

# THE COMMUNITARIAN

## COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH AT WHITE PLAINS

Sunday Services 10:15 am Religious Education 10:00 am Accessible to the Handicapped

December 2010



Community Unitarian Church  
468 Rosedale Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10605  
Founded 1909

The Rev. Carol A. Huston  
Minister

Lara K-J Campbell  
Director of Religious Education

Liliana Keith  
Church Administrator

Adam Kent  
Music Director

Lisa Meyer  
Choir Director

The Rev. Deb Morra  
Community Minister  
in Association with CUC

Susan Donham  
Ministerial Intern

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For more information  
about CUC:

[www.cucwp.org](http://www.cucwp.org)  
Email: [info@cucwp.org](mailto:info@cucwp.org)  
914.946.1660

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Communitarian Deadline for  
December Edition:  
**Sunday, December 12**

Submit information to  
Emily Economou, Editor  
[emily.economou@gmail.com](mailto:emily.economou@gmail.com)

### *Minister's Moment...*

What were they thinking, putting all these holidays into December? It seems like someone was shaking the basket of the year and everything fell down to the 12<sup>th</sup> month. Hanukkah, Solstice, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Thanksgiving (just before), New Years (just after). And then there's World AIDS Day (December 1), Human Rights Day (December 10) – if you want to recognize those two, you have to compete for attention.

And I want to recognize **World AIDS Day**: Since 2004, I have been a facilitator of the Annual World AIDS Day event for Westchester, which will be held this year on the campus of Good Counsel School at 7 p.m., December 1. There will be a candle-light vigil, drumming, and displays from local grass-roots organizations that work for improved health and livelihood around the world. If you can't attend that event, you can honor **Human Rights Day** by coming to CUC on Saturday afternoon, December 11, for an Amnesty International Write-a-thon, sending letters on behalf of political prisoners. Both would offer a change of pace from the other holidays.

But I love those other holidays. I already have my **Hanukkah** candles for this year, and I look forward to taking pictures of my cat watching them burn down. We will recognize **Kwanzaa** with two services – in our fireside area on Sunday, December 26, and with the wider community at Slater Center on Wednesday, December 29. Kwanzaa was developed in the 1960s as an African American holiday, but others can be invited in as well, and I think we as UUs have a particular role in relation to Kwanzaa. There was a grant from a black UU affiliated group to Maulana Karenga around the time that he was developing Kwanzaa, which remains more an ethical holiday than a religious one, based on the principles attached to each of the seven days.

And **Christmas**. This will be my last Christmas season at CUC. I love doing the Christmas Eve service, and this year there are two other occasions that I want to share with you. The first is a reading of **Dickens's Christmas Carol** in the fireside area at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 19. Hollis will do most of the reading of this ghost story, the most famous of a long tradition of Christmas ghost stories. And then Hollis and I will host one last **Boxing Day** open house at the parsonage, from noon- 4 p.m. on December 26. Boxing Day has nothing to do with combat in a ring – it refers to an English custom of giving boxes to people on that day after the holiday, boxes presumably filled with something. One latter-day custom of Boxing Day is sharing the leftovers from the Christmas meal. Feel free to bring those leftovers when you come to the party.

Whew. So I will be over-functioning this month. But I will also be offering 24/6 pins to all of us who need them, even more at this time of the year.

– *Rev. Carol*

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For latest news and updates go to our website at [www.cucwp.org](http://www.cucwp.org).  
To stop receiving a hardcopy of this newsletter and to start receiving email announcements instead,  
please send an email to [admin@cucwp.org](mailto:admin@cucwp.org).

## AMONG OURSELVES

### **Dear Friends...**

Rev. Carol had tipped me off about a special Coffee Hour on 9/26 to mark my twentieth anniversary as Music Director at CUC, but I had no idea of the outpouring of affection and generosity that lay in store for me. I'm very grateful to all of you for helping me celebrate this milestone and for having been so supportive of my work all these years. My growth as an artist is enhanced by the challenges of providing you with music each week, and my confidence as a performer is sustained by your belief in me. I thank you all for twenty wonderful years and hope to be making music with you for many years to come.

