



FOCUS

November 2014 | Vol. 37 Issue 9

A Message from Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

Sunday Worship In November

Theme:
Stewardship

November 2
Stress Relief - The
Gift of Time
Rev. Susan

November 9
Service - The
Benefits of Helping
Others
Rev. Susan

November 16
Priorities - Choose
Real Life Not Just
The Good Life
Rev. Susan

November 23
Generosity - The
Key to Happiness
Rev. Susan

November 30
Rev. Susan

STEWARDSHIP

A couple of weeks ago the clergy of the town were all invited to have our monthly meeting in the Sukkah at Temple Aliyah. It is an annual treat for us to have a picnic of sorts eating outside in the temporary structure that the temple has constructed next to the building. We come in our suits and dresses and gather around the tables under a shelter of bamboo, so we can feel the breeze and enjoy the fresh air.

Rabbi Carl Perkins explained to us that the temple observes this holiday to remember their gratitude to God for all the blessings of this life. They remember when their people wandered in the wilderness, slept under the stars and ate all their meals in temporary shelters. It is an annual treat because this ancient custom reminds all the clergy about our many blessings.

Human beings have gained a lot by moving indoors; efficient appliances, entertainment systems, comfortable beds and modern plumbing are not to be underestimated. But we have lost something too. Living as we do it is way too easy to take our many

blessings for granted.

In the Hebrew tradition in the Bible people had a very deep sense of gratitude about the blessings in their lives. No one took the crops for granted. They knew how much they depended on the rain to make things prosper. So the stories in the Bible often tell about the importance of the seasons of planting and harvest. They also recall an ancient custom of giving God the first fruits of every harvest. That tradition has carried over into modern Judaism. When people have a baby they give a gift of gratitude to the temple. The same thing happens at every stage of life. Weddings, bar mitzphahs, and even death is marked by gifts of gratitude to the temple. It is good for the temple budget, but that is not why people do it. It is good for

us to remember the source of all our blessings. When we mark special occasions with gifts of gratitude to God we remember who we are and whose we are.

This month our theme is stewardship. My sermons will be about living with gratitude and thanksgiving.

Worship and Fellowship

**Coming Soon
Wednesdays**

This Winter, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Suppers - Linden Hall - 6pm

**Youth Group for Grades 3-5
with Rev. Jamie - 6:30pm**

**Questions of Faith Discussion Group
with Rev. Susan - 6:30pm**

Vespers - led by Rev. Susan - 7:30pm

Who should come to this new program?

- All youth in grades 3-5 who want to begin making church friends in a youth group just for you.
- All adults who want to talk about faith in a relaxed setting.
- All families that travel or ski on the weekends and want a religious experience for the whole family mid-week.

Come to all of this. Come to part of it. Starting in January 2015.

For more information speak to Rev. Susan or Rev. Jamie. You can also email revsusan@needhamucc.org or revjamie@needhamucc.org.



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

The month of November is full of great music, so please don't miss one single Sunday worship service!

Our three youth choirs, under the direction of Valerie Becker, will offer an anthem each Sunday: **Joyful Noise Choir** will sing on **November 2nd**, **Hallelujah Choir** will sing on **November 9th**, and **Shepherd's Staff Choir** will sing on both **November 16th and 23rd**. You will be amazed at how incredibly talented our youth choirs are!



Another special musical opportunity is available for any interested singer- **The Once in a While Choir**, under the direction of Cici Hunt, will perform on **November 16th** at the beginning of the worship service. This is a great opportunity for our Sunday school teachers and parents to sing at the worship service. Cici has chosen a beautiful and uplifting piece that will bring you great inspiration and joy. Don't miss this chance to sing in church with minimal time commitment.

Our Friendly Chime Ringers have been very busy preparing some lovely chime preludes based on favorite hymns. You will hear them on **November 16** as well.

Mark your calendars for this year's **Christmas Season Musical** offering by the Chancel Choir on Sunday, **December 7th at 4 pm**, a traditional service of lessons and carols.

See you in church!

FIRST MEETING IN OUR NEW BUILDING

On October 2, 2014 the Friendly Society became the first Church group to officially meet in our new building. They held their October meeting in the dining room with the sunlight streaming in from the atrium.



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.

December issue deadline:
Tuesday November 19th.

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Emeritus

Stewardship 2015 by The Stewardship Committee

“For God, all things are Possible.”
 Matthew 19:26

By now, you have received Stewardship materials and are considering your response to the 2015 appeal to support the Church in this time of possibility.



