

# Meetinghouse Messenger

from the First Religious Society

December 15, 2014  
through December 21, 2014

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**Office  
Administrator:**

Ann Quenin

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Hours: Mon. 8-

## December Services

**December 21** "Solstice Balance: Embracing Darkness" Rev. Diane Miller. Blessings of the darkness of winter. This will be a Social Action Sunday for the young people, making fleece blankets for children in need.

### Christmas Eve Wednesday, December 24

**3 pm** A lively service for young children, with the Christmas Story and lots of participation

**5 pm** Candlelight Service with Christmas readings, carols, and Prelude music to knock your Christmas stockings off.

**If you would like to participate in the Christmas Eve services** at 3 or 5, as a reader, candle lighter, usher, greeter, or pageant assistant, contact the minister.

**December 28 - Waffles and Jazz.** The Sunday after Christmas will be a Jazz Brunch in Union Hall. This is a great time for young adults who are home for the holidays to get together, and for bringing friends and neighbors to a really cool community gathering. Live music by the FRS Jazz Group. Waffles with all the fixings will be coordinated by Lisa Sama, Tom Rourk, and Michael Dundorf and many helpers.

And once again, we will have an "Ugly Christmas Sweater" contest. So bring along that old thing that Aunt Effie gave you years ago and show it off! And if you can spare some time on that day to arrive early and help with set up, serving or clean up, please sign up at Coffee Hour, or talk to Lisa Sama or Tom Rourk. We still need waffle cooks who can bring their own waffle irons

**Coffee Hour this coming Sunday, Dec. 21:** Congregants with last names A-E. Please bring a light, healthy snack and consider showing up early or staying on after to help with set up or clean up.

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  
781-883-3411

**Music Director:**

Dan Ryan  
dryan@uucarlisle.org

Your time and contributions are greatly appreciated!

**A Message from the Religious Education Director**

**Women of the New Testament**



This week we began in the sanctuary with the Legend of the Poinsettia, the story of the little Mexican girl whose humble gift was transformed by her love and devotion.

Our RE classes focused on the role of women in Christianity, especially in the New Testament stories. The K-2 class read Brian Wildsmith's book, *Mary*, which follows the story of the virgin mother from her childhood, through the annunciation, Jesus' birth and his early life. They learned about the association of the holy mother with flowers and about the use of the rosary. The 3-5 class heard about Martha and Mary serving a meal to Jesus; a story of two sisters who each had a different idea of what is really important. The children then had an opportunity to quietly listen to each other, and to talk about what that experience was like for them.

Next week will be our monthly Social Action Sunday. During our RE time, the children will assist in preparing and decorating gifts of blankets for children in need in the Lowell area.

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](mailto:dre@uucarlisle.org) or 781-883-3411.

**News and Programs**

The Environmental Action Committee is co-sponsoring a movie on **Dec. 18 at 7 pm in Union Hall**. Leslie Thomas of the newly-formed Carlisle Agricultural Commission is hosting two short movies exploring the challenges and opportunities facing the local food movement. An open discussion featuring local farmers will follow and refreshments will be served.

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.

**SNOW SHOVELING HELP NEEDED:** We need occasional help shoveling snow from the entries to the church. We would like to compile a list of people who could be called if there is snow just before an event at the church, e.g. COA luncheon, choir practice, etc. If you are willing to help, please contact the church office (978-369-5180) or email [frs@uucarlisle.org](mailto:frs@uucarlisle.org). Let us know if you could help on weekdays, Saturday or Sunday. We do not want to burden the church staff and our sexton is often not available. The driveways are plowed by Bryan Sorrows and Bob Wallhagen, but the walk areas need shoveling. Shovels and buckets of salt are at the church. Let us know if you have any questions.

**From the Buildings and Grounds Committee**

### Share the Plate

**Share the Plate this Sunday, December 21st: the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell.** The entire congregation is invited to participate by contributing non-perishable food items and/or cash.

### Behind the Scenes

Many thanks to **Florence Goulet** and her niece, **Natalie**, who generously volunteered to share stories of refugees living in Uganda. The 3rd to 5th graders were deeply moved to hear these experiences of the lives of other children and families.

Thanks also to **Christine Lear** and **Amy Smack** for providing snacks for our guests.

**Mike Dundorf**, **Susan Emmons**, and **John Redding** have led the K-5 classes this month. Thank you for your hard work and your dedication to our children's religious education.

An enormous note of thanks to **Janice Kissinger** for her prodigious work on the Holiday Greens Sale. A great success. Likewise a big thank you to **Dan Ryan**, **the choir and guest musicians** for a wonderful concert on Sunday night, and to the **Music and Worship Committee** for the reception in Union Hall.

### A Note from the Minister: January Sabbatical Plans

The Parish Committee has approved plans for me to take a month of sabbatical in January, which I will spend with family in Salina, Kansas. Instead of having a sabbatical minister, this is an opportunity for pulpit guests at FRS.



**January 2015 -- A Month of Special Services. Jan 4 -- The Rev. Colin Bossen.** Colin is a Ph.D. Candidate at Harvard University. He was sabbatical minister in 2014, and returns as a pulpit guest.

**Jan. 11 -- Poetry Service, led by the Music and Worship Committee.** The choir and Dan Ryan will be off. Music by members of the congregation.

**Jan 18 -- The Rev. Victor Carpenter,** Interim Minister 2007-2008, returns to FRS on the weekend honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Jan 25 -- Lisa Perry-Wood** leads a Service for All Ages

**Facebook Afficionados:** "Like" the church page on Facebook so you are more likely to see the photos and updates on your news feed. You can always visit the page by writing "First Religious Society in Carlisle" into the Search box on Facebook. Or type in the URL in a browser and go there

directly: <https://www.facebook.com/FRSCarlisle>

An ad hoc group of three posts things to the page: Tom Rourk, Rick MacDonald, and Diane Miller. Contact them if you have photos or information you want posted.

### **Community Events**

**Christmas on the Common (and in Union Hall) has moved to Tuesday, December 16 at 6 pm.** Tree lighting and carols, followed by hot cocoa in Union Hall with Santa and his elves.