**Fondly, Adam Kent**

### **A Firewood Rack...**

Many thanks to Ted Kuczinski for designing and building the firewood rack behind the Sanctuary. It looks great and is solid and should last a long time. This should make the handling of firewood very easy and keep the wood in good shape. By the way, if you like the stable stairs, the Memorial Garden, the new

stucco, the foundation shrubs, the ability to drive over the stream culvert, a roof not impaled by trees, the leak-free windows, the moss-free roof, the new floor tiles, the functioning plumbing, the working doors and many other things you might want to give Ted a word of thanks for those things as well.

**Bob Frommer & Grounds Committee**

### **Far Out!**

Rock & Roll!!! Everyone got into the spirit of the 60s for the CUC Goods & Services Auction. The outfits were creative, the food and music were great, and the bidding kept going. We raised at least \$27,000 net towards the CUC operating budget. All for the support of our programs, and all fun. We thank you for the commitment and enthusiasm!



**Emily Economou & The Auction Committee**

### **Scriptural Source**

Luke 2:1-20

### **Books**

*A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* by John Beuhrens and Rebecca Parker.

*Reason for Hope: A Spiritual Journey* by Jane Goodall and Phillip Berman.

*Apprenticed to Hope: A Sourcebook for Difficult Times*, by Julie Neraas.

*The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear*, edited by Paul Loeb.

*Letters to a Bullied Girl: Messages of Healing and Hope* by Olivia Gardner, Emily and Sarah Buder. (Youth – Adult)

### **Children's Books**

*Circles of Hope* by Karen Lynn Williams. A picture book about a child in Haiti.

*Howard Thurman's Great Hope* by Kai Jackson Issa. A picture biography about an important liberal theologian and leader in the Civil Rights movement. Ages 7-10.

*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis. The classic story of the way that a group of children brings hope back to Narnia. Ages 8 and on.

*Call Me Hope* by Gretchen Olsen. A story of a girl who turns around a hopeless home situation. Ages 9-12.

### **Movies**

*A Christmas Story* (1983) PG – mild language concerns.

*A Chorus Line* (1985) PG-13

*The Pursuit of Happiness* (2006) PG-13

*Billy Elliot* (2000) R

*The Shawshank Redemption* (1994) R

*Midnight Cowboy* (1969) R

**December**  
Resource List

**Hope**

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our UU faith traditions are rich in social justice and community action activities. The UUA and UUSC websites are full of action plans, study groups and ways to get involved: Immigration, global warming, LGBT rights, Standing on the Side of Love, relief for Pakistan and Haiti — our faith fosters much action. Here at CUC our work is varied and wide-spread. Our church supports SHORE, the Food Pantry, Midnight Run, the Coachman Center, the Bedford Correctional Facility, Furniture Sharehouse, Open Arms Men's Shelter and much more. Though significant in our impact, our direct involvement in many of these programs is minimal or limited in the number of congregants participating. Perhaps we can find a community need that speaks to many of us.

A group of enthusiastic CUC folk have met twice now to develop a project that the entire congregation could embrace. Time was spent with introductions and a survey of all places and programs the group's individuals are currently supporting. The list was extensive and impressive.

So what sort of project could CUC undertake that would fulfill a need in the community and be embraced by our congregation? The second meeting focused on the process of picking a project and surveying the congregation as to commitment. The need is starting to be explored by several people having initial talks with community not-for-profits to determine what their needs are. There will be much discussion before any ideas are developed enough to bring them to the congregation for support. Do we want a short term and a long term project? Can we partner with other UU congregations? How many facets will the project have: fund raising, advocacy, hands-on doing? How can our children and youth be involved? Please come on

**Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30**

and help move the project forward. More ideas are always welcomed. Please join us.