As you prayerfully consider your gift, we wanted to share a few thoughts.

First, while we all receive appeals from many worthy organizations, this appeal is different. The appeal is to support your faith community- a

place that gives more than it receives. Whether you attend worship; participate in Outreach projects; send your children to choir or church school; attend meals, concerts or adult education; or have youth supported and nurtured in times of great transitions in their lives, this organization serves you and others. All of these efforts are supported by your time and talents, but they still can not happen without your financial support. In the Church Survey we heard great ideas for expanded music,

additional youth efforts, and even paying church school teachers. On Leadership Night we heard many ideas for using the new building. Please be generous so that our outreach efforts, programs and staff can be retained and even expanded. The Church is different; it is part of your daily life - make it a priority in your charitable giving.

Next, we all live with budgets in our personal lives and our work lives. Here is one place the church is not different. Planning for staffing, outreach and programming requires certainty. While end of year gifts and periodic donations are always welcome and appreciated, the church year budget can only be based on pledged funds. (Unlike some religious organizations, we do not have a set fee to belong or attend educational programs.) The Church needs to have your pledge in November to plan a budget for 2015- please pledge and pledge early.

Finally, we have all benefitted from the generosity of those who came before us and built this church. It is the responsibility of each of us to be sure this community continues to prosper and offer comfort, care and a shared life of faith to the many we have not yet met. Please support the future of our life together.

Thank you for making a thoughtful and generous gift to our church.

Blessings,
 Your Stewardship team
 Jackie Allen
 Scott Stewart

Friendly Society News

Come join Friendly Society members in a Christmas Stocking workshop on **November 6th**. We'll meet at **1:15 (NOTE time change)** in the Library. Bring your holiday spirit as we create stockings full of toys for City Mission.



Thinking further ahead, please put **Wednesday, December 17, 11:30 am** on your calendar for our **Christmas Luncheon** at 1180 Great Plain Avenue. Just as we were the first group

to use this new building, we will usher in Christmas 2014 there as well.

At our October meeting Friendly Society members selected **The Light Between Oceans: A Novel** by M.L. Stedman for a book discussion at the January 8, 2015 meeting. One reviewer said it was “an incredible moving novel about what happens when good people make bad decisions.”

Any questions about Friendly: Doris Cook, Marjorie Daganhardt, Joan Dimond, Patty Stewart, Joanne Seiden.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Haunted House- by donating candy or visiting!

We raised over **\$2200** for our youth programs!



Youth Ministry News with Rev. Jamie Klopotoski, Youth Minister



Elf Shop: The Youth Groups are currently collecting wrapping paper, small items and trinkets for the Elf Shop, a special place for kids to buy and wrap presents for their families at the Village Fair. Donations can be put in the box in Rev. Jamie's office.

unique ornaments. Enjoy caroling and cookies, too! Admission: \$5/family. A pizza dinner will be offered after the Advent Workshop. Please RSVP to Rev. Jamie at 781-444-2510 or revjamie@needhamucc.org.

November Christian Education

In Bible Village we will be exploring the themes of Vocation and Stewardship in all of our classes. Grades K-5 will explore the themes through experience with Art, Cooking, Theater, Story, Games, and Science workshops. Grades 6-8 will discuss Moses and the Exodus through the Grade 6-8 movie: Prince of Egypt (PG).

Advent Workshop:

Sun, Dec 6, 3-5pm

Create edible winter creatures, sandart masterpieces, Christmas cards, advent wreaths and



Environmental Ministry News

The Environmental Ministries Team had the pleasure of hosting Leslie Reichert, The Green Cleaning Coach on October 19. If you missed it, she gave us a lot of useful information - not only about what is in our homes that may be toxic, but recipes for cleaners that you can use every day in your kitchen, bathroom, laundry and much more.



Check the EMT bulletin board for copies of the recipes and other useful information.

Recipe for Green Cleaning Scrub:

- 1 cup baking soda
- ½ cup borax
- 1 cup salt
- 6 drops of your favorite essential oil

Mix the first three ingredients. You may use Kosher or sea salt for a more aggressive cleaner. Add the 6 drops of essential oil and place in an air tight container. Use as you would any powdered cleaner.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE FOUR NEW FAMILIES JOIN AS MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH IN OCTOBER. JOIN US IN WELCOMING ...



