



# Meetinghouse Messenger

from the First Religious Society

December 1, 2014  
through December 7, 2014

## 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](#)

-

[Like us  
onFacebook](#)

-

**Office  
Administrator:**

## The Annual Greens Sale

happens this Saturday, December 6th, 10--2 in Union Hall. Santa will be in the house for visits and photos with young children. The Cafe will serve delicious lunch and home made pies. And of course there will be holiday goods to buy! Decorated centerpieces and wreaths, boxwood trees, roping and wreaths, gingerbread houses, bake table, a raffle, and many vendors with beautiful items for sale. The Savoyards will be singing. This is a fun time for all ages, so come and see friends and neighbors, and do some local shopping.

## December Services

**December 7** "Waiting - for the World I Want to Live In" Rev. Diane Miller. An Advent sermon on the long path toward justice. The Way Cool Sunday School curriculum explores the Nativity stories. The Choir will sing.

**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.

**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 December 24

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

**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

**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.

**Coffee Hour this coming Sunday:** Congregants with last names R-U. 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**



**From Holiday Arts to the Life of Jesus**

This week we all enjoyed FRS's first-ever 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Holiday Arts Celebration. After a short service in the Sanctuary, we explored and participated in the many arts activities throughout the church building. Some of us decorated cookies, others made holiday cards, stuffed stockings, learned carols or decorated candles. A great time was had by all!

Next week we begin our series of lessons on the life of Jesus and the significance of this season as a time of Hope. The K-2 class will read Brian Wildsmith's beautifully illustrated storybook, *Jesus*, which sensitively recounts the whole story, from his birth in Bethlehem, growing up in Nazareth, to his death. They will also make dove ornaments, and talk about the dove as a symbol of peace. The 3-5 class will learn about the New Testament, beginning with Jesus' birth. Their discussion will focus on the Flight to Egypt and what it means to be a family of refugees; a timely story for today's world.

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

**Music Director:**

Dan Ryan

dryan@uucarlisle.org

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

**News and Programs**

**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 978-369-8968.

**Wednesday, 12/3- Holiday arrangements workshop 9:00am - all day; Union Hall**

**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.**

**Please drop off cookies for cookie plates by 6pm Friday.**

**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.

**FRS Greens Sale 2014 Raffle Items**

**Artists**

Dian Cuccinello - Gift Basket

Liz Platais - Premium Wood Jigsaw Puzzle

Suzanne Hill - Large Hand Thrown Ceramic Bowl

**Retail Merchants**

Colonial Spirits of Acton

Concord/Littleton Lumber

Ferns Country Store of Carlisle

Grasshopper Shop of Concord

Kimball Farms of Westford

Nashoba Brook Bakery of West Concord

O'Connor's Hardware of Billerica

The Cheese Shop of Concord

The Concord Bookstore

The Toy Shop of Concord  
Vanderhoof Hardware of Concord  
Walden Liquors of West Concord  
Willow Books & Café of Acton

### Restaurants

80 Thoreau of Concord  
Crossroads Café of Acton  
Dunkin Donuts of Concord  
Haute Coffee of Concord  
Helen's Restaurant of Concord  
La Provence of Concord  
Trails End Café of Concord

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

#### **Winter Holidays Concert** A cherished Holiday Tradition

This festive, participatory event will ring in the season with carols, songs, and 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.

**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!

### **Share the Plate**

A note from 350.org, responding to our Share the Plate gift of

\$145 from September 14th: *"Your support enables us to do many things, such as expanding our fossil fuel divestment campaign, continuing our fight against the Keystone pipeline and other extreme energy projects, and mobilizing people around the world to influence UN climate negotiations. ... We cannot fight the good fight on climate change without you, and we can't thank you enough for your partnership in our work."*

### **Share the Plate this Sunday, December 7th: The Sharing Foundation**

#### **Behind the Scenes**

**Mary Hult** volunteered at the last minute to provide expert Nursery supervision on November 23rd. Thanks for "saving the day", Mary! A wonderful Thanksgiving Community Dinner was held at FRS thanks to coordinator and cook **Tom Rourk**, assisted by the **Mottershead family -- Brian, Cindy, Lilliana and Bryce**. It was an elegant feast, and a convivial group with many who have come to the US as immigrants -- from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and Canada. **Amy Smack, Lauree Eckler, Paul Morrison, Heather Hedden, Mike Dundorf, Margaret Darling, Janice Sauland Dan Ryan** led the November 30 special holiday arts activities, with youth helpers **Asia Forcucci and Peter Fox** and many volunteers. The results were both delicious and beautiful!

Thanks to **Rick MacDonald**, we have a **Greens Sale Banner** at the foot of Church Street, near the rotary. **Tom Rourk** assembled a slide show of church photos which will run during the Greens Sale to give visitors a glimpse of what happens here year round.

Thanks to all who put together the wonderful Thanksgiving Community Dinner at FRS, especially cook and coordinator and cook **Tom Rourk**

#### **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 including Victor Carpenter, the Music and Worship Committee members will be doing a



Poetry Service, and Lisa Perry-Wood will lead the all-ages service.

### **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](mailto:jeanniegen@yahoo.com).