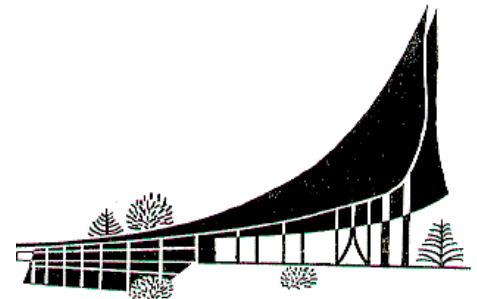


SOUNDINGS

The Unitarian Church in Westport
 10 Lyons Plains Road
 Westport, Connecticut 06880
 203 227-7205
 uuchurch@uuwestport.org
 www.uuwestport.org



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

THE NEXT SOUNDINGS DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, DEC. 2

Nov. 27 - Dec. 17, 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov. 27 Worship Service: 9 & 11 am No RE, Childcare Available	28	29 Resiliency in Change, East Wing. ... 10:00 am	30 Chant & Meditation Library ... 7:00 pm Chamber Choir, Chapel ... 7:45 pm	Dec. 1 Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Special Projects Choir - 8:00 pm	2 SOUNDINGS Deadline - ...12 pm Resiliency in Change, Sanctuary, ... 6:00 pm	3 Circle Facilitators, Meeting Hse., ... 10:00 am Set-up Guatemalan Fair Trade sale, E.W. ... 10:00 am ... REEL Justice Film, Sanctuary, ... 7:30 pm
4 Services: 9 & 11 am K-6 Staart in Sanctuary Guatemalan Fair Trade Sale - East Wing OWL Parents Group, Chapel - 12:30 pm Environmental Action, Sanct. ... 12:30 pm UN Committee, Library, ... 12:30 pm	5 O&AF Rehearsal, ... 7:45 pm	6 NVC Practice, Chapel, ... 7:00 pm Microfinance, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm	7 SOUNDINGS Mailing - 9:30 am Chant & Meditation Library ... 7:00 pm	8 Youth Choir - 5 pm Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Special Projects Choir - 8:00 pm	9 Shawl Ministry, Meeting Hse., ...12:30 pm Pageant Rehearsal, ... 4:30 pm	10 Holiday Craft, Potluck & Caroling - Sanctuary, ... 5:00 pm
11 Services: 9 & 11 am SGM Demo, E.W., ... 10:15 am OWL Parents Group, E.W. .. 12:30 pm SGM Demo, Sanct., .. 12:30 pm Rainbow Task Force, Chapel, ... 12:45 pm	12 Board of Trustees, Fellowship Rm., ... 7:30 pm	13 Senior Luncheon, E.W. -11:00 am Finance Com. Meeting Hse., ... 5:30 pm Social Justice Council, E.W. ... 7:30 pm	14 Chant & Meditation Library ... 7:00 pm	15 Teen Choir - 6 pm Bell Choir - 6:45pm Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal, ... 8:00 pm	16 SOUNDINGS Deadline, ...12 pm Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary, ...4:30 pm	17 Small Group Facilitators, Meeting Hse., ... 10:00 am Special Projects Dress Rehearsal, ... 1:00 pm

SERMONS:

- November 27 ... 9 & 11 am **"My Morning Walks With Me"**..... Frank Hall
The walks along the beach help to balance body, mind and spirit. Without balance you can't walk; without some quiet time you can't allow solutions to your problems to rise to the surface; without a sense of appreciation there is no spirituality.
Music: 9 am: Men's Choir; 11 am: Women's Choir.
- December 4 ... 9 & 11 am **Pioneers, Pilgrims and Pillars**..... Frank & G.A. Delegates
Our Unitarian and Universalist roots are deep in the soil of religious and political freedom -- the journey continues. We celebrate the deep roots, we honor the branches and we're thankful for the pillars.
Music: Chamber Choir at both services.
- December 11 ... 9 & 11 am **Learning How to Give**..... Frank Hall
 We give. We receive. We move through the holiday season carefully, continuing to learn how to do it well.
Music: Once & Again Folksingers at both services.



Neighborhood Circles:

*Connections,
Communication &
Change*

We are on a journey! The river is flowing fast. Some of us want to go back and find a place that feels solid. Some of us want to rush forward to a new place that resembles our promised land. Information is unequally distributed. It feels chaotic.

There is lots of unfinished business between us. There is one thing we really need to pay attention to. **THE WORDS WE USE CREATE THE WORLD WE REACT TO.** Each of us needs to steward the conversations we engage. In this flow of conversation there are whirlpools that can take us down and whirl winds that can take us forward. Civility and covenant are words that will keep us on track.

Conversations with others allow us to test out our perceptions and reactions to those perceptions. We are fortunate in our congregation that we have numerous opportunities for conversations with others. Our Neighborhood Circles is one way this happens. The Small Group Ministry as well as the Shawl Ministry are yet others. And the many service projects we can support draw us out of ourselves and into the lives of others. When we intentionally engage in positive conversations with others we are investing in the future.

There is a solid psychological principle that is operates within our conversations.

