



FOCUS

April 2013 | Vol. 36 Issue 4

Sunday Worship In March

Theme:
Why do we



Worship Jesus?

April 7

Forgiveness
Rev. Susan

April 11

Healing Service

April 14

Compassion
Rev. Heike

April 21

Non-Violence
Rev. Susan

April 28

Transformation
Rev. Heike

A Message from the Senior Minister - Rev. Susan Cartmell

Dear member of our church family,
Our Church covenant has a bold and noble vision. Our building needs to reflect that vision.

- We envision a church where people are welcome – and they know it and feel it.
Our doors need to be inviting, visible from the town, and accessible.
- We envision a community where people are good stewards of the earth.
Our building must use energy with respect.
- Our church has a wonderful vision for the world.
Our building needs an engaging presence that is open to that world, and speaks to it.
- Our church takes our faith traditions to a modern world.
We have a vision for a new church building that will speak to today's world.

A church for the future needs your support.

We're conducting a capital campaign to turn this building into one that is appropriate for our mission and aspirations. We're committing to raise \$4.1 million in this campaign. With this, we'll have:

- * A new, open and inviting gathering space connecting the Sanctuary to Fellowship Hall.
- * New entrances to the church – from Great Plain Avenue and from the parking lot.
- * Full handicap accessibility – including elevators and handicap accessible bathrooms.
- * New energy-efficient windows, heating, and upgrades to electrical and plumbing systems.
- * New, more inviting meeting rooms, offices and chapel.
- * New parking lot, with a children's play area, handicapped parking and a better traffic flow.

60 YEARS AGO,
PEOPLE ENVISIONED
OUR SANCTARY AND
MADE SACRIFICES SO
WE COULD WORSHIP
THERE TODAY. NOW IT
IS OUR TURN TO BUILD
FOR THE FUTURE.

LOOK FOR NEXT WEEK'S MAILING. WE CAN NOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!

4.1 MILLION - 100% PARTICIPATION - PLEDGE BY MAY 31

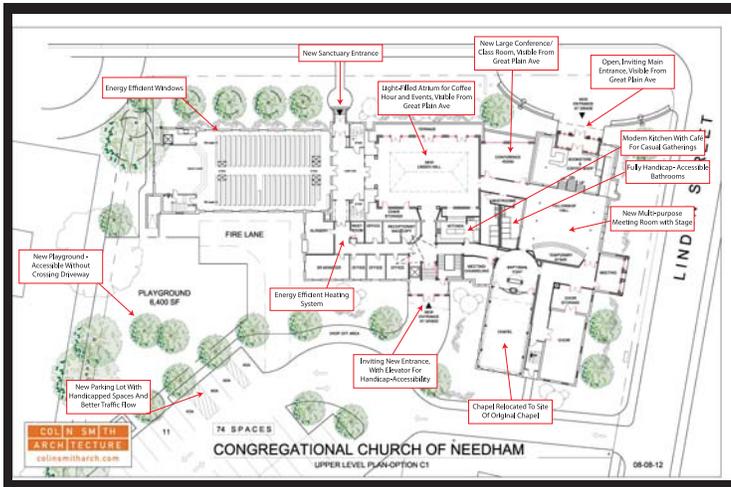
We're committing to raise \$4.1 million to make all this happen. This sounds like a lot, but through the generosity of a few large donors, we are well on our way. And this is where you come in.

What is behind this idea of doing a Capital Campaign? The Church Board is in a unique position to have a "big picture" view of what is going on in the church. Based on feedback from the congregation and staff, the Board hopes to improve:

Continued on page 2



Continued from page 1



1. Face to the Community - Our church has a world-changing vision, but our architecture does not reflect that. The doors are hard to find, and the building is not easy to enter from Great Plain Avenue.

2. Handicapped Access - The Deacons worked with an expert on handicap accessibility to put together a report on how we can improve in this area. Our building's ramps are not up to code. Our bathrooms are not handicap accessible. Once inside the building, a person in a wheelchair cannot easily move between floors. Our covenant says we are welcome to all; but our building does not say welcome.

