



Sundays at FUUSA

Please join us on any Sunday for:

Mindfulness Meditation, Religious Education for children and youth, the Service, Coffee Hour, or any combination thereof. Other programs include Forum (social justice and environmental topics), Children's Chapel, War Healing Circle; social events, and adult education.

All are welcome!

WINDOWS

Newsletter of the First Unitarian
Universalist Society of Albany

December 2011

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Sunday Schedule

- 9:00 AM
Mindfulness Meditation
- 9:45 AM
Nursery/Toddler rooms open
- 10:00 AM
Service
Children's Chapel
(1st Sunday/mo.)
Religious Education
- 11:00 AM
Coffee Hour
- 11:45 AM
Forum (2nd & 4th Sundays/mo.)
- 7:00 PM
War Healing Circle
(2nd & 4th Sunday/mo.)

Services

Dec. 4 "Christian Humanism," the Rev. Sam Trumbore

Once again the December holiday season rolls around. Revering the birth of a Savior isn't how many Unitarian Universalists celebrate this season. Yet many of our values spring from the Christian tradition. Can we love and follow Jesus and be a Humanist too?

Dec. 11 "Love and Hope beyond Belief," the Rev. Sam Trumbore

As a non-belief centered religious tradition, our theological source of love and hope isn't collectively defined. Yet few, if any, would want to live without them. They are critical to our well being. Thankfully we can cultivate love and hope together in a way that transcends our individual beliefs. Take a break from shopping and seasonal preparations and get recharged.

Dec. 18 "Returning To Bethlehem," the Rev. Sam Trumbore

Once again we reenact the story of the birth of Jesus with the help of our children playing the parts in the story. Re-experience the magic of this sacred story with the help of your imagination. Sing favorite Christmas songs. Kindle the flame of your holiday spirit with us! Music: Choir

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve services 6:30 pm and 8:15 pm. (Sanctuary)
First service family friendly. Music: Choir

Dec. 25 Christmas Brunch and Fellowship,
the Rev. Sam Trumbore

Bring a favorite brunch item to share for this informal holiday celebration. After sharing some refreshments we'll gather in a circle in Emerson Community Hall to share some stories of Christmas past and present. If you or your children would like to come and show off your gifts and toys that will be fine, too.



Jan. 1, 2012 "The Beginning of the End," (Sanctuary)

2012 is supposed to be a pretty significant year. The Mayan Calendar is supposed to end this year. My financial analyst cousin is predicting a financial meltdown this year. Who knows what global climate change has in store for us. How do we live with this kind of uncertainty? Can we thrive in spite of it?

Calendar

Events happening every Sunday at FUUSA

9:00 AM	Mindfulness Meditation	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Service	Emerson
10:00 AM	Children's Chapel (1st Sunday/mo.)	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Religious Education	Classrooms
11:00 AM	Coffee Hour	Channing, Emerson
11:45 AM	Forum (2nd & 4th Sundays/mo)	Emerson
6:00 PM	War Healing Circle (2nd & 4th Sundays/mo.)	Emerson

Exceptions:

Events happening every week in the month of December

Tuesdays	10:00 AM	Philosophy Group	B-8
	1:00 PM	Bridge	B-8
Wednesdays	10:00 AM	Projects & Quilts	B-8
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Emerson

Exceptions: Choir rehearsals this month will be Wednesday, Dec. 7, Thursday, Dec. 15, and Wednesday, Dec. 21

All other events happening in the month of December

1-Dec Thursday			
6:30 PM	Finance Committee Meeting	Room B-8	
7:00 PM	SGM John Sherman	Room B-5	
2-Dec Friday			
1:30 PM	Grannies for Peace	Room B-7	
6:00 PM	Parent Group Potluck	Channing Hall, , Rooms 23, 24/25	
4-Dec Sunday			
10:45 AM	Poinsettia distribution	Emerson lobby	
11:30 AM	Social Responsibilities Council	Room B-7	
12:30 PM	Rite of Passage	Room B-8	
2:30 PM	Pastoral Care Associates	Room B-8	
5-Dec Monday			
6:00 PM	Threshold Committee	Stott Lounge/Joy Library	
6:15 PM	Religious Education Council	Channing Hall, Kitchen	
6-Dec Tuesday			
1:30 PM	Staff Meeting	Minister's Office	
6:30 PM	Personnel Committee	Minister's Office, Joy Library	
7:00 PM	UU Christians	Room B-5	
7-Dec Wednesday			
1:00 PM	Peace & Current Affairs Study Group	Room B-8	
8-Dec Thursday			
7:00 PM	Program Coordinating Council (PCC)	Room B-8	
9-Dec Friday			
6:00 PM	Potluck and Family Game Night	Channing Hall, Kitchen, Classrooms	
6:30 PM	Peace & Current Affairs Study Group	Room B-8	
10-Dec Saturday			
8:45 AM	Getting to Know UU	Room B-8	
2:00 PM	RE Holiday Crafts Workshop	Channing Hall, Kitchen	
6:00 PM	Parent Group Potluck	Channing Hall, Kitchen, Rooms 23, 24/25	
11-Dec Sunday			
11:30 AM	RE Pageant Rehearsal	Emerson Community Hall	
11:45 AM	Forum	Room B-8	
5:30 PM	Walker Book Club	Channing Hall, Kitchen	
7:00 PM	War Healing Circle	Room B-8	
12-Dec Monday			
3:30 PM	Shelter Meal Prep	Kitchen	
6:00 PM	Threshold Committee	Stott Lounge/Joy Library	
7:00 PM	Monday Men	Room B-8	
13-Dec Tuesday			
6:00 PM	Lifespan Meeting (time approx.)	Room B-7	

14-Dec Wednesday			
5:00 PM	Religious Services Committee Meeting	Room B-8	
6:00 PM	Wellspring Meeting	Room B-7	
6:30 PM	Worship Cabinet	Room B-8	
15-Dec Thursday			
7:00 PM	Board of Trustees	Room B-8	
7:00 PM	SGM Sherman	Room B-5	
16-Dec Friday			
5:00 PM	Parents Night Out	Rooms 21, 22, 23, 24/25, 26	
18-Dec Sunday			
11:30 AM	Peace Team	Room B-7	
11:45 AM	Green Sanctuary / 350 Meeting	Room B-8	
19-Dec Monday			
12:00 PM	Channing Circle @ Ristorante Paradiso	Offsite	
21-Dec Wednesday			
7:00 PM	Wellspring Meeting	Room B-8	
24-Dec Saturday			
6:30 PM	Christmas Eve Service (family friendly)	Sanctuary	
7:30 PM	Reception	Channing Hall	
8:15 PM	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary	
25-Dec Sunday			
9:30 AM	Christmas Brunch Potluck and Fellowship	Channing Hall, Emerson Community Hall, Kitchen	
26-Dec Monday			
3:30 PM	Shelter Meal Prep	Kitchen	
7:00 PM	Monday Men	Room B-8	

Forum

Dec. 11 "Geo-politics of Oil", William Reinhardt of NYSERDA.