What we focus on... expands! If we focus on identifying the positive characteristics of each other and find ways to leverage those strengths ... we will find gratitude, hope and a sense of moving forward. If we get stuck in a whirlpool of past-unresolved negatives... that too will only get larger and draw us down. When we journey through change we need to consciously choose the path we desire.

My hope is that during the next few weeks, you will avail yourselves of the many positive conversations that are surfacing. And don't forget we have two more **Resiliency in Times of Change** Sessions offered in the next few weeks.

- **Tuesday: November 29th from 10 AM-noon**
- **Friday: December 2nd. from 6 -8:30 PM**

The facilitators of these sessions will be Jim & Pat Francek and Tom Hearne. If you haven't attended yet, I hope you can make one of these sessions!

Meanwhile walk gently my friends! *Jim Francek*

Resiliency in Times of Change

Two Opportunities...

Tuesday, Nov. 29, 10am - 12pm
or

Friday, Dec. 2, 6:30 - 8:30pm
(Pizza at 6pm)



Please join us to be supported and come together during this period of change that includes Frank's retirement at the end of next year, June 2013, and Jamie's departure at the end of this year.

Jim & Pat Francek and Tom Hearne will facilitate a guided process of getting in touch with feelings and moving forward in a positive direction. Frank will be present to offer an opening and closing.

At the Dec. 2 gathering, children will have their own activity and pizza will be served at 6pm.

Please RSVP to ucwevents@gmail.com or 227-7205 x20.



Join us on December 4th, 12:30,
in the sanctuary to learn more about the
Westport Home EnergyChallenge.

The Unitarian Church has joined the Westport Home Energy Challenge, as part of a federal Department of Energy grant to get 1,000 Westporters to reduce energy consumption by 20% and boost the use of clean, renewable energy. By signing up for a CL&P sanctioned Home Energy Solutions visit for \$75 (free to income-eligible) you get a comprehensive home energy assessment AND on-the-spot weatherization and energy conservation measures. In addition, an Energy Advisor will help you better understand the energy recommendations that are customized for your home, so you can move forward with energy improvements that achieve high savings. The Home Energy Solutions visit alone nets an average of 8-10% energy savings!

For every person who participates in this program, Westport earns points to be redeemed for community prizes, such as municipal electric vehicles. As an added benefit, for each completed visit the Unitarian Church can earn \$25. Just mention that you were referred by the Unitarian Church.

To sign up for a Home Energy Solutions (HES) visit, contact the town-sanctioned HES vendor, New England Smart Energy at (203) 292-8088 or www.NE-SmartEnergy.com/Westport-Challenge. If you have any questions or concerns about the program please feel free to contact Sherry Jagerson (227-7413) or Pippa Bell Ader (803-3247).

By encouraging maximum participation, the Unitarian Church can play a role in improving home energy efficiency, the environment and the church's bottom line!

November 21, 2011

Dear Friends,

I've hiked where the trail is so clearly apparent that there's no danger of getting lost among the trees. I've hiked where I've had to follow the painted markings on trees in order to stay on a particular trail – thankful for those who 'blazed the trail' for me to follow.

I began hiking the ministry trail on April 1, 1970, working as assistant to the minister, Herb Adams, at Follen Church in Lexington, MA. I knew what to do because Herb gave me directions: once-a-month preaching, working with a high school youth group, visiting in hospitals and nursing homes, editing the newsletter, counseling and teaching in the adult education program. I worked with Herb until seminary graduation in June 1972.

On August 15, 1972, I began my first senior ministry at Murray Church in Attleboro. There were no summer services – the place was very quiet, and my desk was empty, except for the lonely telephone. I went to the office that first morning, sat at the desk, and realized I had to begin blazing a trail.

A member of the congregation had volunteered to work as temporary secretary, so I asked her if she knew any members who were homebound, or in a nursing home or hospital. She gave me a few names and I picked up the phone to arrange visits.

Before that first day was done I had made visits to three homebound members of the congregation, each of whom gave me names of others, many of whom had not been actively involved for many years. I visited the local hospital and a nursing home, and at every visit I got more and more names – within a short time I had a list of 75, in a congregation with less than 200 active members. My work was cut out for me, and for the next twelve years it turned out to be very satisfying work, indeed.

In October of 1983 I received a letter from the Search Committee, inviting me to talk with them about coming to Westport. I replied, "No, thanks." I got a call from David Pohl, then Director of the Department of Ministry at the UUA, asking me to come to Boston to talk. He encouraged me to consider a move...I did, and the rest is history.

On August 15, 1984, I began my new ministry – a challenging piece of work, as David assured me it would be, and *should* be at this stage of my career. The congregation had been through some tough times, characterized by power struggles – expected in a free, democratic institution. I focused my work on traditional parish ministry, avoiding, as much as possible, getting tangled up in the struggle for *control*. I knew what needed to be done – I had to blaze my own trail.

Last month I set a date to conclude my ministry here, and I've come to realize that, like start-up and mid-career, these new woods are 'dark and deep.' This new trail isn't blazed. Sometimes I feel lost, or, as Daniel Boone said, 'confused.' With help, I'll find my way.