3. Energy Efficiency - The Environmental Ministry Task Force has raised a legitimate concern about energy efficiency. We budget \$35,000 a year for heating oil. Much of it goes out to the leaky doors and windows.

Should we be fixing our building when there are so many people we could help with this money? Our building is in such bad shape, we are courting trouble. We hope these improvements will enable us to welcome more people so we can continue to pursue our goals, and help even more people.

Why now? We have ignored our building for years – both for budgetary reasons, and because we did not know where to start. This price tag is only going to climb higher as time goes by.

Now it is our turn to consider what our church needs going forward, and how we can make it happen. This will be our legacy to the families that come along after us.

Peace,
Susan Cartmell

Shirley Muther, born on Oct 29, 1924, died on March 29, 2013. Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, teacher, volunteer, active church member, Shirley served on many committees, and taught at the nursery school at our Church for over 20 years. She loved to read, sew, quilt, play bridge, tennis, travel and entertain. Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were a tremendous source of pleasure and entertainment for her throughout her life.



She leaves behind many cherished friends and relatives. To share a memory of Shirley, please visit www.eatonfuneralhomes.com.



Go GREEN!

Thanks to an Energy Saving program offered by NStar, we have outfitted all of the chandeliers and many of the Altar lights with energy-efficient LED lightbulbs. The lights are 8 watts each (as opposed to 40W or, for the Altar lights 150W), will last for 25,000 hours and will save us money on our electricity bills (we estimate each LED lightbulb in the Sanctuary will cost \$.25 a year to operate)!

FOCUS

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

March issue deadline:
Friday, April 19.

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Volunteer Office Asst.

Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton,
Pastor Emeritus

Youth Ministry News *with Rev. Jamie Green, Youth Minister*

Junior High Lock-In

All 6th-8th graders are invited to a Junior High Lock-in, starting Saturday, May 4th at 4pm and lasting until 9am Sunday, May 5th. The evening will begin with watching the Children's Musical Performance of The Prodigal Clown, followed by dinner. Then we will carpool to Target to buy supplies to make Care Packages for those in need who visit our church during the week looking for assistance. The evening will close with games and a movie. In the morning, breakfast will be served. Youth must pay \$10 to attend, and must RSVP by May 1st.



5th grade and 8th grade welcome night:

All 5th graders are invited to visit a Junior High Youth Group meeting on Sunday, May 19th from 5-6:30pm. All 8th graders are invited to visit a Senior High Youth Group meeting on Sunday, May 19th from 7-8:30pm. The meeting will include fun games and special snacks!

Youth Sunday

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 9th for Youth Sunday, when senior high youth lead the morning worship service, featuring messages by the graduating seniors.

First Formal Communion



In our church, we offer a special program for 1st and 2nd graders to learn about communion and then they are invited to participate

in their first formal communion. All children are always welcome to participate in communion, but this is a special occasion for 1st and 2nd graders to learn about and celebrate communion. This year, we celebrate First Formal Communion on Sunday, April 7th with 24 children and their families who have completed the workshop on the Sacrament of Communion. Please join us in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship for a reception with cake.

First Formal Communion Participants:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Olivia Allen | Leyna Blume |
| Charlie Cohen | Peter Cohen |
| Henry Dirks | Josie George |
| Emily Fortenbaugh | Lina Hurley |
| Nicholas George | Lily Kennedy |
| Reese Hurwitch | Maya Massey |
| Anna Miller | Alex Morrison |
| Olivia Muller | Liam Salerno |
| Sarah Neustaedter | Ben Sanborn |
| Abby Neustaedter | Nora Slosser |
| Lucy Ward | Laine Wiesel |
| Max Wilson | Ellie Wilson |



Vacation Bible School

There is still time to register for VBS! Kids are invited to a week of active, adventurous fun

at the Church's April Vacation Bible School program- **Tuesday, April 16 through Friday, April 20, 8:30am-noon.** The theme is "God's Backyard: Serving friends, family, neighbors and community" where kids will create crafts, play exciting games, participate in meaningful community service, sing upbeat songs, and enjoy delicious snacks.

