



FOCUS

September 2016 | Vol. 39 Issue 7

A Message from Rev. Jim Mitulski

I am so excited to be here working among you. The first month has given me a chance to have a soft start while many of you were away. I got settled in to my apartment in West Roxbury. I learned how the office works, and have gotten a chance to meet and work with my office colleagues. I'm learning the rhythms of meetings, and have participated in significant meetings



of the Church Board. I've met the Deacons and participated in Chapel worship each Sunday. In this short time I have already come to appreciate what you love about the Congregational Church of Needham UCC- the people.

You have a beautiful space, many incredible resources, and what stands out most clearly is the quality of leaders, the love you have for the children and young people, and the deep bond of affection you have for each other.

I'm ready to get to work- and I hope you are too! We are going to have a great time together- of blessing, of renewal, of transformation. I will devote my creativity and my experience working with churches going through change to you over the next phase of your history, and I ask that you show up, stick with this process, trust God and stick with each other.

Please come to the forum after church on Sunday, September 11th so that I can tell you more about what the next 18-24 months will likely feel and look like, and answer any questions you have. Please make personal appointments with me if there are particular things from the past or the present you would like to discuss, or for spiritual counsel and prayer as well. As rich and rewarding as your history has been, let's work together to make sure the future reflects that same promise.

Yours in love,
Jim

Pie-Athlon Sat., Sept. 17th at 6pm

You are cordially invited to our first annual Pie-Athlon on September 17, 2016 from 6 to 8 pm in Fellowship Hall. This event will give you a chance to meet our Interim Senior minister Jim Mitulski.



Pie Makers: We are looking for wildly "insane" varieties of pies

- salty and sweet, with meat and without, fruit or vegetable, fish or fowl, with crust and without, round or square - you decide.

Please call (781-444-2510) or e-mail Rev. Heike (revheike@needhamucc.org) if you plan to make a pie and what kind for the event.

FRIENDLY SOCIETY NEWS

WELCOME BACK to another FRIENDLY SOCIETY year! Your Steering Committee (Doris Cook, Joan Dimond, Mary Lou Hughes, Martha Lamb, Patty Stewart, and Joanne Seiden) has planned interesting programs through December, so we hope you will put these dates on your calendar and invite your friends/spouse to join us.

Sept 8, 1:30 pm, 1180 GP- This is an opportunity to get to know Rev. Jim Mitulski, our interim senior minister (Come for Heike's soup lunch at 12 and stay for conversation and dessert afterwards.).

Oct 6, 1:30, 1180 GP- Our speaker is Gloria Greis, Executive Director of the Needham Historical Society.

Nov 3, 1:30, 1180 GP- Our Christmas stocking workshop, where we put together small gifts for City Mission kids, is also a time to enjoy one another's company and get in the holiday spirit.



Dec 7, Wednesday, 11:30, 1154 GP- Come enjoy Patty's delicious Christmas luncheon and be inspired by beloved musicians Pam and Bruce Goody.

Friendly Society takes a break from January through April 2017 and meets again in May and June. Stay tuned for news of those spring programs. Contact the Steering Committee if you have questions.

SEE YOU SOON!

Music Ministry News by Valerie Becker, Director of Music

As we welcome in the month of September, I am excited because it means the beginning of a new school year and also the beginning of choir rehearsals! I look forward to making music with the Chancel Choirs and our Youth Choirs once again as I now begin my second year as Music Director. The Friendly Chimers will also resume under the direction of Crosby Goshgarian and will be preparing something for our holiday concert, which is scheduled for December 4th. There is always room for anyone who wishes to join any of our choirs or the Friendly Chimers and we would love to have new members in all our groups!

Please also remember that if you would like to offer your musical gifts to the congregation during our services contact me at musicdirector@needhamucc.org.

www.needhamucc.org.