Looking Ahead

- Jan 13-14 Meditation Retreat
- Jan 16 ML King Service
- Jan 20 Potluck—Chili Cookoff
- Jan 22 Get Connected Activity Fair
- Jan 28 Dave Stone's Retirement Party

News

Newcomer orientation

Learn about Unitarian Universalism and FUUSA

We invite you to meet with others who are new to the congregation at our next “**Getting to Know UU**” session, scheduled for **Saturday, Dec. 10** from 8:45 a.m. to noon.

We’ll start with coffee and snacks and getting to know each other: new folks, Membership Committee, and Rev. Sam Trumbore. You’ll learn about Unitarian Universalism and about our congregation, and you’ll get a chance to ask all the questions you’ve been collecting. We’ll talk about how to get involved in the FUUSA community and about becoming a member. All in all, it’s a fun morning of conversation and fellowship, and a pleasant first step on the path to membership!

There is a sign up sheet in Channing Hall (at the Sign Up Site), or you can call Amy Lent interim Membership Coordinator (and Church Administrator) at the church office, 463-7135.

The next “**New Member Recognition Sundays**” are Dec. 4 and Feb. 5. If you are interested in becoming a member please call either Kathy Hodges or Amy Lent at the church office.

Youth service project

The senior high youth group is taking a leadership role in helping FUUSA respond to community needs with their annual Adopt a Family service project. This year they will be purchasing needed household items for two families that were directly impacted by hurricane Irene flooding. The Youth are contributing \$500 of their previously raised money to the project, and will be asking for contributions from the FUUSA community during coffee hour on December 4th.

Thank you!

The Bazaar Committee says “Thank you” to all the wonderful FUUSAns and friends who donated, worked, shopped, ate and cleaned up. Together we made money to support FUUSA, built community, and got handmade stuff for holiday presents.

Changing roles

The realignment of various staff tasks at FUUSA into new job descriptions has at least one person

Flyers in this issue

At the end of this newsletter you will find full page items on:

- ◆ Holiday Events

wondering “Which Administrator?” to go to ask for what assistance. During the month of January we will make the transition from two people with three job descriptions to three people with four job descriptions. This change will allow us to focus skills and energy in an agile mix of personnel that will allow the church staff to better support the member volunteers that make up this organization.

So, the first question to answer is “Which person has two job descriptions?” Dave Stone is currently both Administrative Assistant and Sexton. As you know, he will be retiring at the end of January (and we are having a retirement party for him on January 28.) It his long-planned departure that has given us this opportunity to analyze our needs based on today’s active Society, the technology available to us, and what tasks volunteers are able or willing to perform and which would best be done consistently by professional staff.

The second person involved in this change is Amy Lent, who is currently Church Administrator, with a smattering of interim Membership Coordinator (five hours/week) added two years ago. Amy requested the addition of the membership duties two years ago, and she has been involved in planning for this restructuring.

Back to the original question “Which Administrator?” There will be only one. FUUSAns will know the new Office Administrator as the person to go to for room reservations, address changes, pledge payment questions, and all sorts of other questions. Committee chairs will know the new Office Administrator as the go to person for meeting and event set up needs, check requests, and scheduling issues. The Office Administrator will work with the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Canvass chair, Building and Grounds chair, and Rental Agent to keep our finances and our facility running smoothly. She/he will also provide administrative support to Rev. Sam, other staff, and the SRC chair. A person soon-to-be-hired will fill this 3/4 time position.

What will Amy be doing in her new job, Director of Member Services and Communications? There are

separate job descriptions for the Member Services and Communications portions of this position. She will devote about half of her time to each position. In this new role (still full time) she will continue producing our publications, work with lay leadership and committee chairs on internal communications, and with the Public Relations Committee on the website and external communications. In the greatly expanded membership role she will work to implement community building initiatives and foster a welcoming culture among all members of the congregation. Working with the volunteers of the Membership Ministry's teams she will facilitate the path to membership for newcomers, and ensure the integration of newcomers and new members into the ongoing life of the FUUSA community.

And, the last question: What happens to the Sexton position? Firstly, that job title will be retired with Dave! We'll be adding another part time Custodian to fill the gap in that department. ("Another" because our evening Custodian Olga Oja will continue in her position.) FUUSAns will get to meet the new custodian on Sunday mornings as part of his/her duties will be 'making things happen' on Sundays, from opening to locking up. He or she will also have cleaning and maintenance responsibilities, do event set up, and light repairs and painting.

The two new staff should be on board by mid-January--so FUUSAns can look forward to meeting them then. We are working to make the transition as smooth as possible, but we all need to be aware that this will be a major organizational change and there will be some bumps along the way. With Dave leaving we are losing over 20 years of institutional memory (although he will still remain active in the congregation, we hope, and be available for the occasional question). Therefore, please be patient as we work through the transition. If you have any questions or comments, please ask Mark Butt, Personnel Committee chair, or Chuck Manning.

Christmas Brunch Potluck Sunday, Dec. 25, 9:30 a.m.

Join us for brunch and fellowship on Christmas Day. Quiche and coffee provided--plus whatever else shows up! Please sign up at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall so we'll know how many to expect. Hosted by Rev. Sam, Amy Lent and Ken Myer.

Report from Rochester: immigration situation broken

Seven of us from FUUSA traveled to Rochester for the St. Lawrence District Social Justice Conference at the First Universalist Church on October 29. Attending were Lois Griffin, Donna Doran, Don Odell, Chuck Manning, Mark Yolles, Dave Munro, and myself. This conference focused on immigration issues, looking forward to our Social Justice General Assembly in Phoenix next June.

The keynote speaker was Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, minister of the Phoenix UU congregation. She has gained prominence in Arizona for her public actions of non-violent civil disobedience against Arizona's anti-immigrant legislation SB 1070. She was arrested with our UUA president, Rev. Morales, at the demonstration last summer.

