



Chalice Chat

Sunday News from the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church
December 6th 2015

SHARING OUR PLATE: December
Our Father's House, a private, nonsectarian agency providing shelter and related services to homeless men and women, with facilities in Fitchburg and Devens. Its programs encourage and assist each guest to become self-sufficient. Professionally trained staff offer client advocacy, assistance in searching for housing and employment, crisis counseling, and referral to community resources. 50% of cash donations will go to our church and 50% to Our Father's House, **please make checks out to Our Father's House.**

This Week's Service Dec. 6, 10:00 a.m.
"Checkpoint at Bethlehem"

Rev. J. Mark Worth

We celebrate Bethlehem as the traditional birthplace of Jesus. Today, Bethlehem is a city populated largely by Palestinian Muslims and a Palestinian Christian minority, close to Jerusalem. Mark will tell stories of Bethlehem, both ancient and modern. Hanukkah begins at sundown Dec. 6. Children begin in the sanctuary. With the Senior Choir.

Next Week's Service Dec. 13, 10:00 a.m.
"Good King Wenceslas"

Rev. J. Mark Worth

Good King Wenceslas, or Wenceslaus, was actually a Bohemian Duke named Vaclav. He was murdered by his brother, Boleslav the Cruel, in 935. Wenceslas is a national hero and saint today in the Czech Republic. Come and hear how Duke Vaclav became the centerpiece of one of our favorite Christmas carols. Children begin in the Fellowship building. With the Chimers.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

December 6th:

Nursery opens at 9:45, others begin in Sanctuary.

Butterfly Garden (PreK-1st): Promises Story: "How the Zebra Got its Stripes"

Rock Garden (2nd-4th Gr): Transitions visitor

Thanks to all who donated to our drive for Transitions.

Cosmix (5th-6th Gr): Mummies Play rehearsal

Building Bridges (7th-9th Gr): Mummies Play rehearsal; Team Building Exercises

SHYG (10th-12th Gr): 11:30 a.m. Spirituality, Service, and Snacks

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holiday Food Collection for Loaves and Fishes – Sunday, December 6th On

Monday, December 21st, Loaves & Fishes will hold its annual Holiday Dinner Distribution event. Families receive all of the fixings for their holiday celebrations complete with stuffing, gravy, pie, cranberry sauce, juice, fresh vegetables and even a turkey, chicken or ham. Each year, we ask for your donations to help make this possible. For Sunday, December 6th, please bring in non-perishable holiday-related food, such as stuffing mix, gravy, broth, canned sliced pineapple, canned hams, ham glaze, nuts, fancy crackers, yams, coffee, tea, cocoa, and 100% juice and leave your donation in the Loaves and Fishes baskets in the church's foyer. Thank you so much! Questions? Please contact Risa Goldman at risajan@aol.com.

Sunday Morning Volunteers There are still many slots to be filled this church year for Greeting, Ushering and Fellowship.

Please visit the church's website (uuharvard.org) and click on the link for Sign-Up Genius.

Our words for the chalice lighting and lighting of the Advent candles are from Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman (1899-1981).

Thurman was an influential African-American pastor, author and theologian who co-founded and led the first truly multi-racial church in the United States, the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, in San Francisco. He advised the American Unitarian Association's early efforts regarding racial justice. Thurman's 1949 book *Jesus and the Disinherited* had a strong influence on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other Civil Rights leaders.

Bargains in the Belfry is open after church this Sunday, today, December 6. There are lots of good finds. Come on up! =

We are now recording Sunday Services, available on our church Web page (UUHarvard.org). Pull down from "Other Information" to Sermons/Services. If you want **printed copy** call Elinor 456-8752. If you want to record a concert or event please plan to use your own 'thumb drive.'

End-of-year contribution statements were mailed out this past week. These serve as a reminder of what you might want to pay before Dec. 31st. Please let me know if you did not receive one, or if you have any questions. Thanks! 978-456-8752 admin@uuharvard.org

Music instructor with over 20 years playing experience and 10 years teaching will be providing **lessons at the Fellowship Building** in guitar, bass, drums/percussion and piano. For more information please email michaelgeezil@gmail.com

Save the Date! Church Auction: March 5

Save the Date for the UU Seder – Friday, April 8, at 6pm

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun. Dec. 6

L & F Food Collection
9:45am Nursery open
10:00am Worship Service
"Checkpoint at Bethlehem"
Rev. J. Mark Worth
11:30-12:30 Bargains open
12:00-1:00 Chimers

Tue. Dec. 7

10-4 Bargains in the Belfry open

Wed. Dec. 8

7:00-9:00pm Welcome Team mtg
7:00-7:30pm Meditation

Thu. Dec. 10

7:30-9:30pm Board mtg.

Sun. Dec. 13

9:45am Nursery open
10:00am Worship Service
"Good King Wenceslas"
Rev. J. Mark Worth
3:30 & 4:30pm Performances
in our sanctuary of the town's
Ecumenical Christmas Pageant

Our own Emma Sullivan (graduated last year) is continuing her UU traditions by joining a service trip sponsored by the Center for Service, Spirituality, and Social Justice at Dickinson College. She is one of 15 people heading for Cameroon, in Central Africa, to work with the local schools and orphanages of this bilingual population. The trip is focused on social justice and understanding the inequities of their educational system. She hopes to bring back what she has learned to the larger Dickinson community. To help make this mission possible for her, she would greatly appreciate any financial support we can give her. If you are willing and/or able please send in your tax deductible check made out to Dickinson College, with Emma Sullivan in the memo, and send it to the Center for Service, Spirituality, and Social Justice; PO Box 1773; Carlisle, PA 17013 by December 17th.