



Meetinghouse Messenger

from the First Religious Society

February 9, 2015
through February 15, 2015

Happy Valentine's Day!

In This Issue:

Upcoming Services

A Message from the RE
Director

News and Programs

Behind the Scenes

A note from the
Minister

Community Events

Quick Links

FRS Calendar

FRS Homepage

Church Directory

Staff and
Committee chairs

-
Like us

February Services

Feb. 15 "God is Love and Love is Divine" - Rev. Miller

Love can be subject, object, action, emotion. And love can be at the center of faith and meaning.

Coffee hour responsibilities: Congregants with last names U-Z and Coffee Hour volunteers. Please bring a savory, fresh fruit or dessert. Come early to help set up or stay late to help clean up - either way it's a help!

A Message from the Religious Education Director

The Woman, the Tigers, and the Strawberry

This week the K-5 classes learned some of the main beliefs of Buddhism. During the service we heard the classic Buddhist tale of the Woman and the Tigers, causing us to wonder together about its mysterious ending. Here it is, if you missed it: <http://soundofrain.net/the-strawberry-story/>. The K-5 classes then shared a lesson together with Buddhist teachers John and Nicole Churchill about the life of the Buddha and "Moody Cow," who learns compassion for all life. We also had a brief meditation practice.



Next week on our Social Action Sunday, Lauree Eckler will help the children make fleece blankets for the Linus

onFacebook

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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.

**Religious
Education
Director:**

Project, which distributes them to children in need. This blanket-making project is one the children have really enjoyed.

Our Spring K-5 World Religions classes are going really well, but we could use a couple more teachers, especially for our lesson on Islam and our Spring/Easter celebration. The curriculum is full of engaging stories and activities and you teach as part of a team. You can access the Sign-Up Genius page here:<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094eafa72ca5f49-worldor> talk to Lisa.

News and Programs

The **Church Directory and a list of the Staff and Committee chairs** are available as pdf files under "Quick Links" to the left of this notice.

Social Action, Butler School Christmas Project 2015.

The Social Action Committee has been very busy this fall/winter in supporting The Butler Middle School, Lowell, MA. A small group met with the Social Worker, Kadeen Healy, in early October to discuss various ways that our congregation can support the students and staff at this school.

The first project discussed was to continue our tradition of providing Christmas gifts to the children in needy families. This past Christmas we provided gifts to three different families with a total of 12 children. These gifts were delivered by Monday, December 22. Although this was a lower number of children than we have had in the past, it was still a very heartfelt experience for me.

We had one boy who was in temporary foster care and the Social Worker did not know if he would still be at the school at Christmas time. I delivered his presents to the school. The good news is that he is now in a stable environment, can continue at the school, and he is doing much better. We had requests for very basic items, such as pajamas, underwear, socks. One family asked, if possible, could we provide her children with blankets for their bedrooms. I passed this information to Lisa Perry-Wood, Director of Religious Education and Lauree Eckler (Social Action Committee liaison to RE). They and some parents made these beautiful soft fleece blankets with contrasting borders and handmade heart appliques which our religious

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

Music Director:
Dan Ryan
dryan@uucarlisle.org

education students helped sew on. They were gorgeous and so soft! I want to thank all the parents and all the children who helped with this from the bottom of my heart.

Each present was wrapped and labeled, but also included a hand-made card made by our religious education students. These cards were so well done and artistically pleasing. They added a touch of love and festivity to each present and cookie box. I appreciate the participation of the children in this project. They worked hard and were such an integral part of the project making it so much better.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Dollina Borella, Social Action

Committee; dollina.borellaFRS@gmail.com.

Don't forget the **family friendly potluck supper on Friday, February 20**, beginning at 5:30pm. The Nursery space will be open at 5 for children to play so parents can set up for the supper. All are welcome. **The Cakes for the Queen of Heaven study group will meet at 7pm in the Widrick Room.**

Save the Date! Our next Circle Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, March 28. Please plan on attending a fun evening and welcoming many of our new FRS members. More information to follow.

