



Chalice Chat

Sunday News from the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church
December 15, 2019

Sharing Our Plate – Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry – December

Each month, 33% of the cash contributions in the collection plate, other than those specified for pledges, go to a designated tax deductible social justice organization or local charity. Loaves and Fishes is a food pantry in Ayer, MA whose mission it is to serve nutritious food in an atmosphere of kindness and respect to individuals in need who reside in Ayer, Devens, Groton, Harvard, Littleton and Shirley. More than 350 volunteers help over 900 client families who are food insecure. For more information about Loaves and Fishes, please go to loavesfishespantry.org. If you would like 100% of your donation to go to Loaves and Fishes, please make your check out to Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, Inc.

December 15 “Waiting and Expectation”

Waiting and anticipation are part of the season of Advent and the lead up to getting those Christmas, Hanukah, and Kwanza presents. They say that anticipating something fun like a vacation is a large part of the joy we get out of it. But it can also be the hardest part of life -- waiting to hear test results, watching and waiting for a loved one to let go and leave this life. What happens in times of waiting that make it a rich place for spiritual insight and growth?

December 22, Solstice Service and Mummers Play

Christmas Eve Service & Celebration December 24, 2019, 4:45-6:15 pm

Concert at 4:45.

Family friendly
celebration starts at 5:15
with cookies and cider,
service 5:30-6:15.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children/Youth Programming Continuing our church-wide message of The Power of We, the children and youth will continue rehearsing for the Mummers play, to be presented Sunday, 12/22.

Coming of Age It's time to sign up for ReachOut Worcester, similar to CityReach, happening Friday through Saturday afternoon, February 7-8, 2020. Please let your facilitators or Carol, our COA coordinator know.

Caroling on the Common, Coming soon: Wednesday, 12/18/19, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Traditional songs with preprinted lyrics; bring your voices and a flashlight!

Coming of Age Youth are Available to Help You

Do you need help shoveling snow? Do you need someone to walk your dog, or babysit for your kids?

The Coming of Age youth have been charged with earning part of the fee for their program this year (to cover the cost of their retreats and journals, to name a few of the expenses). They have volunteered to work for \$10 an hour at a variety of tasks. If you would like to hire them to do any of the following, just contact me at carolmacfarlane@gmail.com, and I will send out an email to all the youth and let you know who responds first. Or if you know one of the youth, you can call them directly.

They are available to shovel your snow, babysit, pet sit, walk your dog, and other jobs that you might think of. You will pay the church with Coming of Age in the memo line. It's as simple as that. And you'll get to know one of our fantastic youth a little better!

-Carol MacFarlane

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are a Welcoming Congregation. This means we affirm and include people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer at every level of congregational life—in worship, in program, and in social occasions—welcoming them as whole people. <https://tinyurl.com/rcazkcj>

Calling All Persons!!! We need YOU to help make our All Ages, Sing and Be Well, Pick up Choir a reality. Led by the one and Only Donnalisa Johnson we will meet and Sing on Sunday, January 12, 2019. The song is easy and fun to sing... a real toe tapper.... Come and sing along. No need for prior experience.... Just a desire for fun... Families especially encouraged to join the fun/no age limit! Meet in the Sanctuary at 8:45 AM on Sunday Jan 12, 2020.

Brighten your home for the holidays! Festive Boxwood trees, centerpieces and greenery, handmade by the industrious ladies of the Alliance, will be for sale after church on December 15th. These also make great gifts. All proceeds will be donated to the church. -Alice Rennie, for the Alliance

Making the Holidays Special
For Thanksgiving we donated 175lbs, 4 turkeys, and \$190 (for more turkeys)! Thanks you so much. For December, let's work on a holiday feast. Most needed items are turkey gravy, pineapple slices, juice, coffee, cocoa, and ham glaze. Pick up date December 22. -Maddy and Hugh Silk

Stewardship Campaign We're almost there! The current total is \$195,133 or 93% of our goal of \$210,000. If you haven't turned in your pledge yet we urge you to please do so today. Thank you!

◇◇◇ **GEM OF THE WEEK** ◇◇◇
From Myanmar to Kashmir to Xinjiang province, China, Facebook isn't bringing people together, but tearing them apart. In March 2018, the chairman of the U.N. Independent International Fact-Finding

Mission on Myanmar told reporters that social media companies like Facebook had played a "determining role" in anti-muslim violence, having "substantively contributed to the level of acrimony and dissension and conflict." "Everything is done through Facebook in Myanmar," added Yanghee Lee, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Myanmar. "I'm afraid that Facebook has now turned into a beast, and not what it originally intended. The sad story is outlined in <https://theintercept.com> "Dear Mark Zuckerberg: Facebook Is an Engine of Anti-Muslim Hate the World Over. Don't You Care?" Well worth the read and thinking about!

The Anne-Marie Arnold Memorial Messiah Sing. The 55th Annual Community Sing In of the Messiah Oratorio by George Frederick Handel. Sunday, December 22, 4:30 p.m. Orchestra, professional soloists---tenor- Ray Bauwens, bass- Leon Burke, soprano- Dana Varga, and mezzo-soprano- Alexandra Dietrich---and You

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday December 15

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
"Waiting and Expectation"

Rev. Jill Cowie

10:00-11:30 Mummers rehearsal

11:15 – 1:00 Newcomers Lunch

11:20-11:50 Jr Choir

11:30-12:30 Coming of Age

12:00-1:00 Chimers

Tuesday December 17 Belfry Deadline

Wednesday December 18

7-8pm Meditation

Thursday December 19

11-1 Soul Matters

7-9pm Soul Matters

7:30-9:00pm Choir

Sunday December 22

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Solstice Service & Mummers Play

All Church Potluck

12:00-1:00 Chimers

12:00-2:00pm Board meeting

4:30pm Messiah Sing