



FOCUS

May 2014 | Vol. 37 Issue 5

A Message from Rev. Susan Cartmell

STEWARDSHIP!

**Sunday
Worship In
May**
Theme:
Stewardship

May 4
Is There Ever
Enough? What
Does the Bible
Say?
Rev. Susan

May 11
Bible Sunday
The Impact of
Your Gift: A
Sermon on the
Loaves and Fishes
Rev. Susan

May 18
Confirmation
Rev. Heike

May 25
Memorial Day
Stewards of our
Memories: Spiritual
Stewardship
Rev. Susan



John Dominic Crossen is one of the most intriguing Biblical scholars we have today. One of the highlights of my sabbatical was the chance to hear him speak at a conference just this last weekend. He looked at the story of creation and talked about a new interpretation of human behavior which he saw there. Most people read the Bible and find a lot of evidence for the idea that God is mad at the people and feels the need to punish them. It is a pretty depressing view but people in churches have subscribed to it for centuries.

Crossen contrasts the notion of punishment with consequences. This is a view that I find much more evidence for in the Bible. I don't believe that the Bible tells us that we are flawed but that we need to be aware that there will be consequences to our actions. I think that is the point of the Garden of Eden story and many of the subsequent stories in both the Old and New Testament. The point of the Bible is not that we are flawed but that we are grown-ups and need to heed the lessons of scripture. We will be wise to remember that when we make decisions, knowing we will have to live with the consequences. In the end I think this interpretation is actually very freeing. It places responsibility on our shoulders but it also gives us a new sense of human agency.

This month our worship theme is Stewardship. I hope to talk about what it means to be the stewards of creation. I mention the difference between punishment and consequences because I believe that when we think about consequences of our actions we step into a more mature view of our role in God's world, and we can live into the potential for good stewardship which God may have had in mind at the beginning of time.

**save THE
DATE!**

**YOUTH SUNDAY!
SUNDAY, JUNE 1ST**

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

As I write this, our Chancel Choir is busy preparing the Fauré Requiem for a performance with the Canton Choral Society. Music has an amazing way of uniting people and bringing out their best. The positive energy and excitement has been wonderful. We are excited about this endeavor, and hopefully it will be the first of many more. We had a terrific turnout of youngsters to meet our new youth music director Valerie J. Becker. We have some new voices joining the ranks, and there is still room for more. There is always a

welcome for new members in the Chancel Choir as well. Music truly is good for the soul.

A Musical Musing:

The fugue is the perfect form for a postlude. As the voices enter, the people leave. When all the voices are in, all the people are out!
Camille Saint-Saëns,
organist and composer
(1835-1921)



**GABRIEL FAURÉ'S REQUIEM &
CANTIQUE DE JEAN RACINE**

**SATURDAY
MAY 3RD
7:00PM**

A Spring Concert,
presented by the
Chancel Choir of
the Congregational
Church of Needham
and the Canton Choral
Society at the
Congregational
Church of Needham.
Free will offering.

 CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

CHURCH RENOVATION NEWS

We are thankful for everyone who has pledged to our Capital Campaign, the most successful to date in our church history. Our campaign is still active so if you haven't yet pledged it's not too late. Email your pledge to pledge@needhamucc.org or fill out a pledge form on the web site at <http://needhamucc.org/come/building-our-future>.

On Sunday April 13th, Board Moderator, David Dirks called a meeting to discuss some new developments in our Capital Campaign. [Click here \(http://needhamucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Capital-Campaign-Information-and-Meeting-Sunday-April-13-11_00am.pdf\)](http://needhamucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Capital-Campaign-Information-and-Meeting-Sunday-April-13-11_00am.pdf) to see the email



he sent to the congregation a few days before the meeting. Since the all church meeting the Board has submitted a non-binding offer to the owners of the property next door and we are awaiting news on whether our offer was accepted. If the offer is accepted watch your email and the church bulletin for news on a Congregational Meeting. If our offer is not accepted we will proceed with all our efforts focused on plans to renovate our current building.

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 22.

Rev. Susan Cartmell
Sr. Minister
revsusan@needhamucc.org

Rev. Heike Werder
Assoc. Minister
revheike@needhamucc.org

Rev. Jamie Green Klopotoski
Youth Minister
revjamie@needhamucc.org

Danielle Jurdan
Administrator
office@needhamucc.org

Bobby DeRegis
Music Ministries Dir.
drderegis@verizon.net

Doris D. Cook,
Volunteer Office Asst.

Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor
Emeritus

Moderator's Corner with David Dirks, Moderator, Church Board

It has been an event-filled first few months as the church's new moderator, and I'd like to start this column by thanking all the thoughtful, passionate, and dedicated people that have helped me to survive these first hectic months.

In February, we had our board retreat and reconfirmed the church's strategy of growing in spirit, growing in number, and growing in community presence. We started off by defining some specific board priorities for 2014. Of course, the renovation project and capital fund raising were high on the list this year, but we also identified stewardship, membership development, whole church evaluation, communications, rental income sources, and even coffee hour as areas we'd like to focus on this year. We quickly agreed to hire a project manager for the anticipated building project and a part-time development assistant to help with the capital campaign.

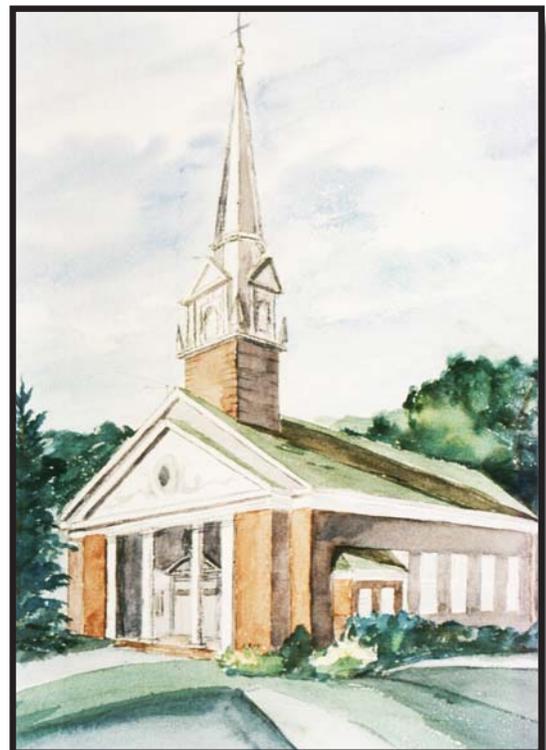
Jonathan Smith, our new project manager turned out to be an immediate good fit. A straight shooter with the necessary experience, he reviewed the plans and immediately procured a new cost estimate before proceeding with final permitting and contractor selection. Unfortunately, on March 31st we learned that the cost estimate was significantly more than prior estimates. The estimate was in the range of \$7.25 million to \$8 million. It was difficult news, and even after we worked with our architect for a second opinion, we recognized that the costs for the plan we had were at least \$4.5 to \$5.5 million. We decided to stop all work on the project before we had really started, and we went back to "first principles" to decide our priorities for the project so that we could prioritize and develop a more affordable plan.

Around the same time, as the door seemed to be closing on the more ambitious version of the renovation, another door seemed to open. We learned that the neighboring DayStar property was for sale. Although the estimated offer price (per the selling broker) of \$1.5 million was a lot of money, it would give us room to grow and as part of a master plan it could be symbiotic with the planned renovation.

On April 13th we met with the congregation after services to share an update and get feedback. We heard that although there was recognition of this potentially historic opportunity, there was also concern about financials - both in the initial purchase and in the costs of ongoing maintenance. There were questions about whether we really needed that much space, and whether we could afford to maintain our main building and this new wing also. These were good questions that we need to examine carefully.

As I sat in services last Sunday and admired our Sanctuary I thought about how previous generations had made it possible for us to have such a beautiful refuge and I was reminded to make sure we likewise think about the long term future of the church. I imagine the new building full of programs and the main building with more open spaces that invite the community in, and it is an exciting vision for what we could grow to be. For now, we are continuing to stay involved in the Daystar bidding process, and are keeping our options open without binding ourselves to any final decisions. We hope to meet with the congregation again soon and hopefully will have more information to share.

It's certainly an exciting time to be involved in the leadership of the church. I am confident that whether we proceed with the DayStar opportunity or whether we commit only to a more modest upgrade and renovation of the existing building, we have much to look forward to as we create a more open, inviting, accessible, functional and useful space for us to congregate, learn, and worship.



