



THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Hopedale Unitarian Parish's
Monthly Newsletter

December 2015

Vol. I, No. 5

From the Minister

The Hope of the Advent Conspiracy

The first smooth stone of religious liberalism, one of the foundational ideas all religious liberals hold in common is that revelation is not sealed. No one book, one story, one prophet has said it all once and for all. There is always more to learn, more to discover, more to imagine as possible. This is a cause for hope.

Human behavior and habits are hard to break. Change is difficult for all of us. It is easier to act our way into a new way of thinking than it is to think our way into new patterns of behavior. Therefore, this Christmas season, this season of hope, I am challenging all of us to consciously change the way we behave. I'm asking you to do something about the crazy Christmas season frenzy of buying and shopping. Every year many of us lament the commercialism and consumerism of Christmas, but this year let's do something about it. We can't change the behavior of the culture, but we can change our own individual behavior.

So this year during Advent let's conspire with each other and others around the world to do Christmas and its season differently. I challenge us as individuals and as a congregation to become part of The Advent Conspiracy. The Advent Conspiracy is a movement of individuals who pledge to drop out of the commercialism and consumerism of Christmas and take up the four tenets of the Conspiracy:



Hopedale Unitarian Parish
Come as you are - All are welcome

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www.hopedaleunitarian.org

hopedaleunitarian@verizon.net

Parish Minister: Rev. Tony Lorenzen

Congregational Administrator: Valerie Clement

Director of Religious Education: Kelly Sarazen

Music Ministry: Carol Devendorf, Organist and Choir Director

Junior Choir Director: Deanna Mustachio

Treasurer: Frederick Oldfield III

Collector: Kathleen Schleper

Sexton: Al Gross

Bell Ringer: Frederick Oldfield III

Find us on  follow us on  and watch us on
Hopedale Cable Channel 8 (Comcast) & Channel 29
(Verizon) Thursdays and Sundays at 12 noon and 7 pm



Certified Green Sanctuary

1. Spend Less - Try to cut your spending in half this Christmas season. Make gifts, bake things, create art, write a song, make a video. When you do spend money, try to buy locally from craftspeople and small business owners thus keeping money in circulation in the local economy instead of contributing to the corporate profits of retailers who underpay their workers and don't provide benefits such as health insurance.
2. Give More - Give more of yourself and your time. Intentionally spend time with family and friends playing games, sharing meals, or making gifts instead of going to the mall or the store to do Christmas shopping. The greatest gifts we can give each other truly can't be bought in a store. Give more of the gifts that really matter, your presence, your time, and your attention to those you love.
3. Love All - Take some of the money you didn't spend and donate to worthy causes, such as refugee resettlement or clean drinking water initiatives or a homeless shelter. Spread some love beyond your family and friends. Intentionally make a new friend, someone who is different from you. Attend community events where there are people who don't look like you. Learn a language so that you can speak with your neighbors who might be new to English.

4. Worship Fully - The people who started Advent Conspiracy were Christians so for them this means praying and going to church, and doing it not out of habit, but with intention and awareness. Whatever your own spiritual practices are, such as meditation or yoga or walking or journaling or social justice activism or community service, pledge to recommit to them. Put them at the center of your life again, not on the margins where you get around to them if you have time.

This year join me in the Advent Conspiracy. Try to cut your holiday spending in half this year and pledge to donate half of what you save to Hopedale Unitarian Parish and the church will donate it to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Refugee Aid Fund <http://www.uusc.org/updates/uusc-refugee-response>. After all, Christmas is the story of a family of refugees who were turned away when they asked for room at the inn.

Ten years ago the members of the Unitarian Universalist congregation in Rochester N.Y, were challenged by their ministers to cut Christmas spending in half and donate it to charity. They raised \$64,000.00! I wonder how much we could raise if we all conspired together?
<https://youtu.be/jtyA5bKvCIU>

Blessings, Rev. Tony

Resources for Hope

ONLINE

Rev. Hank's Punk Advent Calendar - a Gen. X UU Minister offers daily tidbits for reflection from the world of popular culture and punk rock that share themes with the Advent-Christmas season.

