



FOCUS

February 2015 | Vol. 38 Issue 2

Worship In February

Theme:

God

**Communion
Sunday**

February 1

Seeing God

Rev. Susan

Wednesday

February 4

CONNECT

Communion

Sunday

February 8

Choosing God

Rev. Susan

Wednesday

February 11

CONNECT

Sunday

February 15

God and Creation

Rev. Heike

Wednesday

February 18

CONNECT

Sunday

February 22

Needing God

Rev. Susan

Wednesday

February 25

CONNECT

A Message from Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

GOD

There is a delivery system called Guaranteed Overnight Delivery. Their trucks have the abbreviation G.O.D. It certainly gets your attention. Everybody has some ideas about God. Some people believe fervently. Some people struggle to believe in God. Some people want to believe more, or to feel that they know God better. Some people rebel against the God of their childhood. Others feel certain that God is dead or AWOL or just a fantasy. Some people think we made up the notion of God to find comfort in a cold world.



For the month of February our worship theme is God. We read lots of stories about people who knew God and talked to God in the Bible. Though some of these stories come from an oral tradition that may be 4000 years old, I want to start by saying that I don't believe that God is in the past. What always surprises me is that these stories have a current relevance which is almost eerie. When Jacob was in a very bad place, and he stole his inheritance and ran away from home by the evening of the first day he was so weary that he lay down and fell asleep on a rock. When he woke up he had been dreaming. Something about that dream told him that he had stumbled into a place where he had found God. He said, "Surely God is in this place and I did not see it".

That is a very modern story and a modern moment. For most of us do our thing, get into our dramas and forget about God. Whether we are running away from our families or toward them it often takes a surprise or a dream or a miracle to remind us that God is closer than we realized. For this series I will be reading a new book by Rob Bell- **What We Talk About When We Talk about God**.

It is a simple book but very good reading. He challenges many of our traditional views of God.

Here are some things I hope we can ponder and discuss in this series.

1. God is not out there looking in. God is not doing something else while we lead our lives. God does not just pop in to do godly things now and again. God is with us. If we know anything from the Bible it is that God is here. Like Jacob we just need to awaken to the realization that God is here, but we often forget or cannot see it.
2. God is not in the past. Because the Bible tells stories of long ago, we imagine that God lived then. We cannot see God easily for the same reason that we cannot see Moses; time has intervened. But the Bible makes one thing clear - God is not in the past. If anything,

God is in the future, way out ahead of us. The forces that are propelling us forward to a place where there is a new heaven and earth are holy ones. God is always in the changes of life. God is in the newness, the births, in the struggles that push us to become new, and in the deaths that point to newness of life.

3. God is free. God is not a religious package we can open up and look at on Sundays. God is doing things in the world every day. If we want to live the fullest life we can, then we need to make God a priority. That really is what all the sermons will be about- how to grow closer to God.

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

HENRY WARD BEECHER ON THE PRELUDE



The great preacher Henry Ward Beecher, pastor of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, from 1847 until his death in 1887, wrote considerably on the organ. But perhaps none of his prose was as astute or so applicable to the organist's weekly performance as the following excerpt:

“What is the use of the opening organ piece? Is it amusement? Is it a luxury?”

When people enter the house of God upon the Sabbath, they come from care, from business, from secular