Youth Ministry News with Rev. Jamie Klopotoski, Youth Minister

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS:

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/Preschool: Assist our preschool teacher and help watch the babies from 10-11am. Dates needed: May 4, 11, 18, 25 // June 1, June 8

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: May 11 and May 18

Games Workshop: May 11 and May 18

Art Workshop: May 18

Shepherds (Bring kids from chapel to their workshops and assist the teachers)

Grades K-1: May 11

Grades 4-5: May 11

Bible Sunday

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 11th- all Kindergartners and 4th graders will be given Bibles during the worship service.

Bible Village End of Year Celebration

On Sunday, June 8, 2014, 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Senior High Mission Trip Information

Dates: June 22-29, 2014

Location: Madison, WI

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, State Street/ Capitol Building tour, etc

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 May 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, ¼ 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 May 6th.

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

5th and 8th grade welcome night:

All 5th graders are invited to visit a Junior High Youth Group meeting on Sunday, May 18th from 5-6:30pm. -

All 8th graders are invited to visit a Senior High Youth Group meeting on Sunday, May 18th from 7-8:30pm.

The meeting will include fun games and make-your-own-ice-cream-sundaes!!



Youth Sunday

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 1st for Youth Sunday, when senior high youth lead the morning worship service, featuring messages by the graduating seniors and music by the youth choirs and worship band.

Youth Group End of the Year BBQs: June 1st, 2014

Junior High: 1-3pm, location TBD

Senior High: 5-7pm, Cotton Residence (40 Sunset Rd, Needham)

Please bring a dish to share based on your last name: A-D: Dessert, E-K appetizer, L-P: salad or side dish, R-Z: Drinks.

Hot dogs, burgers, and veggie burgers will be provided. Youth and parents and siblings welcome! Rain location at the church.

Sabbatical Report with Rev. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister

Part of my contract as your Senior Minister was the understanding that I would take time every five years to refresh myself and learn some new things that I could bring to you.

With the support and recommendation of the Deacons I have been on a sabbatical for most of February, March and April.

Dissertation

I have often referred to this Sabbatical as a Study Leave because the main job I had during the time I was not in the church office was to complete my dissertation at Andover Newton Theological School. As you may remember my dissertation tells the story of how our church discovered themes for worship and developed a program to employ them for the last five years. I discuss our experience, our success and lessons learned. I offer a look at the themes in the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments, as well as themes that arise from questions of faith that people ask in churches today.

During the sabbatical I needed to re-write sections of the dissertation and edit it (seemingly endlessly) several times before I was ready to defend it. On March 18 I was successful in defending the dissertation and then completed the process of preparing it for the reference librarian. It was a great relief when everything was finally accepted. I am very grateful to the church for the chance to work on this project and to the deacons for our support of the idea of using themes. When I reviewed the literature I discovered that many churches are questioning the lectionary today, but not many churches have designed a program quite like ours, so I hope we can share some of our ideas with a larger audience, in time.

Conference

I attended the Awakenings Conference where the preacher was Bishop Yvette Flunder and the lectures were delivered by John Dominic Crossen, in my mind the foremost Jesus scholar of our time. It was very stimulating and inspiring. It has given me many sermon ideas.

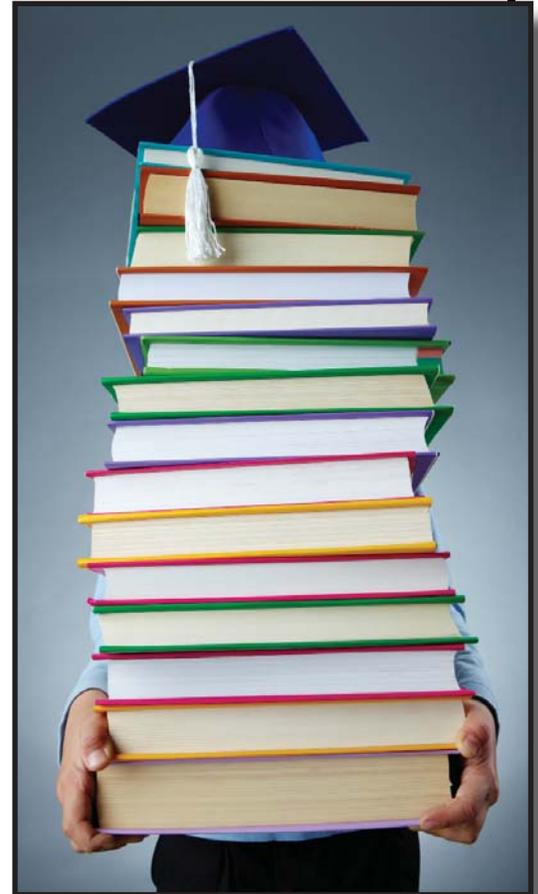
Family Memories

Sabbaticals are intended to offer rest and refreshment too. So I drove to Indiana and then came back and drove to Maryland, which was more refreshing than you might imagine. I was able to be with our daughter Elizabeth at the time of the birth of her new baby- Miriam Isabelle. That was an experience I will cherish forever. I also stayed to help for a week, which gave me new respect for all the work my mom did for me when I had children.