Led by the church's Youth Minister, Rev. Jamie, kids, ages 3 years to 6th grade, will learn how they can make a difference in the world by serving others while they travel to different workshops: art, story, cooking, service and games. At the end of each day, all kids come back together for the Closing Backyard Bash.

The fee is \$20 per day for morning activities 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. Scholarships are also available. Registration forms can be downloaded at www.needhamucc.org/learn/vbs

Bible Sunday

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, May 12th-** all Kindergartners and 4th graders will be given bibles during the worship service.

Bible Village End of Year Celebration

On **Sunday, June 2, 2013**, from 11:30am-12:30pm, Sunday School children, families and the church community are invited to Fellowship Hall for an end of year celebration. The Christian Education Committee will provide a delicious lunch, awards will be given out for attendance and special recognitions, Sunday School teachers will be thanked, Bible Village kids will sing their songs from the year, and Preschoolers who will enter Bible Village next fall will participate in a rising up ceremony.



Healing Service April 11, 7 p.m.

Come if you've had a rough day.
Come if you are worried about a friend, looking for work or praying for a loved one.
Come if you are waiting for medical tests.
Come to lay your burdens down.
Come to light a candle.

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

As we are now in the midst of the Easter season, I would like to acknowledge the musicians who made Holy Week and Easter Sunday so very special.

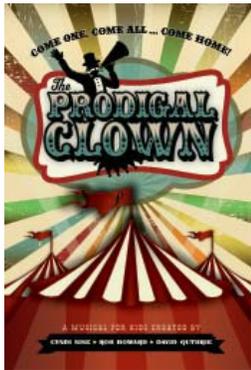
On Palm Sunday, the combined Joyful Noise, Halleluia, Shepherd's Staff, and Chancel Choirs performed a lovely anthem appropriately titled Open the Gates, under the direction of our Youth Music Director Jannatha Coffin-Malia. Chimes, bass guitar and percussion added to the power of this anthem. The traditional setting of The Palms was sung by our Chancel Choir.

On Maundy Thursday, with a service of Tenebrae acted out by our deacons, the Chancel Choir sang hymns and anthems of the passiontide. Hiroko Hardebeck's solo in Silent Tears recalls Jesus' mother Mary's sorrow during the crucifixion, and Youth Music Director and soprano Jannatha Coffin-Malia sang the touching solos Gethsemane and Via Dolorosa. The service ended in complete darkness with the singing of Were You There? from the balcony.

Easter Sunday began with part III of Handel's Messiah. The congregation entered the sanctuary to the solo I Know That My Redeemer Liveth, sung by soprano section leader Caitlin McCarville. The Chancel Choir was augmented by a guest string quartet, along with our own Phil Gotwals on French horn, his brother Thomas on trumpet, Peter Evans on timpani, and Soomi Lee Lowry at the organ. Our Chancel Choir performed splendidly, singing with clarity and agility on the fast moving passages in Worthy Is The Lamb, and perfect harmonies in Since By Man Came Death. The service ended with the glorious Hallelujah Chorus.

A very special thanks to our Chancel Choir section leaders: Caitlin McCarville, soprano; Maggie Furtak, alto; Nate Ramsayer, tenor; Crosby Goshgarian, bass. The dedication, hard work and perseverance of our Chancel Choir and soloists is to be noted well, with gratitude.

We have more great music coming in the near future: our youth musical The Prodigal Clown is not to be missed, and the December Christmas Concert, featuring Vivaldi's Gloria.



Come see
THE PRODIGAL CLOWN!!
 Saturday May 4th,
 4:00pm

Members of Joyful Noise and Hallelujah Choir have been hard at work on our production of the

musical The Prodigal Clown. It's a very fun retelling of the story of the prodigal son set at the Parabalini Family circus! The show features upbeat songs and great dances.