THE HUNNICUTT FAMILY



THE TIGNOR FAMILY



THE TODD FAMILY



MR. UNSWORTH

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

We started the month with a bang, with Leader Night on October 1st. The night was well attended. Presentations and discussion were focused on the new building and included updates on planned usage, timing of construction and renovation (see last month's Moderator's Corner), and an update on ongoing negotiations with renters in the space. Keith McClelland also gave an update from the Chapel Committee on plans for the Chapel renovation.

The discussion at Leader Night focused on future uses for the rear part of the new building. Initially, we expect to have a short term tenant in the rear part of the building, at least until 2016, but we agreed it was important to begin planning for our own usage now, to help with space/build-out planning, permitting, and other planning purposes.

Several members of the congregation presented ideas for future usage. Rev. Jamie talked about hosting mission trips, Heather Salerno discussed expanding pre-school programming, Kristin Mollerus presented on hosting Family Promise families, Rev. Susan proposed a young adult service year, and Kathy Carpenter suggested an emergency shelter for LGBT Youth. We then spent some time in our committees/teams brainstorming additional possibilities. In the subsequent reporting, additional ideas abounded, including a tutoring/literacy center, a coffee shop, intergenerational programming (as well as senior and young family programming), adult day care, a youth hostel, expansion of The Center, theme-based community dinners, hosting the high school's gay/straight alliance, space for music lessons, and meeting space for community groups. We wrapped up by noting that several of the suggested programs could coexist in the new space. The board looks forward to

discussing these possibilities in the months to come.

On October 8th, we held our October board meeting. Jackie Allen and the Survey Team had compiled suggestions from the survey by applicable committee/team, and we discussed the items that were applicable to the board. Items included building access, communication, and leadership training. Other topics discussed at the board meeting included stewardship, leader's night feedback, the establishment of a pastoral relations committee, and bringing back name tags. Finally, we decided to hold another informal congregational meeting after services on November 23rd. As a reminder, the notes of our meetings are always available in the church office.

The month ended with a bang as well. On October 25th, the youth groups held the annual Halloween Haunted House. Much fun was had by the organizers as well as the over 400 guests, and the youth groups raised over \$2,200 for their activities.

On October 26th, the church welcomed four new families as members. Please join me in making a special effort to congratulate and welcome these new members in the coming weeks:

- The Hunnicutt's - Jonathan, Anna, Alison, Jack & Katherine
- The Tignor's - Thomas, Shera, Caitlin & Tommy
- The Todd's - Aaron, Wendy, Charlie, Brendan & Lillian
- Dick Unsworth

As always, if you have questions, suggestions, or comments please feel free to reach out to the board at board@needhamucc.org.



Village Fair Volunteers Needed

We are looking for some help for our Fair!
We need some help:

- Kitchen - Nov. 15th
- Bake sale table - Nov. 15th
- Vendor lunch help - Nov. 15th
- Saturday clean-up - Nov. 15th

- Timeless Treasures & Book pricing and sorting - Nov. 10-14
- Timeless Treasures and books table help - Nov. 15th

Email Danielle Jurdan at office@needhamucc.org or call 781-444-2510 to sign up or for more information.

Stepping Up For Education Award for the Congregational Church of Needham

Over ten years ago one of our members, Darlene Fisk, was working at the High School in the Metco Office. Her work gave her a view of some of the High School students who were struggling academically, not because they were not smart, but because they did not have a computer in their homes. The children who were falling through the cracks were residents of Needham who lived in subsidized housing, and did not have a computer when they tried to do their homework.

Rev. Susan worked with several members of the church to allocate some outreach money that had been set aside 20 years ago for a local project that would do for local education something like what we have been trying to do in Santa Maria Tzeja.

A program called Steps to Success was born. In the last twelve years dozens of youth, mostly young adults of color, have been the first in their families to graduate from high school and to attend college. We found tutors and volunteers in the community and from our church. Steps to Success has changed the lives of many young adults because of our church's seed money, and a dream we shared of helping the least advantaged students in our town.



The program now is called **Needham Steps Up**, and they presented our church with their **Stepping Up for Education Award** at the Annual Dinner on Wednesday October 29th at the Gold Club. The featured speaker was a young woman who grew up in Needham and went to college and then law school. She believes that her life has been changed by Needham Steps Up. We should be very proud of her and of our church's role in giving her a chance.