I visited Jon and Nancy in Maryland for Easter. It was the first Easter since 1987 that I have not preached, but Ruth had eaten a lot of candy that morning and needed to sit on my lap. It worked for both of us and I did not miss preaching so much. Nancy preached a great sermon, which I enjoyed.

Peggy is serving as interim at the Pilgrim Church, Harwich Port and I spent time there walking the beach and soaking up the pre-season quiet in that community. I enjoyed attending church events and volunteered to preach on Palm Sunday, which was really fun.

In some ways this was not a "normal" sabbatical because for several reasons I was pulled back into the orbit of activity at the Needham church, but sometimes things work out that way, and I had enough variety, stimulation and plenty of driving to feel like I really got away. I remain grateful to the Deacons, to my colleague Heike, and to all of you for supporting sabbaticals for your ministers. I find these experiences lift my horizons in many important ways and make me better equipped to serve you.





BOSTON PRIDE

Enjoy the 44th annual Boston Pride Parade and Festival on Saturday, June 14, as part of the MA Conference ONA church marching delegation. This year's

theme is "Be Yourself - Change the World." Sounds very UCC, don't you think? To sign up to march with the Conference group, contact Kathie Carpenter (kacarp@comcast.net) by June 1st.

Also plan to attend the wonderful Pride Morning Worship at 9:30am at Old South Church UCC, celebrating 10 years of Equal Marriage. The service will feature award recipients Episcopal Bishop Tom

Shaw and the Rev. Frank Schaefer (defrocked United Methodist minister), Hillary Goodridge reading from The Goodridge Decision, and the new the Litany: Ten Years and the Sky Hasn't Fallen.

30th ANNIVERSARY OF ONA TO BE CELEBRATED AT MA CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

The 1984 Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference UCC adopted the first in the nation Open and Affirming Resolution. This led to the nation resolution adopted by the General Synod of the UCC in 1985. There will be a celebration of this anniversary during this year's meeting on June 14 in Sturbridge, MA. See the conference website <http://www.macucc.org> for information about the meeting.



GUATEMALA YARD SALE! SATURDAY, MAY 17th, 9 am - 2 pm

Don't miss this huge, treasure-filled annual sale (in its 24th year!) that supports education and health in Santa Maria Tzeja.



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

ITEMS WANTED: Household goods, children's toys/games/equipment, bicycles, sports equipment, electronics, collectibles, art, jewelry, books/DVD's, tools, small furniture, lawn furniture, etc. (NO clothing, TV's or computers/monitors).

DONATION DROP-OFFS: Starting 5:00 pm Sunday, May 11 (to Noon, Friday, May 16, space allowing) at Johnson's garage. If unattended, lift left-side garage door and put items inside.

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

Partner-Family Letters Available

The partner-family letters brought back by the February delegation have been translated

and are ready for pick-up. Each envelope also contains news from the village, and if your partner family hosted the delegation for a meal, there will be a short description of the visit. Please stop by the Guatemala table at Coffee Hour on May 4th and 11th to check for your letter. Remaining letters will be mailed out.

More Guatemala Partner Families Needed!

Several additional families in Santa Maria Tzeja who would like to be letter-writing 'partners' with families from our church. Might your family be interested? This involves writing to your 'partner family' twice a year. Volunteer translators will translate your letter into Spanish. Our February and August delegations distribute the letters during their visit in the village. The village families write back and the delegation brings their letters back to Needham. This is a wonderful way to introduce your children to the global community and to share your lives with people from a different culture. Typically, as the correspondence continues, both the Needham and SMT partner families begin to see that, although our cultures and economic situations differ in many ways, the basics of family life and caring and hopes for the future have a universal resonance. For more information go to: guatemalapartners.org or talk to Val Kistler or Dave Johnson. Val can be reached at 781-449-6270 or valk228@gmail.com.

