

"Be the Church" Series, #1-9

9/18 @ 10am, LIVE! On-Site & Online

Connect at www.NeedhamUCC.org

The Congregational Church of Needham, *United Church of Christ*

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Rev. Maddie Foster, *minister for Christian education & youth*

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PRELUDE

Air by C. Muffat

Valerie Becker, *organ*

WELCOME

Rev. John MacIver Gage & Rev. Maddie Foster

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Morning has broken!

Many: **We gather to greet the new day with the praise of God on our lips.**

One: God created us for relationship with God, one another, and the earth.

Many: **Let us honor those relationships today and every day.**

One: We seek to care for our siblings around the world and for all of God's good creation.

Many: **Let us grow those relationships today and every day.**

One: May your Gospel good news ground our commitment to honoring and protecting your creation, O God,

Many: **as we seek your grace, justice, and mercy for all.**

All: Let us worship God together in spirit and in truth, in word and in deed.

ANTHEM

The Blue Green Hills of Earth by Kim Oler

Chancel Choir

*For the earth forever turning, For the skies, for every sea;
To our Lord we sing returning home to our blue green hills of earth.
For the mountains, hills and pastures in this silent majesty;
For all stars, for all the heavens sing we our joyful praise to Thee.
For the sun, for rain and thunder, for the seasons' harmony,
For our lives, for all creation, sing we our joyful praise to Thee;
For the earth forever turning, for the land that gave us birth,
To our Lord we sing returning, home to our blue green hills of earth.
For the earth forever turning, for the land, for skies, and sea,
To our Lord returning home to the blue green hills of earth*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Maddie Foster

SCRIPTURE

from the Wisdom Literature, Psalm 24:1

SERMON

“Be the Church: Protect the Earth”

Rev. John MacIver Gage

RECOGNITION OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRIES

with special guest, The Rev. Emma Brewer-Wallin, *Minister for Environmental & Economic Justice
Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & RECOMMITMENT

All: Creator God, we give you thanks for the gifts of your creation that sustain our lives, for the air we breathe and the water we drink. Thank you for the mountains and valleys, rivers and seas that nourish our spirits.

Jesus, our teacher and friend, we give you thanks for your guiding example as we seek to love our neighbors as ourselves. Thank you for nurturing many gifts of discipleship within this church, that together we can more faithfully follow you.

Holy Spirit, we give you thanks for your stirring among us. You have inspired us to take our Christian faith seriously in a world of climate crisis. Just as you have

been with us in our difficult work so far, continue to inspire and sustain us for where you lead next.

HYMN

The Climate is Changing (see below)

SHARING OUR PRAYERS (“O God, hear our prayer”)

THE LORD’S PRAYER (using these or whichever words are closest to your own heart)

Our Father in heaven, holy is your name. Your reign come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES TO BE PART OF THE GOOD NEWS

SINGING OUR THANKS & PRAISE

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below!
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts—Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

CHARGE & BLESSING

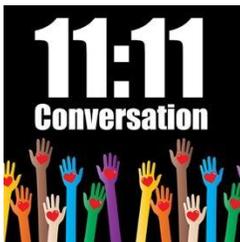


Baby Shower Update

The early arrival of Baby McCoy has thrown a blessed wrench in our plans for a baby shower for Rev. Maddie. We will plan instead for a “Welcome to Church” party TBD in the spring. In the meantime, we’ll share our gifts with Rev. Maddie in worship on 9/25. You can **make your gift of cash** through Rev. John (for tax purposes) via Venmo (@John-Gage-2) or Cash App (\$johnmacivergage) or with a check made out to Rev. John with “Baby Shower” in the memo line.

Review & Reflect: Sunday, 9/25 @ 11:11am

As we contemplate making updates to our church building to empower and expand our ministries, we know we can’t move forward well without reviewing and reflecting exactly how we got here. The Building Vision Team invites you to come do exactly that with Chris Busby and other members of our Board of Directors as they guide us through the twists and turns from our former capital campaign to the purchase and eventual sale of 1180 Great Plain Avenue with a focus on transparency and lessons learned for the future.



Ride... Walk... Whatever for Food: Sunday, 10/2

For the seventh consecutive year, our church is sponsoring a team in the *Ride for Food* in support of the Needham Community Council Food Pantry and the 260 Needham families who rely on the pantry each month. **To donate directly**, go to www.NeedhamUCC.org, scroll down and click on the PayPal button, and choose “Ride for Food” from the drop-down menu. **To participate as part of our church team** in the official 25- or 50mi bike rides or the 5K walk or in whatever way the Spirit moves you, go to www.threesquaresne.org/team/440281. There’s lots more information available at www.threesquaresne.org/ride-for-food.



Coming Up Soon: Saturday, 10/22 @ 2-4pm

Come help us give kids in our community some not-so-scary Halloween fun. For the fourth year in a row, we’re asking you to bring your car, decorate it, and then hand out treats to hundreds of kids and their families trunk-or-treating around our parking lot. Go to [Sign-Up Genius](#) now to sign up to volunteer. **WE REALLY NEED someone to donate a car to sit on our front lawn from 9/30-10/24.** If that’s you, please contact Rev. John at revjohn@needhamucc.org right away.



The Climate is Changing

The cli - mate is chang - ing! Cre - a - tion cries out!
We pray for the an - i - mals here in our midst
We thank you for peo - ple who trea - sure the earth,
We thank you for lead - ers, cour - a - geous and brave,
You love this good earth, and you sent us your Son!

Your peo - ple face flood - ing and fire — and drought.
who can - not de - fend their own right to ex - ist.
whose faith has long taught them its beau - ty and worth.
who know that the earth is worth fight - ing to save,
May we love our neigh - bors. There's work to be done.

We see the great heat waves and storms at their worst.
We pray for the mount - ains and for - ests and seas
We thank you as well for the chil - dren and youth
who care a - bout just - ice and what they should do,
May we, by your Spir - it, do all in our pow'r

We pray for the poor, Lord, for they suf - fer first.
that bear the harsh foot - print of our hu - man greed.
who look to the fu - ture and speak out the truth.
who list - en to sci - ence and work hard for you.
to care for your earth in this cri - ti - cal hour.