pleasures and duties. And the two things needed at the beginning of public worship are, first, a transition from ordinary thought and feeling into a higher and more devout frame of mind; and, second, a unity of feeling, a fellowship in the whole assembly. Now, it is in the power of music to arrest the attention, to change the current of feeling, to draw off the thoughts from common things, and to give to the mind, if not a religious tone, yet a state higher than before, and from which the transition to worship will be easy and natural. Nothing will bring worshippers into a state of feeling common to all sooner than fit organ music. This, then, is the object of the opening piece. Upon entering the house of God, there is, as it were, a screen of sound rolled down between the audience and the outward world. Every susceptible nature is drawn out from sordid or sad thoughts, the careless are interested, and the attention of all is attracted to a common influence that is molding them gently to holy thoughts and feelings. Of course, this object will determine the fitness of an opening piece. It may be slow and soft; it may be grand and majestic; it may be persuasive and soothing; or it may be jubilant, as celebrating the incoming of Christ's Day! But the end to be gained is in the hearts of the audience, not in the ears of connoisseurs. That is good which gains the audience to a preparation for worship, and only that is good. No organist who knows the almost omnipotent power of association will greet the audience with marches or opera airs, which take the thoughts right back to the world. No organist either, who has religious sensibility, will take such a time laboriously to perform intricate pieces that are, perhaps, masterpieces of skill, but which are about as fit for the church as *Paradise Lost* would be for a hymn. This opening organ piece admits of as great a range of usefulness as any service of music in the church. And it is a thing to be studied and remedied. If organ playing is but organ diversion in church, if it is only a stupendous method of gratifying the taste, the organ had better be silenced. But if organists feel the power of the Sabbath day- if it lifts its light upon them as the day that brought salvation to the world, and fills their soul with rejoicings and gratitude- they will be able upon so stately an instrument to pour forth strains that will win the audience to sympathy with them.

Henry Ward Beecher, "The Organ," *New York Musical Review and Gazette* 10, no. 12 (June 11, 1859)

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FOCUS

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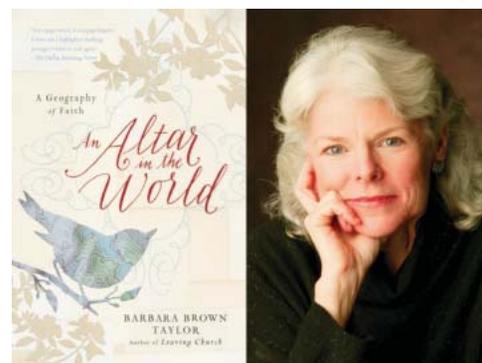
Experiencing God Today by Rev. Heike Werder, Assoc. Minister

The sermon theme for February is God. As a theme it is about as big as it gets. People have all kinds of ideas and/or ask all kinds of questions of who and what God is or might be. Did God really create this world? Is God a vengeful God? Where is God – far away or close by? How do I find God? How do I get closer to God? Does God hear my prayers? I am sure we all have wondered about the Center of our faith. And to my, and maybe your dismay as well, no book, no theological tract, no pastor will ever be able to explain or help us understand God. Who God is might remain a mystery to us of all of our faith journey.

And yet, I believe that there are many ways to experience God in our lives. While on Sabbatical I read a gem of a book called **An Altar to the World** by Barbara Brown Taylor. In it she talks about the practice of being present to God in our everyday lives – seeing, feeling and being attentive to God not just when life has dealt us a blow, but in the mundane day-to-day activities, from the moment we wake up to when we call it a night. Prayer might be the most powerful tool we have to practice being present to God, but all too often we are worried about “doing it right.”

It is hard for us to live and stay in the present. Most of us either look ahead, trying to anticipate the next big move or fantasize what might happen, and when they don't we are disappointed. When we live in the past, we hold on to regrets. We review our actions or those of someone else, and we end up blaming someone. Living in the moment and living in that moment with contentment is a spiritual practice that can be very freeing when we let go of what was and what might be.

Brown's book encourages us to look around us with open eyes. Can I see God in the eyes of the new puppy or the mess the kids made? Can I see God in the pile of dishes or in the snow that needs shoveling? Can I feel God in the pain that runs through my body or in the moment when it let's go of me? Practicing being present to God might open our eyes to how much God is part of our lives already. We might surprise ourselves by what we see.



3rd-5th Grade Youth Group

When: Wednesdays, 6:30pm-7:30pm,
Where: Stevenson Hall (downstairs, below fellowship hall)
Who: All 3rd-5th graders in the community
How to Join: Simply show up on Wednesday evening! Contact Rev. Jamie for more info: revjamie@needhamucc.org or 781-444-2510

I'm a 3rd-5th grader, why should I join this group?

To make new friends, have fun, do community service, play games, talk about things that matter to you, learn more about God, Jesus and how you can be a better person, and more!

I'm a parent, why should my child join this group?