**Anne Majsak  
Board Chair**



## MINISTERIAL INTERN

In these days approaching the longest night of the year, we come to a series of holidays all connected with light and joy: Chanukah, the Solstice itself, Christmas, Kwanzaa. As the days grow shorter, we find a need to bring light into the world, to make it through the darkness and welcome the sun back as the days finally start to grow longer. The holidays, in their deepest meanings, speak to us of hope, of perseverance and new beginnings, the wonder of children and the strength of community. I love the joy in so much of the music of this time of year, connecting with family and friends, following ancient traditions and beginning new ones.

There is also a tremendous challenge in staying connected to what I love about the season, rather than losing those connections in the midst of holiday displays that started in October, the myriad of artificial lights, the blaring piped music, and the towering piles of things. I'm resolving (again) to help create a time when we may renew our sense of light from within, the love we share with others, and our joy in the simplest moment and in the complexity of the universe.

Recently, I find I also need to remind myself of the value of darkness, of the possibilities of stillness, rest, and regeneration. As the to-do list grows, along with the desire to do everything for everyone, and to do it well, I try to remind myself that exhaustion and anxiety do not help create the joy and peace I seek to share with others. A quieter hymn comes to mind, Dark of Winter (#55 in Singing the Living Tradition), "Dark of winter, soft and still, your quiet calm surround me. Let my thoughts go where they will, ease my mind profoundly... Darkness soothe my weary eyes, that I may see more clearly. When my heart with sorrow cries, comfort and caress me..." There is beauty in both the darkness of winter and the joy of the returning light.

May this season be one of joy and peace, hope and regeneration.

**Susan Donham  
Ministerial Intern**

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



There has been quite a bit of “buzz” in RE this fall about the issue of snack. What should be served? How can we arrange for healthier food? How much should we serve? (It is just before lunch after all.) Is it really even necessary for the kids to have snack?

The RE Council is currently working on some snack guidelines to address these questions. Meanwhile, the discussions got me thinking about it on a different level. Snack is very much a foundational aspect of any spiritual community.

It is one of the most ancient of ways for us to be together – by breaking bread. Something happens - - communities change; people come together when we share food. Look how wildly successful our brunches are. We relax, get to know each other, laugh and create memories. It is important for us to be together, to nurture our bodies as well as our spirits.

I encourage you all to think about what role snack played in the communities you were part of as a kid. What about the communities you are in now? My guess is that you, too, will have some significant snack memories of your own.

*Lara Campbell, DRE*

## YOUTH GROUP

The Youthies (10-12<sup>th</sup> grades) have been very active this fall in service to the CUC community! Back in September the Youth Group went apple picking and shared their bounty in the form of apple crisp the next week at coffee hour. October saw the spook-tacular Halloween Fun House where the younger children were tricked by the ghouls and treated to sweets and crafts. After the event, the youth decided to bring the excess cupcakes to those in need at the Open Arms Shelter in White Plains, making sure that they were well decorated in the Halloween spirit.

In addition to these special events, many of our youth have been assisting the children’s RE teachers throughout the year. We’ve had a fantastic fall with a small but mighty group of dedicated youth, who have impressed me with their creativity and generous spirits. I’m excited to see what winter will bring!

*Annie Gonzales,  
Youth Advisor*



## RE Council—

It was wonderful to have so many families at the November 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction to experience “flower power” and giving “peace a chance.” Proud to say that the RE Council for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in many years joined ranks with other committees and councils to submit a basket for the auction. What fun reminding our kids of some of the nobler principles and ideals of the 1960s and of their relevance today, too!

There are plenty of opportunities in December for families to celebrate the joyous holiday season. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, come make and hang festive decorations during our annual Deck the Halls event after the service and enjoy some goodies and ciders. The Christmas Eve Service is also something for families to enjoy together.

No matter what the activity, please join the RE Council, Lara, Rev Carol and myself in encouraging all CUCers—kids and grown-ups alike--to model and live the principles of kindness, sharing and togetherness that mark the December holiday season.

*Kate Colson, RE Council Chair*

## HOLIDAY EVENTS...



### *Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale Fundraiser*

**Dec 5th & 12th  
following service**

Gifts for Teachers, Friends, Family & Self  
Tell your Friends

Baked goods needed for Dec. 12th  
Contact Barbara Youngman for more information at  
bvy1948@yahoo.com.

