



Chalice Chat

Sunday News from the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church
December 3rd, 2017

Sharing Our Plate: December Our Father's House

Our Father's House is a non-profit 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 by offering client advocacy, assistance in searching for housing and employment, crisis counseling, and referral to community resources. Transitions at Devens, is managed by Our Father's House and provides transitional housing services for homeless mothers and their children. Other Our Father's House programs include an emergency shelter for men, a transitional shelter for women as well as transitional housing for chemically addicted homeless men and women who have at least thirty days of sobriety. Please make your checks out directly to Our Father's House.

December 3rd Music Sunday Daniel Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata and Hope* by Rev. Jill Cowie

Brian D. McLaren writes, "*Politicians compete for higher offices, business tycoons scramble for bigger pieces of the pie, armies march and scientists study, preachers preach, and laborers sweat. But in that silent baby, lying in the humble manger, there pulses more potential power and wisdom and grace and aliveness than all the rest of us can imagine.* Come listen as our choir lifts this truth in melody in this most beautiful cantata that will be embellished with advent readings and a sermon on hope.

December 10th *Families of the Heart* Rev.

Jill Cowie Often this month is hard as it brings so many different memories of family. I find hope in Andrew Solomon's words, "if the physical and psychic place to which you were born wants no more of you, an infinitude of locales of the spirit beckons." What he is saying is that when

families to which we are born are not welcoming, or change over time, we can find families of the heart, places of belonging, of rebirth. My sermon tells my story of such a journey and invites you to ponder yours.

Religious Education.....

December 3 is a Sanctuary Start and the beginning of Advent. All children and teachers will start in the sanctuary, then go to the Fellowship Building together after the Story for All Ages. Please see below for the weekly theme for each RE age group:

- * Butterfly Garden: Advent Story
- * Rock Garden: Jesus, the Storyteller & Teacher / Guest at Your Table
- * Cosmix: Combined with Rock Garden / Guest at Your Table
- * Bridges: Session 9 in Compass Points - "The Diversity that Unites Us"

Neighboring Faith Field Trip for Middle School (Bridges) and High School Youth

Throughout the year, we will have the opportunity to meet with youth groups from the Groton, Stow/Acton and Littleton churches to explore other faith communities and participate in social action. Our next all-group gathering is December 3, 4:30 pm, at the Catholic Church in Harvard. We will attend Mass for the first Sunday in Advent, then a representative from the Catholic Church will join us back in our Fellowship Building for pizza and conversation/debrief. Meet first at Harvard UU Church Fellowship Building. I hope all of our middle and high school youth will be able to attend. If your youth can attend this "Neighboring Faith" journey, please email Daniel at dre@uuharvard.org.

Guest at Your Table Program Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about our work to advance human rights. Since UUSC works in over 25 countries, with over 75 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. GAYT is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals – the “guests” in Guest at Your Table. Your child will receive a GAYT donation box in RE to take home and collect change through Christmas. We will all return our boxes the first Sunday in January. You can also find boxes and brochures in the back of the sanctuary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notes from Rev. Jill

I am in the office on alternate Monday and Tuesdays, and all Wednesdays and Thursdays. I welcome lunch, or dinner to get to know you. My cell is the best way to reach me- [617-697-0922](tel:617-697-0922). I look forward to connecting.

Fall Walks with Minister every Wednesday 10:00-11:30 a.m. Meet at the church and call [617-697-0922](tel:617-697-0922) with questions.

Social Justice Ministries Council, Gem of the Week: Jason Kander is traveling the country to help the 54% of those who didn't vote for Donald Trump talk to those of us who did about the most divisive issues in our country. His first podcast is called Race and Policing where he interviews Missouri State Rep Bruce Franks who got his start as a Ferguson activist.

<https://crooked.com/podcast/race-and-policing/>

We currently have 3 very important volunteer positions that need to be filled immediately: Fellowship Hour Coordinator, Website Content Manager, Button Maker. Please contact Paige

O'Brien, paigeob21@gmail.com, to find out more about any of these essential roles.

Time to make the Boxwoods! Come learn how to make Boxwood trees and centerpieces. The Women's Alliance will have two Boxwood tree workshops in December. On Tuesday December 5, we'll meet at 6:30 P.M. in the Van Wormer room at the Fellowship Building for a potluck dinner. Then at 7:30, we'll cut up boxwood, and assemble ornaments (bring small yard clippers if possible.) Then on Friday, December 8, at 10 A.M., we'll assemble the trees in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. You'll have fun helping with a major fundraiser for the church. We hope to see you there. Questions? Call Alice Rennie [978-634-1717](tel:978-634-1717)

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday December 3

10:00 a.m. **Music Sunday**

Daniel Pinkham's Christmas

Cantata and Hope Rev. Jill

11:30-12:30 Bargains open

12:00-1:00 Chimers

12:00-2:00 Mummies (Sutherland)

1:30-3:00 p.m. Humanists

5:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group

Monday December 4

7:30-9:30 p.m. Connections Team

Tuesday December 5

10-4 Bargains open

6:30 & 7:30 p.m. Alliance

Potluck & Boxwood making

Wednesday December 6

6:30 Caring meeting

7-8 p.m. Silent Meditation

Thursday December 7

7-8 p.m. Seven Path Meditation

Friday December 8

10:00 a.m. Alliance: Boxwoods

Saturday December 9

10-12 Mummies (Community Rm)

Sunday December 10

8:45 Chimers

10-12 Mummies (SH)

Families of the Heart

Rev. Jill

10:00 Worship Service