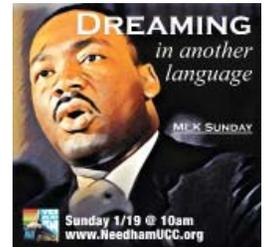


WORSHIP IN JANUARY



THIS SUNDAY, 1/12 @ 10am, we'll remember Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan River; celebrate Rev. John's 20th anniversary of ordination to the ministry of word and sacrament and the beginning of his second year of ministry here with us at the Congregational Church of Needham; and reflect on the whole idea of a "call from God": Who does God call, and how? And what does it mean to answer that call... or not?

NEXT SUNDAY, 1/19 @ 10am, we'll prepare ourselves to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and reflect on his explicitly theological, prophetic dream of God's "beloved community" expressed in explicitly political, anti-racist ways. Is that our dream, too? Should it be? Can it be? Can we immerse ourselves in the struggle for justice and peace so thoroughly that we begin to dream in another language?



COMING UP Sunday, 1/26 @ 10am: When Jesus calls his first disciples to follow him and learn his ways, they can't do it dragging their old lives along with them--or at least not very well. As fisherfolk, they have to leave their nets, their boats, their anchors behind. If we intend to follow Jesus, we're going to have to do the same thing. So what precious possessions are we going to need to throw overboard in order to live as disciples?

save
THE
DATE!



Annual Meeting
Jan. 26th
Annual Hearing
Jan. 19th

New Online Church Directory

This Fall we launched our new Online Church Directory! If you "opted in" and submitted an email address, you were emailed a username and password for the system. It contains most members, staff and some active friends of the church. The directory is password protected and only available to members of our church family. You control how much information to share. If you have questions you can use the Help tab in the directory or contact Danielle Jurdan at office@needhamucc.org

To access the Directory on your computer, go to <https://www.needhamucc.org/needhamucc-directory.html> and input your username and password.

You can also download the App on your Smartphone and Tablet by searching "CTRN Online Directory" at your app store. You will be asked for our mobile code. It is needhamucc. When the app opens, enter your username and password, and select "remember me."

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact the office at office@needhamucc.org or 781-444-2510.



Partner Family Letters DUE!

Your partner family letter was due to Dave Johnson, DaveJohnson77@gmail.com, last week (January 1). So please write to your Santa María partner family TODAY. The families so look forward to our letters to them. And we need to give the translators time to do their magic and Spanish-ize the letters. Thanks in advance for making this a priority.

February Delegation Preparing for Trip (Feb. 12-23, 2020)

The church's February delegation to Guatemala is finalized and full. The group has had its first training session and is very excited to be making plans for activities in Guatemala City and the village. It promises to be a great delegation, with the following folks going: Co-leaders Brenda Metzler and Fred Moder (both making their last trip as delegation leaders); Jerry Durbin; Jeff Clausen and daughter Jenna Clausen; Sarah Noble; Sunny Robinson; and optometrist Scott Pike and wife Joene from Portland, Oregon. Also traveling with the delegation will be interpreters Ali Durbin (and

daughters Chely and Kayalá) and Paula Worby (accompanied by husband Luis Solano). Note: One special connection is that Ali, Jeff and Sarah all grew up in our church and were good friends at Needham High School, so they are especially looking forward to this trip together.

August 2020 Delegation: Sign-Up Open

Bill Garrett and Caryl Johnson invite you to join the August 2020 delegation to Guatemala. Youth and adult travelers are welcome. Trip dates are August 5-16, 2020. In addition to visiting the village of Santa María Tzejá for a week, recent travelers have visited world-class museums on Guatemalan and Mayan history, studied the causes and effects of migration from the perspective of a developing country, met with leading human rights organizations, and experienced Mayan social and religious traditions. Total trip cost is approximately \$1,500 per person including airfare. Sign-up is open until early April or when the delegation is full. Don't miss this unique experience. Please contact Bill Garrett (wgarrett@mit.edu) or Caryl Johnson (caryljohnson@gmail.com) with your interest or questions.