### *Deck The Halls*

**Sunday, December 5  
following the service**

The holidays are fast approaching! Join us  
after the service and help decorate our  
sanctuary for the season. After a light brunch  
in Fellowship Hall, we'll make decorations  
and take them to the sanctuary.

## Opportunities for Giving

'Tis the season to give thanks for what we have been fortunate to receive and to give generously.

### **THE FOOD PANTRY**

The food pantry provides food to needy families year round and distributes special food for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Cash and food donations are accepted on an on-going basis. Checks may be sent to the Ecumenical Food Pantry, P.O. Box 2037, White Plains, NY 10602. We always have a bin in our lobby for donations of non-perishable food items. Or contact Vicky Van Wert at 937-4758.

### **TOYS FOR CHILDREN OF INMATES :**

**December 5 Deadline**

### **BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

Please buy an appropriate gift (for children of all ages) and bring it unwrapped on **December 5**. The children's wish list includes: Dolls (dolls of color appreciated); Infant & Toddler Toys and Clothing (size newborn and up); Board Games, Arts & Crafts kits and supplies, Teenage Items, sports equipment, etc. We may not accept: Clothing in blue, black, orange or gray; toy guns, knives, or any other items that promote violence.

### **TOILETRIES, SOCKS, MEN'S UNDERWEAR**

Items will be collected all through December. Underwear should be L or XL. The 6th/7th grade will help collect, sort and package the items for delivery to local shelters.

### **GIFTS FOR CHILDREN :**

**December 19 Deadline**

### **AT THE COACHMAN FAMILY CENTER IN WHITE PLAINS**

Information indicating age, gender and choice of gift for each child will be available December 5 and 12. Please sign up for a family group, buy appropriate gifts and bring the wrapped gifts to the church **by December 19**. Mark gifts clearly with room number and child's name.

### **THE MITTEN TREE:**

Mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for all ages and in all sizes will be collected until New Year's.





## HOLIDAY EVENTS...

Come and Celebrate



### KWANZAA

**Wednesday, December 29, 2010**  
2:00 p.m. sharp!

At the  
*Thomas H. Slater Center*  
*2 Fisher Court*  
*White Plains, New York 10601*

*Traditional Drumming by Kofi and Sankofa*  
*Dance and Drum Ensemble and More...*

Free Cultural Potluck Lunch Following  
the Program

Sponsored by:  
**The Community Unitarian Church of**  
**White Plains**

The Thomas H. Slater Center  
The White Plains Housing Authority  
The White Plains Housing Authority  
Residents Council  
The White Plains Youth Bureau

Music at CUC presents its 8th annual

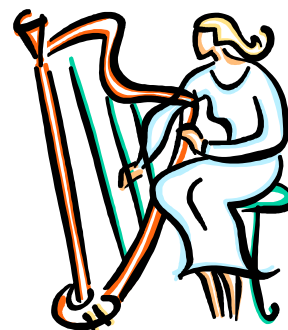
### Winter Choral Concert

**Saturday, December 18th at 7:00pm**

### A Ceremony Of Carols

The CUC Choir, conducted by Lisa N. Meyer and accompanied by Georgianna Pappas, performs Benjamin Britten's beloved A Ceremony of Carols for choir and harp. Additional seasonal favorites by Victoria, Guaraldi, and others.

Suggested donation: For each concert \$20 (\$10 for seniors and students). Subscription: All 5 concerts, \$80.



### PLAYREADING GROUP

All Readings are at CUC at 7:30 PM on the first Monday of the month.

**December 6** "Born Yesterday" by Garson Kanin, led by Heidi Anderson.



For more information contact Ken Kessler at [newrocken@aol.com](mailto:newrocken@aol.com) or call the church office.

## Poinsettias

In December the Focal Area of our sanctuary will again be decorated with poinsettias given in gratitude for happy occasions in our lives and in memory of loved ones. If you would like to contribute toward this beautiful display (plants are \$10 each), send your check to the church by **December 2**. Checks should be made out to the church with the memo "poinsettia". Please add a note indicating the person or occasion you want to honor or remember.

