



Summer Services

Sunday Worship will start in the Chapel on July 1.

During the summer our worship services are more relaxed and family-friendly. Starting Sunday July 1 we will meet for services in the Chapel, which is air-conditioned. The services are less formal.

Summer Music Our music is led by Cici Hunt and features different musicians each week from among the congregation. Please sign up on the bulletin board next to the Parking Lot door if you play an instrument or have a musical gift to share.

Candle Lighting Our services are simple, but we start the chapel service with an opportunity to come up to the altar to light a candle – to thank God for a blessing, or say a prayer. *This has become such an important part of the summer worship that we miss it in the fall.*

Worship Theme This summer our worship theme is “The Parables of Jesus”. The series will start on June 17 and go throughout the summer until the end of August. There are plenty of parables and much to look at.

Children Childcare is available for children of all ages, however children grades K-6 are welcome to stay for worship. Services are shorter, the sermons are less formal and most children can sit through them. We also provide coloring books. Last year many children joined us and had a good experience.

Summer Vacation Bible School

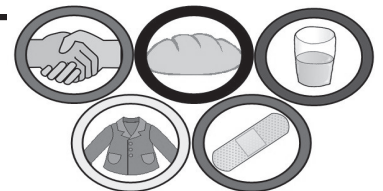
Registration Now Open!

Mon, Aug 27 – Fri, Aug 31, 8:30 am-noon

Our spring Vacation Bible School (VBS) was such a success, parents and kids asked for more! Rev. Jamie has put together an exciting new theme for a summer Vacation Bible School that will be full of active adventure.

This summer’s theme is “VBS Olympics: Join God’s Olympic Team to Change the World” where kids will create crafts, play exciting games, participate in meaningful community service, and sing upbeat songs.

The program is open to kids, ages 3 years old to sixth grade. The fee is \$15 per day for morning activities. Lunch bunch will be offered from noon - 1 pm for an extra \$5 per day. Additional children in each family will receive a 50% discount. Register by August 1 for a \$10 discount. Scholarships are also available. For more information or to register, visit www.needhamucc.org or call the church office at 781-444-2510. Registration forms can be downloaded at <http://needhamucc.org/learn/vbs>.



VBS OLYMPICS

Join God's Olympic Team to Change the World!



Play or Sing for the Congregation this Summer!

Musicians of all types and ages are invited to share their musical talents with us during the summer worship services in the Chapel. There are many talented people in our congregation and we would love to have you share your gifts! We can even create an ensemble if you do not want to do a solo. Summer Sundays begin July 1 through August 26. Interested? Please sign up on the Summer Music bulletin board in the main hallway or contact Cici Hunt at 781-540-9113 or cicihunt@gmail.com.

A Message from Senior Minister

Rev. Susan Cartmell

Summer Reading Suggestion

Several years ago the deacons had the idea that we might develop the habit of reading a book together over the summer as a church. There are many books out there worthy to be suggested, but as I was thinking about this idea I came across a book which is new, and very well written. I hope you consider it this summer as you search for things to read.

"Beautiful Souls" by Eyal Press.

The prologue begins when the author visits a village in modern day Poland called Josefow. It is an obscure spot and Mr. Press finds a particular place in this region where there are a bunch of old weathering crosses by the side of the road. One has a date carved in it from 1942. From this place, he recounts a moment in World War II when a huge group of Jews were rounded up and taken in trucks to this road side. It is a scene you might imagine or have watched too many times. The healthy men are separated from the others and transported to labor camps. The women, children and elderly are divided into groups and

systematically taken to the side of this road at the edge of an otherwise innocent field, but there they are all massacred.

The killings go on for the entire day. The interesting detail often forgotten in these stories is that the Germans asked for volunteers before they started this

"What makes you eager to push this book into the hands of the next person you meet are the small, still moments, epics captured in miniature. . . Mr. Press's book is a hymn to the mystery of disobedience."