We are currently selling t-shirts and ads for our program! If you're interested in purchasing either one, please either see me (Jannatha Coffin-Malia, Youth Music Director - youthmusic@needhamucc.org) or any of the kids in the show.

We will be presenting the musical on Saturday, May 4th at 4pm in Fellowship Hall. Admission is free, so come one, come all!

From the Deacons

The Deacons would like to extend our thanks to Brendan Rock, Hailey Huff, Josh Scharback and Connie Kaufman for helping us "stage" the Maundy Thursday dinner and service, which was held on March 28th. During this moving candlelight communion service the Deacons re-enacted the Last Supper and Jesus' last moments with his disciples. The service also featured beautiful music from the choir. Many church members consider Maundy Thursday to be their favorite service of the year, so make a note to attend next year during Holy Week.

John Allen continues to progress on the road to becoming an ordained minister. He was recently chosen to be a pastoral intern at the Wellesley Village Church and will start there in August.

Community Suppers are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00, and this is a great way to support the families who pick up supplies from the Baby Basics program each month at the same time. Please contact the church office for more information.

MISSION 4/1 EARTH:

50 Great Days

50 Great Days" is about boldly living Jesus' let-your-light-shine proclamation in the Sermon on the Mount: "That they may see your good works!" It is an opportunity to live out our faith — in unity, as one church — for the sake of our fragile planet Earth.

2. When is Mission 4/1 Earth? Mission 4/1 Earth launches Easter Monday, April 1, 2013, and continues through Pentecost, May 19, 2013 -- the 50 days of Eastertide.

3. What are the goals of Mission 4/1 Earth? There are three goals:

1. Collectively offer more than ONE MILLION HOURS of engaged earth care, including clean up, advocacy, education, and behavioral changes that will impact the environment.
2. Collectively plant more than 100,000 TREES locally and globally in partnership with the National Arbor Day Foundation and the UCC's denominational partners around the world.
3. Collectively write/send more than 100,000 ADVOCACY LETTERS on environmental concerns to elected officials and local and national newspapers.

4. Why the environment? Mission 4/1 Earth is an opportunity to examine and change our patterns of behavior and to deepen our understanding and engagement of earth care and environmental justice in the process. While it's only 50 days, this all-church mission intensive will be a concerted effort, through thousands of small and big steps, toward ensuring a greener future for planet earth and a greener faith for us as followers of Jesus Christ.

5. But 1 million hours? How do we do that?? One million hours of active earth care is one BIG goal, and surpassing that impressive goal is going to take a concerted effort on the part of every UCC person. However, it's doable! The important thing to remember is that there is NO one way to contribute active earth-care hours, but it will involve intentionality as individuals and as a congregation. Here are some suggestions:

- Ride a bike, carpool or use public transportation instead of driving alone in a car.
- Read a book or watch a documentary about the environment.
- Plant and tend an organic garden – all that weeding and watering time adds up quickly!
- Prepare a sermon, lead a Bible study, plan or attend an earth-care-focused worship service.
- Write advocacy letters (which counts in time AND in letters sent!).
- Install energy-efficient light bulbs or appliances.
- Attend an Earth Day rally.



As a church, we've pledged 530 hours, 70 trees and 60 letters. Look for the Mission 4/1 Earth Tree at the back entrance to the church. Help us meet our goals and green our tree! For every hour spent improving our environment, letter written or tree planted we will put a leaf on the tree. Use the timecards in the pews to record your hours, letters and trees. Put timecards in the offering plate every Sunday. We'll add the leaves!



Last Call for August 2013 Delegation. Dates are August 7-18. Contact Caryl Johnson if interested: carylgjohnson@gmail.com.

Guatemala 'Servathon' Sponsors/Workers Needed: The Guatemala Partnership hopes to be able to count on your support as sponsors and/or volunteer workers for our day of community-service work projects at the church and in the wider community (April 27th). Please contact Nancy Lane at: nrlane6@

hotmail.com, if you are able to work on this fundraiser, and/or please support the volunteer workers who may ask for your pledge in the next few weeks. Thank you.