FOCUS

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

February issue
deadline:
Fri., Jan. 24th

Rev. John MacIver Gage
Senior Minister
revjohn@needhamucc.org

Rev. Maddie Foster
CE & Youth Director
revmaddie@needhamucc.org

Valerie Becker
Music Director
musicdirector@needhamucc.org

Danielle Jurdan
Administrator
office@needhamucc.org

Cindy Sullivan
Office Assist & Bookkeeper
office2@needhamucc.org

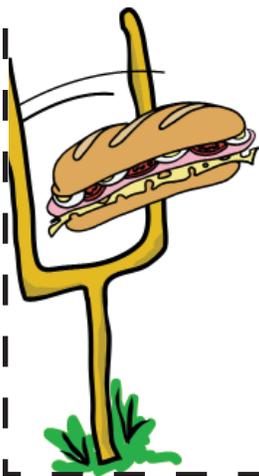
The Church Board
board@needhamucc.org

Jackie Allen, Moderator
moderator@needhamucc.org

The Deacons
Sue Cotton, Chair
emaildeacons@needhamucc.org

Pastoral Relations
Committee
prc@needhamucc.org

To provide feedback about any aspect of the church, email feedback@needhamucc.org



GAME DAY

SUBS!

Mark your calendars for

SUN., FEB. 2ND

Restorative Justice: What it is and How it Can Work



Please join us for a Interfaith Potluck Conversation Dinner with the topic - "Restorative Justice: What It Is, and How It Can Work," as part of the ongoing At My Neighbor's Table Series. This event will take place on **Sunday, February 9, 2020, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., in the Community Room at Temple Beth Shalom (670 Highland Avenue, Needham)**. The discussion will be led by Dr. Rachel King, Curry College, Title IX Coordinator Institutional Planning and Dr. Jennifer Balboni, Curry College, Professor of Criminal Justice. For any questions, please

email Georgina Ruetenik (georgina@somaptandrehab.com). To RSVP: [restorativejusticeneedham.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)



FAMILY PROMISE METROWEST FAMILYPROMISEMETROWEST.ORG

Family Promise Metrowest provides shelter, breakfast and dinner for homeless families in the metrowest region. Host churches house the families on a weekly basis rotating throughout the year. Support Churches assist the host churches in their mission. The families have access to a day center in Natick where breakfast is served and belongings are stored.

Needham UCC is a Support Church to First Congregational Church and Fisk Methodist Church, both in Natick. To date we have primarily made and served dinner which includes hosting the after dinner hour. Teens and adults are welcome. All Volunteers must be trained before working onsite and interacting with guest families, however, anyone can help prepare a meal.

On Halloween Susan Kirk and Vance Fernandez served dinner with preparation help from Mary Barber and Cheryl Aglio-Girelli. They also brought along games and puzzles which were enjoyed by the families. Two teen volunteers from another church were also there to play with the children.

If you have been trained and can assist with our volunteer weeks in January please use the link below to sign up for as much as you are able or contact Vance Fernandez. If you have not been trained you can sign up to cook. If you are interested in being a trained member of the Needham UCC Family Promise Volunteer Group please select from the training sessions below (more to come) and contact Vance Fernandez - vancefernandez@hotmail.com or 617-816-5871 to register for the training.

SUPPORT WEEKS

January 5-12, 2020

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (FCC) NATICK CENTER - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e49a5af2da31-family>

January 26-February 2, 2020

FISK METHODIST CHURCH NATICK - (sign up details to come)

UPCOMING TRAINING SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Address	Time
Tues, Jan 7, 2020	FPM Day Center	6 Mulligan St, Natick	7-8:30 PM
Tues, Feb 4, 2020	FPM Day Center	6 Mulligan St, Natick	7-8:30 PM

For more information on any of the above please contact Vance Fernandez vancefernandez@hotmail.com or 617-816-5871

FELLOWSHIP & ADULT ED

COMMUNITY DINNERS

6-7pm, Jan. 7, Feb 4

Dinners coincide with monthly Baby Basics Diaper distribution. Volunteers are welcome to help with set up, cooking, serving, visiting, eating and cleaning up with our Baby Basics families. Please contact Diana Conroy (conroyjd@rcn.com) if you are interested in helping out.

