



First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston

The Parish Press

Editor: Cyndy Washburn-Doane

Holiday 2012

Winter Holidays

For everything there is a season—a time to die and a time to be born. With the arrival of winter’s low dark sky, communities around the world look to the miracle of light as a sign of rebirth and a source of hope. We celebrate the promise of new life and recommit ourselves to the protection of everyone’s right to his or her own radiant humanity. Celebrating the Winter Holidays, thus, is an excellent opportunity for Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations to express their commitment to our Sixth Principle: We Covenant to Affirm and Promote the Goal of World Community with Peace, Liberty and Justice for All.

Important Dates:

- 11-14 *Berry Bowl Making*
6 pm
- 11-17 *Memorial Box Making*
9 am **NEW DATE!!!**
- 11-18 *Williamsville Chapel*
12 noon-3 pm am
- 11-23, 24 & 25
Wreath Making
9 am – 3 pm
- 11-30 *Gingerbread Fair Set-up*
7 pm – 9 pm
- 12-1 *Gingerbread Fair*
9 am – 3 pm
- 12-2 *Dana Brass Concert*
5:30 pm
- 12-24 *Christmas Eve*
5 pm
- 1-13 *SSVM: Resurrection Brass*
10 am
- 2-10 *SSVM: Circle of Song*
10 am
- 3-10 *SSVMS: Chair City Pipers*
10 am
- 3-27 *Sanctuary Cleaning*
6 pm
- 3-31 *Easter Sunday*
10 am

-UUA Worship

Pianist: Lisa Utzig

Church 10 am

How to contact us:

Church
Phone:



978-928-5822

First Parish Unitarian
Church

**Box 509
Hubbardston, MA 01452**

**Websites:
hubbardstonunitarian.org**

**www.uua.org
www.cbd.uua.org**

Thanksgiving Farmer's Market – Sunday, November 18th from 12 noon – 3 pm the Hubbardston Historical Society will hold its annual market at the historic Williamsville Chapel on Burnshirt Road. Locally grown foods to grace your Thanksgiving table will be sold, including fresh organically grown vegetables, baked goods and treats. Come early!! The Church will have a table with jams & jellies and seasonal decorations made from locally grown earth products.

Prepare for Fair Week – The Gingerbread Fair on December 1st is swiftly approaching. The week before the fair the Church is abuzz. The vestry will be transformed into an amazing room overflowing with gingerbread people, holiday decorations, decorated tables, a stage transforming into a bistro for lunch, and a kitchen full of folks peeling potatoes and carrots, making meatballs and baking gingerbread. There are plenty of jobs during Prepare For Fair Week at the Church. Please let us know if you can help during that week

Laurel Wreath Making –. Let There Be Wreaths. Beginning Friday November 23rd of Thanksgiving weekend through Sunday November 25th from 9 am until 4 pm, we will create, assemble, fashion, build and construct more than 70 big fluffy laurel wreaths, decked out with large pinecones and big red bows. If lots of us help, Sunday will not be necessary. Please bring a snack to share and 2 bags of laurel. If you do not have laurel on your property, give us a call and we will direct you to the great laurel pickin' patches. The laurel can be picked a few days in advance. Make it an after dinner family outing to get rid of those calories from that extra slice of pie. Better yet, pack up the pie and bring it for a snack. Place your orders for these handsome wreaths with Barbara at 978-928-4475. They go quickly. If anyone in your family

needs community service, this activity is a great way to get in some hours.

Gingerbread Fair - Saturday, December 1st from 9 am until 3 pm is the big day, which is planned and worked on all year long. The funds from this fair help fund our programs, services and other events.

The Silent and Chinese auctions will have many attractive gifts, tickets, gift certificates to area restaurants, passes to museums, golfing, favorite attractions and themed gift baskets. Raffle tickets will be available for the "Monkey Wrench" country quilt, Gingerbread House and special Holiday Raffle.

Our holiday tables will feature laurel wreaths, pine slab memorial boxes, berry bowls and natural garlands, knitted hats, scarves, mittens, linens, homemade jams and jellies, hand packed spices, homemade candy and incredible baked goods. The Finnish Coffee bread sells out fast.

This year the fair co-chairs are Cyndy Washburn-Doane and Mary Taylor. Donations for each table are needed and can be accepted during *prepare for fair* week.

Holiday Luncheon - Holiday Luncheon at the Gingerbread Fair will be served on the stage beginning at 11 am. Homemade Swedish Meatballs with gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots and peas, a beverage and biscuits shaped like gingerbread people is our meal this year. Dessert is freshly baked gingerbread topped with whipped cream, all for \$8.00. Relax while you dine with friends and family.

"Monkey Wrench" Country Quilt - This year's colorful country quilt to be raffled at the Gingerbread Fair is a design used in the Underground Railroad. The "Monkey wrench" quilt was the first quilt displayed as a signal for any slaves who planned to escape. It symbolized the time to collect

tools they would need on their journey north to freedom. Tools such as those needed to construct shelter, defense and telling direction, along with food and a few coins. This meant mental tools as well, including being cunning and alert, plus knowledge and the ability to discern motives of strangers. The blacksmith, was known as the "Monkey wrench" because of the tools he used. He had very strong skilled hands and could talk to the slaves by the rhythmic hitting of the hammer on the anvil. The "Monkey wrench" was often loaned to neighboring plantations, so he would know the lay of the land and daily operations of the plantations without raising suspicions. This traditional "Monkey Wrench" country quilt is 92" x 92", hand stitched and machine pieced. It has rich shades of green, red, blue, and brown. With coordinating window pane trim and backing this quilt would complement any décor.

