



# Meetinghouse Messenger

from the First Religious Society

December 8, 2014  
through December 14, 2014

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**Office  
Administrator:**

## December Services

### December 14

"Regrets and Second Chances: Insights of Ebenezer Scrooge" Rev. Diane Miller. It is always good to return to Charles Dickens and read "A Christmas Carol" to get perspective on what matters. What did Scrooge learn? Sunday School classes continue exploring Nativity stories. On Sunday evening at 7, Dan Ryan, the Choir, the Jazz Group, and guest musicians provide the Winter Holidays Concert in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception coordinated by the Music and Worship Committee.

**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.

### 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.

**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.

**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.

**Religious Education Director:**

Lisa Perry-Wood  
dre@uucarlisle.org  
781-883-3411

**Coffee Hour this coming Sunday, Dec. 14:** Congregants with last names V-Z. 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!

**A Message from the Religious Education Director**



**Seeing the Holy Family as Refugees**

We began this week with the time-honored story of the birth of Jesus. The K-2 class read the first half of Brian Wildsmith's beautiful storybook, *Jesus*, learning the story of his birth through his entrance into Jerusalem. They talked about the dove as a symbol of peace and also made dove ornaments. The 3-5 class talked about the birth of Jesus, focusing their discussion on the flight of the holy family into Egypt, and what it means to be a family of refugees. They were fortunate to have FRS member Florence Goulet and her niece Natalie as their guests. Florence and Natalie told stories from their own lives of the refugee experience and people they have known who have refugee status. The children were very moved by these personal stories and asked great questions.

Next week's classes will focus on the role of women in Christianity, especially in the New Testament stories. The K-2 class will read Brian Wildsmith's book, *Mary*, the story of the mother of Jesus from her childhood, through the annunciation and his birth. The 3-5 class will hear the story of Martha and Mary waiting on Jesus, about two sisters who each had a different idea of what is really important.

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**

**Sunday, December 14, 7:00-8:00 pm**

**Winter Holidays Concert** This festive, participatory event will ring in the season with carols, songs, and instrumental

**Music Director:**  
Dan Ryan  
dryan@uucarlisle.org

music presented by the choir, soloists, handbell ringers, and the jazz ensemble. The concert is suitable for people of all ages and is interactive with audience participation encouraged. The choir will perform Katherine K. Davis' beautiful "As it Fell Upon a Night," Caldwell and Ivory's rousing arrangement of the spiritual "Go Where I Send Thee," and Jay Althouse's spirited "Blessings of the Season." The handbell players will present arrangements of the holiday favorites "O Tananbaum" and "Up on the Housetop." The jazz ensemble will offer their renditions of familiar holiday jazz standards. The program will also include vocal solos and duets by FRS parishioners and guests, and carols and songs celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas, and the Winter Solstice sung by all. Admission is free and a reception follows the concert.

**A message from the Music and Worship Committee:**

The Holidays Concert on Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 PM is more than an FRS event, it's looked forward to by people all over Carlisle. We can easily have 120 or more attendees, and naturally we want to be good hosts. The Music & Worship Committee provides a lot of sweet and savory foods for the after-concert reception, but with that many people they would welcome contributions from other church members. If you can help, please come early, say 6:30 - 6:40 (you will want to anyway in order to get a good pew) and drop off your item in Union Hall. Thank you.

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.

**A message from the Activities Committee chair about the Church Kitchen:** In December, a State of Massachusetts

Health Inspector will examine our church kitchen. We must follow the same regulations as a restaurant since we serve food to many persons. In order to pass inspection and keep our kitchen open during the Holidays, I encourage everyone to keep the area clean and in order. Please wash all used tea towels, tablecloths, and dishes. Put everything away into the cabinets, sanitize all countertops before and after every use. Wash your hands often, wear non-latex gloves and aprons when preparing foods. Take all leftovers home after each event so as to keep the refrigerator a healthy place for all to use. We must keep any mice under control so sweep the floor and take out the trash. I'm hoping we, through co-operation, will have a wonderful Holiday Season in our church!

**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 14th:** Makaphutu Orphanage in South Africa, visited by Muggsie and Melanie Rocco last year.

### **Behind the Scenes**

From Janice Kissinger:

#### **Holiday Greens Sale**

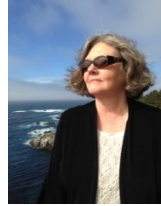
A big "Thank You" to all the volunteers who created a great Holiday Greens Sale event. All folks attending seemed to be having a good time. We have a few 16" double-faced Balsam Wreaths left. Also, White Pine roping and Western Cedar roping for sale. They are still in Union Hall. Also, at this point, there are a few arrangements left. We are hoping all of

these items will sell soon.

Thanks to **Beth Sullivan, Susan Emmons, and Bryan Sorrows** for responding on short notice when the parsonage furnace shut down.

### **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 here, the Sundays will be led by guest preachers. Victor Carpenter will speak on the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, the Music and Worship Committee members will be doing a Poetry Service, and Lisa Perry-Wood will lead the all-ages service.



**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**

#### **Vegan Potluck Dinner & Holiday Songs December 9!**

Hear Ye! Hear ye! Come one and all!

The Reverence for Life and the Environmental Leadership Team of First Parish of Concord are holding their annual Holiday Potluck Dinner on Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30pm. Children are always welcome to have creative fun at the supervised Children's Craft Table. Following dinner, there will be a sing-along that will reignite memories of holidays past and kindle the spirit of community present.

Bring a dish (4-6 servings) to share that is free of meat, fish, eggs, honey, and dairy; include a card with the ingredients to help out those with allergies or special diets. Please bring your own place setting to reduce paper waste and clean up.

Why a plant based potluck? 80% of all antibiotics used in the U.S. were given to livestock in 2009. And if everyone in the U.S. ate no meat or cheese just one day a week, it would be like not driving 91 billion miles - or taking 7.6 million cars off the road.(Environmental Working Group, EWG, 2011)  
FRS contact is Jeannie Geneczko at jeanniegen@yahoo.com.

**Due to the weather report for tomorrow, 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.