



# News & Views

## FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

### Affirmation of Hope

We are bearers of a dream, a promise of tomorrow. Some say our dreams are madness, hopes scattered on the winds of time, blown into the stratosphere to be lost and burned up in the solar flares. Some say our dreams are madness, lost in the drones and bombs of war. "There is a blessed madness in the human need to go against the grain of cold and scarcity". (Starkey)

There is a blessed madness in the human need to act for peace and justice. We are one in the image of the sacred image of Love, evolved and evolving, Created and co-creating a world that calls us to participate. We cannot sit passively by and watch as our fear and base nature run wild.

We must act with restraint and self-control, we must act with compassion and love, we must act from our highest selves to co-create a world that we can pass on to the next generation. "Winter festivals remind us that what we hope for will come from the most unexpected places in sudden and seemingly miraculous reversals, and be incarnated in acts of generosity, kindness, hospitality and rootedness. We are all telling the same story, we are all holding the keys to the Kingdom." (Rev. Tom Schade)

We affirm the hope of all religions and honor our own. UU minister Theodore Parker wrote: "Be ours a religion which, like sunshine, goes everywhere; its temple, all space; its shrine, the good heart; its creed, all truth; its ritual, works of love; its profession of faith, divine living."

We pledge ourselves this day and everyday to the salvation of the world. We commit ourselves to spreading our love and our light from hand to hand like the candlelight in a darkened sanctuary on Christmas Eve. We hold out our light where darkness may obscure hope and share the promise of our dreams with the world this day and everyday.

Shanti, Paul

### WAYSIDE PULPIT

*He who has not  
Christmas in his  
heart will never  
find it under a tree.*

*Roy L. Smith*

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### MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

Tues 1-5  
Wed 12-2  
Thu 2-4



## RE NEWS-WAY COOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

December 1	Spirit Play & Rehearsal RE Team Meeting 12:15pm {Historical Room} Holiday Decorating
December 6	Fantastic Four Youth Group {Taunton} {Leave Church at 6:30pm-return 9:30pm} Open Mic 7pm {Tryworks}
December 7	Holiday Fair {Tis the season to be jolly...} {11-4}
December 8	Spirit Play Gingerbread House Building at Gifts to Give {Registration Required K-6} 1:00pm
December 12	AHA Made in New Bedford 5-7pm {Music Making Merriment}
December 15	Lessons & Carols Solstice Pageant Dress Rehearsal
December 22	Solstice/Christmas Pageant {10:00am}
December 24	Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm
December 29	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Songs to sing and what to wear for our Pageant on 12/22: 10:00am  
ALL CHILDREN ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN ON THAT DAY! A JOB FOR EVERYONE and no experience necessary...

Wardrobe: Angels, Sparkling Stars, Sun, Animals, Wiseguys!

Be creative and also know we will have extras available!

Here Comes the Sun {The Beatles}

Stars sing: "Twinkle, Twinkle"

Twinkle, twinkle, we're the stars,

Shining brightly from a far.

Follow us who ever you are.

Twinkle, twinkle, we're the stars!

Angels sing: People Get Ready {Curtis Mayfield}

People get ready, there's a baby comin'

We don't need no baggage just get on board

All ya need is faith, hear the baby comin'

Don't need no ticket, you just thank the lord...

*"Don't let schooling  
interfere with your  
education."*

*Mark Twain*

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

House and Grounds  
Richard Pline

Religious Services  
Karen Andersen

Membership  
Development

#### **Comm. Chair Needed**

Endowment  
Carlton Dasent

Soup Kitchen Coordinator  
Dave Thoen

Food Pantry  
Maggi Kerr Peirce

Thrift Shop  
Bill Bennett

Social Justice  
Wendy Wiggins

Women's Alliance  
Pam Sherman

Hospitality

#### **Comm. Chair Needed**

We wish everyone peace, joy and merry measures over the next few weeks as we embrace the season of giving and receiving. We are blessed to have the support of each other and know that each young person in this building and beyond is considered the most precious gift of all. Priceless! Happy Everything and cheers to a splendid 2013. Peace. Onward...

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **AHA! NIGHT**

Way Cool Sunday School  
December 12, 2013  
AHA Made in New Bedford  
5-7pm  
Music Making Merriment...

### **WOMEN'S ALLIANCE**

The Annual Christmas Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 10th at 11:30. Venue to be announced. Members will be notified soon.