- Chancel Choir rehearsals begin on Sept. 8 7:30 - 9 in the choir room.
- Joyful Noise and Hallelujah Choirs begin on Sept. 18 - 11:30 - 12:00
Sign up on September 11 during Coffee Hour
- Shepherds Staff begins on Sept. 18 - 12:00 -1:00
Sign up on September 11 during Coffee Hour
- Friendly Chimers will begin in September
Date to be determined.

I look forward to seeing everyone very soon and I know that we will have another wonderful season!



'WELCOME BACK' BRUNCH - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 11:15 AM

The Guatemala Partnership invites everyone to a 'welcome back' brunch in Fellowship Hall immediately after the service. Reconnect with old friends and make new ones while enjoying homemade goodies brought to you by our Guatemala partner families.

GUATEMALA MINISTRY TEAM MEETING, SEPTEMBER 11, 7:00 PM

As we approach our 30th anniversary, the Guatemala Partnership is seeking greater participation in its work to keep our church's international outreach effort vibrant and sustainable. So we invite anyone who is interested in learning more about our partnership with Santa María Tzejá, or in contributing some time and talent, to join us for our first fall meeting (Sunday, September 11th, at 7:00 pm in the Church Library). ALL meetings are open to anyone interested.

AUGUST DELEGATION 'REPORTBACK' - SUNDAY, SEPT. 18, 11:30 AM, LINDEN HALL

All are invited to attend this presentation by the August travelers, including several of our high school

youth, who will share highlights of their visit to our sister community of Santa María Tzejá. If you are considering joining a delegation, don't miss this opportunity to see what it's all about! Light refreshments will be provided.

SIGN-UP NOW FOR FEBRUARY 2017 DELEGATION

Brenda Metzler and Fred Moder will co-lead the church's upcoming delegation to SMT (February 15-26, 2017). We are seeking adults and high school youth to join us on this transformational journey of cultural exchange, friendship, faith, and adventure. Total cost is approximately \$1,500. Sign-ups will close in late September, since airline tickets must be purchased early. Please speak with Fred or Brenda ASAP, or send e-mail with your interest/questions to: fmoder@verizon.net (or bmetzler7@verizon.net).

GUATEMALA PARTNER FAMILY SOCIAL - SAT., OCT. 1, 6 - 8 PM

Partner Families and Friends are invited to the Johnson's (505 Great Plain Ave.) for our fourth annual social gathering or 'fiesta' to include drink and fare (eats). If interested in becoming a partner family and writing to a family in Santa María Tzejá, please send e-mail to: davebjohnson77@gmail.com.

FOCUS

Focus is published monthly. Contributions are welcome. Please submit materials by e-mail to office@needhamucc.org.

October issue deadline:
Thursday, September 22

Rev. Jim Mitulski
Interim Senior Minister
revjim@needhamucc.org

Rev. Heike Werder
Associate Minister
revheike@needhamucc.org

Maddie Downer
CE & Youth Director
youth@needhamucc.org

Valerie Becker
Music Director
musicdirector@needhamucc.org

Danielle Jurdan
Administrator
office@needhamucc.org

Cindy Sullivan
Office Assistant
office2@needhamucc.org

Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton,
Pastor Emeritus

Welcome Back, Welcome Home! *by Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister*

In the New Century Hymnal there is a song I like very much. We have sung it a few times in our worship services. It is called, "This Is a Day of New Beginnings," (# 417) written by British hymn writer Brian Wren. The first verse goes like this:

This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

And the last verse:

Christ is alive, and goes before us
To show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings,
Our God is making all things new.

I love that about our God. Nothing has to stay the way it was. In fact, God wants us to make changes, to improve upon the past, and make all things new.

What is new for us?

First of all, we are welcoming the Rev. Jim Mitulski

as our Interim Senior minister. I have already enjoyed working with Jim, and I am looking forward learning from him as he guides our church through this interim time and process.