Rev. Frederick-Gray had many stories to share with us about the inequality of current immigration law and how its enforcement affects families, often taking parents from their children born in the U.S. She also discussed some of the reasons we have this problem: 5,000 green cards are given out annually, but they are distributed equally across the globe, leaving it very difficult for people from Mexico to get them. In the '90's, there was a big need for construction workers in the Southwest when there was a population boom there. Mexican workers were in high demand. Then we had the drug problem -- Americans addicted to drugs and looking for places to get them. Many agriculture jobs were not desirable to U.S. citizens because of low wages, pesticides, and squalid housing. Many employers value dollars over people.

She discussed the pejorative use of "illegal" in referring to immigrants living in our country, dehumanizing them. As a later speaker also pointed out, immigrants without a green card are undocumented and not illegal. Being undocumented comes under civil law; not criminal law.

She also brought up the use of private prisons run by companies that support the anti-immigrant laws because they give them more business. (If you didn't see the Oct. 18 Frontline program by PBS, google "Lost in Detention." It is eye-opening about these prisons, paid for by our government.) She ended by inviting us to the 2012 General Assembly in Phoenix, where we will learn much more about

this issue and have the opportunity to demonstrate for human rights and immigration reform.

After lunch, Attorney Diane Chappell-Daly spoke about the complex issues of immigration law. She said that visas are given in three categories: family, employment, and persecution. There are not enough visas in any category. In the 1890's, 27% of the population were immigrants. In the 1920's the first restrictions were placed on immigration, including racial and country quotas. 1986 brought restrictions on employment. A 1996 law was passed, saying that one leaving the country would need to wait 3 to 12 years (depending on situation) before returning. That makes family visits very difficult.

These speakers, plus two others, showed that the immigration situation in the U.S. today is broken. What can we do to change attitudes and laws? Go to the UUA web site for more information on GA 2012 in Phoenix. --Ann Brandon

So, what's happening on Saturday afternoon?

What about a young adult oriented Saturday afternoon service? Young adults don't like to get up on Sunday morning. Yet many share our values and would gladly participate in a service at a time that fits better with their lifestyle. One way to serve this age group that Rev. Trumbore and Leah Purcell think might work could be to offer a Saturday afternoon service, say at 4:00pm, followed by coffee hour. A young adult could come for an innovative and inspiring service with contemporary music, meet up with friends during the social time, then go out to dinner together and a show maybe making some new friends. There could even be an evening children's program to facilitate that social connection happening.

This is all currently a dream. Would you like to see this become a reality? If you do, please contact Rev. Trumbore. The Worship Cabinet will be investigating what it would take to start this beginning in the fall of 2012 and would welcome your participation.

UUSC Holiday Cards

UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) Holiday Cards are available during coffee hour. Look for Maria Joyner for the cards. \$10 a package. Share the spirit of the holiday season with

beautiful UUSC holiday cards. Sales of these greeting cards will help UUSC protect basic human rights and advance social justice in the United States and around the world.

Thank you to Maria for selling the cards and thank you to all purchasers for buying! Don Odell, FUUSA's UUSC local representative.

Rummage redux

The tradition continued with the annual Fall Clothing Sale that was held on Nov. 4 and 5. In six days, with 58 FUUSAn volunteers contributing 266 hours, we raised \$1,922.35!

A few years ago it was determined that Rummage Sale proceeds would be split 1/3 to FUUSA and 2/3 to non-profit community based agencies here in the Capital Region. The maximum amount given to each agency will be \$250.00. The agencies chosen for these donations will be voted on by the 58 volunteers.

THANK YOU to the wonderful volunteers who graciously helped in all four phases of the sale. *Phase 1:* Moving the Emerson chairs after Sunday's service, setting up the shelves and racks. *Phase 2:* Putting up the signage, folding the clothes NEATLY that were brought in, finding the right hanger for the hang-up clothes and putting the clothes in the right spot. *Phase 3:* The actual two sale days. *Phase 4:* Packing up the clothes that were not bought and then donating them to the agencies who do take clothes. Taking down the shelves and racks and putting them away in the respective closets, putting the Emerson chairs back in place for the Sunday service.

So a round of applause and a standing ovation to "the 58" who graciously gave their time: Kathy Harris, Jaye Holly, Donna Doran, Barb Metz, Dave Metz, Barb Manning, Paula Moskowitz, Steve Moskowitz, Sandy Stone, Dave Stone, Tim Burch, Betsy Mullaugh (who came all the way from Pittsburgh!), Carolyn Stetson, Bob Franklin, Dick Dana, Dawn Dana, Mark Tilgner, Lois Webb, Lois Griffin, Sandy Smith, Carol Butt, Trish Zima, Linda English, Meredith Mercer, Lindsey Hunt, Larry Gambino, Martha Musser, Betsey Miller, Ali Skebe, Linda Way, Alison Coleman, Deborah Vogel, Peggy Sherman, Pat Bailey, Debbie Brown, Cora Stackelberg, Connie O'Connor, Anita Patka, Jan

Satin, Barbara Sekellick, Emily Gallagher, Judith Brink, Mary Ann Lettau, Renee Panetta, Chuck Manning, RoseAnne Fogarty, Anna Brewer, Paula Brewer, Randee Hartz-Beeche, Peggy Slocum, Don Odell, Mark Yolles, Judy Karis, Betsy Wright, Lynne Lekakis, John Morris, Ann Kearney and Patty Burch. .. And possibly a few others whose names did not get recorded!

The annual Spring Household Goods Sale is scheduled for May 11 and 12, 2012. So the games begin again on Sunday, May 6, after the service to move the Emerson chairs and set up the shelves (but NO CLOTHING RACKS !). See you then if not before!--Patty Burch

December art show: Hudson River Journey

Artist Jani Lori has lived in New York state most of her life. Her parents encouraged a pursuit of art as a child and she went on to study photography at NY Institute of Photography in Manhattan. Later she studied art at SUNY Albany. Creativity was expressed in many ways before focusing on painting full time.

She says "My fascination with the Hudson River has grown steadily with time spent on and along the river. I am drawn to the line of the shore and the unobstructed view of the sky and it's effect on the water. The many creeks, points, coves and continually changing tides of the river invite endless exploration. I usually start with a *plein air* painting and develop studio paintings from that study and a photo that I took on location. This show is the first group of a series of paintings called Hudson River Journey".

