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First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston

# The Parish Press

Editor: Nancy J. Hubbard

Holiday 2019

## *A Christmas Poem*

Somehow not only for Christmas  
but all the long year through,  
the Joy that you give to others  
is the Joy that comes back to you.  
And the more you spend in Blessing  
the poor and the lonely and sad,  
the more of your heart's possessing  
returns to make you glad.

By John Greenleaf Whittier

### Important Dates:

- 11-17 *Berry Bowl Making*  
11 am
- 11-24 *Memorial Box Making*  
11 am
- 11-29, 30 & 12-1  
*Wreath Making*  
9 am – 3 pm
- 12-6 *Gingerbread Fair Set-up*  
7 pm – 9 pm
- 12-7 *Gingerbread Fair*  
9 am – 3 pm
- 12-14 *Pioneer Valley Brass*  
5:30 pm
- 12-24 *Christmas Eve*

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Pianist: Lisa Utzig

Sunday School 9 am

Church 10 am

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### *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

**Prepare for Fair Week** – The Gingerbread Fair on December 7th will soon be here. The week before the fair the Church is busy, busy, busy. The vestry will be transforming into an amazing room overflowing with gingerbread people, holiday decorations, decorated tables, the stage of the vestry made into a bistro for lunch, with our new Homemade Soup Buffet and baking Finnish coffeebread and 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 29<sup>th</sup> of Thanksgiving weekend through Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 am until 4 pm, we will create, assemble, fashion, build and construct close to 60 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. Place your orders for these handsome wreaths with Barbara at 978-928-4475. They go quickly at only \$30. 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 7th 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.

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 "*Bird's in the Air*" *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; wooden slab memorial/holiday boxes; berry bowls; natural garlands; knitted hats, scarves and mittens; homemade jams and jellies; 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 Diane Watkins, with lots of help from Gloria Utzig, Carol Hubbard-Kelley and Barbara Hubbard. Donations for each table are needed and can be accepted during Prepare for Fair week.

**Holiday Luncheon** – Rest awhile and enjoy our new "Homemade Crockpot" luncheon served in the vestry, beginning at 11 am including: Kapusta, Chili, Apple-Butternut Squash Bisque, Beef and Barley Soup and Chicken Noodle Soup, served with artesian bread and gingerbread topped with whipped cream and a drink, all for only \$7. Relax while you dine with family and friends. Take out is available.

**"Bird's in the Air" Country Quilt** – The Birds in the Air Quilt was originally designed by the wife of a Quaker. They ran Safe House #5. A clever quilter could indicate a direction of travel with the choice of fabric and placement of blocks.

This colorful quilt is done in shades of brown, green, blue and red. The backing material has a design of its own. The binding compliments the colors of the top and back of the quilt. The simple hand quilting tells a story of the Birds in the Air quilt square. This 100" x 100", queen sized, quilt is just right for any home and may be a future heirloom.

We have enclosed 4 tickets for this one-of-a-kind quilt. Photos are on Facebook, it is a beautiful handmade treasure! 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 and Town Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting**

– Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> the Church will be hosting a free concert with The Pioneer Valley Brass Quintet at 5:30 pm. This will mark our **30<sup>th</sup> year** hosting this amazing group and supporting the memory of The First Universalist Parish of Dana. The Quintet features trumpets, French horn, trombone and a tuba. The performance includes an array of Holiday songs. These services are given to any church desiring a quality musical service. This organization came into being when the Quabbin Reservoir was constructed, which flooded 4 towns during the 1930's and their church was torn down. Save the date and join us for this Christmas Tradition. If weather is bad, this could be cancelled.

The Town has joined forces with us and once again will help to host a most Merry Hubbardston Holiday evening. The Town Common Committee, the Swinging Singing Seniors and the Elementary School singers will host and perform at the annual Lighting of the Christmas Tree and Menorah on the Town Common following the Pioneer Valley Brass Concert, with light refreshments in the Vestry to warm us all back up again.

Please join us for a very exciting evening, bring your neighbors, friends and relatives.

**Christmas Eve Candle Light Service**

– This well attended service will be Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Rev. Inanna Arthen will join us to deliver the Christmas message. Our pianist, Lisa Utzig 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. It's tradition.

**CHURCH NEWS**

**Sunday School** – On most Sunday mornings at 9 am our religious education for young people is in full swing. Our group is small, but there is so much potential. Consider joining and enriching your children's small-town experience as they grow and learn in a safe and loving environment.

This past week the Sunday School made tissue paper poppies and handed them out to all who attended the Veterans' Day Service. Thanks Anya and Danny!

**Annual Meeting Held** – This meeting was held Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> 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 2019-2020 are Carol Whitney, President, Barbara Hubbard, Treasurer, Nancy Hubbard, Clerk, Carol Hubbard-Kelley and Diane Watkins 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. Our donations will be handed out through the food pantry at Saint Patrick's church in Rutland, where Hubbardston residents are welcome. Checks may be sent to P.O. Box 509, Hubbardston, MA 01452.

**Cord of Wood Raffle** – The winner of this raffle was Robin Doyle of Gardner. This was drawn at our Fall Indoor Yard Sale held October 26<sup>th</sup>. A big thank you goes to Chris Pirner of Hubbardston for donating this wood.

**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. 14 (Sat) Pioneer Valley Brass – 5:30 pm
- Jan. 12 Sue and Steve Nickerson with Joe Reidy
- Feb. 9 Hymn Sing
- Mar. 8 Surround Sound

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 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. Please join us, not just on Christmas and Easter but all year long.

**Joys and Sorrows** – Save the Date!!! Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be hosting the Ordination of Lisa Kirk, one of our long-time pulpit speakers – (11 years with us !), as she moves forward in her professional life. We are honored and excited to host Lisa and would like a grand turnout in support of her big day!! Way to go Lisa!

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

- Carol Whitney: Pres. 978-928-3748
- Barbara Hubbard: Treas. 978-928-4475
- Nancy J. Hubbard: Clerk 978-928-5964
- Carol Hubbard-Kelley 978-928-4473
- Diane Watkins 978-928-5420

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR - SEE YOU SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 AT THE GINGERBREAD FAIR!!!**