Another new thing we are doing is not really new, but has been 'resurrected': Name Tags. All of us are encouraged to wear our name tag. It will not only help Rev. Jim to get to know our names, but we get to know each other. A name tag holder has been placed in the Narthex for all the name tags for the adults (the children have their Sunday school name tags), and we are trying our best to have a name tag made for everyone we can think of.



We are very excited to celebrate "Welcome Back" Sunday on September 11, 2016 at 10 am with a special coffee hour to follow, hosted by the Guatemala Committee. Come and join us for a wonderful celebration! And it is the perfect time to give your new name tag a test run!

ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRIES TEAM NEWS ...EARTH STEWARDSHIP FOR OUR LIVES TODAY...

The EMT hopes you had a fun and relaxation filled summer! Hope you stayed cool too since it has been the 5th warmest summer on record and the driest!

We are looking forward to Welcome Back Sunday! We will have a table with information about our team and what we have accomplished to help our church become a green congregation. There will also be information to help you learn more about earth stewardship.

Looking for a way to contribute to our church and make a difference for ourselves and future generations? Consider becoming a member of EMT!

Did you know that we have a butterfly garden? The confirmation garden on the Linden Street side of the church has had a makeover. A damaged redbud tree was removed and butterfly attracting plants were added. Some Bee Balm, Butterfly Bushes and Black Eyed Susans (all native plants!) were added and have attracted butterfly species such as Clouded Sulphur, Viceroy, American Lady, Cabbage



White and Easter Tailed Blue. Big thanks go out to Debbie and Blair Wentworth, Diana Conroy and Barbara Case for all your hard work and dedication!

Please join us for a Climate Change Cafe, October 16 at 11:30 in Linden Hall.

Mary Lou Andre is Founder and President of Organization by Design, a wardrobe management, fashion and image consulting firm, and editor of Dressing Well On-Line. She will discuss how we can pare down our wardrobes to essential items that can be mixed and matched. This is a follow-up to the movie, True Cost, shown in April, about the economic and environmental costs of fast fashion.



The Village Fair!

We are sponsoring a table at the Village Fair in November that will focus on reusing/repurposing items that might have otherwise been discarded. We are still looking for wine corks (preferably real cork), beer caps, retro barware, pillar candles (not tapers), old maps, 50's items, small glass votives and anything you have repurposed that you no longer want.

BOARD UPDATE

Fellow congregants,

Here is a brief summary of the Board's summer activities.

All-Church Financial Forum

On June 26 the Board and treasurer Jennifer Connors held a forum to update the congregation on the status of the capital campaign, the future use of 1180 Great Plain Avenue, and plans for capital improvements.

We plan to repeat the forum in the fall, tentatively on Sunday, October 16, after worship. This is both for the benefit of those unable to attend the June 26 forum, and to provide further updates to the entire congregation.

Rental of 1180 Great Plain Ave.

With Temple Beth Shalom moving out of the rear 2/3 of 1180 GPA at the end of its lease in August, the Board decided to seek a new tenant for a maximum of 5 years, at a competitive market rental rate which will allow us to pay off a substantial portion of the loan used to purchase the building. We are currently in active negotiations with two potential tenants.

Maintenance Projects

We also reviewed and approved a number of maintenance items requested by the church office. The most visible of these are painting of several exterior areas of the Church, including the area around the Linden Street entrance. You may also notice the new walkway between the parking lot and the playground and the painting of Noah's Ark's rooms. Less visible, but just as important, are remediation of the mold discovered in the closet used to store Christmas Pageant materials, and investigation of drainage backups that could be due

to either a blockage or a break in the line between the main church building and the town sewer. Lastly, all of the locks of the main church buildings were changed, and a keypad-controlled lock installed on the door from the parking lot. These two items will greatly improve the staff's ability to control access to the building.

