



Chalice Chat

Sunday News from the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church
December 29, 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 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.

January 5, 2020 “1. Start Going to Church”

Rev. Jill Cowie

Start the New Year by making “going to church” your first New Year’s resolution! Come and find out how “sacred habits” can make a big difference in your life.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children/Youth Programming

The nursery is open!

Next Sunday, the children and youth will continue their winter session classes. We will be exploring and learning about January’s theme of integrity.

Gratitude for the Festive Holiday

Shoebboxes As seen in the happy, smiling faces of the children/youth who received shoebox presents from 12 members of our church, they were very grateful! (Checkout the photos in the church lobby.) Thank you all for thoughtful contributions to the African Community Education (ACE) program of Worcester.

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.

Coming of Age Retreat for youth on Friday, Feb. 7, All Saints Church, Worcester at 7 p.m. through Saturday, Feb. 8, until 2:30 p.m.

The youth will be spearheading a **Clothing Drive** for Worcester’s homeless including: travel-size toiletries, new/gently used hats and gloves, new mens’ socks (white), and new mens’ and womens’ underwear.

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>

The next Music Committee meeting will be Tuesday January 14th at 7:30 p.m., at John Chapman's house #42 Willow Road, Harvard.

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.

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!

Admin Office Holiday Schedule:

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday December 29

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

“The Power of Awe”

Rev. Jill Cowie

Wednesday January 1

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

Thursday January 2

1:00 p.m. staff meeting

5:00-5:30 p.m. Caring Network

Sunday January 5

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

“1. Start Going to Church”

Rev. Jill Cowie

11:30-12:30 Coming of Age

Tuesday January 7

7:00-9:00 p.m. Welcoming Renewal

7:00-9:00 p.m. Worship Team

Women's Alliance of the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church

Our mission is to bring together the women of our Church to discuss issues important to women, to offer an opportunity for intergenerational friendship, and to support the special needs of the church. All are welcome.

Evening Meetings: We meet in the parlor of the Fellowship Building on the first Tuesday of the month. A potluck dinner will be shared at 6:30 p.m., followed by a brief business meeting. The programs begin about 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Our next meeting is Tuesday evening January 14, 2020: Climate Change

Christopher J. Ryan. Harvard's Community and Economic Development Director will discuss the Town's participation in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program, which addresses how Harvard will prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Hostess: Dorothy Solbrig