Welcoming a Guest at Your Table

You read the details in the November Windows. Now it is time to fill your Guest at Your Table box which you should be taking home when you read this. If you would prefer not to bring home a box, you can take a donation envelope or support UUSC directly online at <http://www.uusc.org/givetoguest>. We opened our Guest at Your Table program in the regular service on Nov. 13, and will



open it in the children's chapel on Dec. 4.

Participate in the Guest at Your Table, and support in the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee as it puts our shared values into action in the United States and around the world.

Please consider making a contribution that meets membership levels. Since UUSC is an independent organization that receives no funding from government or the UUA, your support and membership are vitally important.

Thank you for your upcoming participation and generosity from your FUUSA UUSC local representative, Don Odell and from Leah Purcell, DRE, who does so much to make this effort work.

Focus Food pantry

The weather has finally turned seasonal and now it is time for warmer clothing and comfort food.

First of all, THANK YOU so much to all the FUUSAns who have given so graciously to the Focus Food Pantry and yes, we will be continuing to collect monies for the Pantry on the fourth Sunday of the month. The December collection day is Dec. 18th—yes I know that is the 3rd Sunday of the month. But with Christmas on a Sunday we wanted to be sure that the growing number of families who are using the Food Pantry do have something on their table to eat during the holidays.

Because of the Tropical Storms Irene and Lee that occurred late summer/early fall the Food Bank has empty shelves. So much of their food went to the flood relief victims. So that means that the Focus Food Pantry has a limited amount of food for the families here in the Albany/Capital Region and to replenish the shelves does take time.

So what to do?

If possible, if you will not be at FUUSA on 12/18 please send your monetary donation directly to the Focus (Food Pantry) Churches of Albany 275 State St. Albany, NY 12210. Attn: Allen Tedrow.

Also, if you are coming to FUUSA in the month of December there will be a collection box in the coat room for non-perishable items especially pasta sauces (yes, we will accept glass jars) and soups. There are families of one to families of 6-8 so any size will work.

Also welcome are toiletry items: toilet paper, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, powder, shampoo and conditioner and feminine products.

Any questions, concerns or comments? Please see Patty Burch or Renee Panetta

Lifespan Learning

The New UU

We have offered the first two sessions of a six session The New UU, a part of the Unitarian Universalist Tapestry of Faith curricula. The curriculum is intended for those new to Unitarian Universalism, but is good for UUs old and new. It also provides a chance for newcomers and long-timers to connect and to examine their own stories in the light of their respective Unitarian Universalism. *The New UU* is designed so that each of the workshops is free-standing, so everyone is welcome to all or any of them.

Coming on Monday evenings in 2012: How Decisions are Made--Governance and Polity, How We Grow in Faith--Philosophy of Religious Education, Social Justice Philosophy and Practice, and Membership.

More details will be available in the January Windows. If you want to read up a bit on this curriculum, please go to: <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/thenew/index.shtml>.

For more info contact Don Odell, The New UU Coordinator

Special messages from the Religious Education Council and Leah Purcell

The RE Council members work to make sure that things are running smoothly in Sunday school and other RE programming. If you have a concern about how behaviors are managed or the material presented, we urge you to talk to the RE volunteers first. If your concerns aren't addressed by the RE volunteers, then you can talk to the RE Council members or Leah. If you have concerns about how Leah handle's things, please talk to her, but if that doesn't work for you, you can talk to a REC member. No reason to be alarmed; this is just an FYI. The RE Council members are listed at <http://www.albanyuu.org/recouncil.html>

The RE volunteers and Leah would like to open up communication about how your child is doing in

Sunday school. There are always challenges in Sunday school—the teachers are volunteers; families and volunteers don't always know each other; because of busy lives and schedules, children are not able to come every week and volunteers get time off; some of the groups are large and the space is tight. But volunteers and families are on the same page about Sunday school - we all want it to be worthwhile, engaging, fun and safe. So if you have not introduced yourself to your child's teaching team, please stop by your child's room several weeks to meet everyone. Be aware that the volunteers or Leah may want to talk to you in person or by email or phone about your child's behavior - both disruptive and helpful! How can you support RE? Talk to your children about the value of Sunday school and why you are bringing them. Try to come to Sunday school three weeks a month. Bring your family to events at FUUSA. Make every day "Sunday" - point out to your children the ways your family acts as to promote justice and compassion in your home and in the larger world; enjoy nature, cook, and read together; take time to hear what they are wondering about and share your ideas and wonderings.

Workshop Rotation is coming in January!

For the month of January, the Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet groups will be trying a new way of religious exploration. Our theme for the month will be kindness and the story will be from the Tapestry of Faith curriculum, The Picture on the Kitchen Wall, <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/welcome/session8/sessionplan/stories/118384.shtml>.

Each week we'll have Children's Chapel and present the story in a different way. The activities will be workshops and each week the groups will participate in a different workshop. So far we have workshops on drama, Chinese cooking, and Chinese calligraphy. Volunteers from the congregation with expertise in these areas will run the workshops and the RE volunteers of each group will assist them. We are looking for someone to lead a workshop related to music.

The Orange and Yellow groups will have their own

Children's Chapel together in room 26 in January. I'm looking for volunteers to lead them in songs and finger play.

If you'd like to lead a workshop in music for the elementary for Workshop Rotation children or lead the Pre-K and Kindergarteners in song, one or two Sundays in January, please contact Leah Purcell at 463-7135 or dre@albanyuu.org

Joy Library: Some exciting new books
Integrating Delmar the story of a friendship by Margaret B. Cunningham and Arlen Westbrook. Self published. 2011 [323,092 CUN] shelved in NEW BOOKS.

Both families are UUs and known especially to Delmar members of FUUSA.

"This book is a unique personal account told by the wives of two couples (one Black and one White) of their experiences integrating Delmar and the lasting friendship that developed. Both wives decided from the beginning to record separately, their feelings about the situations they each encountered at that time. They each express their intimate feelings and fears about the interracial situation as it progressed.

"It also records the reactions of neighbors and others in the community to a Black family living in their neighborhood for the first time, including incidents of people who made the situation difficult and those who were helpful. "This book illustrates the existence of racism in the north and the courage of individuals to overcome that racism. It chronicles the development of a genuine friendship, and describes a co-housing experiment long before it became a movement." The Open Door Bookstore & Gift Gallery <http://www.opendoor-bookstore.com/event/cunningham-and-westbrook-signing-integrating-delmar-1957>

Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race, and Finding Home by Anita Hill. Beacon Press, 2011 [301.41 HIL] shelved in NEW BOOKS.

