS (no Snickers, Butterfingers, Reeses, Pay Day, Almond Joy, etc) so the youth group can pack all the Easter eggs with candy! Good suggestions: individually wrapped Skittles, Starburst, Jolly Ranchers, Dots, Laffy Taffy, Lemonheads, etc.



### April Vacation Bible School- April 22-25, 2014:

All children ages 3-11 are invited to attend April Vacation Bible School at The Congregational Church of Needham from Tuesday, April 22 through Friday, April 25, 8:30am-noon. This year's theme is "Weird Animals" where kids will create crafts, play exciting games, participate in meaningful community service, sing upbeat songs, and enjoy delicious backyard snacks, while learning that it is okay to be different; God still loves us all! The fee is \$25 per day for morning activities at VBS from 8:30am-12pm. Lunch bunch will be offered from 12pm-1pm for \$5 per day. Additional children in each family will receive a 50% discount. Receive \$20 off if registered by April 1. For more information or to register, visit [www.needhamucc.org/vbs](http://www.needhamucc.org/vbs) or call the church office at 781-444-2510.



### Sunday School Volunteers Needed:

Please take a moment to look at the volunteer needs for Sunday School. ALL adults in the church community are invited to volunteer. You don't have to have kids in the program, you do not have to be a church member, and you don't need to have any special expertise. Lesson plans are easy to follow and all supplies are in classrooms. Sign up by contacting Rev. Jamie or visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4FAAAC2BAA8-201320141>

**Crib/Toddler:** Watch the babies in the nursery from 10-11am. Dates needed: Apr 6, 13, 27/ May 4, 11, 18, 25.

**Preschool:** Assist our preschool teacher from 10-11am. Dates needed: Apr 6, 13, 27/ May 4, 11, 18, 25.

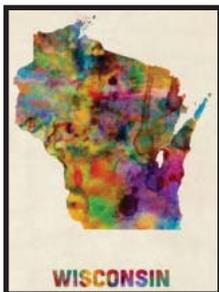
**Workshop Teachers** (lead 3 sessions of the SAME lesson to different age groups. AND you can stay in sanctuary for the sermon as long as you are in class by 10:45am.)

**Theater Workshop:** April 27, May 11 and May 18

**Games Workshop:** April 27, May 11 and May 18

**6th-8th Grade Assistant:** Help our teacher with the class from 10-11am. Dates needed: Apr 13, May 11, May 18

**9th-12th Grade Assistant:** Help our teacher with the class from 10-11am. Dates needed: Apr 6, 13, 27/ May 4, 11, 18



## Senior High Mission Trip - Madison, WI June 22-29, 2014

Tentative schedule: Fly to WI on Sunday, Work 9-4 Monday through Friday, Waterpark and Banquet on Saturday, Fly home on Sunday. Evening activities will include: Ultimate Frisbee,

Lasertag, and State Street/Capitol Building tour.

**Work:** TBD, but may include: carpentry, demolition, landscaping, painting, and other service work in low income neighborhoods.

**Housing:** Sleeping at Heritage Congregational Church in Madison, WI; showers at local YMCA. Cost: \$500 per person. \$100 deposit due April 6th and \$400 final payment due June 1st. Includes: flight, food, housing, special activities, building

supplies, and all other trip costs.

**Supplies needed:** Work boots (think thick soled and toe protection!), safety glasses/goggles, work gloves, and a tool belt with hammer (16-20 ounce, straight claw), tape measure (minimum 12 foot), speed square, carpenter's pencil, #2 phillips head screwdriver, 1/4 inch flat tip screwdriver, pliers, utility knife, torpedo level.

All youth participants need to return a signed permission slip (available here: <http://needhamucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Mission-trip-RSVP-2014.pdf>) with the \$100 deposit by April 6th.

If any adults are interested in chaperoning, please let Rev. Jamie know!

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On the web at  
[needhamucc.org](http://needhamucc.org)

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Congregational Church  
of Needham UCC

**Men's Breakfast, Sunday April 27th**  
*(note the change of date due to Easter Sunday)*  
**"Transformation: Within and Without"**

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 April 27, we will address the April worship theme of "Transformation" by discussing how we use our Christian faith in the 21st century to address changes in our lives and those of others.

Contact Keith McClelland ([kmmlkm@rcn.com](mailto:kmmlkm@rcn.com)) for more information.



**CHURCH**  
**directory**  
**update**

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

Check the Narthex this month to confirm your contact information for your listing in the church directory. If you do not see your name and you wish to be listed please email the office at [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org).

