

# FAITH FORMATION & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Congregational Church of Needham, United Church of Christ

## September & October 2017 Newsletter

### Faith Formation Open House: Thursday, September 7 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Tour the classrooms and register your students ahead of Welcome Back Sunday! Kids will participate in a scavenger hunt as they tour the classrooms and church space. Families can meet with Maddie, our Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministries.



### Welcome Back Sunday:

Sunday, September 10 | 10:00 AM

- 9:45 AM: Sunday School Registration
- 10:00 AM: Worship Service including **Blessing of the Backpacks: Students, please bring your backpacks to church!** We will bless them (and you!) during the Time for Children.
- 11:00 AM: Visit the Faith Formation & Family Ministries table in Fellowship Hall!

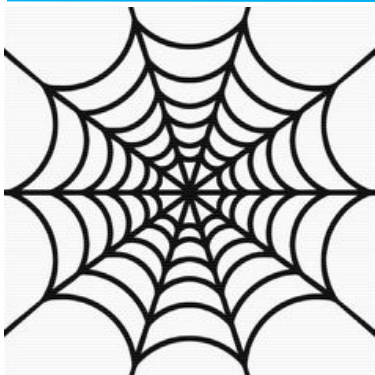


**BLESSING  
★ OF THE ★  
BACKPACKS**

### St. Francis Pet Blessing:

Sunday, October 1 | 4:00 PM

We're celebrating the animals that we love and who love us back. You're invited to bring your cat (in a carrier), dog (on a leash), horse (mini or full size), or other animal to be blessed. Stuffed animals are welcome! You're also welcome to bring a picture or urn to honor those animal friends who have passed away. All participants will receive a small token of blessing. A collection of pet supplies will be taken for the Animal Rescue League.



### Mystery Dinner Theater: Capers at Camp Cobweb

Saturday, October 21 | 5:00 PM

Camp Cobweb is the favored summer camp for fun-loving ghosties, vampires, and witches and you're invited to the reunion dinner. But wait! Someone's been pulling pranks on the counselors as they get ready for this event! Can YOU solve the mystery of whodunit?

**Tickets:** \$10 per adult, \$5 per child under 10. Costumes encouraged!

# YOUTH MINISTRIES

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**September & October 2017 Newsletter**

**Youth Ministries Orientation: Sunday, September 10**  
**JR High (G.6-8) 4:00 PM | SR High (G.9-12) 6:30 PM**

Come to the kickoff meetings for our youth groups! The first half-hour of each group will be an orientation time for both students and parents. The last hour will be YG games and activities!



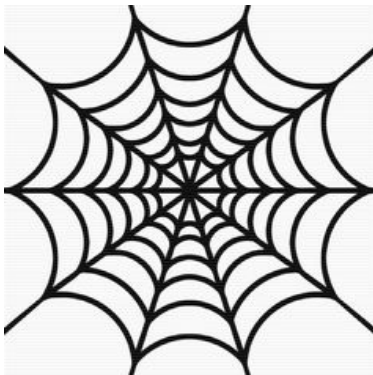
## JR High Bake Sale:

The JR High Youth Group will hold a bake sale fundraiser after church on **Sunday, September 17**. JR High Students are asked to bring a minimum of 2 dozen cookies or cupcakes or 2 breads/cakes to contribute.



## King Richard's Faire

Hear ye, hear ye! The JR & SR High youth groups will join up for a daytrip back in time as we head to King Richard's Faire in Carver, MA! Sunday, October 8, 11:30 AM - 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$34/person. **Sign up by Sunday, September 24!**



Sign up to Act in our FIRST Mystery Dinner Theater:

## CAPERS AT CAMP COBWEB

Signups due: Sunday, September 24

Event date: Saturday, October 21 | 5:00 PM

Haunted House + Church Musical + Dinner = Mystery Dinner Theater! Whether you want to sing and dance or work behind the scenes in creating a set, selling tickets, or serving dinner, there is a part for you! **Sign up for a part by Sunday, September 24.**

**Rehearsals:** Sunday, Oct. 1, 6:30P; Sunday, Oct. 15, 4:00P; Saturday, Oct. 21, 2:30 P.

## NEED2NOURISH RETREAT: JR & SR HIGH (Grades 6-12)

7:00 PM on Friday, October 13 - 4:00 PM on Saturday, October 14

We'll learn about food justice issues and what we can do in response here in Needham, in our country, and in the world through different group activities. This is a great follow-up for students who went on our trip to Heifer over the summer or who are interested in future mission trips! \$20/person. **Sign up by Sunday, September 24 to participate.**



## FAITH FORMATION & FAMILY MINISTRIES AT NEEDHAM UCC

### WHAT IS OFFERED FOR MY CHILD/STUDENT ON SUNDAY MORNING?

We are excited to offer opportunities for children in Toddler/Pre-K through High School!