THURSDAY SOUP LUNCHEONS

Noon -1pm, Jan. 9, Feb. 6



Monthly Soup luncheons are on the first Thursday of the month at 12 noon in our Library. All are welcome - bring your friends and neighbors!

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

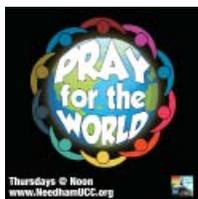
Thursdays 9:15am

Our Cancer Support Group will meet Thursday mornings. You can contact Rev. Maddie (revmaddie@needhamucc.org) for more information. Come, if you need an extra hug or prayer said for yourself or a family member.

PRAYER GROUP

Noon, Jan. 16, 23, 30, Feb. 13, 20, 27

The Prayer and Care Team will meet for a weekly prayer group on Thursdays at noon (joining the Thursday's Soup Lunch on the first Thurs. of the month.) You are invited to bring a bag lunch; we will eat together, and then pray. It will be an opportunity to pray for our country, our world, our community, individuals asking for prayer - to come together to share with God what is in our hearts.



PASTOR'S COFFEE HOURS

Tuesdays, 10am-Noon
@ Volante Farms, Needham

Rev. John will be holding regular coffee office hours in the café section of Volante Farms at 292 Forest Street. If you've a moment free, drop by



for some informal conversation and fellowship in a relaxed setting. (For private pastoral conversations, just email or call Rev. John at 781-444-2510 to set up an appointment.)

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

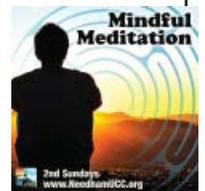
Sunday, Jan. 19, Feb. 16

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast brings men of all ages 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. 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.

MEDITATION GROUP

11:30am, Jan. 12 & 28, Feb. 9 & 23

The meditation/mindfulness group meets twice each month after the church service. The group is open to everyone, no prior experience needed. We will explore various types of meditation practice, including mindfulness. If you have any questions feel free to call or email Sue Findlay, 781-455-8056; sgfindlay1@gmail.com



BIBLE STUDY

Sundays at 11:30am - Small Conference Room

Would you like to learn more about the Bible but feel that you don't know where to start? Please join us for Bible Study after church. We will be reading sections from Exodus and Joshua this fall, about the founding of Israel. No preparation needed! We read a few chapters together and reflect on how God is still speaking to us today through His word.

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS THROUGHOUT APRIL 2020 MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Jan. 5-12 - Family Promise Support Week
- Jan. 26-Feb. 2 - Family Promise Support Week
- February 9th - Period Party
- February 23rd - Pancake Breakfast
- February 29th - Spiritual Spa Day
- March 14th - Serving Community Lunch at Pilgrim Church
- March 22nd - 10,000 Meals Packing Event

Misson Event - Period Party

Dear friends,

When you're living homeless, there are so many questions to think about, so many needs to be met: "Where am I going to sleep? What am I going to eat? How am I going to find work?" For many unhoused folks, there's at least one more, one we don't necessarily think about: "Where am I going to get the products I need to deal with my monthly period cleanly and safely?"

This winter The Congregational Church of Needham is partnering with Generic Ministry of Boston to address this very real, very specific need. Twice each week, Generic Ministry ("Caring for Boston's homeless one night at a time") operates a direct, face-to-face ministry with folks experiencing homelessness, putting food and supplies right into their hands. With our collection drive and "Period Party" packing event, we're going to make sure they have menstrual products to give to the folks who need them.