All pictures must be in by May 1, 2014 to ensure they will be in the 2014 Directory. If you have any pictures of happenings at the church please send those as well to [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org)

address

stamp



## ADULT PROGRAMMING - April & May 2014

APRIL 2014						
Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
		<b>1 Prayer Shawl Knitters Community Dinner</b>	2	<b>3 Lenten Lunch with Heike</b>	4	5
<b>6 Bible Study</b>	<b>7 Cancer Support Group</b>	8	9	<b>10 Lenten Lunch with Heike</b>	11	12
<b>13 Palm Sunday Bible Study Focus on Hunger</b>	<b>14 Cancer Support Group</b>	15	16	17 Maundy Thursday	18 Good Friday	19
<b>20 Easter Sunday Easter Egg Hunt</b>	<b>21 Patriot's Day Church Closed</b>	22	23	24	25	26
<b>27 Bible Study</b>	<b>28 Cancer Support Group</b>	29	30			

### FOCUS ON HUNGER - EXPERIENTIAL LUNCH AND LEARN

**April 13, 11:30am**

The Outreach Committee has been focusing some of its funding efforts on hunger relief organizations. Join them as they launch a series of events highlighting hunger relief with a lunch-and-learn event after church on Sunday, April 13. This will be an experiential session that will enlighten your thinking about hunger and present some important voices in our area's fight against food insecurity.



### WOMEN'S RETREAT

**May 9 and 10, 2014**

**Craigville Conference Center**

This year's theme for the retreat is "Undoing our stressful lives through Mindfulness". Sue Findlay-Walters and Rev. Heike will lead you in exploring the spiritual theme of being mindful, exercise mindfulness to yoga, walking the beach and the labyrinth, and discover some practical ways that remind us to be mindful.

It is time to sign-up for the retreat. There is a sign-up sheet by the offices, or you can simply e-mail Rev. Heike ([revheike@needhamucc.org](mailto:revheike@needhamucc.org)) to reserve your spot. We are residing in the Manor House again - the one overlooking the beach!

### BIBLE STUDY

Consider joining one of our Bible Study Groups!

#### Thursday Group - 10:30 - noon.

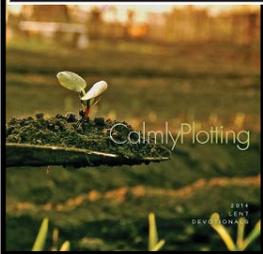
Led by Christine Weitzel.

They are discussing a new book. Find out more from Christine - [cweitzel@verizon.net](mailto:cweitzel@verizon.net).

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](mailto:dormouse99@gmail.com).

# MAY 2014

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
				1 Bible Study Lunch with Heike	2	3 Choral Concert
4 Bible Study	5 Cancer Support Group	6 Prayer Shawl Knitters Community Dinner	7	8	9	10 Women's Retreat
11 Bible Study Mother's Day	12 Cancer Support Group	13	14	15	16	17
18 Bible Study	19 Cancer Support Group	20	21	22	23	24
25 Bible Study	26 Memorial Day Church Closed	27	28	29	30	31



## LENTEN LUNCH WITH HEIKE

April 3 & 10, Noon

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

## LUNCH WITH HEIKE

Thursday May 1, Noon

Let's Eat Together!

Please join us for lunch on May 1st in the library. This is our monthly get together. Our last lunch of the season will be Thursday June 5th. Everyone is welcome!

## COMMUNITY DINNER - EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

April 1 & May 6 - 6pm

We gather for our next community dinner on April 1, 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 May 6th.

## GERMANY ANYONE?

Date TBD

Are you interested in taking a trip to Germany next year (June 2015) with Rev. Heike to travel "In the Footsteps of Martin Luther."

Rev. Heike will be presenting an outline and discussion of what the trip will entail May, 2014. Keep your eyes open for the announcement!





# Holy Week and Easter Events

AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF  
NEEDHAM

## **PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH** 10:00am Worship

Holy week begins as we celebrate Palm Sunday. This day commemorates Jesus' ride into Jerusalem on a donkey when the people laid down palms on the ground before him to welcome him.

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH** Dinner 6:00pm, Worship 7:00pm

Tonight we gather to remember the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. The celebration recalls not only the Last Supper, but Jesus' last commandment to his disciples: "Love one another as I have loved you." Join us this evening at 6pm for a simple soup supper followed by a 7pm candlelight communion service featuring a dramatic reading of the story of Holy Week.

## **EASTER WORSHIP & EASTER EGG HUNT,** **APRIL 20TH** 9:00am Worship, 10:00am Easter Egg Hunt, 11:15am Worship

Jesus has risen! Hallelujah! Celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord. Two services will be offered, 9am and 11:15am.

A celebratory family  
Easter Egg Hunt will commence at 10am.