



First Universalist Parish of Chester

WELCOME TO OUR STONE CHURCH IN CHESTER VERMONT

First Universalist Parish Newsletter

December 2019

December 1, First Universalist Parish Annual Meeting

December 21, Winter Solstice

December 24, Christmas Eve

December 25, Christmas Day

December 31, New Year's Eve

Church Events

Sunday Services begin at 10:00

December 1, 2019, Annual Congregational Meeting:

A Brief Service, Presentation and Approval of Annual Report, Treasurer's Report, Discussion of Proposed Budget for 2020, Approval of FY 2020 Budget, Election of Officers, Kevin Carson co-ordination.



December 8, , 2019 by Rev. Dr. Nancy Jay Crumbine:

December 8, 2019 - Stone Village Cookie Tour – 12 to 4



December 15, 2019 , by Lindsay Post: Celebrating Solstice

EVENING SERVICE AT 5 P.M.

For this Solstice service I'll be talking about darkness and light, literally and metaphorically. Sharing a few stories, I'll take us back through thousands of years of human relationship with these things.



December 22, 2019, by Buffy Boke: Traditional Christmas.

On this Sunday before Christmas, Buffy will lead a traditional service of lessons and carols and try to find that glimmer of hope in these difficult times. With some special music from Julane and Val and the Choir.

December 29, 2019 - NO SERVICE

**Tuesday 5:00, December 31, 2019 - New Year's Eve Vesper for Peace
featuring the Peace Choir**

PRINCIPLES IN ACTION – December - Heifer International

Heifer International works to end hunger and poverty in 21 countries around the world working with local farmers and business owners. Beginning with a seed investment of livestock or agriculture, followed by mentorship to help project participants build a business, and ultimately to gain access to supply chains and markets, families are able to earn a living income and continuously lift up their communities as they train the next generation of leaders.

Their community development model focuses on building social capital by increasing income and assets within farming families, improving their food security and nutrition, and protecting the environment - with women's empowerment and connected communities at the very center.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,

It's hard to believe this year is nearing its end. We were all very busy these past 11 months! I agree with Kevin Carson when he said in a recent sermon that some of us come to church each Sunday in order to take a little time to slow down, relax, be tranquil, or something to that effect. I know I certainly do, sometimes it's the only time I get! I am grateful for our Sundays together, to be able to listen to sermons delivered by our most expert ministers, singing by the choir and soothing music by our pianist and others. One morning set aside each week to be "in the now" can be a brief yet much needed respite from the myriad problems of the world.

While reflecting on this past year at First Universalist Parish, in preparation for the annual meeting I am awed by all we do. We work hard and take pride in keeping our church running smoothly, and the grounds beautiful. It is the people, our members, friends, and visitors who make up First Parish and I am grateful for all of you. I encourage you to attend this year's annual meeting Sunday, December 1st immediately following an abbreviated service that day, and I look forward to seeing you at our special services throughout the holiday season in December.

Peace to All,

Melody Board President

DECEMBER MUSIC NEWS



**Julane Deener
Music Director**

The First Universalist Parish Choir **rehearses most Tuesday nights at 6 p.m.** in the sanctuary. All singers are welcome to join us!

The choir is working hard getting ready for our December services! ***There will be special music all month.***

Several members of our **Parish Choir will be joining the choir at Springfield UU for their evening solstice service on Dec. 22nd.** The two churches are also collaborating for **Christmas Caroling at the Springfield Rehab Center** and have some other plans in the works for the New Year.

Special holiday services require special music! We're already starting to think about holiday services and the Peace Choir. If you like to sing but can't make it every week, the holiday season is a great time to join the choir without too much of a commitment. We'll have special music on the ***evening of December 15, for the Winter Solstice. December 22 is our morning Christmas service.*** And once again the Peace Choir will be singing for peace in the coming year at our ***New Year's Eve vesper service.*** Please contact Julane at 802-463-9719 if you are available to sing in any (or all) of these services. The Peace Choir is open to all singers from the community – we're an interfaith group singing for hope and peace. All are welcome – bring a friend!