<https://www.facebook.com/Rev-Hanks-Punk-Advent-Calendar-171673469520384/?fref=ts>

Advent Conspiracy - www.adventconspiracy.org

UU Advent and Winter Holiday Resource/Link List - <https://creatingspaceforthesoul.wordpress.com/2013/12/01/uu-advent-resources/>

A UU family Advent Wreath Ritual for the home - <https://sites.google.com/site/firstuuwilmcyre/Home/families/uu-advent-ritual>

Christmas and Advent Readings and Prayers and Activities - <http://sunflowerchalice.com/resources/christmas-and-advent-resources/>

The Official Kwanza Website - <http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/index.shtml>

Hanukkah - A Primer for Non-Jews - http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lisa-page-rosenberg/hannukah-oh-channukah-a-h_b_6289922.html

Laundry Love gives hope to people making difficult choices between spending money on washing the clothes and paying rent or buying food. <http://laundrylove.org>

In Print

"Christmas is Not Your Birthday" by Michael Slaughter - <http://www.amazon.com/Christmas-Not-Your-Birthday-Experience/dp/1426727356>

For Children:

The Winter Solstice by Ellen Jackson - <http://www.amazon.com/Christmas-Not-Your-Birthday-Experience/dp/1426727356>

The Shortest Day - <http://www.amazon.com/The-Shortest-Day-Celebrating-Solstice/dp/0525469680>
Menorah in the Night Sky: A Miracle of Chanukah by [Jacques J. M. Shore](http://www.amazon.com/Chanukah-in-the-Night-Sky-A-Miracle-of-Chanukah-by-Jacques-J-M-Shore/dp/0525469680)

December Worship at Hopedale Unitarian Parish

Dec. 6 - Rev. Tony reflects on the Hanukkah story and the fifth smooth stone of religious liberalism, that teaches we have enough divine and human resources to justify hope, even in times of deep darkness and terror.

Dec. 13 - An intergenerational Christmas Pageant, "Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown". Yes - based on the famous Peanuts animated television special.

Dec. 20 - An intergenerational celebration of the Winter Solstice in poetry, prose, and song. Rev. Tony reflects on finding light in the darkness.

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 - Two services at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. The 4 pm service will be an intergenerational program with a Christmas Carol Sing-Along prelude and a story for children. The 7 p.m. will be our traditional candlelight service. Both services will end with the singing of Silent Night and the lighting of candles. Rev. Tony will share a Russian folk tale about Christmas and reflect on how each of us is a holy child.

Dec. 29 - Tony Smith of A New Start will reflect on the difficulties of men starting over after prison and what can offer them a New Hope.



**FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE
December 2015**

- December 6** Host : Alice Jacobson
Kitchen Support - Tom Jacobson
- December 13** Host: Renee DeWolf
Kitchen Support - Staci & Steve Luca
- December 20** Host: Michele Alves
Kitchen Support Tony & Michele Alves
- December 27** Host: Jody Buck
Kitchen Support - Tony & Michele Alves



**Santa is Coming to
Hopedale Unitarian Parish
Sunday, December 13**

This year, the children will have a chance to share their wish list with Santa and receive a candy cane. Parents can take this opportunity to snap a photo as well. The elves are very busy this year and will **not be bringing** presents. The little ones will have to wait for Christmas.

To welcome Santa, the fellowship host along with Rita Earl and Fred Oldfield have planned a special coffee hour. We hope you can join us to welcome Santa back to HUP!



