

THE Channing Circle

Our Family is a Circle of Strength and Love.
 With every Birth and every Union, the Circle grows.
 Every Joy shared adds more Love.
 Every Crisis faced together makes the Circle Stronger.
 — Eavenson —

Channing Unitarian Universalist Church • 45 Webster St. • Rockland, MA 02370

December 2011

Church Phone: (781) 878-0650 (leave message on machine)	Church e-mail: UUChanning@aol.com
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House & Grounds: Paul Arena	Home: (781) 878-1988 e-mail: pplitime@aol.com
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Fundraising: Kareen Arena	Home: (781) 878-1988 e-mail: kmtareenie@aol.com
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Visit our website: www.ChanningChurchRockland.com	

Worship Services – December 2011

December 4 – *Layled Service by Cory Patten*

December 11 – *Service led by Rev. Tim House*

December 18 – *Christmas Pageant by Danette Carter*

December 24 – 6pm – *Candlelight Service led by Rev. Tim House*



Please Note No Sunday Service December 25th and January 1st



Housecalls *Rev. Tim House*

I always turn on my outside “Christmas” lights the day after Thanksgiving. I would like to turn them on earlier, as the days have already gotten very short, and the darkness comes early. But I wait. I wait. Anticipation is half the point of Christmas season, isn’t it? Waiting to see the expression on your child’s face – or your parent’s, or your lover’s or your partner’s face – when they receive your gift? Waiting to see their faces “light up.”

It’s no coincidence that we call the Christmas season the “season of light,” even though it is the darkest season of the year. The child born under that bright star in the East was to be called the “light of the world.” The prophet’s of every major religion, in fact, are equated with light. “Noor” is the light of Muhammad, who was the “trustee of Allah’s light and guidance.” The “Buddha holds the light of wisdom and compassion. In the Hebrew bible the world begins with “Let there be light.”

We humans have been given the desire and the ability to bring light to dark places. We don’t need to simply endure the darkness that is a part of our world. And while I think it is vital that we learn how to sit with the darkness that is inevitable in every life, I am also grateful for our ability to sometimes bring light where there was no light before. It is a sign of our unwillingness to give up our idealism. Our refusal to give up the faith that we can make life better for some of those around us, and in doing so, make our own lives better as well. The gift of winter coats we made to Rosie’s Place is a great example of this. The next step might even be to see if you could volunteer there. It’s a busy and hope-filled place! There are stories to be told that will change your life.

So even though the days are getting shorter and the light is receding; and even though the circumstances of the world sometimes seem pretty dark; and even though consumer madness threatens to take over our lives in the next four weeks – keep your anticipation of the light alive. Look forward to the candlelight service Christmas Eve. And, know that “There is a light that shines beyond all things on earth, beyond us all, beyond the heavens. This is the light that shines in our hearts.” (Chandogya Upanishad) Let that light out. Don’t worry about giving too much away. The Jewish Midrash tells us “Many candles can be kindled from one candle without diminishing it.” So give it away! There is more than enough to share. In fact, there’s an endless supply!

See you in church!

Rev. Tim

House and Grounds is in the planning and development stages of replacing our church sign with a new sign/message board. Our projections indicate that it will cost more than what is already funded. To make a donation towards our new sign, please make out your check to Channing Church and note on your check that it is for “signage”.



Religious Education Classes and Events

Submitted By Becky Paul, DRE

Dec 4 – Pageant Rehearsal

Dec 11 – Pageant Rehearsal

Saturday Dec 17 – 1pm Dress Rehearsal

Dec 18 – 10am Winter Pageant

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Service 6pm

Our second session has begun! The children have already begun rehearsing their lines, planning their costumes and learning the songs for the pageant. Leading this session are Danette Carter, Joe Herosy and Becky Doyle. This year's pageant will focus on the roots of our Christmas traditions in a fun and educational presentation of

A HOLIDAY LAWSUIT

by Marie Houck



Sunday, December 18, 2011

Calling all adult singers! If you would like to sing in this year's holiday pageant please contact Danette Carter, Becky Paul or Becky Doyle. We will be having rehearsals after church starting in Dec. and Dress Rehearsal will be Dec. 17th at 1pm.

Session III will begin on January 8, 2012

led by

Becky Doyle - Chalice Children

Margaret Holmes - Spirit Seekers.