Looking forward, we are continuing to investigate the installation of a ramp on the outside stairs to the front door of the sanctuary. A ramp would be an interim measure as we work on logistics and cost of full accessibility through installation of a lift

Interim Minister

In August we welcomed our new interim minister, Rev. Jim Mitulski. Jim is an active user of Facebook, so you may wish to check out his page for some pictures.

Audit

We asked our Treasurer to begin to look for an accounting firm to conduct the audit we budgeted for this year. The Board agreed, however, that it would make sense to actually conduct the audit after the close of the current fiscal year on December 31.

Board Membership

Lastly, Jason Johnson has moved from Needham, and consequently resigned from the Board. We are actively looking for someone to replace him. If you are interested in serving on the Board, or would simply like more information, please send an email to board@needhamucc.org. The commitment would be to serve until the January, 2017 annual meeting, when you may choose to stand for a full term if you wish.

Yours in Christ,
The Board

RIDE FOR FOOD **Sunday September 25th**

On September 25, 2016 members of our church will participate in the annual Ride for Food. Our church is riding under the umbrella of the Needham Community Council. The proceeds of monies raised will be given to area food pantries, the Needham pantry included.

It is not too late to sign up to ride your bike. Please go to the Needham Community Council website and click on the rider. Follow instructions for signing up. Our church group will be a sub-team of the Needham Community Council team.

For those who do not wish to ride but would like to sponsor our team, you will be encouraged to make a donation on Sundays for our riders, starting August 21, 2016. Rev. Heike has a pledge list, and will be ready to receive sponsorship donations.



Congregational Church of Needham
Quarterly Report of Budget to Actual Income and Expenses
January 2016 - June 2016

	2016 Annual Budget	Pro Rata Budget 6 Months	Actual to Date	Favorable (Unfavorable)
Income				
Pledges	395,146	202,646	183,797	(18,849)
Income from Endowment	182,000	91,000	91,000	-
Endowment for Sr. Minister	102,107	68,071	68,071	-
Rentals	175,000	87,500	101,177	13,677
Other Income	28,060	19,030	19,882	852
Total Income	882,313	468,247	463,927	(4,320)
Expenses				
Benevolence Giving	65,000	32,500	32,500	-
Minister Compensation	328,748	178,072	142,889	35,183
Sr. Minister Severance	102,107	68,071	73,325	(5,254)
Interim Minister	104,638	46,499	1,026	45,473 *
Associate Minister	101,003	53,002	55,756	(2,754)
Youth Minister	21,000	10,500	12,782	(2,282)
Christian Education	13,400	6,700	4,225	2,475
Music	60,178	30,089	32,777	(2,688)
Parish Administration	136,643	68,321	69,772	(1,451)
Building Maintenance	155,919	77,960	80,394	(2,434)
1154 Utilities & Direct Maint.	24,800	12,400	12,508	(108)
1180 Utilities & Direct Maint.	38,600	19,300	9,661	9,639
Other Committees	1,525	762	425	337
Loan Interest: Needham Bank	49,000	24,500	25,222	(722)
Other Expenses	8,500	4,250	2,133	2,117
Total Expenses	882,313	454,854	412,506	42,348
Operating Surplus or (Deficit)		13,393	51,421	38,028

Compared with budget, total operating income exceeded expenses by \$38,028 or 9.2 percent for the first six months of 2016.

Total income was \$4,320 below budget, with a \$18,489 or 9.3 percent underrun in pledges largely offset by a \$13,677 surplus in rental income.

Total expenses were \$42,348 under budget. The underrun is being driven primarily by the delay in the start date of the Interim Minister from March until August. Many of the salary accounts and social security taxes show year-to-date overruns which are due to the timing of payments and will be on budget by year-end. Costs associated with the 1180 Great Plain Building (utilities and maintenance) are below budget by \$9,621 due to the monthly reimbursement we have received from Temple Beth Shalom.

* The Board has authorized the use of part of the expense underrun in Interim Minister compensation to fund some long-overdue major maintenance projects, including exterior painting.