Mindfulness Practice Group

Continues to meet every other Sunday continuing on 12/6 and 12/20 from 3:00-4:30 PM in Parish Hall
Walking Mindful in the Parklands meet up options Monday and Friday mornings 8-9 AM. Meet at the Bath House at Hopedale Pond.
For more information contact Michele Alves via email at mlareaualves@gmail.com



Game Night! Friday, Dec. 11 @ 7 pm
Come play fantasy games such as Magic the Gathering and Dungeons & Dragons. **All are welcome!** Children under 12 must bring an adult with them. Please contact Tony Alves tonyhopedale@gmail.com with any questions.



FLOWERS & USHERS

December 6

WREATHS AND GARLAND: Given by Mr. William B. Gannett in loving memory of his wife, Nancy F. Gannett
Ushers: Rita and Marquis Earl

December 13

POINTSETTAS: Given by Mr. William B. Gannett in memory of loved ones
Ushers: Alice Jacobson and Peg Theriault

December 20

Flowers: OPEN
Ushers: Fred Oldfield and Dona Neely

December 24

POINTSETTAS, WREATHS AND GARLAND: Given by Mr. William B. Gannett
Ushers (4 pm Service):
Ushers (7 pm Service): John Devendorf, Tony Alves, Fred Oldfield, Kern Buck

December 27

Flowers & Ushers - OPEN

Ushers are needed for the 4pm Christmas Eve Service and the December 27 service. Please contact Alice Jacobson if you are able to volunteer. (alicejacobson@comcast.net)

If you would like to give flowers on Dec. 20 or 27, please contact Marge Horton 508-473-3074



**Hopedale's Winterfest & Tree Lighting
Saturday, December 5**

In conjunction with the Hopedale Winterfest, Hopedale Unitarian Parish will be welcoming visitors for Cocoa, Cookies and Rainbow Conversation. In addition tours of the sanctuary and bell tower from 4-6 PM.



WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Come join the Welcoming Congregation on Sunday, December 6 at 7 PM to discuss the second Workshop, entitled "What We Know and How We Learned It", facilitated by Marcia Matthews and Chris Grilly. Light refreshments will be provided by the Welcoming Congregation Committee, we hope to see you there!

Upcoming Calendar of Events

December 6 at 7 PM - Welcoming Congregation workshop - What We Know and How We Learned It - Facilitated by Chris Grilly & Marcia Matthews.

January 10 - (after Sunday Service, soup and sandwiches provided) - Welcoming Congregation Workshop - a. The Common Elements of Oppression – Alice Jacobsen as secondary leadership

January 15 and 16 at 10:00 AM - Book club discussion of Queer History of the United States with Alice Jacobsen and Tony Lorenzen

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit all items for the December newsletter to Valerie in the church office by

Monday, December 28

Service Projects @ HUP

First and Third Thursdays

Beginning in December, I am inviting everyone in the congregation to participate in two monthly service projects together: Laundry Love and Community Meal.

Laundry Love - The first Thursday of each month, a team from HUP will go to Double Bubble Laundromat on Rt. 109 in Milford, near the Papa Gino's. We will provide laundry soap and fabric softener and money for the washers and driers. We will pay for the laundromat for everyone who comes in to use the machines. We will start at 5 pm and stay until 9. People may volunteer for an hour or stay the entire time. Please sign up by contacting Rev. Tony at revtonyuu@gmail.com or using the sign-up sheet at the entrance to the church.

Community Meal - Community meals for those who are hungry are offered on a regular schedule at Trinity Episcopal Church and the Unitarian Universalist Church in Milford. People are hungry every day, but currently there are not enough volunteers to offer meals every day. We can help by adding another meal to the monthly calendar. I am inviting all of us to make the third Thursday of the month a day when we go as a parish community to prepare, serve, and dine with our neighbors in Milford. This is an all hands on deck call. Let's think of it as another coffee hour we can enjoy each month, not only with each other, but with our neighbors. Hopedale Unitarian Parish provides outstanding hospitality after church each Sunday, let's make that happen together each third Thursday night of the month. See this link for the current community meal schedule in Milford:

http://trinitychurchmilford.org/community_dinner.html

Please sign up to help by contacting Rev. Tony at revtonyuu@gmail.com or using the sign-up sheet at the entrance to the church.