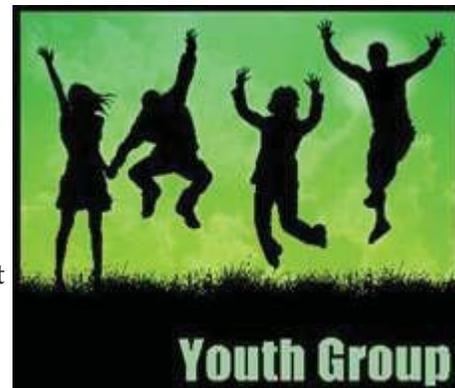
Being part of a youth group can help young people develop important personal and interpersonal skills, and gain self-confidence and self-esteem. Contributing to a group can help them see themselves as being able to really help other people, and have something important to offer. In addition, the community and friendships made in youth group are by-and-large a positive and important experience for youth to combat stress, bullying, depression, and anxiety. This group will give youth a “safe space” that they may not have otherwise--a place where they can express themselves through arts and activities, or just by being able to talk openly with peers and caring adults.

3rd-5th Grade Youth Group is part of a new Wednesday CONNECT evening program at the church.

6:00-6:30pm: Free dinner is available for ALL ages

6:30-7:30pm: Adult ed. (discussions, bible study, meditation) for older youth & adults; Youth Group for 3rd-5th Grade; Childcare for 2nd Grade and under)

7:30-8:00pm: Experiential worship service for ALL ages



Youth Ministry News with Rev. Jamie Klopotoski, Youth Minister

Bible Village News

In Bible Village during the month of February, we will continue to learn about the story of Esther, who risked her life to serve God and to save her people. Esther was a young Jewish woman living in exile in the Persian diaspora, who through her youth and beauty becomes queen of the Persian Empire, and then by her wits and courage saves the Jewish people from destruction. The message of the Book of Esther gives encouragement to the exiled Jews that they, although powerless in the Persian Empire, can, by their resourcefulness and talents, not only survive but prosper, as does Esther. The lesson we can take away from this is: Know That You Have A Purpose!

Bible Village Unit: Esther

Goals:

- Be able to tell the story of Esther in their own words
- Locate the book of Esther in the bible
- Locate Babylon (Persian Empire) on a map
- Discover what it means that God has a plan for their lives
- Recognize that, like Esther, we might be put in situations especially so we can use our gifts and make a difference
- Articulate ways they are called by God and ways to live out that call in their lives

Workshops:

Story: Make noisemakers (groggers) to use while

telling the story of Esther

Cooking: Make Hamantaschen (Haman's cookies)

Science: Make a clock/learn to tell time

Games: Purim carnival games

Art: Scratch art masks, Salt scrub

Theatre: Magic Tricks

Valentine's Babysitting

NEED A BABYSITTER FOR A

VALENTINE'S DATE?
YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER
OFFERS BABYSITTING

FEBRUARY 14th, 4pm-10pm

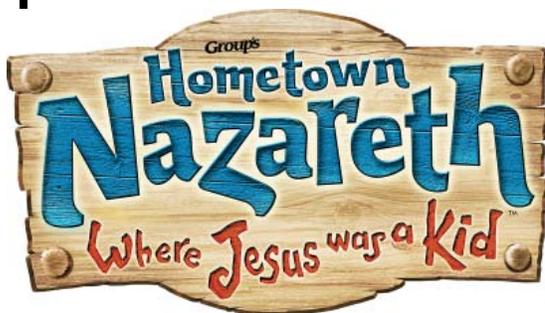
Dinner and Snacks included

\$20 for one child, \$10 for additional child



The Senior High Youth Group at The Congregational Church of Needham is hosting a Babysitting Night on Saturday, February 14th. Potty-trained children ages 3 and older can be dropped off and picked up any time between 4pm-10pm at the church for just \$20 for the first child and \$10 for additional children. All proceeds will go to the Senior High Summer Mission Trip. *Families must pre-register by February 13th.* Dinner, snacks, a movie, and several fun activity stations will be offered. For more information or to register, visit www.needhamucc.org/babysitting or contact [Rev. Jamie](#).

