

Meetinghouse Messenger

from the First Religious Society



November 17, 2014
through November 23, 2014

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**Office
Administrator:**

Ann Quenin

978-369-5180

This Sunday, Nov. 23 Our Thanksgiving Celebration will open with the Jazz Group playing "It's a Wonderful World." The service will highlight things for which we are thankful. Family customs will be shared -- table graces and special breads to eat. This is an all-ages service, with shorter elements and active participation. Jazz Group includes Cory Lanum on piano, John Lyons on bass, Harvey Nosowitz drums, Santo Pullara clarinet, and Stew Roberts, guitar and vocals. This service will be led by the Minister with Lisa Perry-Wood, Dan Ryan, and the Choir.

Our Share the Plate offering will go to the Hillcrest Aids Centre Trust in Durban, South Africa.

If you would like to share a family bread tradition or a table blessing, or send a photo representing something for which you are thankful, please contact Diane Miller (see column on left).

Coffee Hour this coming Sunday: Congregants with last names J-M. Please bring a light, healthy snack and consider showing up early or staying on after to help with set up or clean up. Your time and contributions are greatly appreciated!

Upcoming Services

The Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving, **November 26, 7:30 PM**, you are invited to the ecumenical service hosted this year by St. Irene Roman Catholic Church on East Street. **Singers are asked to come to the St. Irene at 7 PM to warm up for familiar choral hymns.**

Fifth Sunday Holiday Arts Celebration Nov. 30th

frs@uucarlisle.org

Hours: Mon. 8-
9:30am

10:30am-noon

Tuesday: 8am-noon

Closed Wednesday

Thursday 8-noon
and 1pm-4pm

Friday 8am-noon
and 1pm-3pm

Minister:

Rev. Diane Miller
978-369-0284
church study
dmiller @
uucarlisle.org

The Minister is usually in the church study for portions of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and

Sunday. Friday is preparation time, Saturdays vary, and Wednesday is her day off. Call for an

appointment.

**Religious
Education
Director:**

Lisa Perry-Wood
dre@uucarlisle.org

Music Director:

Dan Ryan
dryan@uucarlisle.org

The format of this Sunday departs from the usual. We will gather for fifteen minutes in the Sanctuary to light the advent wreath and recite our Covenant. Then everyone is invited to choose an activity, perhaps more than one, for the balance of the hour. Learn carols. Learn to play a handbell or chime (ages 9 and up). Fill Stockings for the House of Hope. Make a holiday card for the Butler School gift project and for the Pastoral Concerns Committee to use. Decorate holiday cookies. Make an Advent wreath to use at home. (See below for specific materials needed for the Advent wreaths). Invite friends and neighbors for this special Sunday morning.

**A Message from the Religious Education
Director**



**FRS Kids Make a Difference in the Lives of Other
Children**

This Sunday was our third Social Action Sunday of the year. Our kids, grades K-5, had a great time making "Welcome" cards for new students who will be entering the Butler Middle School in Lowell throughout the school year. We also helped to put together backpacks full of school supplies; our cards will be tucked inside to welcome the new students. This Sunday's project was part of the FRS Social Action Committee's ongoing work to support this school of predominantly low-income, inner city children. Their next project for the school will be a Coat Drive; please look for information at church about these much-needed donations.

Next week is our monthly Service for All Ages, this time with a Thanksgiving theme. As always, this service will be very child and family friendly, so please join us as we explore various ways of offering gratitude for all of our gifts together.

If you haven't signed your child up for Religious Education, please drop by the RE table, before church or at coffee hour on Sundays. Or feel free to come to the RE office on Tuesdays or Thursdays, when Lisa has office hours: dre@uucarlisle.org or 781-883-3411.

News and Programs

Walk Through. The Parish Committee is looking at

potential church and rental uses of the ground level space where the Red Balloon used to meet. The congregation is invited to walk through the space and see it emptied of furnishing. Ideas and suggestions for use are welcome, and can be conveyed to Stew Roberts, co-chair of the Parish Committee.

If you plan to participate in the **Advent Wreath making on November 30**, bring an advent wreath form if you already have one (we will have some to purchase for first-timers), standard taper candles if you have them (we will have some to purchase), large plate or plastic platter (least 13.5 inches diameter) that to hold your wreath, garden clippers (although we can share), thin wire can help to attach the greens (not absolutely necessary). If you have greens such as pine, fir, spruce, hemlock, holly, or other evergreens at home, you are encouraged to bring some branches or clippings to use and share. If you plan to purchase a wreath form and/or candles, please sign up at Coffee Hour, through the church office, or contact Heather Hedden by November 23 so we know what you need; the cost is small. Wreath forms are re-usable from year to year.