"In a book that is rigorous and heartfelt, sharply analytical and deeply moving, Anita Hill examines the idea of what 'home' means to Americans. Bringing to bear her formidable skills as a scholar of American law, history, and culture, Hill has pro-

duced a personal narrative that reaches across color and class to explore how our family homes and our national home are inextricably linked to how we understand achievement, opportunity, and equality."—Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Harvard University

Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America by Melissa V. Harris-Perry. Yale University Press. 2011 [305.488 HAR] shelved in NEW BOOKS.

*"Jezebel's sexual lasciviousness, Mammy's devotion, and Sapphire's outspoken anger—these are among the most persistent stereotypes that black women encounter in contemporary American life. Hurtful and dishonest, such representations force African American women to navigate a virtual crooked room that shames them and shapes their experiences as citizens. Many respond by assuming a mantle of strength that may convince others, and even themselves, that they do not need help. But as a result, the unique political issues of black women are often ignored and marginalized. In this groundbreaking book, Melissa V. Harris-Perry uses multiple methods of inquiry, including literary analysis, political theory, focus groups, surveys, and experimental research, to understand more deeply black women's political and emotional responses to pervasive negative race and gender images. Not a traditional political science work concerned with office-seeking, voting, or ideology, *Sister Citizen* instead explores how African American women understand themselves as citizens and what they expect from political organizing. Harris-Perry shows that the shared struggle to preserve an authentic self and secure recognition as a citizen links together black women in America, from the anonymous survivors of Hurricane Katrina to the current First Lady of the United States."*

Our Community

Channing Circle visits “paradise”!

Channing Circle members and friends will be meeting for lunch at Cafe Paradiso, a block away from FUUSA, on Monday, Dec. 19. It will be family style, including a vegetarian dish. Cost per person is \$18. Final reservations must be made by the end of the day, 12/14. Call Mark Yolles.

Come, sing!

The FUUSA Choir now has over 30 active singers. While we are not yet actively planning our next European Tour, we are keeping busy. Primarily we practice on most Wednesdays (7:00-8:30 pm) and sing in the FUUSA Sunday service about twice each month. Many of us will be participating in the Two Rivers Congregation’s service on Dec. 11 (at 4:30 at Prince of Peace Church on Route 146 in Clifton Park) and at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bennington service on Sunday, Jan. 15. We will go caroling with any FUUSAns who join us on Sunday, Dec. 18 to several residences where we have members and friends. And of course we are all looking forward to the Christmas Eve services on Saturday, Dec. 24. While we love an audience, we also love welcoming new singers, so feel free to join us at an upcoming rehearsal: Wednesday, Dec. 7, Thursday, Dec. 15, and Wednesday, Dec. 21. We will be mostly on vacation in January,

so remember to check back with us in February.--
Kathy Harris

Parent Night Out!

Friday, Dec. 16, between the hours of **5:00 pm and 10:00 pm**

Sponsored by the Rite of Passage group (to help raise funds for our trip to Boston)

Drop off your kids at FUUSA and we will entertain them while you have some time to yourself – going to dinner, holiday shopping, wrapping gifts, cleaning the house, taking a nap. You get the idea.

Details:

- ◆ Cost per child is \$10 with a maximum family cost of \$30
- ◆ Care provided for infants through 11 year olds
- ◆ Bring dinner for your child(ren) and we will feed them
- ◆ Snacks will be provided later in the evening
- ◆ **Sign up in Channing Hall!**

Walker Book Club

The Walker Book Club, named in memory of a valued FUUSAn, offers participants the opportunity to search for truth and meaning by reading and discussing a book each month from September to

Pot Luck Supper and Family Game Night

Friday, December 9

Come one ! Come All ! You are invited to a Pot Luck Supper and Family Game Night sponsored by the FUUSA Board of Trustees.

6:00 p.m.—Potluck Supper

Bring a favorite dish to share or simply pay at the door - \$3 per adult, \$2 for a child under 12, with a \$10 maximum per family. Cold drinks, hot cider and coffee/tea will be provided. There will be sign up sheets in Channing for those planning on coming, both for bringing food and for signing up to pay.

Don't be bored at home. Come out and meet your Board members. The Pot Luck supper starts at 6 p.m., with food served at 6:15. For questions please contact Mark Yolles.

7:00 pm—Family Game Night

Please bring your favorite game to share. Donations of new, unopened games for needy families will gladly be accepted to spread Holiday cheer. For questions, please contact Todd Gray.

June. The next meeting is Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011, at FUUSA at 5:30 PM in Channing Hall. The book group is open to all, and newcomers are always welcome.

The meeting starts with a potluck supper followed by a lively discussion of the book of the month chosen by participants. Bring your favorite dish to share, and a small contribution to cover beverages. Participants may either: bring and store their own dishes, drinking vessels and eating utensils; or use dishes etc. at FUUSA and help with the dishwasher.

Dates and books currently scheduled: Dec. 11, 2011: The Yacoubian Building by Alaa Al Aswany. Jan. 8, 2012: The Help by Kathryn Stockett.

Contact Linda Hunt at lhunt@nycap.rr.com with any questions. Join the Walker E-List to find out more about selected books and to participate in suggesting and choosing books to read .

Save the date – Dave’s retirement party

On Saturday, Jan. 28, we will be celebrating Dave Stone’s retirement from our office staff with a fun-filled party in Emerson Community Hall from 7 – 10 pm. We will have music by Greg Jackson’s band the Del Martinis, delicious snacks and hors d’oeuvres, and a number of fun surprises.

Dave has been on our staff for over 20 years. While we don’t know exactly how many times someone has told us to “ask Dave” when we’ve needed something (surely in the thousands) we do know that he always answers our queries, gets up to help us, or directs us to the right place with competence, good cheer, and a warm smile. You won’t want to miss this opportunity to celebrate Dave Stone and wish him and Sandy well!

If you would like to contribute FINGER FOOD or help with the party, please call Meredith Mercer. And mark that new 2012 calendar NOW.

'Guilderland Plus' December potluck cancelled

Our hostess informed that, due to unexpected circumstances, our next potluck dinner, scheduled for Friday, Dec. 9 has to be canceled. Our group is always grateful for volunteer hosts/hostesses for this or any future gatherings. If your spirit so moves you (or your space allows you) please let me know, regardless of your geographic location. We

Need to talk?
FUUSA Pastoral Care Associates are here to listen!