April Vacation Bible School



Kids are invited to a week of active, adventurous fun at The Congregational Church of Needham's April Vacation Bible School program from **Tuesday, April 21 through Friday, April 24, 8:30am-noon**. The theme is "**Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid**" where kids ages 3-11 will learn about Jesus' childhood and his message of love as an adult, while they create crafts, play exciting games, participate in meaningful community service, sing upbeat songs, and enjoy delicious snacks.

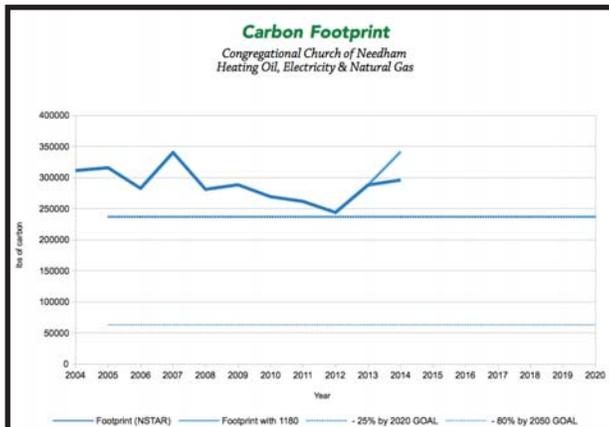
Led by Rev. Jamie, each morning, all ages meet together for the Opening Assembly. Then kids split into groups by age and travel to different workshops: art, story, cooking, service and games. At the end of each day, all kids come back together for the Closing Assembly.

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.

Registration forms can be picked up at church or register ONLINE at www.needhamucc.org/vbs

ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRIES TEAM NEWS

...EARTH STEWARDSHIP,
FOR OUR LIVES TODAY...



The graph above shows our Carbon Footprint based on the church building’s energy consumption of oil, electricity and natural gas, from 2004 to the present.

Remember, carbon footprint is defined as the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions expressed in a carbon dioxide equivalent, and caused by an organization, in our case. A good frame of reference is that driving your car 1 mile produces approximately 2/3 of a lb of CO2.

We reduce the carbon footprint - and save money on bills! - through energy efficiency and conservation measures. No significant measures were taken over the past year. The flatness of the 2013-14 line above for 1154 Great Plain Avenue is explained in large part by a cold winter (more oil) balanced by a cool summer (less electricity).

The acquisition of 1180 Great Plain Ave has added to our congregation’s carbon footprint. The lighter, higher line between 2013 and 2014 represents the effects of July to December’s energy consumption at 1180.

Our congregation’s board-adopted carbon footprint goals (for 1154) are shown by the dotted lines on the chart, and align with those of the city of Boston.

Please check out our bulletin board across from Rev Jamie’s office, and pick up instructions on how to calculate your own home’s carbon footprint.

CHURCH RENOVATION NEWS

from Keith McClelland

Our new building at 1180 Great Plain Avenue:

- Phase 1 of construction is complete. The offices of Rev. Susan, Rev. Heike, Danielle Jurdan, and the other staff will be moved to that building by mid February.
- The details of Phase 2, renovation of tenant space, are being finalized with the intent of completing the work before summer.

Our main building at 1154 Great Plain Avenue:

- The construction committee is comparing priorities and cost estimates in order to schedule the most cost-efficient upgrades.
- The main priority will be accessibility.

Our Chapel:

- A beautiful new hardwood floor has been installed and the woodwork is being modified to provide a consistent-height baseboard. Check it out!
- The lighting will be upgraded to 100% dimmable LEDs.
- The Chapel Committee is working with a color consultant so that the walls, woodwork, and ceiling can be painted in a more contemporary scheme that coordinates with our stained glass window. Possible schemes will soon be posted for congregational comment.

CONNECT ON WEDNESDAYS!

What is it? Supper, Programs for the Family, Worship

When? Every Wednesday evening from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

What is the Schedule?

- 6:00 - Supper
- 6:30 - Junior Youth Group (grades 3-5) led by Rev. Jamie
- Adult Class- Questions of Faith led by Rev. Susan
- Meditation Group led by Sue Findlay
- 7:30 Worship for the Family
 - Communion - 1st Wednesdays
 - Walk the Labyrinth - 2nd Wed.
 - Stories to Inspire - 3rd Wed.
 - Healing Service - 4th Wed.
 - Hymn sing - 5th Wed.



