

Pots of Soup and Pots of Gold!

Dearest Ones,

I am writing with a personal invitation to each one of you to join in the Soup Potluck this coming **Saturday, December 1st at 6:00 p.m.** The theme for the annual every member and friend canvass this year is to fill the church's coffers with pots of gold! The goal is to reach \$20,000 in pledges for the year 2013. As we get closer to our goal, we'll color in the rainbow and fill up the big pot with gold that is on display in the church's dining room. Remember that for every dollar we raise in pledges, that is one less dollar that will be taken out of the endowment!

The Soup Potluck is a celebration of the many ways in which we all come together to support this congregation. You will have an opportunity to discreetly place your pledge and talent cards in boxes and then watch as the goal grows closer! Come out and join in the fun – bring a pot of soup, a salad, bread, or a dessert and enjoy an evening of camaraderie with others who care as much about this congregation as you do!

I hope to see YOU there!
In faith,
Rev. Michelle



CHURCH CALENDAR

Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012

6:00 p.m. ~ Pot Luck Pledge Supper
Church dining Room

Sunday, Dec. 2, 2012

10:00 a.m. ~ "Birthing Change": On this first Sunday in Advent, reflections on the role of change in the history of the church. Rev. Michelle

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Planting Seeds

Friday, Dec. 7, 2012

7:00 p.m. Branch Alliance Meeting
Dr. Eric Chivian "Global Environmental Threats: Why They are Hard to See and How Physicians Can Help"

Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012

10:00 a.m. ~ Pulpit Exchange The Rev. Joshua Pawelek will be preaching in Petersham while Rev. Michelle preaches at the Unitarian Universalist Society: East in Manchester CT. Rev. Pawelek is a dynamic preacher and has been invited to preach at General Assembly in the past. Please come out to worship and give him a great welcome to Petersham!

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Planting Seeds

Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012

10:00 a.m. "Reflections on Listening: the Beginning of a Vision": This service will focus on the role our recent listening circles hold in the process of building a vision for the future of this congregation. Written notes from the listening circles will be available. Rev. Michelle

Sunday, Dec. 23, 2012

10:00 a.m. Peace and Social Action

Monday, Dec. 24, 2012

7:00 p.m. ~ Traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service, with Rev. Michelle

Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012

2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Interpreting the Bible in the Davis Memorial.

Sunday, Dec. 30, 2012

10:00 a.m. ~ Informal worship and potluck brunch in the dining room with Rev. Michelle

Sundays, 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.

Silent meditation in the Davis Memorial. Please note new time.

Choir – We now have a choir! The choir meets at 8:45 a.m. on every 3rd Sunday to rehearse before the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Please come join us!

Adult RE Class – "Interpreting the Bible"

– As the now infamous Texas politician's quote about the Bible: "If the King's English was good enough for Jesus, it is good enough for me." aptly demonstrates, truly understanding the Bible requires more than a surface reading of an English translation. This class will focus on historical-critical methods of reading the text, coming first to an understanding of the importance of ancient oral culture, the development of the first alphabet, the historical/theoretical origins of the ancient Israelites, the manner in which the Bible was written and who wrote it, and the importance of translation theory.

This class will meet monthly on Thursday at both 2:30 p.m. and 6:30

p.m. Dates: December 27th, January 24th. Please let Rev. Michelle know if you are interested in attending.

Planting Seeds is Back!

An ongoing workshop for children based on the "Planting Seeds" curriculum by Thich Nhat Hanh began October 7th. The program invites children ages 5-11 to explore and experience mindfulness, meditation, and movement practices for themselves under the guidance of Christine Word, Jody Bird, and Jeanneane Pugliese. They meet in the Davis Memorial on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. The program is free and open to all children on a drop-in basis.

Fall

December 2, 9

Winter

January 13, 20, 27
February 3, 10, 24
March 3, 10, 17

Spring

April 28
May 5, 12, 19, 26
June 2, 9, 16, 23

Notes from the Parish Committee

The Parish Committee has been busy. We met with the Buildings & Grounds Committee to discuss needed repairs to the church's 3 buildings (the church building, the Davis Memorial, and the Parsonage). We will be touring the 3 buildings in December. Some critical repairs have already been scheduled. We met with the Finance Committee to review the status of our UUA endowment and the CDs we currently hold. We are

also in the process of developing an information security plan to safeguard personal information that is entrusted to the church.

We are having a soup supper Dec. 1st to celebrate the pledge drive. We will have a box to put your pledge card in and a box for your time and talents card. We hope to have a successful pledge drive and to get some creative ideas for ways people would like to minister to the church.

We are planning a game day for Saturday January 19th from 1 to 3 pm in the Davis Memorial. If you have a favorite game, please bring it. We will have games available. It should be a fun and relaxing way to spend a Saturday afternoon. We are also planning a coffee house. The dates and details for the coffee house will be coming soon. We wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season.

Penny Blum
Parish Committee Chair

The Congregation's Developmental Goals:

- **To increase attendance and membership with a diversity of ages**
- **To foster a spirit of reconciliation among all members and friends of the congregation**
- **To provide multigenerational experiences through worship, programs, and activities, sharing our liberal religious traditions and values**

A reminder to those who use the church facilities to make sure that the doors are closed tightly and locked when you leave.



**YOGA WITH LINDA
December 2012**

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Yoga classes

Dec. 4, 6, 11, & 13

Chair Yoga: Dec. 5 & 12

**No classes for the remainder
of December**

\$5 per class

For more information, contact Linda at:

lckabo@verizon.net

978-434-1598

Petersham Branch Alliance

The Petersham Branch Alliance is selling raffle tickets to benefit the Alliance Scholarship Program again. 1st prize is 100 gal of oil, donated by Terry Oil Express, 2nd & 3rd prizes are a hand knit sweater by Anne Perkins and a \$50 gift certificate to Picasso's. Tickets are \$2 per ticket and \$5 for 3 tickets. The drawing will be Dec 7th at the Alliance meeting.

**Petersham Branch Alliance,
Petersham Local Food Group, &
Petersham Energy Committee
present:**

A Talk by Dr. Eric Chivian

**Global Environmental Threats:
Why They Are Hard to See and How
Physicians Can Help**

Friday, Dec. 7, 2012

7:00 p.m.

**First Congregational Parish Unitarian
Petersham**

Newsletter

Material for the newsletter may be emailed to the firstparishnt@verizon.net, or can be placed in the wall file outside the Church office. Please make a note stating that the item is for the newsletter, or you can mail your item to: First Congregational Parish, News Team, P.O. Box 305, Petersham, MA 01366.

Our church newsletter is edited and mailed by volunteers. We are always happy and grateful to receive contributions towards the expenses of paper, printing and mailing, as well as general news and news of families.

Thank You,
The Newsletter Team,
Kay Berry
Don Eaton
Robert Hall
Kathy Ballou ~ Editor

We're on **Facebook!** "Like" us at:
First Congregational Parish, Unitarian in
Petersham.