MLK DAY of Service and The Power of ONE

This year the churches and schools of Hopedale will celebrate the MLK Holiday by organizing community participation in a day of community service. We will take part in an ongoing national effort to make the MLK Holiday a Day of Community Service. Make it day on not a day off this year. Sign up to volunteer by pickup a volunteer form at the church office or emailing Rev. Tony at revtonyuu@gmail.com. Volunteers will gather at Sacred Heart Catholic Church for check-in registration at noon and be sent off to volunteer at non-profits or educational institutions from 1-4 pm. The day will conclude with a community supper at Sacred Heart at 5 pm, followed by the presentation of the annual POWER of ONE award at 6 pm in the Sacred Heart sanctuary.



Little Red Wagon Collection:

The Social Action Committee will be collecting items for the Daily Bread Food Pantry **Sunday, December 20**. Donations of non-perishable food, toiletries, or baby items are welcome. Thank you!



The Chosen Child Program

For those participating in the Chosen Child Program this year, please bring **UNWRAPPED** gifts to the Parish Hall no later than **December 13**, so we may deliver them in time for the holidays.

If you have any questions please call Kate Correa at (508) 473-4731 Thank you for helping to support this charitable project.



HOLIDAY GIFT COLLECTION SPONSORED BY THE

FRIENDS OF THE MENTALLY ILL

The annual collection for gifts for the Friends of the Mentally Ill concludes on **December 6**. Please place donations in the marked box located in the parish hall. This program provides gifts to more than 800 patients at Taunton, Worcester and Westborough State Hospitals as well as many mentally ill people living in the community. Some suggested gift items may be found on the bulletin board.

Summer 2016 Trip to Transylvania Planned

Are you interested? Rev. Tony is! We are organizing a summer pilgrimage trip to Transylvania to meet Rev. Noémi, her family, her congregation and her village. Plus see more of Transylvania while we are there. Ann Gary will lead the trip. Probable dates: July 1-9. Probably cost: Airfare PLUS about \$700 per person. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board. Contact the office if you are interested! Or email Ann at annkgary@gmail.com

Rev. Tony will lead a group on a pilgrimage to Csekefalva in July 2016. This will be part of a Partner Church Council Trip which will hopefully include visits to other partner churches along with members of the UU churches here that work with them. We will be working to try to raise money and obtain grants to make it as affordable as possible for those who would like to go.



Hello Hopedale

As we enter into a very busy time of year for all us both as a church community and personally in our lives away from church I want us all to take the time to remember what is truly important about this time of year. That might differ from person to person but for most of us it includes spending time with family, taking time to reflect on what we are thankful for, appreciating what we have and hopefully giving back to our communities. Here at Hopedale we have three great opportunities were you can give back to our community.

1. Operation Turkey Sandwich
<https://www.facebook.com/events/899980253426365/>
2. Chosen Child – there are names posted outside of the RE classrooms in our Parish Hall
3. Laundry Love <http://laundrylove.org/the-story> join us at the EZ Laundromat <http://www.theezlaundromat.com/> in Milford the 3rd Wednesday of the month 5-9pm

Above all please take time for yourself, join Michele for one of her meditation groups and learn or relearn how to center yourself. Take an evening walk in the rain, leave the phone at home and just listen and breathe.

A few people have commented on the number of multigenerational services we have been having. Most people seem to be enjoying them and really the only bad thing I've heard about them is the kids miss going to class, which is so very nice to hear. When Tony and I met this summer to start planning the year it was very intentional on our part to have 2 multigenerational services a month. Some months like November seem to have more that is because of our joint service with the Union Church and the Thanksgiving holiday weekend taking away from some of our class time. The reason this was so intentional is that we were testing the waters for a future conversation that we are going to start having with you all. We are looking into the idea of every service being multigenerational with all RE time happening after service. This would be all RE, adult, children, multigenerational. The idea is that we can all worship together and explore together, strengthening our community and our bond with each other and our faith.