### **CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

Our Annual Candlelight Service will be held at 7pm on Tuesday, December 24th. All are welcome and encouraged to join us for this beautiful worship service. If you are able, please bring a goodie to share at social hour immediately following the service.

### **THE GIVING TREE**

We will again include a Giving Tree as part of our holiday festivities. If you'd like to take a card from the Giving Tree, please find a gift that is appropriate for the child (most of the cards have very specific requests) and return the gift, unwrapped, as soon as possible, but no later than December 15th. We'll have a big wrapping party that week to festively wrap each child's gifts. Questions related to this project may be directed to Cecelia Weeks, chair of the Giving Tree committee, at 508-992-3713.

### **HOLIDAY FAIR WREATH MAKING NIGHT**

Wednesday, December 4th from 6:00pm -9:00pm in the Tryworks Auditorium! We'll be making Holiday Wreaths to sell at our Annual Holiday Fair on December 7th. Please join us!  
In order to make sure we have enough materials, please RSVP to Sylvia Daley at 978-340-4640 or email her at [sylviadaley3@gmail.com](mailto:sylviadaley3@gmail.com).

### **CALLING ALL BAKERS!**

Donations of baked goodies are needed for the always popular Bake Table at the Holiday Fair! Please bring in your baked goods for the table either before 11am on the day of the Fair, or to the office on Friday December 6th between the hours of 9am and 1pm.  
**THANK YOU!**

### **COATS FOR KIDS**

We will be supporting the Mayor's Youth Council & the YWCA once again to give away new or next-to-new coats for kids (and adults too) on Saturday, December 21st. Start looking through your closets for coats in great condition that you might like to donate. They will also accept hats, mittens & scarves, but no other clothing. Thanks for supporting those in need!

### **HYMNAL DRIVE**

We are still trying to reach our goal of 60 new hymnals. We have purchased 30 so far. Please keep the donations coming! If you have donated a hymnal and would like a bookplate with a dedication placed inside the cover, please call or email Linda in the office to let her know how you'd like the bookplate to read.  
Sincerely, Karen Andersen,  
Religious Services Committee  
Chair

### **FIRST FRIDAY OPEN MIC NIGHT: DECEMBER 6TH!**

On the First Friday of each month, from 7-10pm, we'll be having an Open Mic night in the Tryworks Auditorium. Please let ANYONE and EVERYONE know about this FUN, monthly event!

### **SPIRIT OF ART**

Spirit Of Art will meet every Tuesday from 9-11am, members and friends of the congregation are always welcome, please RSVP to Victoria Capon at [vruthcapon@gmail.com](mailto:vruthcapon@gmail.com) if you plan on joining us. Thanks!

## WORSHIP THEMES FOR THE YEAR

### Darkness into Light

December brings with it mixed feelings for some people. The holiday season highlights family commitments and history, stress about money and time, short dark days and cold weather. All of which can lead one to want to curl up and hide for a while. Unfortunately, (or fortunately, depending on ones view), curling up to hide is not something most of us can do.

This time of year is a time of transition. The sun reaches its lowest point and begins to rise again, bringing with it warmth and light. It can be a metaphor for our own lives and the challenges we face as human beings. Those challenges can sometimes bring pain and shame and anger and confusion. When we have the courage to face these challenges even if we face them at an angle, rather than head on, when we are able to bring a sense of vulnerability to these challenges, we can find healing and growth and the sun beings to shine again in our hearts and in our lives.

Darkness is powerful and at times can seem all consuming. And we know, just as we tell our children, there are no monsters in the dark, no one is hiding under the bed. The only thing under our bed is our memories, and fears born from those memories. This month marks the longest night. And as the nights grow longer, we have more time to see the stars, to enjoy them as the sparkle and twinkle and light up the sky. Stars to navigate by, stars to contemplate and wonder about, stars to light our way, even on the longest night. We are never completely lost- the light will always come if we seek support, draw courage and connect with each other.

The words from Blue Boat Home by Peter Mayer remind us we are not alone.

Sun my sail and moon my rudder as I ply the starry sea, leaning over the edge in wonder, casting questions into the deep. Drifting here with my ship's companions, all we kindred pilgrim souls, making our way by the lights of the heavens in our beautiful blue boat home.

We are all companions on the journey.