Programming for toddler—Grade 8 is offered during the 10:00AM worship service.

High School students Faith Formation is offered before the worship service at 9:15 AM.

#### **Rainbow Room: Nursery Care**

*Toddler/Pre-K*

*Noah's Ark room*

Located in the Noah's Ark room, children are cared for by members of the congregation along with a nursery teacher. Coloring and crafts, games, stories and songs are offered. Goldfish and water are served as snack in the Rainbow Room.

#### **Discovery Kingdom:**

*Kindergarten - Grade 5*

*K-2: Stevenson Classroom*

*Gr. 3-5: Classroom B*

Our Faith Formation programming for elementary students uses a workshop model to bring children into conversation with our beloved and sacred stories. Imagination and wonder are at the core of our classroom time. Children will use arts and crafts, songs and stories, cooking and games to put into motion what they learn during our large group time. Classes are taught by a teacher and volunteer and are offered in two age groups:

**DK Explorers:** Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2

**DK Adventurers:** Grades 3, 4, and 5

#### **6:8 Re:Form**

*Middle School/Grades 6-8*

*Youth Room*

Offered for students in middle school, we use a discussion model and an adapted Re:Form curriculum to talk about our faith journeys, confidence building, and issues students may encounter in the middle school setting.

#### **Holy Donuts!**

*High School/Grades 9-12*

*Youth Room*

Offered for Senior High students from 9:15-9:45 AM.

We gather for donuts and devotional time prior to the worship service.

*Faith Formation classes are offered beginning the Sunday after Labor Day through the last Sunday of the Needham Public Schools academic year.*

*On Family Sundays, students remain in the sanctuary during worship; nursery care is offered.*



August 18, 2017

Greetings Families!

I hope you had a wonderful summer! I am looking forward to our Faith Formation and Youth Ministries program year starting on Sunday, September 10th. Included in this packet you will find the following information:

- Information on classes offered — we have something for everyone from our littlest littles to our High School seniors!
- A September/October newsletter with highlighted events for Faith Formation & Youth Ministries.
- A full Faith Formation & Youth Ministries Fall calendar (September-December).

All students must have an updated registration form to participate in Faith Formation and Youth Ministries offerings. You can update your families' registration online at [www.needhamucc.org](http://www.needhamucc.org) or on Welcome Back Sunday. In addition to participating in special events, we also need the support of our church family in the classrooms and at youth group. I am hoping that each family can sign up 6 times throughout the year to be a classroom assistant in one of our Sunday School classrooms or to chaperone our Youth Ministries meetings and events. You can find the links to the sign ups printed on the last page of this packet.

In addition, families are encouraged to make use of my office hours! You can make an appointment by email to meet with me on Tuesday and Thursday evenings— or drop in at my community office hours on Tuesdays (beginning in September) from 2:30-4:30 pm at Orange Leaf on Highland Ave and we can talk about anything you'd like!

I hope to see you at church soon! Please let me know if you need anything or have any questions.

Blessings,

**Maddie**

Maddie Downer, MDiv  
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## FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRIES FALL 2017 SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER

#### Sunday, September 3

Worship (Family Sunday): 10:00 AM

#### Thursday, September 7:

Faith Formation Open House, 5:00-7:00 PM

#### Sunday, September 10:

Holy Donuts (G. 9-12): 9:15-9:45 AM

Welcome Back Sunday, 10:00 AM (registration begins at 9:45AM) Bring your backpack!

JR High (G.6-8) Orientation 4:00 PM

SR High (G.9-12) Orientation 6:30 PM

#### Sunday, September 17:

Holy Donuts (G. 9-12): 9:15-9:45 AM

Worship & Faith Formation Classes: 10:00 AM

JR High Bake Sale, 11:30AM

JR High (G.6-8) 4:00 PM | SR High (G.9-12) 6:30 PM

#### Sunday, September 24:

Holy Donuts (G. 9-12): 9:15-9:45 AM

Worship & Faith Formation Classes: 10:00 AM

JR High (G.6-8) 4:00 PM | SR High (G.9-12) 6:30 PM

Signups for King Richard's Faire, YG Dinner Theater and Need2Nourish Youth Retreat due today!