ONA NEWS

UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER



This summer, was full of events that reminded us of how important it is to be an Open and Affirming church, to make safe spaces and to respect and care for each other in this world. On the night of Boston Pride, the shootings in Orlando rocked us, as did the devastating killings of Black men, police and transgender women of color (although no media really cover the deaths of these women) later on. Heike organized a beautiful memorial worship service for Orlando and the church hosted the town-wide vigil and worship. The good news of the summer was that the Transgender Public Access Bill became law after a 10-year campaign. Our growth and awareness as a congregation can have wide impact if we are informed, vigilant and committed to all people, and if we understand how to live past the privileges we might have.

BACK TO WORK, ONA CHURCH!
Last spring featured these programs:

- ONA 101.2 slide show and review of our church's Open and Affirming history
- Discussion with CeCe Hansen, a transgender woman, and member at Wellesley Village Church
- LGBTQ asylum seekers and asylees from the Hadwen Park Congregational Church in Worcester. These men told of the horrors of their lives in oppressive countries with

oppressive laws. They came to spread the word about Hadwen Park's LGBT Asylum Support Task Force and the loving work that has saved them and dozens of other people.



OCTOBER ONA EVENTS

The church will offer two great experiences in October - LGBTQ History Month. We will further explore the transgender experience, hear the stories of those who identify as transgender, their families, those who interact with them. We will become better equipped to be a more fully inclusive and affirming church. More information to come in Focus and Bulletins.

A CELEBRATION FOR A PARTNER PROGRAM IN SEPTEMBER

Out MetroWest (WAGLY) is having its Annual Fund-raiser "Come Out and Celebrate" on September 24 at the Hilton Dedham. The event honors GLAD (Legal Advocates and Defender for the LGBTQ Community) Executive Director Janson Wu and Attorney General Maura Healy. The Outreach Committee made a generous donation to sponsor the event and has been given four tickets. Rev. Jim will be attending with one of the Outreach tickets. Three are still available at <http://outmetrowest.org/save-the-date-come-out-celebrate-2016/> Please consider attending and celebrating with this partner organization.



CHURCH READ AND DISCUSSION

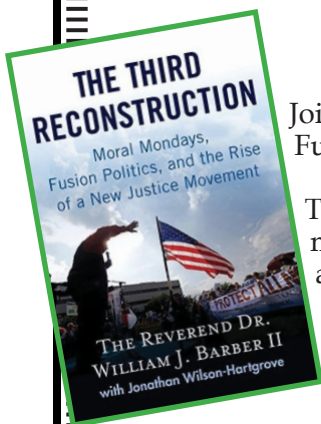
"The Third Reconstruction" Wed. September 28 at 7pm

Join us Sept. 28th at 7pm for a discussion of the Third Reconstruction: Moral Monday's, Fusion Politics and the Rise of a New Justice Movement by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II.

This book was recently selected by the Unitarian Universalist Church for an every member reads program in 2017 because of Dr. Barber's leadership on Racial Justice issues after he was a featured speaker at the DNC this summer. He also spoke recently in Boston

You can hear him speak at the DNS through this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aw3PUghqIAA>

Books are available for purchase in the book store shelves next to the Chapel.



SEPTEMBER 2016

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4 Labor Day & Communion Worship	5	6 Community Dinner	7	8 Lunch with Heike	9	10
11 Welcome Back Sunday & Communion Worship Q&A With Rev. Jim	12 Cancer Support Group	13	14	15	16	17 Pie-Athlon
18 Mens Breakfast Worship	19 Cancer Support Group	20	21	22	23	24
25 Worship - Rev. Martha M. Cruz Guest Preacher Ride for Food	26 Cancer Support Group	27	28	29	30	

Q&A WITH REV. JIM
11:30am, September 11
Linden Hall

Rev. Jim is hosting a Q & A with our congregation to open a discussion about ...

