



Chalice Chat

Sunday News from the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church
December 31st, 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.

Sunday December 31st, 2017 "Release and Redeem"

A Time to let go -- and a time to look forward.

The turning of the year presents the perfect time for reflection on the year that is ending and the year that is about to begin. Our worship will include a Fire Ceremony as well as an opportunity to plant our past joys and hopes for the future.

-The Worship Team

Sunday January 7th, 2018 "The Doubt Essential to Faith"

Rev. Jill Cowie

Agnostic Jew Lesley Hazleton, author of a 2013 biography of Muhammad, was struck by Mohammed's doubt on the night he received the revelation of the Koran. And yet this experience became the bedrock of his belief. This sermon calls for a new appreciation of doubt and questioning as the foundation of faith -- and an end to fundamentalism of all kinds.

Religious Education

December 31 is a Whole Congregation worship experience. Nursery care will be provided in the Fellowship Building.

January 7: Sanctuary Start for RE
January 14: MLK Whole Congregation Service

We have a need for teachers and assistants for block 4 (January 14 - February 18) for three age groups: Butterfly Garden (prek-1st) and Cosmix (4th-5th). If you can help with these groups at these times, please email Daniel at dre@uuharvard.org.

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. Please take a box from the back of the sanctuary and collect change through December. We will collect boxes on January 7.

Passages Refugee Experience

February 3, 12 noon - 6 pm Passages

Experience: an awareness activity putting participants through the ordeal of refugees. Passages is a role-playing experience developed by UNHCR in 1995 designed to put participants through the ordeal of being a refugee fleeing war or persecution. It is experienced in a large space, outside on a square or inside in a large room like a gymnasium, in groups of 15 to 67 people. Experienced facilitators are designated and

the group is subdivided in “families”. Each of these families will go through experience modules putting them through all aspects of being a refugee (fleeing a country, crossing borders, claiming asylum). The facilitators will brief and debrief the players afterwards. This experience is recommended for middle schoolers and above. Register by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/passages-refugee-experience-unhcr-tickets-40910789272>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reaching In: A Listening Circle

Opportunity SAVE THE DATE: Join us for an **afternoon of fellowship**, munchies and impromptu music at a special Listening Circle on February 4, 2018 from 2-5pm. The afternoon will be **hosted by the Worship Committee at the Taylor Home.**

All will be invited to listen deeply from their hearts in the spirit of support and loving kindness as everyone has the opportunity to share their enthusiasms and concerns about the first six months of this special year, and ideas for worship moving forward with our new minister. For more information, contact Kelley Taylor at kelley@picante.com or Cary Browse cbrowse@earthlink.net

Social Justice Ministries Council

Gem of the Week: Debby Irving Event Wednesday, January 17, 6:45-9:00 pm Acton Congregational Church -- [12 Concord Road, Acton](#) Debby Irving is a racial justice educator, author, and public speaker. Author of *Waking Up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, Debby Irving will share her sometimes cringe-worthy struggle to understand racism and racial tensions. She offers a fresh perspective on bias, stereotypes, manners, and tolerance. As she unpacks her own long-held beliefs about colorblindness, being a good person, and wanting to help people of color, she reveals how each of these well-intentioned mindsets actually perpetuated her ill-conceived ideas about race. Donations are appreciated and any

money collected above the cost of expenses will benefit Fostering Racial Justice Group (FRJG).

Alliance Potluck & Program

January 9th 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.

in the Fellowship Building

Speaker: Elinor Stapleton

Topic: Literacy Volunteers of the Montachusett Area. After some initial training, Elinor worked with a 19-year-old man from Honduras, a 21-year-old Hmong woman from Laos, and currently with three 30-year-old women from Egypt. Elinor’s experiences have been very different, all challenging and rewarding in their own ways.

We currently have two very important volunteer positions that need to be filled immediately:

- Fellowship-Hour-Scheduling-Team
- Website Content Manager.

Please contact Paige O’Brien, paigeob21@gmail.com.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday December 31

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

“Release and Redeem”

A Time to let go -- and a time to look forward.

-The Worship Team

Monday January 1, 2018

Office Closed

Wednesday January 3

6:30 p.m. Caring Team meeting

7:00-8:00 p.m. Silent Meditation

Thursday January 4

5:20-6:30 p.m. Staff meeting

7:00-9:00 p.m. Social Justice

Ministries Council

7:00-8:00 p.m. 7- Path Meditation

Sunday January 5

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

“The Doubt Essential to Faith”

Rev. Jill Cowie

11:30-12:30 Bargains in the Belfry

11:30-1:00 Senior High Youth Gr.