OUTREACH: CHURCH-WIDE HUNGER RELIEF EVENTS

As follow-up to the Hunger lunch & learn and showing of the award-winning PBS film "A Place at the Table" with Jeff Bridges, the Outreach Committee has two more opportunities to actively make a difference in local hunger relief:

*** Volunteer opportunity:** A 2nd annual volunteer effort at Pilgrim Church in Dorchester is planned for Saturday, May 3. Families (ages 8+) and individuals will carpool to Pilgrim Church to help prepare and serve a free mid-day meal to in-need members of the community. Meet at church by 8:30 a.m. to carpool, returning around 2:00pm. Please sign up near Heike's office by May 1st. Here's what some of last year's participants had to say:



Two 12 year olds:

- "I had fun being a waitress for the day. We got to serve the families their meal. It felt good hearing the people thank me for being there."
- "I definitely want to go again next year and it was a fun thing to do with my friends."

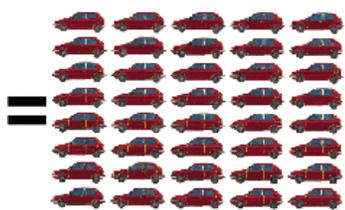
Adult:

- "Everyone was so appreciative of our help and time - from the organizers to the patrons - people thanked us again and again."
- "It was very well run and organized. Tasks were divided, we were instructed what to do and there was always someone to answer questions if needed."
- "Several hours well spent."

*** Can drive:** Over the course of May, this year's Confirmation Class 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. Please help add to the collection boxes! Thank you for participating in our hunger relief awareness and involvement efforts!

Gas or Electric?

From the Environmental Ministry Team



We all know a push mower is best for the environment and for our bodies, but when you need a little extra power should you choose

a gas or electric mower?

- Each weekend, about 54 million Americans mow their lawns, using 800 million gallons of gas per year and producing tons of air pollutants. Garden equipment engines, which have had unregulated emissions until the late 1990's, emit high levels of carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides, producing up to 5% of the nation's air pollution and a good deal more in metropolitan areas.

- According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a new gas powered lawn mower

produces volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides emissions air pollution in in one hour of operation as 11 new cars each being driven for one hour.

Electric mowers produce 32lbs CO2 annually compared to 194lbs produced by a gas mower.

We use 19 trillion gallons of water per year watering our lawns!
3 million tons of lawn chemicals are used each year. Lawns receive more pesticides per acre than agriculture.

Each year, lawn chemicals produce CO2 emissions equivalent to 4,074,583 cars!

DON'T FORGET THAT MAY IS WALK/BIKE TO CHURCH MONTH!

Check the EMT bulletin board for more information on what you can do to reduce your carbon footprint. There are also tree planting guides available to help you pick the proper native tree for your property.



CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

1154 Great Plain Avenue
Needham, MA 02492-2202

T: 781-444-2510
F: 781-444-3580

office@needhamucc.org



Men's Breakfast, Sunday May 18th
"Stewardship away from the eyes of others"

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 May 18, we will address the May worship theme of "Stewardship" by discussing the importance of stewardship when no one is looking. Contact Keith McClelland (kmm1km@rcn.com) for more information.

Guatemala Serv-a-thon Appreciation

Many thanks to all who sponsored a worker at the April 12th community-service fundraiser for the Guatemala Partnership. Two enthusiastic teams of adult and youth volunteers tackled a variety of small projects at the church and some major spring preparations at the Needham Community Farm (filling 7 huge raised beds with leaf compost and soil for spring planting). Funds raised will support scholarships and teacher salaries in Santa Maria Tzeja.

address

stamp

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



ADULT PROGRAMMING - April & May 2014

MAY 2014

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
				1 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 Confirmation	19 Cancer Support Group	20	21	22	23	24
25 Bible Study	26 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	27	28	29 Bible Study	30	31



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) to reserve your spot. We are residing in the Manor House again - the one overlooking the beach!

BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Group - 10:30 - noon. Led by Christine Weitzel. Find out more from Christine - 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.

LUNCH WITH HEIKE

Thursday May 1 & June 5, 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!

May 6th and June 3rd - 6pm

We gather for our next community dinner on May 6, 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 June 3rd.