Mark Oppenheimer,
The New York Times

operation. Ten soldiers opted out that morning. Mr. Press explains that often we focus on systems of evil that promote violence, but in his book he looks instead at people who go against the group they that are part of and exercise their option to resist evil. The book is very interesting because it is a study of who some of these resisters are. It is not a systematic look at evil, but a personal look at the qualities that promote resistance and support the courage to step back and see things differently.

Throughout this book, Mr. Press asks why some people do the right thing. I hope you will e-mail me if you have a book to suggest, and if you do read this one perhaps we can all get together in the fall for a discussion.

Peace, Susan

**New To Our Church? Join a
Spiritual Discussion Series,
Sunday, June 3 and 17, 5-7pm**

**Join Rev. Susan for a Newcomers
Get Together Dinner & Discussion.**

June 3 - How do I pray?

June 17 - What about doubt ?

5pm - Dinner

5:30 - Children's program with teen counselors

5:40 - Adult discussion

In a relaxed and comfortable setting, you can get to know other new families, and individuals. Talk about your questions of faith with each other and with Rev. Susan. Join us for 2 hours that will change your week.

RSVP requested, but not required to office2@needhamucc.org.

All are welcome!

Family Support Group Sundays, June 3 and 17, 2:30pm

Are you are dealing with a family concern about a child or a family member with a medical problem? Is someone in the family dealing with depression? If you are looking for a circle where you can trust that what you say is confidential...consider the Family Support Group.

Rev. Susan is starting this Family Support Group to offer families a place to share the things that are hard to share in most circles. This is an organizational meeting. For questions, contact revsusan@needhamucc.org.

June & July's Sermon Theme is Parables

FOCUS

Focus is published once a month. Contributions from all members and friends of the Church are warmly invited. Please submit materials by e-mail to office@needhamucc.org.

*Deadline for September issue:
Sunday, August 26.*

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

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

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revjamie@needhamucc.org

Danielle Jurdan, Administrator
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sopranojoy@gmail.com

Heather Clarke, Office Assistant
office2@needhamucc.org

Doris D. Cook, Volunteer Office Asst.

Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton,
Pastor Emeritus

Ushers Needed Join a Ministry of Hospitality

Are you looking for a way to help out at the church? Becoming an usher may be just what you're looking for. Ushers are a team of people that volunteer during worship on Sundays. The role of the usher is to prepare the Sanctuary for worship, distribute bulletins to the parishioners, collect the offering, and help people find their way around the church. No nights are needed, and being an usher is a very rewarding way to give back to the church. If interested, please contact Eric

Slosser at
eric@slosser.net

What's Happening with Youth Group?

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Sunday, June 3: Youth Sunday

Be inspired by the young energy in our church when the Senior High Youth Group leads worship. Kids in kindergarten and up are invited to attend the service. Childcare is available.

Also on June 3

Junior High Youth Group BBQ, 1-3 pm
Senior High Youth Group BBQ, 5-7 pm

June 16 & 17: The youth groups will be participating in Needham's Relay for Life event. As part of their participation, the Junior High Youth Group has made **Relay for Life Cancer Awareness Pins** that are now on sale in the church book store (The Good Book, located in the reception room) for a suggested donation of \$2. All proceeds will go to the Youth Group Relay for Life Team "Team UCC: United to Cure Cancer" to benefit the American Cancer Society. Church members are also invited to join us at Relay for Life at DeFazio Field on Sat, June 16th at 5 pm for the Opening Ceremony and Cancer Survivor Lap, or at 9 pm for the Luminary Ceremony.



Registration at *The Center* Now Open for 2012-13 School Year Spaces available for rising sixth and seventh graders

Registration at *The Center*, an after school drop-in program, is now open for sixth and seventh graders for the 2012-2013 school year. The Center will be hosting open houses for families in the community to tour the space, meet the staff, and learn about the registration process, on Wed, June 6, 7-8 pm; Tues, June 12, 7-8 pm; and Thurs, June 21, 9-11 am and 7-8 pm. Private tours are also available.

The Center is a safe, fun place for sixth and seventh graders to develop independence, get homework done and have fun with friends. For more information, to register, or to schedule a private tour, contact us by email at info@MyYouthCenter.org, visit www.myyouthcenter.org, or call Center Director Jamie Green at 781.444.2510 ext 198.