Dec. 1: Annual Meeting – *Holly Jolly Christmas* (with a surprise!) Don't forget to wear your Christmas Sweaters to the Annual Meeting... There will be a prize for best outfit, awarded by the choir!

Dec. 8th: Soloist – Olivia Wright *Es ist ein Rose entsprungen*

Duet -*Carol for Advent*, by Julane and Olivia.

Dec. 15th – Solstice Evening Service – 5 p.m.

Ancient Mother

The Path You Walk Upon

Winter's Waking

Solstice

Sweet Radiant Mystery

Dec. 22 – Christmas Service: featuring Scott Wunderle on trumpet, Kathi Byam on

flute and Julane on violin (and perhaps more!)

On the Day Before Christmas and the Day Before That

Christmas Day in the Morning

Gloria!

Dec. 31- Tuesday – New Year's Eve Vesper for Peace, 5 p.m., featuring the Peace Choir

Grant Us Peace – Dona Nobis Pacem

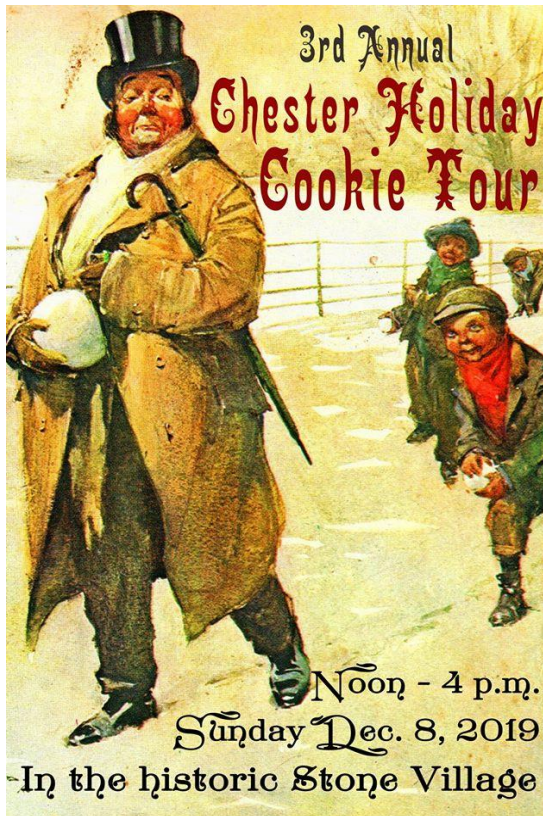
Sim Shalom

Bring Us Peace

Et in Terra Pax

Walk in Light

Sunday December 8. 12-4 - Art Show and Cookie Tour in Stone Village.



First Universalist Parish will participate in the **Annual Cookie Tour**. We will also have an **Art Exhibit** in the sanctuary the same day!

Visit historic homes, talk to interesting owners, meet neighbors, make new friends, and sample wonderful homemade cookies.

We are planning an Art Show/Sale at the First Universalist Parish (where we paint every Wednesday) Come and see some of the talented artists' work.

Passports for the Cookie Tour are \$10 each and are now available at the Southern Pie Cafe on the Green in Chester. Sales are limited so purchase yours now!



Big Woods Voices Concert on December 3 was enjoyed by everyone attending. Thank you, Will and your acapella group for a lovely musical afternoon.

First Universalist Parish of Chester
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Telephone: (802) 875-3257

Our updated Web Site - <http://www.chestervtuu.org/>

like us on Facebook!

Newsletter: firstparishebulletin@gmail.com

E-Mail address: firstuniversalistparishchester@gmail.com

Pastoral Counseling Contact Note

If you wish to speak to one of our ministers their contact information is listed below. Feel free to get in touch with them.

Nick Boke – nickboke@gmail.com

607)3391464

Kevin Carson – kmcason@aol.com

(401)744-5290(Cell)

(401) 383-0166

Nancy Jay Crumbine – nancy.j.crumbine@dartmouth.edu

(802)649-2430

Community Events

25th Annual "Pods for the Pulpit"

CRAFTS FAIR



2019

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 29 & 30

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

TRACY HALL, NORWICH, VERMONT

Benefiting UUCUV Outreach