Classes will run through February 5th, and our last class on February 12th will be an RE Music Sunday with Joe Herosy.

No class on February 19 – Intersession Break



Our Whole Lives Schedule:

Classes meet at the Cohasset Parish House
Sundays, Dec 4, 11, 18 and Jan 8 & 29 from 6 - 7:30pm
Weekend Retreat at Cedar Hill – Jan 21 -22, 2012

OWL Facilitators Contact Info:

Mark Alves – mark.a.alves@verizon.net
Pam Molinari – molinari.pamela@hotmail.com
Kim Dickinson – k_dickinson@comcast.net
Jill Hall – Cohasset DRE – justjill@comcast.net



The RE committee would like to sponsor a Car Wash fundraiser next spring in order to help defray the costs of our program. If you have ideas for a good location, we'd love to hear from you. Thanks!

It's time to clean out your garage, basement, or shed of all that leftover paint you've been saving! We need paint for the Mural Project! In order to keep our costs down, we'll be accepting your paint donations this month. Please drop off in the hall of the RE building. Thank You!



Director of Religious Education

Becky Paul (781) 293-2447 beccapaul@msn.com

Religious Education Committee

Katie Tierney, RE Chair

tierneyrock@verizon.net

Danette Carter

decjec@yahoo.com

Margaret Holmes

fargaret@aol.com

Paul Anderson

pjanderson@comcast.net

Becky Doyle

catherinesfairy@yahoo.com

A birthday is just the first day of another 365 day journey around the sun. Enjoy the trip.

~Author Unknown



Birthday Wishes

Happy Birthday wishes to:

December 8 – Donna Berry
9 – Faith Amado
9 – Andrew Harvey-Mone
9 – Angeline Harvey-Mone
19 – Sam Carter
23 – Joe Tesauro
25 – Janine Anderson
27 – Becky Paul
31 – Mark Gardner

January 7 – Aaren Arena
8 – Mary Light
9 – Abigail Budwey
12 – Sydney Paul
14 – Sandra Williams
21 – Bill Norkus
22 – Kylee Frenette
25 – Pete Arena, Jr
25 – Stacey Leonard
26 – Maddy Willette
29 – Katie Russell



And Happy Anniversary to ...

Paul and Karen Arena (**January 12**)

Do we have your family's birthdays or anniversaries? If not, please take a minute to send them in. Mail us, email us or leave a note in the office next time you're at church. We want to make sure that we list the birthdays and anniversaries of everyone in our church family. Thank you!

Caring and Sharing

- On November 12, twins Olivia Jade and Isabella Jasmine, daughters of Peter and Claire Arena and granddaughters of Debby and Pete Arena were dedicated by Rev. Tim House. Welcome Channing's newest members!

Do you have other interesting news items about a church family member you think might be nice to include?



All submissions are welcome! You may leave them in the church office, mail them, or email them. **We want your news!**

 **Welcome to Facebook, Channing Church!**

Connect with us on Facebook ...

Join Channing Church's group and keep up to date about our events, catch up with friends, view our pictures & post your own! Go to www.facebook.com and search Channing Church!

"Have you signed your Pledge Form"???

This would be for the church year 7/1/11 - 6/30/2012.

It's not July any more... but it's not too late. Currently, only 10 people have signed their pledge forms. There are many who sign pledge forms yearly but have still yet to do so this year. The pledge forms give the Assistant Treasurer & Treasurer a foundation for our budget. We CANNOT balance the budget on ASSUMPTIONS. Please see Danny Howland for a pledge form if you do not have one or call Danny (or the church) and leave a message if you would like a form mailed to you.



Holiday Decorations



We are ordering our holiday greens and poinsettias.

If anyone would like to make a donation to help with the cost of the Holiday Greens or get a poinsettia In Loving Memory of a loved one or In Living Honor of a loved one please let Debby, Aaren or Kareen Arena know.



Rockland's Holiday Stroll was held Saturday November 26th.

The weather was warm and not very seasonal. However, the Holiday spirit filled the air up and down Union St and the Church was abundant with families enjoying Channing Chowder and comforting hospitality. Susan Kavka, Debby and Kareen Arena served chowder while Danny Howland, Rich Frenette, Chris Ricciotti and John Burrows served up popcorn, fries and fried dough.