For more information, contact Church Administrator Liliana Keith at [admin@cucwp.org](mailto:admin@cucwp.org) or 946-1660 ext 2.



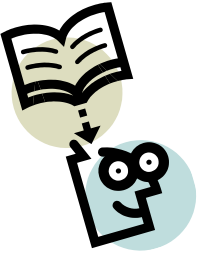


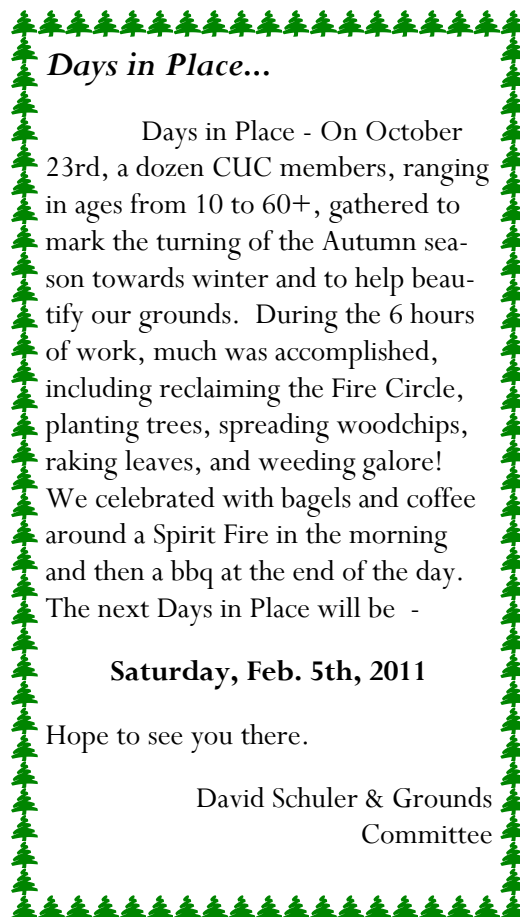
**COMING SOON!**  
A CONGREGATIONAL READ FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands by Margaret Ryan (Beacon Press, 2010)

- An important issue with spiritual challenges for each of us
- A unique opportunity for adults and youth to enter into meaningful dialogue

Books will be on sale at CUC starting in December (\$12). Discussion Groups will be organized for March. If you are interested in sharing a leadership role for this project, please contact Jane Dixon ([jrdixon@optonline.net](mailto:jrdixon@optonline.net)) /949-5919





**Days in Place...**

Days in Place - On October 23rd, a dozen CUC members, ranging in ages from 10 to 60+, gathered to mark the turning of the Autumn season towards winter and to help beautify our grounds. During the 6 hours of work, much was accomplished, including reclaiming the Fire Circle, planting trees, spreading woodchips, raking leaves, and weeding galore! We celebrated with bagels and coffee around a Spirit Fire in the morning and then a bbq at the end of the day. The next Days in Place will be -

**Saturday, Feb. 5th, 2011**

Hope to see you there.

David Schuler & Grounds Committee

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Immigration

Delegates at the 2010 General Assembly in Minneapolis, MN selected "**Immigration**" to be the 2010—2014 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA). The Study guide for Immigration as a Moral Issue was released and is now on the UUA website. There is a 6 week curriculum and resources that we can review and study as a group or as an individual at the following link

<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/immigration/studyguide/index.shtml>

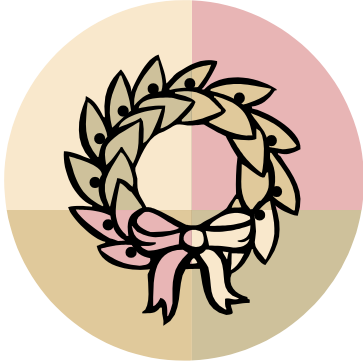
### UUA Bookstore and Beacon Press

Don't forget to check out these sites when searching for holiday gift ideas —Books, Jewelry and Holiday Note Cards on the UUA Website -UUA Bookstore and Beacon Press (offering a 20% discount for orders placed online by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>) and the Church of the Larger Fellowship gift shop [www.clf.uua.org/catalog](http://www.clf.uua.org/catalog).