That's why during the month of January we're asking you to contribute pads, tampons, *individually wrapped* hygiene wipes, and pantyliners--and we're going to say those



words. outloud. in church. There is nothing shameful about honoring the lived, physical experience of one half of the human race, without which literally none of us would be here. So that's what we're going to do.

(Note for those with small children: We're going to do this at the "call to engagement" time in worship just before the offering but after the kids have gone to Sunday school, so you'll get to decide if and how you want to talk with them about this. Maybe this is a good time to begin an age-appropriate conversation about our God-given bodies?)

Then on Sunday, February 9th at noon, we'll gather in the fellowship hall for our "Period Party" and break down and repackage your donations into bags for Generic Ministry to hand out to those who need them. We hope to put together 1000 such bags in about an hour, and we can, with your help! So when you go to the grocery store this month, pick up some extras menstrual supplies to bring to church. Men, don't be afraid to GO TO THAT AISLE and buy some yourself! And everyone can use the link below to purchase items online and have them sent directly to the church:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/8BK9490FRVWL?ref=wl_share

In peace, in service, in love,
Rev. John

ONLINE CALENDAR!!!

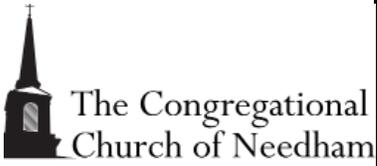
You use Google Calendar to keep track of your appointments and your family... guess what...the church does too!! And we've created a Google Calendar for YOU of all church events, meetings, Worship schedules, Youth Activities, Music events and rehearsals... Want to take a peek? The link is <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/b/2?cid=Y2NuZWVkaGFtY2FsZW5kYXJAZ21haWwY29t>



Coffee hour fellowship is one of our most beloved activities in the church. Sign up to

provide yummy treats for coffee hour! You can use this opportunity to celebrate someone's birthday, anniversary or honor a person in your family or an occasion. Your sponsorship will be mentioned in the Sunday bulletin.

Sign-up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844A8AA23A2FD0-coffee1> or simply call the office at 781-444-2510.



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

On the web at
needhamucc.org

On the twitter
[@needhamucc](https://twitter.com/needhamucc)

 **Like us on**
Facebook
Congregational Church
of Needham UCC

"There is little hope for us until we become tough-minded enough to break loose from the shackles of prejudice, half-truths, and downright ignorance."

Join us for
Needham's Celebration and Observance of

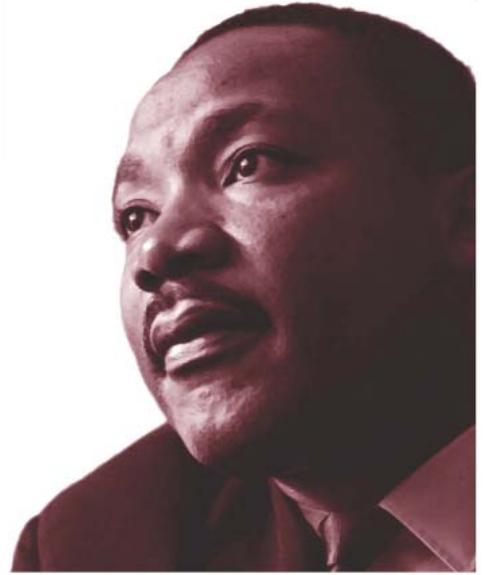
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 20, 2020
Pollard Middle School Auditorium
200 Harris Ave, Needham
10:00 AM- 12:00 PM
Doors open at 9:30 AM
Refreshments will be served

Snow Date: **Sunday, January 26, 2020**
1:00 - 3:00 PM

Sponsored by the following Needham organizations:

- Diversity Initiative
- Interfaith Clergy Association
- Human Rights Committee
- Public Schools and its METCO Program



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Needham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

www.needhamdiversity.org

address

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

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