

Meetinghouse Messenger, January 11, 2018



The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Meetinghouse Messenger

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Upcoming Services at 10am in the Sanctuary

January 14th: What must cohere for there to be justice? MLK Day

January 21st: Strengthening Our Commitment

January 28th: Ice Dreams, Intergenerational Service

A Message from the Minister

Most of us don't enjoy filling out forms, but once in a while they contain something intriguing, something that actually piques our

interest. This was my recent experience with the First Religious Society's annual request for information from the Unitarian Universalist Association. Ministers and Parish Committees of all member churches are asked for information about their membership numbers, average Sunday attendance, RE registration, finances, and the like. This year the forms included the following questions. The first, *"Of your congregation's members, what percentage do you estimate identify as people of color?"* Those who identify as people of color may include African Descent, Asian, Caribbean, Latinx and Hispanic, Middle Eastern/Arab, Native/American Indian, Pacific Islander, and Multiracial." The second, *"Of your congregation's members, what percentage do you estimate identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)?"*



I have italicized the portion of the requests that I find challenging because we only know this information if it has been shared with us. I no longer presume whether or not people fall into these categories, because it is not always as clear as it seems. And that may explain why a number of churches have chosen not to respond to these questions while others are struggling to answer them. What is the best response?

A Message from the RE Director

Dear Families,

We are planning a fund and friend raiser to support the Syrian refugee family in Carlisle. This event will be a chance to gather as a community and show our support for a family who has made a long and stressful journey from their home in Syria. We will share a dinner of soup and bread; we will learn more about their story; we will show our children what true support looks like. It is important for our children to see people helping each other, feeding each other and being in companionship with one another.

Our Middles and teens will be doing their part to support the event. The Middles will be making bowls in RE in support of this family. The teens will make cookies for the event. Our children are learning to care by *doing*.

Happiness is not for sale and cannot be found on Amazon. The more happiness is promoted as a commodity the more elusive it seems to be. And yet Wisdom calls out to us, over the ages, that the only true path to happiness is through service to others. Let's feel true happiness together as we step out of our routines to share in the care of a family who has left everything behind to begin again in our midst.

Love,

Pam

(How can you help? Sign up below to help or to RSVP to the event.)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hope-full-bowls-a-community-dinner-fund-and-friend-raiser-tickets-41835769914>





Blue Wagon Collection this Sunday -

Do you have any wool lying around your home? We are doing a few projects in RE and could use some woolen yarn. Please bring some if you have it.



Helping in RE:

We need more participation from all ages. Please signup here to share your gifts and support our Teen Leaders -

Littles and Middles: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0444aaad292-winter1>

K/Ones: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0444aaad292-winter1>

JYG: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0444aaad292-jygwinter>
NYG: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0444aaad292-nygwinter>

To View Calendars for our programming:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0B712-WXZnnLaelhpTkdxN1pHNms>

After-School Unplugged Group - Begins again on 1/11 at 3:15-4pm

Come hang out, have a snack and do some form of meditative play with others. All ages welcome, including parents. This group is guided by the kids - their needs and questions. No set agenda.

Save these Dates:

January 27th - Hope-full Bowls - A Fund and Friend Raiser for the Alloh Family, 5:30-7:30pm - A gathering with soup to support their transition from Syria to Carlisle. Donations requested.

January 28th - Intergenerational Service

June 15-16th - FRS Family Campout

June 17th - FRS Fishing Derby

Sunday Morning Programs begin after the Children's Story

This Sunday, 1/14/18 - MLK Sunday - Blue Wagon Collection - Leftover Wool Yarn
Littles (1yr-4yrs) with Bella Eckler and ????
K/1s - with Brianna Neptune and Carly Neale Paris and adult, Margot Morse
Middles - with Holly West, Rachel Bryan, Rebecca Bromark and Lauree Eckler -
Hope-full Bowls for Syrian Refugees - Introduction to our Bowl Project on 1/21
JYG - with Jasmine Neale Paris and Katie Baum - Knitting for Love -
NYG - (7th-12th Grades) - Off for MLK Weekend

Next Sunday, 1/21/18

Littles (1yr-4yrs) with Bella Eckler and MJ Lanum
K/1s - with Brianna Neptune and Carly Neale Paris and adult, Ann Davidson - UU Curriculum
Middles A - with Holly West and Lauree Eckler - Hope-full Bowls
Middles B - with Rachel Bryan and Pam Howell - Hope-full Bowls
JYG - with Jasmine Neale Paris and Katie Baum - JYG/K/1 Buddies - Linda Myers Tierney -
NYG - (7th-12th Grades) - Cookies for Fundraiser, Knitting and Games, - Pam and Mark Howell, Lauree Eckler

A Message from the Music Director

Dan is off on a well-deserved vacation and will return by Sunday, January 21.



Announcements and Upcoming Events

Community Dinner and Fundraiser for Refugee Family Saturday, January 27, 2018 (snow date Sunday January 28)

The FRS Social Action Committee invites you to join us for a family dinner on Saturday, January 27 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Union Hall. A Syrian-themed dinner at 5:30 will be followed at 6:30 by an interactive discussion on what it means to make the journey from Syria to the US, and then what is needed to settle and rebuild your life in the United States. Dinner will feature four homemade soups, fresh bread, and dessert. The presentation will feature Carlisle resident Sean Kavanagh, who, with his wife, Donna Vaillancourt, housed the Alloh family (7 Syrian refugees) earlier this year until they were able to find them suitable housing in Carlisle. Marianne Boswell, of LexRap, a Lexington MA nonprofit serving local refugee needs, will also be speaking. Through the story of the Alloh Family, you will hear firsthand what it takes to leave your native land and resettle in the United States.

Event is free and open to the public. Babysitting will be available

Please RSVP on Eventbrite by clicking [here](#)

WomenSpirit Annual Retreat Weekend - January 12-14 - Senexet House, Woodstock, CT

Our theme this year is "Equanimity and Self Compassion". Activities include discussions, creative arts, walks, yoga and meditation and time to reflect and consider the new year ahead. It's a warm and relaxing weekend and a great way to connect with women in our community. If you'd like more information, contact Sue Kirk at sukirk@aol.com. More details are available at <http://bit.ly/2B8lpOO>;

Community Events

Carlisle Dance and potluck supper on Friday, January 12 6:30 pm in Union Hall

Enjoy a welcoming potluck supper followed by contra and square dancing in Union Hall. Supper begins at 6:30; bring a dish to share. Dancing runs from 8:00 to 10:00. The dances are mostly traditional contra dances, along with a few singing squares. Lively music is provided by the Carlisle Band, with David Titus, Debby Knight, Beth Murray, and many talented sit-ins. Dances are taught, and all are welcome. A \$2 contribution is requested for the potluck, and the charge for the dance is \$6.

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