Share the Plate

Sharing the Plate on February 15 will be **Kendrick's Kids - Big Business Network**. The BIG BUSINESS NETWORK INC. will receive one half of the funds donated during this Sunday's Offering in our Share the Plate initiative. Founded by Dorchester native Kendric Price, whose background includes professional basketball and work as a financial analyst in a Wellesley firm, the Big Business Network seeks to expand the horizons of youth growing up in underprivileged urban communities. Their 6-hour Saturday program, in 11-week sessions held at the Perkins Community Center in Dorchester, includes breakfast and lunch. Motivated leaders help the 3rd through 8th graders enhance their computer literacy while learning the basic concepts of business and investing to open their minds to positive future options. There is a strong component of fun in the program; the kids learn the fundamentals of basketball, swimming and even tailoring, as well as singing, rap and group dance. They also go on field

trips.

Share the Plate for 2014 report:

From September 7, the beginning of our church year, through Christmas Eve, FRS has given **\$4,229.20** to our designated charities in our "Share the Plate" efforts. A team of Muggsie Rocco, Margaret Darling and Diane Miller have worked out the schedule of groups. Your suggestions are appreciated. Mary Hult, John James, and Ann Quenin also contribute to the effort, making sure the contributions are accurately counted and sent to the designated groups. You can use envelopes in the pews if you want to have cash offerings credited to your donation record. Checks can be made to FRS. Our gifts have been:

Border Angels	\$194.50
350.org	\$145.00
Drs. without Borders/Ebola	\$1,174.70
I-Fund (domestic violence)	\$238.00
Stella-Rosie Foundation	\$231.00
Stockings for House of Hope	\$331.50
Common Cathedral	\$231.00
Hillcrest AIDS ctr/S. Africa	\$236.50
OXFAM	\$176.00
The Sharing Foundation	\$136.50
Makaphutu Orphanage	\$161.00
Open Pantry	\$973.50

Thank you for your generosity!

Behind the Scenes

Golden Shovel awards go to many who have shoveled and plowed during the recent storms. They include **Bryan Sorrows and Bob Wallhagen, Steve Melanson, Ann Quenin, Diane Miller, Molly Sorrows, Beth Sullivan, Kate Sacco**, and no doubt others. Thanks also to **Forrest Williams, August Williams, Fiona Sills and James Sills**, our neighbors across the Town Common, for clearing the mounds of snow away from the side door and the front steps.

A Note from the Minister:

Christina Rosetti's Christmas hymn comes to mind,
In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,

*earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter long ago.*

So it is with this midwinter, bleak yet so beautiful as well, but of course difficult to manage. The hymn goes on to its conclusion, "*where our hearts are open, love is born again.*" Valentines Day is coming up, a celebration of love in the heart of winter. May you honor love in your life, in its many forms.



We gathered for church on February 8th despite the weather, and had outstanding music with the choir, and a good turnout for the Buddhism study in the Religious Education program. Today is another day of school closing, and canceled events. Let us be grateful for all those who are working to help by clearing streets and helping those in crisis, and do what we can to check on neighbors and stay safe. ~ Diane

General Assembly is just five months away! The annual meeting of Unitarian Universalists will be June 24--28 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. The gathering is for learning, worship and building community among Unitarian Universalists. Youth programming, lay leadership development, social justice work, and more. See www.uua.org for more information. If you are interested in attending as a delegate, contact the Parish Committee or the Minister. More information at www.uua.org

Community Events

Chocolate Tasting and Vegan Potluck Dinner February 10. What a great way to celebrate fair-trade chocolate! Enjoy *fair-trade chocolate tasting* and a delicious potluck dinner Tuesday February 10 at 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall, First Parish in Concord hosted by FP Reverence for Life and the FP Environmental Leadership Team. Please bring your own beverage and a dish (6 - 8 servings) to share that is free of meat, fish, eggs, honey, and dairy. Please also bring your own place setting to reduce paper waste and clean up. Attach a card with the ingredients of your dish to help out those with allergies or special diets. Children welcome! Creative fun at children's craft table provided. What could be better than this family-friendly, planet-friendly night out enjoying great food, meeting nice people, tasting fair-trade chocolate while the children are

playing nearby? Parish Hall is located in the First Parish UU church at 20 Lexington Rd, Concord. FRS contact is Jeannie Geneczko at jeanniegen@yahoo.com.

On Friday, February 20 at 7:30 pm, the First Parish in Bedford will host an **Operetta Gala** with the stars of the operetta Kele Krisztina and soloist Chikány Béla with Lőrinc Danyi, leader of the gypsy band with his world famous Rajkó Orchestra. This will be a lavish serving of Hungarian culture and festivity. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. First Parish is at 75 The Great Road in Bedford, on the Bedford Town Common. All facilities are accessible.

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