- Why Interim Ministry?
- What will our time together look like?
- How long will it last?
- What will we accomplish? and
- How will it feel?

COMMUNITY DINNERS
6-7pm, Sept 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1 & Dec. 3
Linden Hall

Dinners coincide with monthly Baby Basics distribution. Volunteers are welcome to join in our effort to provide a healthy dinner for our guests and members of the church.

Volunteers are welcome to help with setting up, serving, visiting and eating with our Baby Basics families, and clean up. Please contact Rev. Heike or Diana Conroy if you are interested in helping out.

THURSDAY LUNCH WITH REV. HEIKE
Noon-1pm, Sept. 8, Oct. 6 & Nov. 3
1180 Great Plain Ave.

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 on the first Thursday of every month. Soups are vegetarian based (most of them) but always lactose and nut free. Everyone is welcome!

Beginning in December we will meet weekly for the season of Advent Lunches on December 1, 8, 15, and 22.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
9:00am, Mondays - Sept. 12, 19, 26
1154 Great Plain Ave.

Our Cancer Support Group will start up on September 12, 2016 at 9 am in the Reception Room. This group will meet every Monday morning, except on holiday Mondays or school vacations.

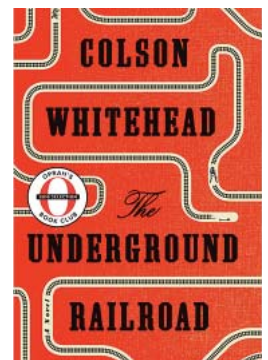
Come, if you need an extra hug or prayer said for yourself or a family member.

CHURCH READ AND DISCUSSION - "THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD"
Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00pm

Let's Read Together - "The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead!

Join us in reading Colson Whitehead's timely new novel "The Underground Railroad." We'll gather Wednesday evening, September 21st to discuss the book. See Jim Mitulski or email with questions RevJim@needhamucc.org.

Books are available for purchase in the book store shelves next to the Chapel.





1154 Great Plain Avenue
1180 Great Plain Avenue
Needham, MA 02492-2202

T: 781-444-2510
office@needhamucc.org



Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Sunday September 18th

On Sunday, 9/18, the Men's Fellowship Breakfast 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

Youth News

Sept. 2016

@ the Congregational Church of Needham

Maddie Downer, CE & Youth Director

Christian Education

Nursery: Infant, Toddler & Pre-K

Every Sunday during the school year, we offer nursery care for infant, toddlers and pre-K children. You can find the nursery in our Sunday School wing on the first level - look for the purple door!

Sunday School: K - 5th Grade

Our Sunday School program is a workshop model offering that teaches kids about the stories of the Bible using arts and crafts, games, science, cooking, and other stories! Our classes are split into two age groups:

GREEN: K - 2ND GRADE
BLUE: 3RD - 5TH GRADE

Look for the classroom doors and nametag lanyards that match your color!

The first Sunday of each month is Children's Chapel which will be held in Stevenson Hall (the large hall downstairs near Linden Street). This space will enable us to sing, dance, and play as we worship God.

Junior & Senior High students are invited and encouraged to participate in Sunday School by serving as teachers! Junior high students are recommended to teach the green class (K-2); Senior high students may teach either class!

Information on 6-8 Sunday School will follow in next month's FOCUS!

Youth Ministries

Our youth ministries programs seek to offer a place that fosters belonging. We have expanded our high school youth offerings to meet the requests of our students - this year for the first time we will offer a Thursday evening youth group where the focus is being together.

We often bridge the two groups together for special events such as our Haunted House and Superbowl Subs fundraiser. Look for these special announcements!

Please note, there is a \$20 annual fee for participation in our youth ministries. This helps to provide our groups with much-needed snacks!

