

# Meetinghouse Messenger

from the First Religious Society



**December 22, 2014  
through December 28, 2014**

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## **December Services**

### **Christmas Eve Wednesday, December 24**

**3 pm** A lively service for young children and families, with the Christmas Story and lots of participation. Children are invited to bring a representation of an animal, such as a stuffed animal, for the participatory story, but it is not necessary for them to bring this along.

**5 pm** Candlelight Service with Christmas readings, carols, homily, and Prelude music to knock your Christmas stockings off. The extended Prelude music will be provided by an ensemble of Baroque period instruments including Sarah Darling, Baroque violin, Suzanne Stumpf, traverso, Peter Stumpf and Dan Ryan, Baroque cellos, and Margaret Darling, harpsichord. They will perform chamber music by Chedeville, Delalande, Handel, and Telemann. The choir will sing a sprightly "West Gallery" anthem with the ensemble, and all will have the special opportunity to hear and sing the charming, original version of *Silent Night*.

**FRS Homepage**

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**Office  
Administrator:**

**Ann Quenin**

978-369-5180

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.

**6:15 pm Community Caroling on the Common.** All are welcome to join in the singing, and musicians especially are invited to bring instruments and accompany the Christmas carols.

**December 28 - Waffles and Jazz.** The Sunday after Christmas will be a Jazz Brunch in Union Hall at 10 am. 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

**A Message from the Religious Education Director**



**Helping Other Children Have Happy Holidays**

This week, Dec. 21, was our monthly Social Action Sunday. It has become a time we look forward to all of the children being together and thinking about what they can do to make a better world. This time, the children helped to decorate blankets to be given as holiday gifts to children in need in Lowell. Projects like this make us all feel the "spirit of Christmas" even more!

Next week is our "Waffles and Jazz" Sunday. Please come and join in the fun for all ages! Note: There will be no religious education classes and no Nursery coverage on December 28th.

Sign-up has started for teachers for our Spring 2015 K-5 World Religions classes. We'll be using a curriculum based on lessons from the UUA's "Tapestry of Faith," with lots of engaging stories and activities to introduce our young people to many of the world's religions. A number of our Fall teachers enjoyed their classes so much that they've said they'd like to teach again this Spring. Whether you're an experienced teacher or have never taught young children, you are warmly welcomed to sign up. If you are interested and did not receive the Sign-Up Genius email, please contact Lisa.

**Religious  
Education Director:**

Lisa Perry-Wood

[dre@uucarlisle.org](mailto:dre@uucarlisle.org)

781-883-3411

**Music Director:**

Dan Ryan

[dryan@uucarlisle.org](mailto:dryan@uucarlisle.org)

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**

**Share the Plate**

**Share the Plate on Christmas Eve:** Doctors Without Borders - the Ebola Crisis

**Behind the Scenes**

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

Thanks to **Sarah Grallert** for her quick thinking in the Sunday morning service when there were no collection baskets to be found - Santa hats made a delightful (and perfect) substitute.

Thanks to **Bryan Sorrows** for taking charge when we had a power failure Sunday morning - in the true spirit of Christmas, he even lit a candle to the poor squirrel (RIP) that shorted the wires.

**Dan Ryan** made agile shifts in the service when the electricity went out. He accompanied one hymn on the piano while Kevin Barrows played a clarinet descant, led another hymn a capella, and played the postlude on the harpsichord, with Margaret Darling doing the pedal notes.

Thanks to **Fontaine Richardson** for loading software and offering the first tutorial on using the new dedicated scanner. We have many pages of historical records and RE resources to scan. If you are looking for a volunteer project to do on your own schedule, check with the church office.

**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. If you need to reach me during this time, contact the church office or the Parish Committee. I will not be on line all the



time.

Instead of having a sabbatical minister, this is an opportunity for pulpit guests and special services at FRS.

**January 2015 -- A Month of Special Services.**

**Jan 4 -- The Rev. Colin Bossen.** "Through Eyes That Have Cried" How can we see through eyes that have cried? In this service Rev. Colin Bossen reflects upon stories he gathered from undocumented and deported migrants this summer in El Salvador and the ongoing need for a transformation of the United State's immigration system. Rev. Bossen has been a Unitarian Universalist minister for seven years and is currently pursuing a PhD in American Studies at Harvard University. He blogs at [www.colinbossen.com](http://www.colinbossen.com) He was sabbatical minister at FRS in January & February of 2014.

**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, including Nina Benkley and Robert Canavello.

**Jan 18 -- The Rev. Victor Carpenter,** "Parish Ministry" Thoughts on the very special nature of this ministerial profession past and future. Vic was Interim Minister at FRS 2007-2008, and returns to FRS on the weekend honoring the Rev. Dr. 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.

***Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Staff of the First Religious Society!***