Partner Family Letters Coming Soon: The February delegation returned from Santa Maria Tzeja with lots of letters: 125 for partner-families and 20 for high-school scholarship sponsors! Most of the letters should be translated and ready for distribution after church at Coffee Hour, beginning April 7th.

Guatemala Yard Sale (May 18th) -- Save the Date and Your Donations:

As you do your spring cleaning, please set aside any good items that you would like to donate to the Guatemala Yard Sale (no clothing). Children's gear, toys, and current sports equipment in good condition are especially desirable. The May FOCUS will have more details, but please hold your items until the week before the sale, and feel free to contact Brenda Metzler at: bmetzler7@verizon.net, for any questions or to volunteer.



CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

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Men's Breakfast, Sunday April 21 "The Early Church"

The Men's Breakfast brings men of all ages and persuasions together in the Library on the 3rd Sun. 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.

On April 21, we will riff on the April sermon topic of "The Early Church." The sermon topic in March reminded us that none called themselves a Christian church until long after Christ's death. Now there are many ways of calling yourself Christian; the early church is the key. Join us!

Contact Keith McClelland (kmmlkm@rcn.com) for more information.

Friendly Society News

Come join us on **Wednesday, April 17, 7:30 pm**, and bring your treasures for appraisals by Eugene O'Neill, longtime antiques' dealer in Newton. Tables will be set up in Linden AB for your antiques and collectibles to be displayed, and while we have our business meeting and social time, Mr. O'Neill will look over our objects. Appraisals will begin around 8:30. Suggestions: ceramics/chinaware, glass, pictures, silver, textiles (clothing, fabric), toys, games, dolls, technical/

mechanical (such as pens, firearms, cameras), collectibles (kitchenware, sports, posters, accessories), decorative (such as figurines). **NO JEWELRY OR COINS.** Bring 2-3 objects and your friends for a fun and informative evening!

On **Wednesday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m.** the Friendly Society is planning an exciting program when the Pollard Middle School Band will play for us. Following the entertainment, strawberry shortcake will be served. Everyone is welcome

address

stamp

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

ADULT PROGRAMMING April & May 2013

APRIL 2013

| Sunday | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thursday | Fri. | Sat. |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------|--------------------------------|------|----------------------------|
| | 1 *Cancer Support Group | 2 Community Dinner | 3 | 4 Lunch with Rev. Heike | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Mission 4/1 Earth | 8 *Cancer Support Group | 9 | 10 | 11 Healing Service | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Jewish Roots of Christianity | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Jewish Roots of Christianity | 22 *Cancer Support Group | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Gun Safety Forum |
| 28 Jewish Roots of Christianity | 29* Cancer Support Group | 30 | | | | |

LAUNCHING MISSION 4/1 EARTH: 50 GREAT DAYS;

Sun. April 7 - Linden Hall during Coffee Hour

The Environmental Ministry Team, together with numerous volunteers, will present many of the ways we can support Mission 4/1 Earth.

BIKE EXCURSION

Sunday April 7

Please join us for an all-church Bike excursion to the Minute Man bike trail in Lexington, MA. After lunch at the church, we'll make our way to Lexington, MA to ride our bikes. We are able to transport a number of bikes on a trailer if you don't have a Bike carrier. The event is weather-conditioned, of course! We might have to postpone in case of snow. Please rsvp for the event to RevHeike@needhamucc.org!

JEWISH ROOTS OF CHRISTIANITY

April 14, 21, and 28, 11:30am

All programs start at 11:30 with a lunch. Childcare is available

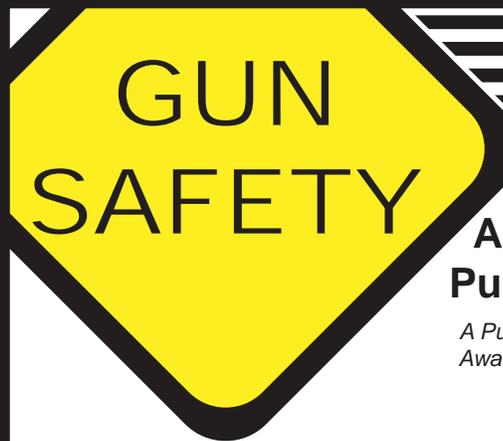
Following our sermon series for March, we want to continue the conversation about (our) Jewish Roots of Christianity.