### OCTOBER

#### Sunday, October 1:

Holy Donuts (G. 9-12): 9:15-9:45 AM

Worship & Faith Formation Classes: 10:00 AM

Pet Blessing, 4:00 PM

All Youth Rehearsal for Dinner Theater 6:30 PM

#### Sunday, October 8: Columbus Day Weekend

Worship (Family Sunday): 10:00 AM

JR & SR High to King Richard's Fair 11:30 AM

#### Friday, October 13 - Saturday, October 14

JR & SR High Retreat: Need2Nourish

Sign up by Sunday, September 24.

#### Sunday, October 15

Holy Donuts (G. 9-12): 9:15-9:45 AM

Worship & Faith Formation Classes: 10:00 AM

All Youth Rehearsal for Dinner Theater 4:00 PM

#### Saturday, October 21:

Dinner Theater Rehearsal & Set-up 2:30 PM

Mystery Dinner Theater Event: 5:00 PM

Tickets: \$10/adult, \$5/child

#### Sunday, October 29

Holy Donuts (G. 9-12): 9:15-9:45 AM

Worship & Faith Formation Classes: 10:00 AM

JR High (G.6-8) 4:00 PM | SR High (G.9-12) 6:30 PM

### NOVEMBER

#### Sunday, November 5:

Holy Donuts (G. 9-12): 9:15-9:45 AM

Worship & Faith Formation Classes: 10:00 AM

JR High (G.6-8) 4:00 PM | SR High (G.9-12) 6:30 PM

Christmas Pageant Sign-ups Begin!

#### Sunday, November 12:

Holy Donuts (G. 9-12): 9:15-9:45 AM

Worship & Faith Formation Classes: 10:00 AM

JR High (G.6-8) 4:00 PM | SR High (G.9-12) 6:30 PM

#### Sunday, November 19:

Holy Donuts (G. 9-12): 9:15-9:45 AM

Worship & Faith Formation Classes: 10:00 AM

All Church Brunch Fellowship Event: 11:30 AM

*hosted by Youth Ministries students*

JR High (G.6-8) 4:00 PM | SR High (G.9-12) 6:30 PM

Giving Tree goes up!

#### Sunday, November 26:

Worship (Family Sunday): 10:00 AM

Christmas Pageant Sign-ups Due!

### DECEMBER

#### Sunday, December 3

Holy Donuts (G. 9-12): 9:15-9:45 AM

Worship & Faith Formation Classes: 10:00 AM

Advent Workshop & Lunch: 11:30 AM

JR High (G.6-8) 4:00 PM | SR High (G.9-12) 6:30 PM

#### Sunday, December 10

Worship & Faith Formation Classes: 10:00 AM

Pageant Rehearsal: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

JR High (G.6-8) 4:00 PM | SR High (G.9-12) 6:30 PM

Due: Giving Tree gifts. SR High Lock-in: Jan. 5-6 Sign-ups.

#### Saturday, December 16

Cookies with Santa: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

#### Sunday, December 17

Holy Donuts (G. 9-12): 9:15-9:45 AM

Worship & Faith Formation Classes: 10:00 AM

Pageant Rehearsal: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

JR High (G.6-8) 4:00 PM | SR High (G.9-12) 6:30 PM

#### Sunday, December 24:

Worship & Faith Formation Classes: 10:00 AM

Pageant Rehearsal: 2:00-3:30 PM

Family Worship Service feat. Pageant: 4:00 PM

#### Sunday, December 31:

Worship (Family Sunday): 10:00 AM

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SR High Winter Lock-In: Friday Jan. 5–Saturday, Jan. 6

JR High Winter Lock-In: Friday, March–Saturday, March 10



# get in touch CONTACT US



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www.NeedhamUCC.org

## Faith Formation and Youth Ministries at Congregational Church of Needham UCC

1154 Great Plain Avenue, Needham, MA 02492

### Maddie Downer, MDiv

Director, Christian Education & Youth Ministries

**Office:** 781-444-2510 x 104

**Email:** Youth@NeedhamUCC.org



Make an appointment to meet with Maddie during her office hours on Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday.

In addition to her availability for scheduled appointments, Maddie holds drop-in community office hours September - June:

**Drop-In Community Office Hours:**  
2:30-4:30 PM on Tuesdays  
At Orange Leaf on Highland Ave.

### Faith Formation & Youth Ministries Email Lists:

If you have not received our weekly email updates (which resumed 8/17) please email:  
youth@needhamucc.org  
to be added!



### Sign up for Text Message Alerts!

**JR High (G.6-8):**

Text @jrhighucc to 810-10

**SR High (G.9-12):**

Text @srhighucc to 810-10

Messaging fees may apply.

### Sign up to serve as a classroom assistant or youth group chaperone!

**Faith Formation:** sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/y95gs2xj>

**Youth Ministries:** sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/youth1154>