Can we come for part of it? Sure, no problem.

Will there be child care? Sure, no worries.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COALITION

OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



February is Open and Affirming Month

Each February we mark the anniversary of our congregation's decision to become an Open and Affirming church. Our vote was February 13, 2000. ONA Sunday will be observed on February 8, 2015.

Celebrate ONA with the Voices Rising Chorus - February 7th

We welcome Voices Rising back to our church on Saturday, February 7, 2014 at 3:30pm. Their concerts are always of superior quality. This year's concert is "Seasons of Life," a musical tribute to some of the

lesser celebrated passages along with the monumental events in life. The songs cover a breadth of styles, with folk tunes and show tunes, Hawaiian chant and a cappella jazz. With music from Joni Mitchell, Pat Humphries and Ysaye Barnwell and words from Khalil Gibran and Ecclesiastes, the chorus will sing about the many phases of our time here on earth and the transition to the other side.



Voices Rising are always a hit for the Needham community and surrounding areas. Save the date and tell your friends! Tickets are available online at www.voicesrising.org - Priority Seating \$30; General Admission \$25 (door), \$20 (advance); Students/Seniors \$10; Children 5 and under \$5.



and commentary. Light refreshments.

February Delegation News

The church's delegation to Santa María Tzejá will soon be leaving on its February 11-22 trip to Guatemala. Travelers include co-leaders Brenda Metzler and Fred Moder; Bill, Theresa, and Spencer Garrett; Will Meehan; Susan McNeice; Sunny Robinson; and Scott and Joene Pike from Portland, Oregon. Ali Durbin and Randall Shea will serve as interpreters. All are invited to join us in the following related activities:

Last Call: Sign-Up for Field Trip to Mayan Exhibit at Museum of Science - Sunday, February 8

Please advise ASAP to join this activity immediately following church on February 8th: "Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed", the largest exhibit of its kind in the United States. Several free tickets available. Cost: Members (\$5); non-members (\$29/\$25 children). Brenda Metzler: bmetzler7@verizon.net.

Delegation Send-Off:

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 7-8 pm at Dave/Caryl Johnson's (505 Great Plain Ave.). Share your good wishes with the delegates on the eve of their departure.

Save the Date: Guatemala 'Sing Into Spring' Concert/ Saturday, March 21st, 4 pm

On Saturday, March 21, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm, the Guatemala Partnership will celebrate spring's arrival with a concert and silent auction to benefit education in our church's partner village of Santa María Tzejá. Don't miss this event, to which performers from both the church and the wider community are donating their diverse talents. Ticket information to follow. Musical contact: Cici Hunt/cicihunt@gmail.com. General contact: Brenda Metzler/bmetzler7@verizon.net.

Delegation Welcome-Back:

Sunday, February 22, 6:30 pm (Johnson's/505 Great Plain Ave.). Come hear the travelers' stories, hot off the trail!

Delegation ReportBack to the Church: Sunday, March 8, 11:30 - 12:30, Linden Hall. Share the travelers' experiences through photos

Welcome New Members!

On Sunday January 25th we welcomed three new families into Membership at our Church. Their full biographies and pictures are up on the bulletin board by the narthex.

The Andrews Family

The Andrews family were introduced to the Church by the Meyi family. Daughters Hayden and Alessa attend the Chestnut Hill School. Dad, Chris grew up in Minneapolis, and currently works at Forrester Research. Mom, Daryl grew up in Milton MA and is a litigator at Berman DeValerio in Boston.

The Hurley Family

Karen Hurley lives in Needham with her three children, Ryan, Ella and Grace. Karen is a physical therapist who enjoys being active outside. Ryan is almost 12 and is at Needham High Rock School. Ella is 9 and in 3rd grade at Newman. Grace is 7 and a 1st grader at Newman.

The Turner Family

Chris and Melissa have lived in Needham since 2005. Chris is originally from New Jersey. Melissa is originally from Connecticut. They have four children. Mac, Hutch and Emme go to Broadmeadow Elementary School and Stella attends Noah's Ark Preschool at the Congregational Church.