JUNIOR HIGH

Our Junior High youth group meets most Sundays from 5:00 - 6:30 PM. Orientation for parents and students: Sunday, September 11, 4:30 PM

JR High September meetings:

Sunday September 18 & 25 from 5:00 - 6:30 PM

SENIOR HIGH

Our Senior high youth have two options for fellowship (Sunday's and Thursday's) and can feel free to attend either/both!

Orientation for parents and students: Sunday, September 11, 5:00 PM

Senior High on Sunday Afternoons

The youth group format you knew and loved in junior high continues into high school. We will meet right after Shepherd's Staff choir wraps up its rehearsal (1:00 pm). We'll offer snacks and games, activities and discussion

Senior High September meetings:

Sunday September 18 from 1:00 - 2:30 PM



Holy Homework

Bring your homework if you have it! If you don't have homework, Maddie will offer an activity that fosters spiritual practice - devotionals, building prayer beads, mosaics, mandalas, etc. High school is stressful - you have homework and clubs, sports and other commitments. Make space to take care of your spirit in the midst of all that. You'll find fellowship and community.

Holy Homework September meetings:

September 15 & 29 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM

YOUTH NEWS

@ the Congregational Church of Needham

Maddie Downer, CE & Youth Director

Sept. 2016

A NOTE FROM MADDIE DOWNER, CE & YOUTH DIRECTOR

Hello beloved ones and welcome back to a new academic year!

I hope that your summer has refreshed you all for another year of learning - both in school and in church! Our Christian Education programs kick up on September 11th. We will begin in the Sanctuary and then travel down to Stevenson Hall for chapel time and getting to know our classmates.

This year, we welcome Maria Libby and Sheila Sanchez as our Nursery staff. Every Sunday, these two lovely ladies, along with some other volunteers from time to time, will care for our Pre-K kids with stories and songs, arts and crafts, and a whole bunch of fun toys!

An important note is that we will be organizing our classrooms by color! Last year we split into two age groups which really helped us to be able to find teachers each week. This year, to help our kids better understand which class they belong to, we have

assigned our classes colors:

Pre-K/Nursery: PURPLE

K - 2nd Grade: GREEN

3rd - 5th Grade: BLUE

If you are in junior or senior high, you can help contribute to the ministry of the church by teaching alongside other volunteers from our congregation! Adults, whether you have children in the program or not, we are always in need of teachers! You can sign up by month on our Sign Up Genius: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0844a8aa23a2fd0-20162017>

On Sunday, September 11, parents will have the opportunity to register their students/review already registered students after church.

I am so excited to walk through this next part of our children's faith journeys and, together with your help, to show them how loved and needed they are by God, by the world, and by this congregation.

Yours in Christ,
Maddie

FROM CE & YOUTH



Teachers and chaperones are always needed!

We will have a CE & Youth Table at Coffee Hour where you can sign up to fill this need!

If you would like to teach or shepherd our Sunday School students, please visit our CE Sign-Up at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0844a8aa23a2fd0-20162017>

If you would like to chaperone Youth Group, please reach out to Maddie and we will find some times and activities that work best for your passions and the youth offerings!

HAUNTED HOUSE 2016: HAUNTED FAIRY TALES!

Our 2016 Haunted House has been in the works since Easter! Our students had some great ideas for this favorite fundraiser and we'll be doing a Fairy Tale themed haunted house.

We will be in need of:

- formal dresses and fairy-tale type costumes
- Gift cards to Home Depot so we can create our sets
- Lots of artificial plants and flowers
- New Black plastic to create our hallways (Home Depot gift cards will really help with this!)
- Nut-free candy
- Twinkle lights & Face paint
- Halloween decorations - ours are getting old/need help
- Comella's gift cards to feed our hungry student workers

Please note, you likely will not receive items back as costumes and props get doctored to fit students and the "haunted" atmosphere. If you can donate any of these items, please leave them in the donations box across from the Chapel! Thank you for supporting our youth and the summer Mission trip through this great fundraiser!