Decorations and Supplies Needed for Vacation Bible School

Rev. Jamie is collecting the following items: anything with a sports or global theme- world flags, world maps, sport posters, sport supplies, objects and posters from foreign countries, etc (to borrow or to keep); and craft supplies such as toilet paper and paper towel tubes, old CDs, egg cartons and shoe boxes/small boxes.

Senior High Mission Trip

On June 25 - July 1, 2012, 29 members of the senior high youth group and 6 chaperones will be traveling to Vermont to participate in our annual Mission Trip. During the work days of the Mission Trip, our group will be working with Mad River Flood Recovery. Volunteers will assist with rebuilding homes that suffered damage during Hurricane Irene and help with riverbank cleanup and debris removal from the Mad River Path.

A mission trip commission will take place on Sunday, June 24 during the worship service and a report back about the trip will be held on September 23 after church.

Two chaperones are still needed for this trip. Contact Rev. Jamie (revjamie@needhamucc.org) if you are able to help out!

June is LGBT Pride Month Celebrate at Boston Pride on Saturday, June 9

Our church will join other Open and Affirming churches to celebrate Boston LGBT Pride. The day starts with the Pride Interfaith Worship Service at Old South Church UCC at 10 am. Our ONA banner will be hanging in Old South for the service. At noon, the 2-mile parade begins on Boylston Street, winds through the South End, back to the Boston Common, up Beacon Hill and down to City Hall Plaza, where the Pride Festival Marketplace will happen.



**OPEN AND AFFIRMING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Spread the UCC's message of "welcome!" at the parade. To sign up, email or call Kathie Carpenter at kacarp@comcast.net,

or

617-797-5461.

We hope to see you there!

Greetings from our Newest Staff Member!

Hello. My name is Danielle Jurdan and I am the new Church Administrator and editor of the FOCUS. My background is in communications, marketing and graphic design. I live in Dedham along with my husband Andrew and sons Evan & Zak. You can find me in the office Monday through Friday from 9 am - 5 pm and I can be reached via email at office@needhamucc.org.



Fun and Successful Guatemala Yard Sale

Glorious weather, lots of shoppers, and more than 50 volunteer workers resulted in a fabulous yard sale event last weekend! In addition to raising more than \$4,000 to support education in Santa Maria Tzejá, this annual fundraiser builds fellowship in our church community, as well as highlighting to others our church's outreach efforts and commitment to environmental stewardship through recycling. Thanks to all of you who donated items, helped to sort and price, staffed the sale, and/or purchased items. And a special thanks to our very accommodating hosts, Dave and Caryl Johnson.

Send-Off for Guatemala August Delegation

Tuesday, July 31, 7 pm

The August delegation is preparing for their trip to our sister village Santa Maria Tzeja. Our travelers are David Tegeler, Stephen Farr, Jane Clayton-Matthews, Dave Johnson, Amanda Farr, Andrew Tegeler, Jessica Clayton-Matthews, along with co-leaders Alan Clayton-Matthews and Caryl Johnson. All are invited to attend a brief celebration the evening before the delegation's departure at the Johnson home at 505 Great Plain Ave at 7 pm. Please stop by for an hour to show support for the group.

Partner Family Letters Needed

It is time to write your letter to your partner family in Santa Maria Tzeja. In order to have your letter included in the August delegation's mail bag, it needs to be emailed or mailed to Dave Johnson, davebjohnson@verizon.net or 505 Great Plain Ave, Needham, MA 02492 by June 30.

February 2013 Delegation

The church's February 2013 delegation to Guatemala is beginning to form, so if you may be interested in going, please let delegation leader Brenda Metzler know of your interest (bmetzler7@verizon.net or 781-449-5696). Travel dates are February 13-24, 2013.

Green Church Task Force



Composting Bins

Have you noticed the green composting bin in the large kitchen? If you are preparing a meal in the kitchen please place food in the bins and dump in the outside composter. Please only compost fruits (no citrus peels), vegetables and coffee grounds

Cell Phones for Soldiers

Help our troops call home! Please donate used cell phones in the yellow box outside the Chapel. Cell phones are safely recycled and the funds go to calling cards for men and women in the military.



GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP'S 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

October 20 - 21, 2012

There will be:
Forums for Everyone
A Festive Dinner
A Youth Program

Summer Book Sale

Visit our shelves in the reception room to find specially marked-down books, perfect for summer reading.



the
Good Book

at the Congregational
Church of Needham

Titles include:
NY Times Bestseller
"Raising Cain"
National Bestseller
"Here If You Need Me"
by Kate Braestrup



Bible Village Summer Childcare & Special Bible Village Activities

If you are available to help out with childcare, please see our sign up sheet at:
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4FAAAC2BAA8-summer>

June 3: Youth Sunday. Childcare is available but K-6 are encouraged to stay in the sanctuary for the worship service, led by the senior high youth group.

June 10 and 17: Bible Village may be over this year, but kids in grades K-6 can enjoy Bible lessons, games and fun with friends during these two group sessions where all grades join together. Children will leave the sanctuary after "Time for Children" to participate in the June program activities for the rest of the worship hour.

June 24-Sept 2: Childcare available for all ages, but K-6 are encouraged to stay in the sanctuary for the worship service, which will be a shorter service with kid friendly elements, including a candle lighting, special offering, and reading of a children's picture book.

Sept. 9: Welcome back Sunday! All Bible Village classes resume!

Congratulations John Allen

At Union Theological Seminary's Commencement this past Friday, John Allen was given the Hudnut Award, an award given each year to the "middler" (second year M. Div. student) "who has made the best preparation for the preaching ministry."

**CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY JUNE 10TH**



**PLEASE JOIN US AS WE
WELCOME ELEVEN YOUTH
INTO FULL MEMBERSHIP
IN THE CONGREGATION.**

Adult Education: Nate Ramsayer's Talk: A Trip to Ephesus Sunday June 17

Nate Ramsayer will present a talk on his recent archaeological trip to ancient Ephesus. Please join us on Sun, June 17, at 11:30am, to hear in word and picture about Nate's journey. He went there over spring break as part of his Biblical studies. Meet in Linden Hall; lunch will be provided for a nominal fee. No RSVP necessary.

Men's Breakfast Sunday June 17th

"Our fathers – Our Sons"

Society is changing so quickly that the models our fathers left us aren't applicable in our lives – and our models don't apply well to our sons' lives. Join us as we struggle to understand faithful fatherhood today. Arrive at 8:15 am for fellowship and breakfast or by 9:00 am for the discussion. Contact Keith McClelland (kmmlkm@rcn.com) for more information.

NEW DATE!
The Congregational Church of Needham's Youth Choirs Present

L i f e of the P a r t y

The Story of Martha and Mary

Save the Date for the Youth Choirs Annual Musical
Sunday, June 3, 11:30am, Fellowship Hall
All are welcome



1154 Great Plain Avenue
Needham, MA 02492-2202

Phone: 781-444-2510
Fax: 781-444-3580
E-mail: office@needhamucc.org

**We're on the web.
needhamucc.org**


**Congregational Church
of Needham UCC**

**FOCUS IS NOW ONLINE...
but you can still receive a
mailed copy**

We have moved to making FOCUS available online to our members, but we know not everyone wants to receive it this way.

If you received this copy of FOCUS via mail and want to continue to receive it this way, do nothing. You will remain on the mail list.

If you would like to be added to the FOCUS mail list, please call Church Administrator Danielle Jurdan at 781-444-2510 and leave your name, address and phone number.

**** Copies of the newsletter will always be available at church to be picked up when you are here for worship.*

Please let us know if you have any questions by calling 781-444-2510 or e-mailing office@needhamucc.org.

Youth Sunday is June 3

Join us for an inspiring service led by the youth of our church

- ◆ Enjoy songs and anthems by the youth choirs.
- ◆ Hear senior reflections by graduating high school seniors.

◆ *All are welcome!
Children in kindergarten and up are invited to the service.*



Childcare will be available for infants and toddlers.

Address Label

Address Service Requested

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

stamp