Our Pastoral Care Associates have been trained in compassionate listening skills and are available to all members and friends of our congregation. To contact a Pastoral Care Associate, email listeners@albanyuu.org, contact Reverend Sam Trumbore, the FUUSA office at 518-463-7135, or one of them personally. They are: Jon Newell, Phil Rich, Sharon Babala, Jan Satin, Jean Bolgatz, Randy Rosette, Mark Yolles and Robin Miller.

are ready to travel! Please call Anita Patka.

About Us

The Helderberg Madrigal Singers, along with the Bleecker Consort, will present *Elizabethan Music: A Shakespeare Sampler* at Troy Music Hall at 12 noon on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012. This free lunch-time concert is part of the Hall’s Music at Noon series. The program will be similar to that presented at FUUSA in April 2011, but come hear us in the acoustically splendid Troy Music Hall. See the **Danas or Dave Metz** for additional information.

Thoughts of summer – Camp Unirondack

The snow will fly soon and now is the time to think about plans for your children for the summer. Unirondack is a camp run by Unitarian Universalists for many years. It’s a wonderful place to create community, have an away-from-home experience, learn about the greater UU world, and develop an identity as a UU. More info is at their website: Unirondack.org. Registration has started, so take a look now, especially if your child is in middle school or high school – those sessions fill up fast.

Joys and Caring Corner _____

Edited for the Web: Personal information and contacts removed, as well as children's last names. Web viewers needing more information are invited to contact the church office at administrator@fuusalbany.org.

If you need the services of the Caring Network, please call the office during regular hours at 463-7135.

Items of personal joy or caring may be submitted during the service on the yellow cards provided, or directly to May Ann Randall.

Social Justice

You care and you do make a difference. Those signatures on the petitions to keep on funding SNUG, the anti-violence program in Albany must have helped convince the City Council and the State to restore some of the funding. According to the Times-Union, 11/17/11, "State criminal justice officials have pledged \$150,000 to restart the SNUG anti-violence program that closed last month amid public outcry over state budget cuts..... SNUG's first year of operation coincided with a 29 percent drop in shootings in the city over the first 8 months of this year, a decline credited in part on the program's emphasis on heading off retaliatory violence...."

Public support of Occupy Albany and other cities is calling attention to some of the inequities in our

government and is demanding that government pay attention to the needs of the people. One terrible recent example of such an inequity was the budget cuts to schools. The wealthiest lost per pupil \$269 while the poorest lost \$547. Let us pay attention and make our voices heard.

Please read the information in Windows which gives you opportunities at FUUSA to learn and to act for the cause of Social Justice. Also there are non FUUSA activities you may want to attend:

- ◆ Nov. 28, 7:00 PM, an evening with Dr. Helen Caldicott on human threats to the planet. Free and open to the public at Performing Arts Center Recital Hall (UAlbany Main Campus).
- ◆ Dec. 1, 6:30-8:30, a symposium to celebrate the freedom of the Alaei brothers who were jailed in Iran for their pioneering work on prevention of

HIV, Univ. at Albany, School of Public Health, Auditorium. To register visit www.albany.edu/sph

For helping on a personal level, diapers and baby clothing are needed for newborns at Emmaus House as well as gift cards and Christmas gifts to help low income families. Or you can "sponsor" or "adopt" a family. Call Diana Conroy 482-4966 if you can help.

My thanks to some of you who have responded to my appeal for a donation of your copy of The New Jim Crow. But more books are still needed by persons living in Albany who cannot afford to buy them. If you can donate your copy, please email me griffinocce@gmail.com.

Standing on the Side of Love,
Lois Griffin

Green Sanctuary update

Sandy, Sue, Jessica and Allyson organized our first "Ethical Eating" Potluck on November 5th and it was a big hit. We ate locally grown food brought in by at least 50 participants, including hot apple cider from local apples and a wide range of dishes. Sue and Allyson led a discussion of the costs and benefits of eating local and living in harmony with the seasons.

In conjunction with Green Sanctuary Committee members from UUs of Saratoga, Glens Falls and Schenectady, we applied for and received a grant from the St Lawrence District of the UUA for \$1000 to put on an environmental awareness event for the region. Our event, called the "Wedge Game", happened Saturday, Nov. 12 at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where Chris B. teaches. The Wedge Game is a workshop/exercise in which participants choose from a set of environmental policies to mitigate carbon emissions of the next 50 years. Dr. Roberta Hotinski, a geoscientist from Princeton University, drove up to Troy to lead the workshop. There were around 50 participants, including congressman Paul Tonko (D NY-21) and Troy mayor-elect Lou Rosamilia, as well as professors, students, business leaders and UUs from as far away as Syracuse. Thanks to Greg Vigilante, Ann Hebert and Patsy McEvoy (UU Saratoga) and Chris Bystroff (FUUSA) for organizing.

Our second fall forum was on Climate Change in the 20th and 21st centuries, presented by RPI Earth & Environmental Sciences professor Miriam Katz on November 13th. It was very well attended and sparked lots of good discussion. We will follow up with a forum on the "Geo-politics of Oil", on Dec. 11 by William Reinhardt of NYSERDA.

The Green Sanctuary Committee continues to recycle old cellphones and batteries. Please join us at our monthly meetings, the 3rd Sunday of each month in room B-7. Contact Sandy Steubing or Chris Bystroff for more information.

Peace Team Study Group December 7 and 9

It appears that Obama health care law is going before the Supreme Court. Courts have been up and down on this. Is health care on the Occupy Movement's radar? It is on mine. The movie "Sicko," which some have seen and some have not, can be a basis for common knowledge and discussion of this genuine life and death issue.

The Peace Study Program will view Michael Moore's film "Sicko" on Wed December 7 at 1 PM in Room 8 and again at 6:30 on the Friday Dec 9. On Friday, feel free to bring food, watch "Sicko" and discuss issues.

Sicko: A documentary comparing the highly profitable American health care industry to health care in other nations, and cites HMO horror stories. You owe it to your family and neighbors to see this film if you have not already. What does health insurance have to do with war and peace? Health insurance is a military recruiting carrot. Employees who really need health care coverage, must consider how much they agitate or irritate their employers. The absence of health care security is an important leg of the military industrial complex platform.

Columns

Sam's Outlook

The economic recovery is in our wallets

As we move toward the close of 2011, unemployment is still stuck above 9%, much higher among historically marginalized communities. The economy remains stalled. The European Union appears less and less stable, possibly headed for a break up, or at least the ejection of some of its members. The only economy that seems to keep chugging along is China.