April 14 - we will watch a remarkable documentary entitled "Jews and Christian - A Journey of Faith" by Gerald Krell and Meyer Odze.

The video explores common beliefs, traditions and rituals shared by Judaism and Christianity. Based on the book "Our Father Abraham: Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith" by Dr. Marvin Wilson.

April 21 - Welcome back Greg Mobley, Professor of Christian Bible at Andover Newton Theological School. He will lead a discussion on "The Parting of the Ways: The Early Christian Perspective".

April 28 - We are happy to have Rabbi Jay Perlman of Temple Beth Shalom join the conversation.



A Matter of Public Health
A Public Forum to Raise Awareness and Educate

April 27, 2013
10:00am to Noon

at the Congregational Church of Needham
1154 Great Plain Avenue, Needham, MA
Enter on Linden Street
Please contact: revheike@needhamucc.org for more questions

Join the conversation about gun safety, the impact of violence in society, and our rights and responsibilities!

Presenters:
Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister of Congregational Church of Needham
Jon Mattleman, Needham Youth Services
Dr. Bradley Linden, MD, Boston Children's Hospital
Dr. Eric Fleegler, MD, Boston Children's Hospital
Kathy Walsh, Needham Resident

MAY 2013

| Sunday | Monday | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 Lunch | 3 | 4 Prodigal Clown Musical |
| 5 Mission 4/1 Earth Service Day | 6 Cancer Support Group | 7 Community Dinner | 8 | 9 Healing Service | 10 Women's Retreat | 11 Women's Retreat |
| 12 Mother's Day | 13 Cancer Support Group | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Confirmation | 20 Cancer Support Group | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 Memorial Day | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

GUN SAFETY: A MATTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH - A PUBLIC FORUM

Saturday April 27, 10:00am - Noon

Needham residents are invited to join the conversation about gun safety, the impact of violence in society, and our related rights and responsibilities at a public forum on Saturday, April 27th from 10:00am to noon. Hosted by the Congregational Church of Needham (1154 Great Plain Ave.), the forum's mission is to raise awareness and educate our community about gun safety as a matter of public health.

Presenters include Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister, Jon Mattleman, Director Needham Youth Services, Drs. Bradley Linden, MD and Eric Fleegler, MD of Boston Children's Hospital, and Kathy Walsh, Needham Resident.

MISSION 4/1 EARTH SERVICE DAY

Sun. May 5 - 11:30am

Please join us in putting our faith into action by doing some earth care around our church property. We will do some general clean-up, trimming bushes and trees, and plant some flower around the property. We will have lunch at the church, and then get right to work. Please bring your own tools.

FELLOWSHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

**Healing service
April 11 and May 9, 7 p.m. in chapel**

Cancer Support Group

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

Women's Retreat on Cape Cod - Different Ways to Pray

Friday May 10 - Saturday May 11

Topic: Anne Lamott's book "Help, Thanks, Wow" will be the basis for our retreat, and we will be exploring different ways to pray - through art, song, silence. The cost: \$ 98.00 (one overnight and three meals)

Please contact Rev. Heike (revheike@needhamucc.org) to sign up and reserve your spot.

Lunch with Rev. Heike

Thursday April 4 and May 2

Monthly lunches are the 1st Thursdays of the month. We will meet in the Library for lunch and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

Community Dinners

Tuesday April 2 & May 7 ; 6 to 7 p.m., Linden Hall.

Join us as we host a monthly community supper for the Baby Basic families. Contact Rev. Heike to find out how you can participate. Sponsored by the Outreach Committee.