This is just the beginning of the conversation and Tony and I welcome any and all feedback from you. Again this is just the beginning of a conversation, nothing is set in stone.

Have a wonderful, wonder filled month (to help with that here is a Random Acts of Kindness Advent Calendar for your family)



HOPEDALE UNITARIAN PARISH

Random Acts of Christmas Kindness Advent Calendar

Random Acts of Christmas Kindness 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Give a compliment to a friend.	2 Tape change to a vending machine.	3 Make a card for a soldier.	4 Pick up litter.	5 Take coffee to your teacher.
6 Send a paper hug to someone you love.	7 Tell silly jokes to make someone laugh.	8 Give someone a hug coupon.	9 Donate a book to the library or hospital.	10 Leave a happy note for someone to find.	11 Do yard work for a neighbor.	12 Donate toys to your favorite charity.
13 Candy cane bomb a parking lot.	14 Call a faraway friend or relative to say hello.	15 Make a thank you for your librarian.	16 Do a chore for someone in your family.	17 Donate food to your local food pantry.	18 Leave a popcorn surprise in a DVD rental machine.	19 Smile at everyone you see today.
20 Take supplies to the animal shelter.	21 Pay for a stranger's coffee.	22 Give treats to the mail carrier.	23 Feed the birds.	24 Take cookies to the fire station.	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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countdown to
Christmas ever!

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Kelly



Free Movie Night!

Friday, December 4 – 6:00pm
(Doors open at 5:30PM)

Movie to be announced.

Concessions will be sold, but you may bring dinner/snacks of your own.

Parish Board: Kern Buck, Chair, Judy Oldfield, Kate Correa, Mark Dewolf, Patrick Giles, Tina Mustachio

Ministry of:

Finance & Investments: Tony Alves, Chair, Marge Horton, Kathleen Schleper, Fred Oldfield, Tina Mustachio, Renee DeWolf

Nominating: Tony Alves, Chair, Rita Earl, Fred Oldfield

Outreach & Engagement: Jody Buck, Chair, Tony Alves, Renee Dewolf, Alice Jacobson, Ben Spear

Partnership: Ann Gary, Chair, Tony Alves, Carol Devendorf

Visiting: Sharyn Johnson, Peg Theriault, Tina Perry

Religious Education: John Martin, Chair, Kate Correa, Renee Dewolf, Rita Earl

Worship: Jody Buck, Karen Gehm, Chris Hunt, Fred Oldfield, Rita Earl, Tina Mustachio

Building & Facilities: Marcia Matthews, Michele Alves, Tony Alves, Randy Carbo

Gardens & Grounds: Marcia Matthews, Michele Alves, Maryhelen Hibben, Chris Grilly, Patrick Giles

Caring Connection: Alice Jacobson, Mona Gross, Laura Aldrich

Music: Carol Devendorf, Glen Flodin, Peg Theriault, Karen Gehm, Maryhelen Hibben

Scholarship: Bill Gannett, Kathy Haynes, Mark Dewolf, Pat Giles

Historical: Fred Oldfield, Janet Grant, Sandy Farrer

Social Action: Becky Chan, Michele Alves, Kathleen Schleper, Dona Neely, Carol Devendorf, Staci Luca

Kitchen/Hospitality: Tony Alves, Tom Jacobson, Michele Alves, Alice Jacobson, Christopher Grilly

Our minister is an ex-officio member of all committees

Alliance (members at large): Marjorie Horton, Betty Flodin, Paula Touhey

Choir: Rob Burke, Glen Flodin, Karen Gehm, Janet Grant, Kirsten McCandless, Judy Michna, Judith Oldfield, Deanna Mustachio, Betty Flodin, Hannah McCandless, Maggie Gehm, Devon Grilly, Robert Gehm, Kathryn Gehm