Some advocate government action to stimulate the economy. But with the ballooning deficit, such a stimulus may be too little, too late. Businesses are holding back on investing and hiring, waiting for consumer confidence to rise. Consumers are cautious about spending, worried about their jobs and future income. Retirees living on investment income are struggling to find a place to put their nest egg that will give them a decent return without taking on too much risk. Foreclosures and underwater homes continue to depress the housing market. There just isn't much good financial news out there right now.

So is there anything we can do about this mess? I'm happy to report I've got an answer to our current financial woes that might make a difference.

It's time to spend!

If businesses are waiting for a message from us, let's send them a positive one. When the economy is overheated, we need to stop spending. But in a time like this when the economy needs our money, we should be putting it back in ... but with wisdom and generosity as our guide.

Let me explain. Those who spend money in our economy have tremendous power. Businesses go to great lengths to analyze our spending patterns and habits so they can sell us what we want when and where we want it. Because they are watching us with such precision, our collective behavior can make a big difference.

The Occupy Movement has sensitized us to the problems of concentrated wealth. We can vote with each dollar we spend for changes to the economic system. One great way to fight concen-

trated wealth is to spend our money with local merchants and producers. When we buy from local vendors, most of that money remains in our communities rather than disappearing into the coffers of multinational corporations who prefer to buy back their stock rather than hire workers. Even if we feel compelled to buy mass produced items from Asia, we can buy them from locally owned stores. As many of us will be giving books as gifts, we can vote for local bookstores by shopping there. And when we prepare our holiday dinners, we can shop at places like the Honest Weight Coop that sells local fruits and vegetables, meats, and breads.

We can also choose items that are fair trade. We can choose items that are not over-packaged and are produced in environmentally friendly ways. The positive side of the enormous choice we have to satisfy our daily needs is the ability to send messages to the system by what we select. An example of this is the growth of availability of organic vegetables because people select them over the commercially grown ones. We really do have tremendous economic power in our hands if we are willing to use it.

Another sector that I'd like to highlight that has been hurt in the economic downturn is non-profits and social service agencies. Generosity to these organizations in this holiday season will also stimulate our economy as that money will quickly get used to help people. (Please look at Leah's column for an innovative way to do this).

Money isn't necessarily the root of all evil. To just refuse to buy to protest the American obsession with materialism that surfaces this time of year will not help send a positive message. By spending now in the holiday season, we send a positive message to businesses that we want them to start hiring again.

Let's use our economic power to vote with each dollar we spend for the world we want to create. Please spend wisely and generously to bring a just and sustainable economy to life.—Rev. Sam

Chuck's Chat

Seven billion and one

Recently the UN declared that the population of the

earth reached seven billion people. That is a hard number to grasp. Seven billion people -- controlling how many of us there are is critical, but sharing joy and wonder at our existence is also crucial. My experience and understanding of that joy and wonder moved up the emotional ladder on Sunday Nov. 13 at 5:13 PM, when one more person was added and I became a grandpa. So, I hope you all will indulge my ramblings as a first time grandpa.

Usually after a baby is born someone says that it's a miracle. But a comedian made the observation, "How can something that has happened billions of times be a miracle?" On first blush, the rational side of my UU philosophy says this is a legitimate question. But for the feeling/ non-rational side this question does not make any sense -- clearly the birth of Aven Kestrel was a miracle.

So, beyond the sheer personal joy that makes it feel like a miracle, can I explain how the birth is a miracle in a rational way? Why not start with the magnitude of the universe? Scientists have estimated that there are 50 billion planets in our Milky Way Galaxy (according to an article from the TU). At least 500 million are in the not-too-hot, not-too-cold zone in which life could exist. Although estimates vary, it seems that there are somewhere between 170 to 200 billion galaxies in the universe. Making the assumptive leap that there are 500 million potentially habitable planets in each galaxy, means that there are something like 10,000,000,000,000,000,000 habitable planets in the universe. (I am sure one of you will correct any math errors I have made, but it's still going to be a very big number.) Even though I wrote it down, I can't even imagine a number this big. So given these really big numbers, what are the odds that my parents, all the way back multiple generations ago would have been here, that I would be here, and back to my initial question -- that Aven would be here? Pretty slim. So even my rational side can believe that her being here and me being here to meet her is a miracle. Now that is out of the way, the next question becomes -- Why did the miracle happen ?

When my daughter, Tracy, very obviously pregnant, was at her Doctor's office, she was talking to another woman in the waiting room who said,

"When it comes time to have the baby just surrender to God and everything will be OK." As they continued to talk, it was pretty clear that this woman had a very different conception of God than Tracy has. This woman believed that in a direct sense, the specific miracle of Aven's birth was controlled by God. Although Tracy does not believe in this literal understanding of God, her UU faith allowed her to accept the woman's advice and carry it with her during the delivery. Barb and I were not in the birthing room when the baby was born. We did visit Justin and Tracy during labor. As we came into the room each time, there was an atmosphere of calm determination and quiet peace, in spite of the periodic contractions. Tracy was indeed surrendering to a force that was part of her body but at the same time was beyond her. At the same time, she and Justin were in control. There was a miracle happening.

After the baby was born, Justin came out and wildly hugged his parents and us. Everyone cried. Then we went in and saw Tracy and Aven for the first time. I do not have words for what I felt, but wonder and awe start to describe it. Suddenly, I had a bond with all of the other grandparents in the world.

One of the strengths I get from being a UU is that I can share these feelings openly with all of you. For me, it is a gift that each of us gives to each other as a member of our beloved community, to share moments of wonder and awe in community without needing to fully explain them.—Chuck

Religious Exploration _____

Advent for Unitarian Universalists

Most Unitarian Universalists have some way of celebrating Christmas -- exchanging presents, attending Christmas services, gathering with friends with family, going on outings, and making donations to charities. Christmas and the weeks preceding it can be a time of anticipation and of celebration. Being with children at this time of year can inspire us to slow down and appreciate moments of beauty, generosity, love and friendship.

Rather than buying a traditional Advent calendar this year that has a toy or candy for each day in December, consider this Advent calendar from

buynothing.org might inspire you to think about what you have. Rather than take our everyday possessions for granted, let's count them as blessings.

On each day of December leading up to Christmas, count the appropriate privilege/blessing and put the money in a special container to donate to a group that fights poverty and supports human rights—like your Guest at Your Table box! .