Rev. Susan and our current chair of Outreach, Kristin Mollerus, attended the dinner to receive the church's award. We should all be very proud of our church's role in making so much of this happen originally. It is a wonderful reminder of what we can achieve when we put our faith into action.

Thank you!

To My Extended Church Family: Thank you all so much for making my birthday a joyful celebration. It was wonderful having so many present at my party in spite of the Labor Day weekend. I appreciate all the nice things that made me Queen for a Day.



I enjoyed every minute and love you all!
Doris Cook

TIMELESS TREASURES

The Timeless Treasures and Books tables at the Church fair are in need of volunteers. If you are available to

work on pricing and sorting during the week of November 10-14, I would be grateful for your assistance. We also need volunteers for the day of the fair to work our tables. Please let Chris Arren know if you would like to join our crew. Her phone # is 781-449-4228 or you can e-mail her at c_arren@yahoo.com.



NOMINATIONS

If you are interested in serving on the church Board or one of its standing committees (Deacons, Outreach, Christian Education and Youth), please let us know!

There's a place for you!



The nominations committee is working on putting together a slate of nominees for January's annual meeting. If you would like to serve, we would like to hear from you! Please get in touch with Christine Weitzel (cweitzel@verizon.net) and let us know in what capacity you would like to serve!

THE VILLAGE FAIR & MARKETPLACE

**SATURDAY
NOV. 15**

**9:30AM
TO 3:00PM**

AT THE



CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

1154 GREAT PLAIN AVE.

HTTP://NEEDHAMUCC.ORG



THE 2014 VILLAGE FAIR AND MARKETPLACE

It's that time of year! Our church fair is Saturday, November 15th! The Village Fair and Marketplace, includes a lineup of vendors selling their unique items and the wonderful church tables we all love! Of course the Fair would not be complete without the wonderful homemade lunch - succulent Lobster Rolls, hearty Haitian Pies, mouth-watering soups and scrumptious sandwiches. After lunch, stop by the Bake Sale table to bring home some dessert.

This year you will be treated to a variety of hand-made gifts from exquisite jewelry, glass mosaics, hand-thrown pottery, home-made preserves, chutneys and granolas, original photography and notecards, Christmas decorations and table centerpieces to bake sale goodies, antique jewelry and other Timeless Treasures!

Kids can visit the Elf Shop to shop and wrap awesome gifts for their friends and family.

Our vendors this year are:

Pat Brazill Chain Maille Jewelry
Espressions Design
Pate Ceramics
Crystal Lake Designs
Deborah's Kitchen
Oak Hill Mosaics
Yvette Lillge Glass Art

Guilday Glass
Designs by Donna
Deborah MacFail Designs
Dedham Square Art Guild
TM Gallery
FUNDamentally Nuts
Kerry Hawkins Photography

MonkeyShines Studio
Cat Antics Studio
Wear it Out!
Creative Photography
The Mad Matter
Aisling Colleary
Ackerman Maple Farms

The Village Fair is open to the public and proceeds benefit the many active programs and activities of our church. Please contact the church office at office@needhamucc.org or 781-444-2511 for more information or to lend a hand to make our fair a success!

CHURCH RENOVATION NEWS

from Keith McClelland



October saw some big changes to the outside of the 1180 building! The landscaper removed some trees and bushes bordering the properties and trimmed the bushes at the front of 1180.

On Saturday October 4, a group of hard-working church members continued the clean-up and removed the fence that separated our two properties. A big thank you goes out to all those who donated their time and energy! It really looks wonderful.



The planning and permitting continues this month but, just like in October, we will see some progress.

Our contractor, Bowdoin Construction, is set to start work on the walkways and the front section of the 1180 building in early November. Negotiations with our prospective tenants are ongoing and will shape the second phase of construction.

We have been discussing, pledging for, and anticipating the renovations to our 1154 building for a long time. After the new year, the Construction Team will be making it a reality. Much of the work is expected to occur in the summer months of 2015 when it will have less of an impact on church, our programs and renters.

In the Chapel, Contractor selection is in progress. The work is expected to occur in several Monday-to-Friday sprints that will leave it available for our use on Sundays.



CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

1154 Great Plain Avenue
Needham, MA 02492-2202

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Men's Breakfast, Sunday November 16th

On Sunday, 11/16, the Men's Breakfast Fellowship will welcome all church men to breakfast. At this month's meeting we will consider Thankfulness in keeping with the season.

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.