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL! LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR!

* * Snow Cancellations * *

The Snow is coming ... Prudential has worked out a procedure for canceling church due to heavy snow storms. So when the snow falls and you are unsure if there will still be a service or an event just call Channing Church. We will put the message that church has been cancelled on our answering service (we thought this would work better than one or two people trying to call everyone, & maybe miss notifying someone). Sunday service cancellations will be posted by 8:30am. If the answering service message does not say church has been cancelled we will still have church that Sunday. Cancellation notices will also be posted on our website and facebook page. The decision to cancel will be made by Prudential Co-Chairs, and will be made considering all factors involved such as; how bad the snow is, if anyone is available to shovel the church walks, if plows have cleared the streets and Ike's Way leaving room to park cars, if the minister or lay led person is still able to make it to the church, to be in the pulpit for the service, if there is a power failure, etc. If you are not sure if a church event has been cancelled please call Channing 781-878-0650 or visit www.channingchurchrockland.com to check.

PHIL & DONNA BERRY'S "HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE"



Sunday – December 18th, 2011

2:00PM to 6:00 PM+++

4 CRANBERRY KNOLL DRIVE
(GPS put 55 Lake St. ends up at our street)
PLYMPTON, MA. 02367
781-585-4412 / PhilBerry100@aol.com

"ESPECIALLY FOR YOU"

You are cordially invited to join Phil and Donna Berry for our annual "Holiday Open House".
As usual we plan to have much

"fellowship, food, fun & frivolity"

We'll have the smell of balsam, pine and bayberry.

The aromas of fresh coffee, steaming chowder, a multitude of appetizers
(Swedish, Italian meatballs), hors d'oeuvres and fresh baked pastry.

Treat yourself, family & friends to an "AFTERNOON IN PLYMPTON"

As in the past, we ask that if you would like, bring something to be donated to
A local Food Pantry &/or Hospice, for less fortunate individuals than we.
As many of you already know, most of the people helped are elderly and many have lost most
friends and relatives. Holidays can be Painful & Lonely to say the least.

Again we would like to do something more personal for the recipients.

The suggestions that personal items: such as toiletries, powders, personal care items,
small soaps, hand lotions, small basket of items or any "gift items".

The Associations accept donations of gift certificates from food stores
and any cash/checks donated would be to purchase Food Certificates.

The tradition of our Holiday Open House started over 40 years ago.

We hope that you can join us this year. December 18th, 2011

MAY YOU ALL HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON

PHIL, DONNA & MZ. MAGGIE MAE & MR. SKIPPY ☺

PLEASE: [rsvp 781-585-4412](tel:781-585-4412)

e-mail: PhilBerry100@aol.com

Channing Unitarian Universalist Church
45 Webster Street
Rockland Ma 02370
(781) 878-0650

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2011

Our Family Is A Circle of Strength and Love

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WORSHIP – Sundays at 10 AM
Childcare available
Religious Education Classes available

The **deadline** for the next issue of THE CHANNING CIRCLE is **Sun Dec. 18th**.
Submissions may be emailed as an attachment to: uuchanning@aol.com
or dropped off in hard copy at the church office.

UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS INCLUDE:

Tuesday, Dec. 6th
7:00 PM – House & Grounds Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 18th
11:30 AM – Prudential Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 18th
Christmas Pageant

Sunday, Jan. 1st
Puppet Show



BLUE MOON COFFEEHOUSE

presents

Toast and Jam

Saturday, December 10th at 7:30 p.m.



Hungry for some great bluegrass music? The Blue Moon Coffeehouse is serving Toast and Jam. Tim Dickey and Julie Wanamaker started performing as Toast & Jam in 2007. Their original bluegrass music features crisp harmonies and unique instrumentation. Soulful vocals mix with deep mandocello rhythms, while their lyrics range from love songs to social protest themes. They have won several awards for their songwriting, including winner of the Eventide Songfest, 2009, in the folk category. Their first and all original CD, "Ten Slices," was released in 2009. Check them out on their website: www.toastandjammusic.com.

**PLUS
OPEN MIC!**

There will also be homemade snacks, Equal Exchange coffee and a raffle.

Tickets: \$7 at the door

Channing Unitarian Universalist Church 45 Webster Street, Rockland
www.thebluemooncoffeehouse.com