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

I am looking forward to our board offsite this weekend (not really "offsite" - we'll be in our new building). Highlights of the offsite will be to review 2014, determine 2015 priorities, and discuss the process for determining long-term usage of the rear part of our new building. We are excited to welcome Jason Johnson, Blair Wentworth, and Sharmon Priaulx to the board. I hope they know what they're in for! It promises to be another busy year.

Thanks to everyone who attended the 2015 Hearing, on January 18th, and the Annual Meeting, on January 25th. I am always amazed, as we go through the nominating slate, how many dedicated volunteers we have serving on the church's committees.

One thing I've been thinking about is how to improve the process leading up to the annual meeting in future years. The process always feels rushed (this year, the finance team got the latest pledge totals just a few days before their meeting on 1/12; they had to quickly agree on a draft budget to present at the board meeting on 1/13; the board's suggested changes had to be updated within days for the annual report; the annual report was then distributed in advance of the hearing on 1/18). I think the solution might be to move the annual meeting back a bit. The by-laws give us 6 weeks after year end to hold the meeting. Perhaps early February would work better than late January. It is certainly something to think about.

Regarding the budget this year, we had to reign in expenses across the board - freezing minister salaries and tightening benevolence giving, CE/Youth, Music, and several admin, maintenance, and other categories. We aimed for a balanced "run rate" budget ("run rate" meaning when the new building's rent is covering its costs). I've been on finance and the board (early on as member and now as moderator), and the budget is never an easy task. The church provides us a very wide range of services, but we do have a lot of costs!

While I'm on the topic of annual meeting, I'd like to review a few items that were raised but not fully answered. We promised follow-up on each of these items.

- First, there was a question about 2014 budgeted "income from endowment". Thanks to Carol Oberle for reviewing this after the meeting. The way the budget was presented last year, finance had put the "standard" 5% from endowment in the revenue line (this was \$148,000). They put the "additional allocation from endowment" at the bottom of the second page, to make clear that this was an increased amount from endowment, balancing the budget. These two added up to the \$178,000 of income from endowment shown in the full year budget amount.
- There was also a request for a Stewardship report next year, showing more detail about the number of pledging units, etc. We will make sure this report makes it in next year.
- Finally, regarding fees and returns from the endowment, Frank Arren and Paul Garbe will be requesting a meeting with Wells Fargo, our investment adviser, to review these and will bring recommendations to the board.

Thanks as always to the volunteers that work hard to put these extensive reports together. David Nydam, Carl Madsen, and all those in finance and endowment accomplish a huge amount of work in a short time, and I appreciate their dedication and the sacrifices they make in giving up their January weekends. All the other committees and teams, as well as the church staff and ministers, do the same. Remember to thank them for this.

Finally, I want to thank departing board members Heather Salerno, Jackie Allen, and David Nydam for their service to the board. We got a lot accomplished this year, and I appreciate all their contributions. I think we have a good plan for this year and I'm excited to get started!

Join Friendly in February!

Join Friendly Society members Thursday February 5th at 1:15pm after the Thursday Lunch for an information session on **How Are Tours at the MFA Put Together.**

This is coupled with a sample of how works of art are presented with you as the visitor. Joanne Seiden will be your guide for the discussion. Questions can be directed to any of the steering committee members; Doris Cook, Margie Dagenhardt, Joan Dimond, Barbara Lovely, Joanne Seiden or Patty Stewart.





CONGREGATIONAL
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Men's Breakfast, Sunday February 15th

On Sunday, 2/15, the Men's Breakfast Fellowship will welcome all church men to breakfast.