JUNE 2014

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
1 Youth Sunday Bible Study	2	3 Community Dinner	4	5 Lunch with Heike	6	7 Choral Concert
8 Bible Study	9 Cancer Support Group	10	11	12	13	14
15 Bible Study	16 Cancer Support Group	17	18	19	20	21
22 Bible Study	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Bible Study	30					

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Are you, by any chance, looking for an outreach/mission project for the whole family? If so, read on.



Since Fall of 2010 our church has supported Family Promise Metrowest. This organization is a cooperative, interfaith partnership providing safe transitional shelter, meals, and case management as they seek permanent housing in the Metrowest area.

How does it work? There are Host Congregations that provide overnight accommodations for homeless families by converting church rooms into bedrooms, one week at a time, three to four times a year. Each Host Congregation is paired up with one or two Support Congregations who provide additional volunteers, supplies and support during host weeks. Support Congregations help with shopping for supplies and groceries, cooking and sharing evening meals with the families, homework of the kids, playtime, set up and take down of rooms at the Host Congregation, or support the Day Care Center in Natick by doing mailings, office work, or staff the family room.

We are a Support Congregation. 10 to 15 volunteers from our church have supported the Host Congregation with these various tasks during hosting weeks for all of these years.

We are seeking new volunteers who might be interested in joining these efforts. The great news about this is that the whole family can join in. That means children are welcome (which is often not the case).

How much of your time will this take? Volunteer times for some of the tasks are very flexible. Pick the time and day you want and can help. Volunteer time averages between two to three hours, depending on the task.

In order to be a volunteer, you will have to attend a training which will last about one hour and a half. The training can be done here at the church on a Sunday once we have a new group of volunteers.

Take a look at the website: www.familypromisewetrowest.org. Family Promise Metrowest provides a safe place for homeless families in our area. And we would like to continue to support this organization. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Rev. Heike at the church (revheike@needhamucc.org).

*Undoing our stressful lives
through Mindfulness*

Women's Retreat

May 9-10

at the Craigville Conference Center



In 2014, it will be Carol Miller's 33rd time that she attends the annual Women's Retreat of our church. No one will be able to catch up with her but it is not too late to sign up. Rev. Heike will have to call in numbers by Monday, May 5, 2014 and we still have room.

Sue Findlay-Walter and Rev. Heike will lead the group in discussion and exercises on Mindfulness. But most of all, we are going to de-stress!

Please contact Rev. Heike to sign up at revheike@needhamucc.org

Interreligious Adult Education Series



Encountering God in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

This course offers participants the opportunity to explore the subject of revelation in the Abrahamic traditions with expert instructors and participants from other religious communities. Each 90-minute class will include an opening presentation by a CIRCLE scholar (25–30 minutes), small-group study (25–30 minutes, in interreligious configurations), and larger-group discussion (25–30 minutes).

THIS IS A FREE COURSE

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How is revelation described in the foundational texts of our respective traditions?
- What are some of the ways in which these narratives have been interpreted throughout history?
- How do interpreters understand the relationship between God and humankind in and these revelatory encounters?
- To what extent do these teachings shape the lives we lead as spiritual seekers, as members of our respective religious communities, and as participants in the broader society in which we live?

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

- Congregational Church of Needham
- First Baptist Church in Needham
- Temple Aliyah, Needham

CLASS SCHEDULE (FOUR SESSIONS)

- Tuesday, May 6, 7:30–9:00 PM — Judaism, Rabbi Or Rose
- Monday, May 12, 7:30–9:00 PM — Christianity, Gregory Mobley
- Tuesday, May 20, 7:30–9:00 PM — Islam, Celene Ayat Lizzio
- Tuesday, May 27, 7:30–9:00 PM — Interfaith Roundtable Discussion, scholars and clergy

GOALS

- To encounter people from other religious communities through substantive learning
- To gain insight into the religious lives of others, including their relationships to sacred texts and traditions
- To deepen our understanding of the texts and traditions of our own communities
- To plant the seeds for future interreligious activities among the participants and their houses of worship

INSTRUCTORS

- Ms. Celene Ayat Lizzio, Andover Newton/Hebrew College
- Dr. Gregory Mobley, Andover Newton/First Baptist Church
- Rabbi Or Rose, Hebrew College

CLASS LOCATION

All sessions will be held at:
Temple Aliyah
1664 Central Avenue
Needham, MA 02492
(781) 444-8522



Center for Inter-Religious &
Communal Leadership Educ



Please speak to or email Rev. Heike if you are interested in attending at 781-444-2510 or revheike@needhamucc.org