We have enclosed 3 tickets for this one of a kind quilt. Chances for the quilt are \$2/1 and \$5/3. Please return the sold ticket stubs or mail them to P.O. Box 509 before December 1st. A picture of the quilt is on our Face Book Page.

Pioneer Valley Brass Concert – Sunday, December 2nd the Church will be hosting a free concert with The Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet at 5:30 pm. The Quintet features trumpets, horns, trombones and a tuba. The performance includes an array of Holiday songs, some arranged by the Quintet members. These services are given to any church desiring a high quality musical service. This organization came into being when the Quabbin Reservoir was constructed, which flooded 4 towns during the 1930's. The First Universalist Parish of Dana established a trust fund to keep the memory of North Dana and their church alive. Save the date and join us for this Christmas Tradition. Light refreshments to follow.

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service – Monday, December 24th at 5:00 pm. Rev. John Woodward will deliver the Christmas

message. Lisa Utzig will be leading us with the traditional Christmas hymns. The service ends with our congregation forming a circle as we light candles from one another and sing Silent Night. Please join us for this time-honored tradition.

CHURCH NEWS

Annual Meeting Held – Our annual meeting was held Sunday, September 30th in the vestry at 11 am. We held our annual election of officers during the business meeting. The new officers for the upcoming Church year of 2012-2013 are Carol Whitney, President, Barbara Hubbard, Treasurer, Mary Taylor, Clerk, & Cyndy Washburn-Doane, Vice President. Those in attendance reviewed the Annual Report.

Cord of Wood Raffle – Sawyer's Trucking & Logging of Hubbardston has donated this wood which will be delivered to the winner. The drawing will be held at the Gingerbread Fair on December 1st at 3 pm. We have enclosed 4 tickets for the cord wood raffle. Chances are \$3/1 and \$10/4. Please return the sold ticket stubs or mail them to P.O. Box 509 before December 1st.

1-20 Club Continues – Since 1990 the 1-20 Club benefits the Restoration Fund. We complete two rounds of 1-20 club tickets per year. The continuation of the 1-20 Club encourages us to consider needed repairs to our historic building. Thanks go out to our Members & Friends who have purchased tickets over the years. Donations are accepted to this fund at any time. Please contact Barbara if you would like to purchase a ticket.

Hubbardston Community Theatre – This talented local theater group continues to hold auditions in the Church. On October 21st auditions for the 2013 show took place. Their show is "Seussical" and will be performed Friday, Saturday & Sunday,

March 15, 16 & 17, 2013 at Hubbardston Center School. For more information please contact them a Hubtheatre4U@gmail.com

The Parish Press - The Parish Press is printed and mailed three times a year; Fall, Holiday and Spring. The next issue will be mailed out in the Spring of 2013.

Remaining Schedule of Second Sunday Visiting Musicians Services— Second Sunday Visiting Musicians Series is a musical performance as part of the worship service at 11am. Please contact Carol Whitney if you would like to perform or would like to recommend someone. The schedule of performers is as follows:

Dec. 2	Pioneer Valley Brass – 5:30 pm
Jan. 13	SSVM – Resurrection Brass
Feb. 10	SSVM – Circle of Song
Mar. 10	SSVM – Chair City Pipers

Coffee hour with light refreshments to follow after each music service.

Joys & Sorrows – On September 22nd, the Church lost a lifelong friend, Virginia Mattson. She leaves behind her daughter, Pamela and several grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends. Virginia will be warmly remembered as a person who would reach out and help those in need.

Sales a Big Success - Thanks everyone. You made Field Day, Fall Indoor Yard Sale and Vendor Fair huge successes. Our volunteers make our work load lighter. Our visitors continue to sense and recognize the important work of the Church to preserve the building and care for the land around it.

Future Services Needs Committee - Future Services Needs Committee includes Carol Whitney, Barbara Hubbard, Lori

Prentiss and Nancy Hubbard, have recommended that we continue with using supply ministers to fill the pulpit as it provides variety and added interest as we look for a seated minister. This committee is looking for additional members.

North Central Massachusetts Unitarian Universalist Congregations (NCNUUC) -

The North Central Massachusetts Unitarian Universalist Congregations is a growing group of local small congregations that include Ashby, Athol, Fitchburg, Gardner, Leominster, Orange, Petersham, Winchendon and our Church. This group was formed to provide support to each other. During this past summer activities, speakers, trips and meetings were held weekly, welcoming all our UU's from our group congregations having fun with Sunday Summer Activities across the area. Our Church hosted the NCMUUC in August under the pavilion at Barre Falls Dam. It was fun for all ages. We all had a picnic together, hiked, played games, fished and just relaxed. Please let a Parish Committee member know if you would like to attend a meeting and for further information.

Parish Committee – The Parish Committee (PC) has weekly meetings doing the general business of the Church and attends other meeting including General Business, Select board, Finance Committee, Fair meetings and Future Service Needs Committee meetings. This committee is looking for one more member.

Carol Whitney: Pres.	978-928-3748
Barbara Hubbard: Treas.	978-928-4475
Cyndy Washburn-Doane: VP	978-928-4866
Mary Taylor: Clerk	978-928-4289