



# Chalice Chat

Sunday News from the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church  
December 22, 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](http://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 22, Solstice Service and Mummers Play

Come join our dancers and mummers and singers as together we celebrate the arrival of winter.

## 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.



## December 29 “The Power of Awe”

Rev. Jill Cowie

Research shows that even brief experiences of awe attune us to the common humanity we share with others. Come to a service to honor Hanukkah and to explore the enduring power of awe that strengthen our caring, creativity and our health.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Children/Youth Programming

**Welcome Yule! —This Sunday we celebrate the solstice.** The annual tradition of the **Mummers Play** will be performed, in verse, by our youth and children. The Mummers Play is written and produced by Marc Vilain, and is a solstice story of hope and rebirth out from darkness, with lots of twists. The plot is timely, focusing on climate action, and is in the form of a parody, reflecting local and national issues as well as poking fun at our politicians. Come and celebrate merry-making; heralding back the return of the sun! This is an all-congregation service.

**A New Tradition** A dozen of us regaled our neighbors on the Common with caroling, Wednesday evening, Dec. 18. This is the start of our first annual Caroling on the Common tradition. Folks loved it and some even joined in. What a treat!

**Holiday Shoe-Box Tree Update** Thanks for everyone’s generosity! We delivered 13 shoeboxes (more than the 11!) to the youth and children of the ACE program of Worcester. Boxes will be handed out this weekend, and I understand that there is a community of sharing for those gifts which might not be a perfect match. The children and youth have come to Worcester with their families and are enrolled in a special transitional schooling program before entering Worcester public schools. Thanks again for your contributions!

**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](mailto:carolmacfarlane@gmail.com).

## 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/rczkcj>

**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. A donation of \$15 is suggested, which helps to pay the musicians and keep the tradition alive.

**Stewardship Campaign** We're almost there! The current total is \$196,633 or 93.6% of our goal of \$210,000. After the service today, the Board will co-host, along with the Stewardship Committee, a potluck to celebrate the end of the Stewardship campaign and the Power of WE.

**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, 2020. 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.

**Thank you from the staff** to the Caring Network for the poinsettias.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Where is the Outrage?

For almost 20 years, the United States has been at war in Afghanistan. A new trove of papers recently published by the Washington Post and based on an internal military report on “lessons learned” in the war, exposes the fact that the generals and Pentagon brass, as well as the defense department officials, knew the war was doomed to failure from the start. The Pentagon Papers sparked a public outrage, and eventually helped the public force an end to the Vietnam War. Where is the public outrage now? 2018 wasn't just the deadliest year of the war in Afghanistan, it was also the first in which *the U.S. and allied Afghan troops killed more civilians than the Taliban did*. It is time to end it!

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday December 22

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Solstice Service & Mummers Play**

Potluck to celebrate the end of Stewardship campaign, and the Power of WE

12:00-1:00 Chimers

4:30pm Messiah Sing

Tuesday December 24

Concert at 4:45.

Family friendly celebration starts at 5:15 with cider and cookies.

Christmas Eve Service 5:30-6:15.

Sunday December 29

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**“The Power of Awe”**

Rev. Jill Cowie

### Admin Office Holiday Schedule:

December 23 open 9:00-Noon

December 24 open @9:00am—2:00pm

December 25 & 26 Office Closed

December 27 open @1:00-4:00pm

December 30 open @9:00-Noon

December 31 & January 1 Office Closed

January 2 open @10:00-3:00

January 3 open @9:00-Noon.