- Denise Tomlinson, Denominational Affairs



COMMUNITY UNITARIAN CHURCH  
468 Rosedale Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10605



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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, write 'refused' across your address and return it unopened. No postage is required.

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## DECEMBER SERVICES 2010

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Services are led by the Rev. Carol Huston on Sundays at 10:15 AM unless noted otherwise.

DECEMBER 5

**"Jesus Was A Humanist"**

Hollis Huston preaching  
*The Choir will sing*

DECEMBER 12

**"A Buddhist and a UU look at Hope"**

Susan Jion Postal and Carol Huston  
*The Choir will sing*

DECEMBER 19

**A Christmas Pageant**

Lara Campbell and Susan Donham  
*The children will join us for the last part of the service*

DECEMBER 24

**Intergenerational Candle Lighting Service for Christmas Eve**

5:30 (Gathering Music begins at 5:00)  
*The Choir will sing*

DECEMBER 26

**Intergenerational Fireside Service for Kwanzaa**  
The principle of Umoja (Unity)

DECEMBER 29

**Community Kwanzaa Service**  
Slater Center, White Plains, 2 p.m.

JANUARY 2, 2011

**Intergenerational Fireside Service for New Years**  
The Past Behind, the Future Ahead

NOTE: The Christmas Eve plate offering goes 100% to three local food charities: The Ecumenical Food Pantry, White Plains Meals-on-Wheels, and The Lord's Pantry (a meals-on-wheels for Westchester households coping with AIDS).



# DECEMBER 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>28</b> 10:00a Special RE Sunday with Greenburgh Nature Center 10:15a Worship Service/Coffee	<b>29</b> 7-8:30 pm Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 7:30-9pm Social Action Meeting	<b>30</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30p	<b>1</b> <a href="#">Hanukkah Begins at Sundown</a> World AIDS Day	<b>2</b> 11:30a-1p Science & Spirituality	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson 10a-11a UU & You Theology
<b>5</b> 8:45a Choir 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship Service/coffee 11:45a-1p Spirit of Truth 11:15a-12:30p Holiday Craft Fair 11:30-1p Deck The Halls	<b>6</b> 7-8:30 pm Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 7:30p-9p Play Reading 7:30-9p Adult Coming of Age Class	<b>7</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30p	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Soup with the board of trustees 7:30-9 pm board of trustees meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson 10 am-12n, One Year To Live Class 12n-5p Amnesty International Write-a-thon at CUC
<b>12</b> 8:45a Choir 8:30a-9:45a Adult Coming of Age Class 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship/coffee 11:15a-12n Holiday Crafts Fair 11:30a-12:30 Newcomers Meeting 11:45a Welcome Com. <b>COMMUNITARIAN DEADLINE</b>	<b>13</b> 7-8:30 PM Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish	<b>14</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30p	<b>15</b> 12:30p-3p White Plains Religious Leaders Lunch 7:30p-9p RE Council 7:30-9 pm Worship Associates Mtg	<b>16</b> 10:00a Folding Party 11:30a-1p Science & Spirituality	<b>17</b> 6p-9p Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 9:00a-10:00a Reading Emerson 10a-11a UU & You Theology <b>7p-9p Choir Winter Concert</b> 
<b>19</b> 10:00a Religious Ed 10:15a Worship/coffee 11:45a Fun Facts with Adam Kent 4p-6p Reading Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" at fireside area	<b>20</b> 7-8:30 PM Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish 8p-9:30p Finance Committee	<b>21</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30p	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4p-5p Choir Rehearsal 5:30p-7p Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <b>Offices Closed</b>
<b>26</b> Intergenerational Service 10:15 am Worship/coffee 12n-4p Boxing Day Celebration at Parsonage	<b>27</b> 7-8:30 PM Tai Chi 7:30-9pm Spanish	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Kwanzaa Celebration at Slater Center 2:00 pm</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Offices Closed</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Offices Closed</b>	<b>1</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> <b>Offices Closed</b>