*Please remember that not everyone is joyful at this time of year. Some people have little or no family in the area, may be dealing with illness, have fallen on hard times, or have recently lost a loved one.*

*For many, the holidays are a reminder of a painful time.*

*Reach out to people in need if you can, but also give them some space if they'd rather not join in your celebrations.*



*Be kind.*

## CHURCH NEWS

### PARKING LOT DOOR

The keypad on the Parking Lot Door has reached the end of its life and is no longer functioning. (For those of you that thought we shut off your code...no...we wouldn't do that!) It may take a week (or possibly two) to get a new keypad put on the door. Please be patient. We're doing the best we can. If you are unable to get in, call the office at 508-994-9686 and leave a message with your callback number. All messages are forwarded and will be returned as soon as possible. Sorry for the inconvenience!

### PHOTO DIRECTORY

In an effort to help put names to faces, we will begin taking photos for a new directory this Sunday. After you've had your turkey, we invite you to take moment to stop at our photo booth. We will be taking photos for about three weeks and anticipate the directory in January. Thank you for taking the time to make this possible.

### LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE

A Leadership Roundtable will be held on Saturday, January 25 from

9am-2pm. Invitations will be sent out this month. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Paul.

### QUILT RAFFLE

The Quilt Group has, once again, created a gorgeous quilt to raffle off at our Holiday Fair!! The picture below doesn't even do it justice—you have to see it to appreciate how beautiful it really is! Tickets are available from any Quilt Group member or in the office. Raffle tickets cost \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Go ahead! Take a chance!

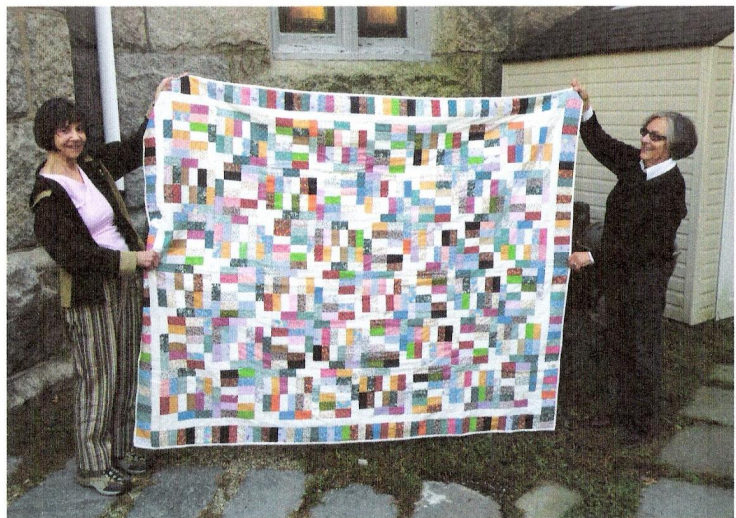
# QUILT RAFFLE

*Win this dramatic quilt*

*\$1.00 per chance  
6 for \$5.00*

*Raffle December 7, 2013  
at 3:30 pm  
at the Holiday Fair*

*First Unitarian Church  
71 Eighth Street  
New Bedford, MA*



# BIRTHDAYS



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

Pam Sherman 12/3 ~ Eleanor Carlson 12/10 ~ Dylan Braley 12/11

Emanuel Matias 12/13 ~ Arlo Braley 12/14

Everett Hoagland 12/18 ~ Coriander Laughery 12/22 ~ Dottie Heath 12/30



*Happy Holidays*

## CONTINUING EVENTS

**Mondays** at 5:30pm: Tai Chi — Meets in the Green Room. Free. No meetings on Monday holidays.

**Tuesdays** at 9am: Spirit of Art—meets in the Parish House. Free.

**First & Third Mondays of each month** at 7:00pm: Pride Café—Meets in the Parish House.

**Second Monday of month** at 7:30pm: Workshop That Reconnects—meets in Parish House.

**First Tuesday of the month** at 6:30pm. Social Justice Committee — Meets in the Sanctuary.

**Second Tuesday of the month** at 11:30am: Women's Alliance Meeting in the Parish House (unless otherwise stated). (No meeting in January, February, and March.)

**Second Tuesday of the month** at 6:00pm: Board of Trustees meeting. Meets in the Historic Room.

**Wednesdays** (September-December & February to May—weather permitting) at 9:30am: Quilting Group—Meets in the Parish House. Come and join the fun, even if you're not a quilter.