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

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



ADULT PROGRAMMING - February & March 2015

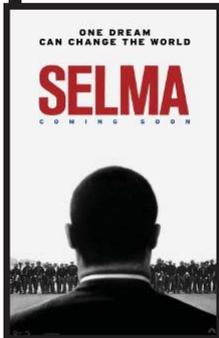
FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
1 Bible Study Adult Ed - Selma	2 Cancer Support Group	3 Prayer Shawl Knitters Community Dinner	4 CONNECT	5 Faith Circle Book Group Lunch with Heike	6	7
8 Bible Study Adult Ed - Rev. Cooper	9 Cancer Support Group	10	11 CONNECT	12 Faith Circle Book Group	13	14 Valentine Babysitting
15 Men's Breakfast Bible Study Ad Ed - The Future of Race in America	16 President's Day Church Office Closed	17	18	19	20	21
22 Bible Study Ad Ed - Raising Black Children	23 Cancer Support Group	24	25 CONNECT	26 Faith Circle Book Group	27	28

For the next two months we are committing to pursuing the issue of justice through our Adult Education program. February is also Black History month which invites us to reflect on matters of race in America. I hope that you will join us for a variety of events that spark conversation, reflection, and action.

SELMA

Sunday February 1, 11:30am



Join Heike at Legacy Place Cinemas on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015 to watch "Selma" at 12:25 pm. Please rsvp if you will attend. We will meet at the church at 11:30am to head over to Legacy Place as a group and eat lunch there. If you would rather not join us for lunch, you can meet us at the theater at 12:15 pm. You will be home for the Super Bowl. Please e-mail Heike at revheike@needhamucc.org to let her know.

GUEST SPEAKER - THE REV. JUNE COOPER

Sunday February 8, 11:30am

The Rev. June Cooper, Executive Director of City Mission Society will join us to share her experiences about her trip to the south where she met witnesses of time in regards to the events in Selma.

THE FUTURE OF RACE IN AMERICA

Sunday February 15, 11:30am

We will watch **The Future of Race in America**: a Ted Talk by Michelle Alexander based on her book "The New Jim Crow"; Alexander argues that young black men and women are incarcerated more often and longer than their white counterparts for often minor drug offenses, and once convicted they are barred from every again fully participating in society. Her book is a challenging read, and her TedTalk is amazing.



GUEST SPEAKERS - RAISING BLACK CHILDREN

Sunday February 22, 11:30am

Speakers: Dr. Adrian Haugabrook and Peter Goddard will offer a discussion on "Raising Black Children". Dr. Haugabrook is the Vice President for Student Success and Engagement at Wheelock College, and he is a deacon at Myrtle Baptist Church in Newton. He will be joined by a good friend of his, Deacon Peter Goddard, also from Myrtle Baptist Church, who grew up in Needham, is white and raising African America children.

MARCH 2015

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
1 Bible Study Adult Ed	2 Cancer Support Group	3 Prayer Shawl Knitters Community Dinner	4 CONNECT	5 Faith Circle Book Group Lunch with Heike	6	7
8 Bible Study Adult Ed	9 Cancer Support Group	10	11 CONNECT	12 Faith Circle Book Group	13	14
15 Men's Breakfast Bible Study Adult Ed	16 Cancer Support Group	17	18 CONNECT	19 Faith Circle Book Group	20	21
22 Bible Study Adult Ed	23 Cancer Support Group	24	25 CONNECT	26 Faith Circle Book Group	27	28
29 Bible Study Adult Ed	30 Cancer Support Group	31				

FELLOWSHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP Monday at 9:00am

Rev. Susan Cartmell leads this weekly support group on Monday mornings, from 9 to 10:15 a.m.

LUNCH WITH HEIKE Thursday February 5 & March 5

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



COMMUNITY DINNER – EVERYONE IS WELCOME! Tuesday February 3 & March 3 6 to 7 p.m., Linden Hall

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!

Sponsored by the Outreach Committee.

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday 11:30am - 12:30pm

If you have thought about seeing what bible study is like, we invite you to join us in the conference room from 11:30-12:30 after church. We will be discussing the gospel of John, and all are welcome to drop in any week that you are able. This is a great opportunity to discuss your spiritual questions with other people of faith. For more information, please e-mail Sunu at dormouse99@gmail.com.

FAITH CIRCLE BOOK GROUP Thursday from 10:30 - noon Led by Christine Weitzel.

This Winter we are reading "The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World" by Reverend Desmond Tutu. We will read approximately 20-35 pages each week and meet on Thursday's to discuss. We will meet in the Reception Room at the church. For more information and the schedule of chapters and dates contact Christine at cweitzel@verizon.net.

