



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2008

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COLLECTION CORRECTION

The Christmas Eve and Christmas Day offerings will be shared in their entirety with Habitat for Humanity to support the Sudbury project. The collection on January 11 will be shared between the Sudbury Food Pantry and First Parish. (Sudbury Food Pantry was erroneously listed as a recipient for December 21.)

FPS HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The First Parish of Sudbury office will be closed from December 25 through January 4. During this time, the First Parish staff will be both working and taking time off, but none will be in the office at predictable times. The minister's phone line is monitored daily and the office phone line is monitored during the week. In the event of a pastoral emergency or urgent First Parish business, please leave a message at: 978/443-2043 x 2, and Rev. Crane or a pastoral associate will return your call as quickly as possible. All staff will monitor their voice and electronic mail messages during this time. The staff will resume their typical schedules on Monday, January 5.

SIMPLE GIFT SWAP, P.S.

On Saturday, Dec. 13 our annual Simple Gift Swap took place following our Village Worship. The swap was everything we have come to love about our annual tradition at First Parish. Some of us think it’s the perfect antidote to the frantic frenzy that can overtake the pre-holiday season. We spend the afternoon enjoying each other’s company, cocoa and cookies, and choosing re-gifts for those we care about. And, the “we” are folks of all ages, choosing gifts for each other, for family, and friends. Those present can hear the sounds of mellow Christmas music, happy voices of delighted young people, and friendly chatting. Now, doesn’t that sound better than the noise of the “shopping” alternative?

Plan to join us next year for our 2009 Simple Gift Swap on Saturday, December 12 in the afternoon. Mark your calendars, and start setting aside next year’s re-gifts. There may even be some gifts coming your way during the next week that are just right for re-gifting. (The super-organized among us even have a place at home where they collect re-gifts for the next swap throughout the year.)

Thanks to all the helpers: Sue LaR and Philip R who set up the tables of gifts; Cecilia T and Robyn R who helped set-up and were the “big helpers” in the wrapping room, so kids could take wrapped gifts home for their parents; and Leslie L for the wonderful tray of cookies.

See you next year!

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve, December 24, 5 pm

Family Holiday Service

Ms. Roberta Altamari, Rev. Katie Lee Crane, and guest Stars

Join us in a festive and worshipful celebration of the gifts our Unitarian and Universalist ancestors have contributed to the Christmas holiday. Enjoy the magic of tradition and community coming together for a wonderful service. Get inspired by these amazing people to become a peace angel this Christmas!

Christmas Eve, December 24, 7 pm

Candlelight Service

Rev. Katie Lee Crane

Join us for carols and candlelight, readings and reflections on this season of layered traditions celebrating midwinter, the birth of Jesus, new light/new life, joy and hope. This service is a quiet, meditative service to help us center ourselves, make ready, and focus on the reasons for the season. People of all ages are welcome to worship at this service. There are no children's programs nor is childcare provided.

Christmas Day, December 25, 10 am

Rev. Katie Lee Crane & friends

Join our minister and friends by the fire for an informal time of carols and stories and sharing on Christmas Morning.

JOIN KATIE LEE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Katie Lee reports that she loves all three of the different and wonderful services we offer to celebrate Christmas but, she admits, the informal service on Christmas morning is something quite special. It's usually small and informal. There's singing and stories and a fire in the Brackett Room fireplace. There are single folks and extended families. There are little ones who've already been up for hours and, well, the rest of us.

If your plans can include joining Katie Lee on Christmas morning for this lovely service, she would welcome some help: a fire builder, a caroler or two (doesn't matter if we're off key, so is the piano!) and, perhaps someone to put on a pot of coffee and bring a few cookies that Santa didn't eat the night before.

Please call Katie Lee if you would like to assist on Christmas morning. Just your being there would be a gift in itself.

The Bulletin Board

**Endings & Beginnings—
Jan. 4, 2009**

*Please send Katie Lee names
and pronunciations of those
to be remembered*

FPS Weather Closing Information

Click on:

<http://fpsudbury.org/wiki/EmergencyClosingInfo/>

Next Sunday's Worship Service

Sunday, December 28, 10:00am

"WATCH NIGHT"

Ms. Michelle LaGrave

Our annual shared service with our UU neighbors from Framingham and Wayland

It is our annual holiday tradition to share this last service of the calendar year with our neighbors. This year we will host the good folks from First Parish in Wayland and First Parish in Framingham.

Michelle LaGrave is a student at Andover Newton Theological School, working toward her Master of Divinity degree. She is a candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry and is serving as the intern minister at First Parish in Framingham.

Ms. LaGrave writes of the service on Dec. 28, "When we think about celebrating the New Year, images of Father Time and late-night parties in Times Square may be the first to appear. However, New Year's Eve is also known as "Watch Night" in some religious contexts and is a time of renewing covenants and self-consecration. As Unitarian Universalists, how can we find a deeper meaning to our New Year celebrations?"

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, December 22

7:00p-9:00p Spirit Play Task Force

7:00p-9:00p RE Committee

Tuesday, December 23

12:00p Fourth Tuesday Lunch and Discussion, The Commons (BYO lunch, and come share some stories, poems, and memories of holidays)

7:30p-9:00p Pastoral Associates Group, Brackett Room

Wednesday, December 24

5:00p

Christmas Eve Family Service

7:00p

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 25

10:00a

Christmas morning service, Brackett Room

Sunday, December 28

10:00a-11:15a Sunday Worship Service with Wayland & Framingham "Watch Night", Ms. Michelle LaGrave

Hold the Date: Sunday, January 11 after the worship service—for a special celebration following our Covenant Sunday service. More details will follow soon.

FIRST PARISH OF SUDBURY'S PASTORAL ASSOCIATES

Annmarie A Fred P
Audrey K Paul R
Polly M Dawn S
Bruce P

In the event of a pastoral need, please call our minister or any of these Pastoral Associates.