



First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston

The Parish Press

Editor: Mary Taylor

Holiday 2014

The meaning of Christmas to a Unitarian Universalist

Why Christmas? Especially to one who doubts? Unitarian Universalists are fond of arguing the validity of Christmas: Is it a Christian holiday? A pagan holiday? A secular holiday? Even outside my UU circles there is much apathy about Christmas—"It's just another day" I've heard quoted by many. I know all this... and I don't care! I love Christmas, always have and always will. It fills me with nostalgia, generosity, and goodwill. And as far as the "meaning of Christmas" is concerned, as a Unitarian Universalist, I believe it is part of our spiritual maturation to search for and assign meaning to all the days of our lives. In this, Christmas is the high-point of the year—a time when the world slows, and considers our relationships with each other. Isn't that in itself enough to celebrate? Worthy of decorations, lights and music? The gifts we give each other at this time of year are more than just demonstrations of our generosity—they are symbols of the gifts we are capable of giving on all the other days of our lives. Gifts of love, compassion, industry, advocacy... the gifts of our common humanity.

Lenny Scovel

Important Dates:

- 11-22 *Memorial Box Making*
9 am
- 11-23 *Williamsville Chapel*
12 noon – 3 pm
- 11-28, 29 & 30
Wreath Making
9 am – 3 pm
- 12-5 *Gingerbread Fair Set-up*
7 pm – 9 pm
- 12-6 *Gingerbread Fair*
9 am – 3 pm
- 12-13 *Dana Brass Concert*
5:30 pm
- 12-24 *Christmas Eve*
5 pm
- 2-8 *SSVMS: Surround Sound*
10 am
- 3-8 *SSVMS: Fred Ellsworth & Co.*
10 am
- 4-1 *Sanctuary Cleaning*
6 pm
- 4-5 *Easter Sunday*
10 am
- 4-12 *SSVMS: Susan & Steve Nickerson with Joe Reidy*
10 am

Pianist: Hallie Martin

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 23rd 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. The Church will have a table with jams, jellies, applesauce and seasonal decorations made from locally grown earth products.

Prepare for Fair Week – The Gingerbread Fair on December 6th 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 28th of Thanksgiving weekend through Sunday November 30th from 9 am until 4 pm, we will create, assemble, fashion, build and construct close to 100 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 – Always held on the first Saturday in December. This year's fair on Saturday, December 6th from 9 am until 3 pm mixes community spirit and merriment for all. Come in and embrace the sights and fragrances of the season in our historic vestry. This fashionable fundraiser is planned for and worked on all year long.

Watch The *Silent Auction* items up for bid, or become a bidder. Peruse the assorted items at the *Craft* table. Take a chance on the *Chinese Auction*, still \$2 for 10 chances. This auction includes 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 "*Bow Tie*" *Country Quilt* and a special *Holiday Raffle*.

Our traditional holiday tables that bring new life to long forgotten New England crafts will feature laurel wreaths; pine slab memorial boxes; berry bowls; natural garlands; knitted hats, scarves and mittens; homemade jams, jellies and applesauce; hand packed spices; homemade candy; and a variety of fine baked goods including Indian Pudding and Finnish coffee bread. The coffee bread sells out fast.

Come celebrate the season with us and enjoy the wonderful offerings at the Gingerbread Fair.

This year the fair Co-chairs are Carol Whitney and Mary Taylor. Donations for each table are needed and can be accepted during Prepare for Fair week.

Holiday Luncheon – Rest awhile and enjoy our homemade Swedish Meatball

Luncheon, served on the stage, beginning at 11 am. Savor the care that goes into each meatball, swimming in gravy with sides of mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, biscuits, gingerbread topped with whipped cream and a drink, all for only \$8. Relax while you dine with family and friends. Take out is available.

She'll be calling you – If you have not been called by Diane Watkins looking for donations for our Gingerbread Fair luncheon that does not mean you are off the hook. Diane's sweet, quiet and persuasive tone of voice may ask you to donate coffee, cream, bisquick, milk, peas, carrots or potatoes and the list goes on. If you want to beat Diane to the phone, give her a call at 978-928-5420 and pick an item or 2 off the luncheon list.

"Bow Tie" Country Quilt – The Bow Tie Quilt was the seventh quilt displayed on the fence to teach slaves how to escape to freedom. It was a directive for them to dress in a formal manner. The triangular quadrants on the Bow Tie block indicate morning, midday, evening, and night. It is also known as Broken Dishes. When the pattern is turned on its side, an hourglass is created, which is a symbol of time well managed. It also implies you are among friends.

This colorful quilt is done in shades of red, brown, green, and blue, with tan background pieces. The simple hand quilting sets off the overall pattern of the Bow Ties. The backing material and binding are done in tans to compliment the colors of the top of the quilt. This 84" x 96" quilt is just right for any home and is an heirloom for the future.

We have enclosed 4 tickets for this one of a kind quilt. Chances are \$3/1 and \$10/4. Please return the sold ticket stubs or mail them to P.O. Box 509 before December 6th. The winner will be drawn at the close of the fair.

Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet Concert – Saturday, December 13th 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 – This well attended service will be Wednesday, December 24th at 5:00 pm. Rev. Edward Matuvhunya will deliver the Christmas message. Our pianist, Hallie Martin will be leading us with the traditional Christmas hymns. Our service concludes with a candle-lighting ritual in which the church lights are dimmed and people pass a flame from candle to candle until everyone is holding a lit candle and we sing Silent Night.

CHURCH NEWS

Annual Meeting Held – This meeting was held Sunday, September 28th in the vestry at 11 am. After potluck, we held our annual election of officers during the business meeting. The new officers for the upcoming Church year of 2013-2014 are Carol Whitney, President, Barbara Hubbard, Treasurer, Mary Taylor, Clerk, and Carol Hubbard-Kelley as Vice Presidents. Those in attendance reviewed the Annual Report.

Community Food Collection – Donations at any level are deeply appreciated and can be made by cash or check or by an actual food donation. This collection is done to provide Hubbardston families in need with a Thanksgiving meal and more. All proceeds will be used exclusively for food baskets. Our donations are distributed with the help of Hubbardston Center School and the Hubbardston Police Department. This

collection will be ending Sunday, November 23rd. You may drop off your canned and/or non-perishable foods any time the Church is open, or call 978-928-5822 to make arrangements. Checks may be sent to P.O. Box 509, Hubbardston, MA 01452. Donations of frozen turkeys to complete the Thanksgiving meal are also accepted. Please call the Church to make arrangements for freezer space.

Cord of Wood Raffle – The winner of this raffle was Bill Shea. The winner was drawn at our Fall Indoor Yard Sale held October 25th. A big thank you goes to Chris Pirner of Hubbardston for donating this wood.

1-20 Club Continues – Since 1990 the 1-20 Club has benefited 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. All tickets have been sold for this round and drawings have begun.

Remaining Schedule of Second Sunday Visiting Musicians Services – This series is a musical performance as part of the worship service at 10 am. Please contact Carol Whitney if you would like to perform or would like to recommend someone. The schedule of performers is as follows:

Dec.	13	Pioneer Valley Brass – 5:30 pm
Feb.	8	Surround Sound
Mar.	8	Fred Ellsworth & Co.
Apr	12	Susan & Steve Nickerson with Joe Reidy

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

Sales are Big Successes – Thanks everyone. You made Field Day and Fall Indoor Yard Sale huge successes. Our volunteers make our work load lighter. Our patrons continue to recognize the dedication of the volunteers as we do the important work of this community Church including our

ministry and preserving our historic property.

Pulpit Speakers – The First Parish Unitarian Church has many similarities to other small New England churches. We are a very old, small congregation in size, very active in keeping our services available to everyone, and we have no settled minister. This fact allows us to have an eclectic selection of speakers in the pulpit. This Church calendar year we continue this selection with a grouping of semi-retired ordained ministers, Masters of Divinity, Students of Divinity, and Lay persons. Not to leave out our Second Sunday Visiting Musician Series where music is the sermon. Our speakers reflect on many topics. Topics are drawn from the news, seasonal importance, personal, and biblical inspiration that will encourage us to look inward and outside of ourselves in our daily lives. The popularity of this is reflected by our increased attendance. What follows is the schedule of the remainder of the year of Pulpit Speakers. Come join us, not just on Christmas and Easter but all year long.

Jan.	4 th	TBA
	11 th	Lay Service
	18 th	Rev. Phyllis Pomerleau
Feb.	25 th	Elizabeth Siwo-Okundi
	1 st	Rev. Phyllis Pomerleau
Mar.	22 nd	Elizabeth Siwo-Okundi
	2 nd	Lisa Kirk
	9 th	TBA
	16 th	Rev. Eliza Blanchard
Apr.	23 rd	Rev. Phyllis Pomerleau
	6 th	Rev. Eliza Blanchard
	26 th	Rev. Phyllis Pomerleau
May	3 rd	Lay Service
	10 th	Recognition Sunday Lisa Kirk

Knitting Club – Wednesday evenings at 7 pm there is a drop-in knitting group at the Church. If you have a project you need help with, would like to try something a little more complicated than what you usually knit, or want to try to knit for the first time, come on by. We are currently a lively group of 6, ranging in age from 14 to 60. We laugh, visit and plan projects. We will meet each week as long as there is interest; even in

the summer, with maybe a change of venue once in a while. You can contact Nancy Hubbard at hopkinson34@charter.net or by phone at 978-928-5964. Happy Knitting!

Parish Committee – The Parish Committee has weekly meetings doing the general business of the Church and attends other

meetings including General Business, Selectboard, Finance Committee, and Fair meetings.

Carol Whitney: Pres.	978-928-3748
Barbara Hubbard: Treas.	978-928-4475
Mary Taylor: Clerk	978-928-4289
Carol Hubbard-Kelley: VP	978-928-4473