1. 10 ¢ for every hot water tap in your house
2. 75 ¢ for every vehicle your family owns
3. 5 ¢ for every pair of jeans you own
4. 25 ¢ if your family subscribes to the newspaper
5. 5 ¢ for every bed in your house
6. 3 ¢ for every /beauty makeup item you own
7. 3 ¢ for every pair of footwear
8. 3 ¢ for every light switch in your house
9. 20 ¢ for every tub/shower
10. 10 ¢ for every flush toilet
11. 2 ¢ for every bar/dispenser of soap
12. 15 ¢ if you have dishes to eat off of
13. 15 ¢ if you have cooking pots in your cupboards
14. 5 ¢ for every window in your house
15. 10 ¢ for every outside door
16. 20 ¢ for every television in your house

17. 5 ¢ for every magazine subscription
18. 25 ¢ if your family has more than 25 CD's (music or video)
19. 5 ¢ for every meal with meat or quality protein this past week
20. 10 ¢ for every non-water beverage you drank yesterday
21. 25 ¢ if you have a snow blower or a gas/electric lawn mower
22. 3 ¢ for every item of hair care stuff
23. 15 ¢ for every bedroom in your house
24. 5 ¢ for every blanket in your house
25. 15 ¢ for every gift you received this Christmas

Chances are that if you inventory your privileges and blessings and donate according to this calendar, you won't exceed your budget for charitable giving this year. This may be within reach of your children. And it may spark some insights for you and discussions with your family or others at FUUSA who commit to this.

May your Advent be merry and meaningful.

In faith,
Leah

Volunteer Opportunities

Upload sermon audio on Sundays

The services in Emerson are recorded in MP3 format on a chip. Using audio editing software, the sermon is placed in a separate file, and that file gets uploaded to the FUUSA website. It's about 15 minutes worth of work, once you've been trained. If you are interested, talk to Rev. Sam and he can tell you more!

Caring Network drivers

The Caring Network could really use some help in the transportation area. Specifically we have need of people available during the day to drive folks to medical appointments, grocery shopping, etc. So, if you can help out once in a while--we need you! Call Sharon Babala. And, thank you!

Every Sunday...

We need one Lead Usher, three Ushers, two Coffee Hosts, two Greeters, two Welcomers , and one Chalice Lighter! These are easy commitments to make, and they are a BIG PART of our Sunday hospitality.

Two ways to sign up: Online at <http://tinyurl.com/SundayVolunteers> OR in Channing Hall at the Sign Up Site.

You can check at either location to see which spots need to be filled. Names added to the paper sign up in Channing Hall will be added to the online version every Monday. If you've never done a particular job before, please know that both training and job descriptions are available!

Contact Us

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email: board@albanyuu.org

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Regular meeting days

Check current calendar for time and location

Board of Trustees, 3rd Thursday

Program Coordinating Council, 2nd Thursday

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

Phone: 518.463.7135

Address: 405 Washington Avenue, between Robin Street and Lake Avenue, Albany, New York 12206

Main entrance is on Washington Avenue. Rear entrance is on West St. Both have ramp access. The building is fully handicapped accessible.

Parking: Parking is available on the street. On Sundays (and for some special events) FUUSA has permission to use the University at Albany's downtown campus parking lots: the Hawley Lot on Robin Street at Washington Avenue and the Thurlow Terrace Lot on Western Avenue.

Office hours

September-June: Monday-Friday, 9:00-4:00

July-August: Monday–Thursday 9:00-12:00

Website

www.albanyuu.org

Building use

To **reserve a room** for a FUUSA activity, contact Administrative Assistant Dave Stone (463-7135 or dstone@albanyuu.org).

To **rent classroom space** for a personal or non-FUUSA activity, contact Administrative Assistant Dave Stone (463-7135 or dstone@albanyuu.org).

To **rent one of the large halls** or plan for an event that will use both halls and classrooms for a personal or non-FUUSA activity, contact Rental Agent Lynne Lekakis (427-7386 or kaneandlekakis@gmail.com).

Windows is the newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany. It is published monthly, except July and August, in the offices of the Society at 405 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12206, and distributed to members and friends of the Society. Church office phone is 518-463-7135.

Editors: Amy Lent

Send submissions for all publications to:
Windows@albanyuu.org or to the church office.

Publication deadlines

Weekend Preview email: 9:00 a.m. Wednesdays

Order of Service: 9:00 a.m. Thursdays

Windows: 9:00 a.m. 3rd Friday of the month

December 2011

Holiday Events

at FUUSA



The RE Mitten Tree

Emerson Community Hall

During the month of December you can decorate the

Mitten Tree in Emerson Hall with new hats, gloves, and mittens for children and adults. All will be donated to the Marillac shelter, which offers an emergency housing program for homeless families in the Capital Region.

Come, trim the Christmas tree!

Holiday crafts workshop and party

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2:00-4:00 PM

Channing Hall

Food—Fun—Holiday Music—Wreath Making!

Your favorite holiday crafts – gingerbread houses, origami boxes – and new ones: A great opportunity for children to make presents

Sign up in Channing Hall. Walk-ins are also welcome! Freewill donation for craft supplies; Wreaths \$5. Sponsored by the Religious Education Council



“Returning To Bethlehem”

Sunday, Dec. 18, 10:00 AM

Emerson Community Hall

Once again we reenact the story of the birth of Jesus with the help of our children playing the parts in the story. Re-experience the magic of this sacred story with the help of your imagination. Sing favorite Christmas songs. Kindle the flame of your holiday spirit with us!

Children and youth participation in the pageant:

Sunday, Dec. 4, 11:30 to 12:00 – Selection of major parts of the pageant and costume selection – (in Room B3-B4)

Sunday, Dec. 11, 11:30 to 12:30 – Rehearsal (Emerson Community Hall)

Sunday, Dec. 18 – Arrive in Emerson Community Hall at 9:40 a.m.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, Dec. 18

Caravan starts at FUUSA at noon

Singing locations TBA! Families are encouraged to attend.

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Services

Saturday, Dec. 24, 6:30 and 8:15 p.m.

Sanctuary

The 6:30 PM service will be “family friendly”. And be sure to plan some time at the reception between the services!

Christmas Day

Brunch and Fellowship

Sunday, Dec. 25, 9:30 a.m.

Channing Hall, Emerson Community Hall

Join us for a potluck brunch at 9:30 (sign up in advance at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall) and then we'll gather in Emerson Community Hall to share some stories of Christmas past and present. If you or your children would like to come and show off your gifts and toys that will be fine, too.

(No service this Sunday.)