Contact: John Baldwin (jsbaldwin@comcast.net) or Rob Dunlavey (rob@robd.com) for more information.

address

stamp

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



NOVEMBER 2014

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
						1 Outreach Volunteer Day
2 Bible Study *Alan Clayton-Matthews *ALPHA	3 Cancer Support Group	4 Prayer Shawl Knitters *Community Dinner	5	6 Thursday Lunch *Faith Exploration	7	8
9 Bible Study *Sue Findlay *ALPHA	10 Cancer Support Group	11 Veteran's Day	12	13 Faith Exploration	14	15 Village Fair
16 Men's Breakfast *Bible Study	17 Cancer Support Group	18	19		21	22
23 Bible Study	24 Cancer Support Group	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30 Bible Study						

OUTREACH VOLUNTEER DAY AT NEEDHAM COMMUNITY FARM
November 1st, 9am - noon

The Outreach Committee invites you to join us for a fun morning of farm work at the Needham Community Farm from 9 a.m. to noon

Primary Farm Site--the Nike site at the end of Pine Street

We'll take out some plants and cover some with sea grass for the winter. Wear long pants and bring water to drink. All tools provided. Adults and kids ages 8 and up. Sign up by calling the church office 781-444-2510



THE STATE OF THE US ECONOMY AND LABOR MARKET WITH ALAN CLAYTON MATTHEWS
November 2nd, 11:30am

We are lucky to have in our midst some very fine people. Alan is a professor at Northeastern University



and the Director of Quantitative Methods in the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs. His expertise lies in labor market assessment.

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION WITH SUE FINDLAY
November 9th & December 7, 11:30am

Our own Sue Findlay will lead us in meditation exercises. After a brief introduction to mindfulness, we'll explore several different meditations including: loving-kindness, sitting meditation, and walking meditation. In addition, we'll explore guided imagery and its use in meditation.



FELLOWSHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

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



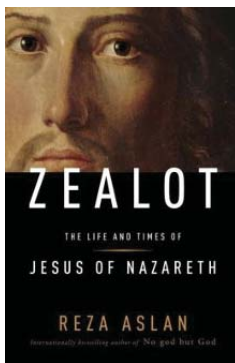
ADULT PROGRAMMING - December 2014

DECEMBER 2014

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2 Prayer Shawl Knitters Community Dinner	3	4 Advent Lunch *Faith Exploration	5	6 Advent Workshop
7 Bible Study *Sue Findlay *Christmas Concert	8 Cancer Support Group	9	10	11 Advent Lunch *Faith Exploration	12	13
14 Bible Study	15 Cancer Support Group	16 Blue Christmas Service	17	18 Advent Lunch	19	20
21 Bible Study	22 Cancer Support Group	23	24 Christmas Eve *Pageant & Candlelight Service	25	26	27
28 Bible Study	29	30	31 New Years Eve			

FAITH EXPLORATION BOOK GROUP
Thursday Nov. 6th, 13th, 20th,
Dec. 4th and 11th at 10:30am

Join us for our Faith Exploration Book Group. This Fall we are reading "Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth" by Reza Aslan. We will read approximately 25-35 pages each week and meet on Thursday's in the Reception Room to discuss.



The schedule is:

October 16	Author's Note & Intro
October 23	Chapters 1,2 & 3 (pp. 10-33)
October 30	Chapters 4,5 & 6 (pp 34-70)
November 6	Chapters 7 & 8 (pp 73-102)
November 13	Chapters 9 & 10 (pp 103-126)
November 20	Chapters 11 & 12 (pp127-159)
November 27	No Meeting - Thanksgiving
December 4	Chapter 13 & 14 (pp 163-196)
December 11	Chapter 15 & Epilogue

Please contact Christine Weitzel at cweitzel@verizon.net for more information.

THURSDAY LUNCHES

Thursday November 6th, Noon

Let's Eat Together! Please join us for lunch on November 6th in the library. This is our monthly get together. On December 4th we will begin our weekly Advent Lunches. Everyone is welcome!

ADVENT LUNCH

December 4th, 11th & 18th, Noon

Join us for these Advent Lunches with discussions and readings from the Advent Devotional. Lunch will be lactose and nut free soups. Everyone is welcome!

COMMUNITY DINNER - EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

November 4th and December 2nd - 6pm

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 the office. Otherwise just come! Dinner starts at 6 pm and ends around 7 pm. Help with clean-up is always appreciated!