FRS Snow/Inclement Weather Policy

When snow storms, ice, power outage, or other weather events coincide with Sunday mornings, the FRS policy is to encourage parishioners to decide for themselves if conditions are safe for coming to church. We plan to go ahead with services regardless of weather, adapting the service and religious education as needed.

Because we rely on volunteers to clear snow and ice from entrances, come prepared. In case of weekday closing and cancellations, Changes or cancellations will be posted on the church website www.uu.carlisle.org

Borrowing tables and chairs: Occasionally FRS'ers borrow tables and/or chairs from the church. Due to events scheduled here this holiday season, the church office needs to know in advance if you are planning to borrow either. Email Ann Quenin at frs@uucarlisle.org

Thanks.

Third Friday Potluck Coming up November 21st.

Save the date for another Third Friday Potluck for all ages.

The potluck will begin early, at 5:30 PM. with playtime in the large room on the ground level (formerly Red Balloon) and dinner in Union Hall at 6:30 PM.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven will meet at 7 pm on Nov. 21st in the Widrick Room. Focus is on the Virgin Mary. Contact Rev. Diane Miller if you are interested in the class.

Kendric's Kids: All are invited to join a group of FRS people going to a Thanksgiving Brunch in Dorchester on Saturday, November 22, to showcase the work that Kendric Price and his Big Business Network are doing with inner city kids. You may remember Kendric from his presentation at FRS last March, accompanied by a group of a cappella gospel singers and several dancers, and from their apple-picking expedition in October with lunch in Union Hall hosted by our Social Action Committee. This event will be held at the Perkins Community Center, 155 Talbot Ave, and will include performances of hip-hop dance, singers, expressive dancers led by Larissa Patterson, and always a surprise or two. We'll assemble at FRS at 9:00 to carpool to Dorchester, returning in the early afternoon. Please join us!

Community Thanksgiving: Reviving an established tradition, the First Religious Society will once again be hosting a community-wide Thanksgiving Feast in Union Hall on Thursday, November 27. (Thanksgiving Day) This will be an event at which any and all are welcome, and every attendee will have a part in creating the feast. In the best tradition of Thanksgiving, this will be a celebration of food, feast and thanks. This will be open to all people, regardless of church affiliation or membership. Sign-up sheets and food suggestions will be available in Union Hall during Coffee Hour. Or talk to Tom Rourk. This promises to be a fun and rewarding way to share in a Thanksgiving tradition.

Volunteers still needed for Greens Sale: This will be the 26th year for our annual Greens Sale. Let me know what you and also your church committee can do to help. . **See the schedule below.** (Signed) Janice Kissinger.

Saturday, 11/22- 8:30am - 4:00pm - Boxwood Tree Workshop - Union Hall; **Sunday, 11/ 23** - after coffee hour - bring down decorations and Greens Sale items from the attic;**Monday, 11/24** - 9:00am - decorate the Sanctuary for the

Holidays - all are welcome to help; **Wednesday, 12/3- Holiday arrangements workshop 9:00am - all day; Thursday 12/4- 9:00am - all day - wreath decorating workshop** - Union Hall; **Friday, 12/5 - 8:30am - set up Cafe - price all items-** general clean-up of Union Hall. **Saturday, 12/ 6 - Holiday Greens Sale and Cafe - 10:00am - 2:00pm** - all workers should be there by 9:30am. Clean-up is from 2-3pm.

Sunday, 12/ 7 - a few Holiday Greens Sale items will be available to purchase before and after church service.

Hold the date - **Saturday, December 20 - 6:30pm** at Kissingers - Holiday Greens Sale Pot-Luck Party - all volunteers and their spouses are invited - Second Wind Quartet will perform - each family to bring a bottle of wine and a dish for ten people.

Mark the Date on your Calendar: **Winter Holidays Concert, Sunday December 14, 7 PM.** Always a favorite holiday concert!

Behind the Scenes

Many thanks to **Lauree Eckler** and **Dollina Borrella** for their help in planning, providing supplies, making cards, and stuffing backpacks with the RE classes for our Social Action Sunday this week. The kids really loved this project!

Community Events

All are invited to join Merrimack Valley People for Peace at their annual Stone Soup Supper, November 18, 2014 at 6:30 PM at North Parish UU church in North Andover, 190 Academy Rd, North Andover, MA 01845. Everyone brings a vegetable to add to the soup, and, we take a collection for Oxfam. Then Brayton Shanley will speak about his book, "The Many Sides of Peace: Christian Nonviolence, the Contemplative Life, and Sustainable Living," on working full time to build a peaceful community while confronting war. Leader of the Agape community, he practices and trains others to live sustainably.

The Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council, Inc. will award its Climate for Freedom Award to Gaining Ground at its Annual Human Rights Day Breakfast on December 1, 7:30 at Tri-Con in Concord. Rev. Miller plans to attend. The event is free and open to all.

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