**First Friday of each month** at 7:00pm: Open Mic Night in Tryworks Auditorium

**Third Saturday and/or Sunday of the month:** Dinners for Eight.

### BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Lynn Whitney, President  
Judy Lund, Vice Pres.  
Niko Tarini  
Larry Jaquith  
Carlton Dasent  
Ron White  
Cora Peirce

**Clerk**—Richard Pline

**Treasurer**—Ned Lund

### First Unitarian Thrift

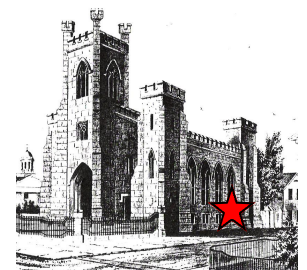
71 Eighth Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

hours:

Wednesdays 9:00am-1pm

Saturdays 10am-2pm

*"Come and find what you didn't know you needed!"*





# December 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>11:00am Worship Service (S)</p> <p>12:00pm Social Hour (P)</p> <p>12:15 RE Team Meeting (Gr)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:30 Tai Chi (D)</p> <p>7pm Pride Café (P)</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>9am Spirit of Art (P)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30am Quilt Group</p> <p>9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open</p> <p>6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)</p> <p><b>6-9pm Wreath Making Party</b></p>	<p>5</p> <p>7pm CUUPS Yule Workshop (P)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7pm First Friday Open Mic (T)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open</p> <p>11am-4pm <b>HOLIDAY FAIR</b></p>
<p>8</p> <p>11:00am Worship Service (S)</p> <p>12:00pm Social Hour (P)</p> <p>12:30TED Talk (Gr)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:30 Tai Chi (D)</p> <p>7:30pm Work That Reconnects Workshop (P)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am Spirit of Art (P)</p> <p>11:30am Women's Alliance Annual Holiday Luncheon (venue tba)</p> <p>6:30pm Board of Trustees Mtg (H)</p> <p>7pm GNBCChoral Society (P)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30am Quilt Group</p> <p>9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open</p> <p>6:30pm Sea Chan- tey Choir (Gr)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5-7pm AHA Night (T)</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open</p>
<p>15</p> <p>11:00am Lessons &amp; Carols Service (S)</p> <p>12:00pm Social Hour (P)</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>7pm Pride Café (P)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9am Spirit of Art (P)</p> <p>7pm GNBCChoral Society (P)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30am Quilt Group</p> <p>9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open</p> <p>6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7pm CUUPS Yule Potluck(P)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open</p> <p>11am-3pm Coats For Kids Drive</p> 
<p>22</p> <p>11:00am Holiday Pageant (S)</p> <p>12:00pm Social Hour (P)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:30 Tai Chi (D)</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>7pm Candle- light Christmas Eve Service (S)</b></p> 			<p>27</p> <p>5:00pm Wed- ding rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>for 28</p> <p>10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open</p> <p>4pm Wedding (S)</p>
<p>29</p> <p>11:00am Worship Service (S)</p> <p>2pm Private Party (T)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:30 Tai Chi (D)</p>	<p>31</p> 	<p>Jan 1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open</p>

**Green Room(Gr), Dining Room(D), Kitchen(K),  
Sanctuary(S), Parish House(P), Tryworks  
Auditorium(T), History Room(H),  
Ladies Parlor (LP), Office (O)**



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

NEWS AND VIEWS  
Volume LII, No. 12  
December 2013

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH  
IN NEW BEDFORD  
71 Eighth Street  
New Bedford, MA  
02740-6025  
Email: NBU718@aol.com  
Web: [www.uunewbedford.org](http://www.uunewbedford.org)  
Church Office  
508-994-9686  
Fax 508-994-9687

## WORSHIP SERVICES

*The Theme for December is Darkness Into Light*

*December brings with it mixed feelings for some people. The holiday season highlights family commitments and history, stress about money and time, short dark days and cold weather. All of which can lead one to want to curl up and hide for a while.*

*This time of year is a time of transition. The sun reaches its lowest point and begins to rise again, bringing with it warmth and light. It can be a metaphor for our own lives and the challenges we face as human beings. .*

### FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

December is all about the children. For this festive month, please bring in child-friendly foods, such as mac & cheese, pasta, crackers, lunchbox snack packs, etc. Let's show the kids how much we care.



### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The "News & Views" goes to print on the third or fourth Tuesday of each month. **The deadline to submit articles into the newsletter is the Friday before it goes to print.** All submissions are reviewed by the editor for content and grammar.  
**Next "News and Views": December 30, 2013**