Yours,



The Way

Friend, I have lost the way.

The way leads on.

Is there another way?

The way is one.

I must retrace the track.

It's lost and gone.

Back, I must travel back!

None goes there, none.

Then I'll make here my place,

(The road leads on),

Stand still and set my face,

(The road leaps on),

Stay here, for ever stay.

None stays here, none.

I cannot find the way.

The way leads on.

Oh places I have passed!

That journey's done.

And what will come at last?

The road leads on.

~ Edwin Muir ~

The World As I See It, Albert Einstein

"How strange is the lot of us mortals! Each of us is here for a brief sojourn; for what purpose we know not, though we sometimes think we sense it..."

"The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion that stands at the cradle of true art and true science. Whoever does not know it and can no longer wonder, no longer marvel, is as good as dead, and his eyes are dimmed. It was the experience of mystery -- even if mixed with fear -- that engendered religion. A knowledge of the existence of something we cannot penetrate...it is this knowledge and this emotion that constitute true religiosity. In this sense, and only this sense, I am a deeply religious man... I am satisfied with the mystery of life's eternity and with a knowledge, a sense, of the marvelous structure of existence -- as well as the humble attempt to understand even a tiny portion of the Reason that manifests itself in Nature."

Perry's Ponderings ...

My great-grandfather, Herschel Schneider, came to the U.S. from the Ukraine at the turn of the century. Those were dangerous times for Jews in Russia and sometimes in America. Jews took off the Saturday Sabbath. Herschel was a builder and one Sunday his fellow roofer was hit on the head with a hammer by a Christian who could not tolerate someone working on the Christian Sabbath. Herschel threw the attacker off the roof.

In response, that night there were guns fired at my great-grandparents' house. Herschel was not afraid and walked onto the porch to face the mob. They did not shoot and later he carried the Torah while leading a march in town to uphold the Jews' right to worship and live without persecution. This story is one that my father retold in a recent interview with congregant Rozanne Gates as part of a family Legacy Project, an opportunity for my parents to record their stories to be remembered by the next generations.

Last Sunday, a gentleman came to the Thanksgiving Service with his young daughter. He grew up in the congregation and had been back for his father's memorial service recently, but now was thinking about answering his daughter's questions and giving her a congregational community. She loved hearing the Teen Choir sing and saw herself doing that. Her father recalled being part of children's holiday performances long ago. (See this year's Christmas Pageant info in Ed's Musical Notes.) Congregants who grew up at TUCW and are still here as adults are going to briefly share their memories at the December 4 service during story time.

Last weekend, the UU Westport Players' version of *The Female Odd Couple* told a story about close friends supporting each other as family. At the cast party after the last performance, some people showed pictures of themselves in the 1980's and the evening was full of storytelling. Third-grader Chloe ended the evening by regaling us with a rendition of "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth," complete with her missing top ones providing the required lisp.

The holiday season is here and the stories we tell connect us to the meaning of the celebrations and who we are as individuals, families, and a community. I look forward to hearing your stories and sharing the joy of the season that creates new memories.

RE CALENDAR

Sunday, Nov 27...
No RE, Childcare Available

Friday, Dec 2 ...
6:00pm Resiliency in Change - Sanctuary

Sunday, Dec 4 ...K-6 Start in Sanctuary
12:30 OWL Parents Group

Friday, Dec 9 ...
4:30pm Pageant Rehearsal -

Saturday, Dec 10 ...
5:00pm Holiday Craft, Potluck & Caroling - Sanctuary

Sunday, Dec 11...
12:30pm OWL Parents Gr.- EW

Friday, Dec 16 ...
4:30pm Pageant Rehearsal



Mayaworks Sale

Sunday, Dec 4 after both services

Our youth will be selling Fair Trade goods from Guatemala to raise funds for our February YSOP Service trip to Washington DC. We will have a collection of colorful home-goods, handbags, ornaments, etc. All handcrafted by artisans in Guatemala who have already received fair payment for their time and materials. Please come support fair trade and our youth!!

December 1 - Deposits due for our February YSOP Service Trip to Washington DC. Contact Jamie with any questions or requests for scholarship funds

For the Holiday Pageant Schedule see Musical Notes. To register click on <http://uuwestport.org/xmas.html>



HOLIDAY WREATH SALE December 4 & 11

12" Door size \$20.00
20" Door size \$45.00
30" Mega size \$75.00

Proceeds will go toward youth programs and scholarships

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP...

Lily Rappaport, Youth Program Dir.

Worship is...love, togetherness, bonding, music, laughter, candles, meditation, sharing. These are a few words that came up in a discussion about what worship means to us. Simply put, worship is...what we do in youth group! We create a worshipful time together with plenty of opportunities for our youth to share their creativity and new experiences.

In the past month, worship topics included: Failure and Personal accomplishments led by Ally; Buddhism and the spiritual path to enlightenment by Lucas, Halloween and Superstitions by Jeanette & Molly.

Sometimes we invite guests to come in and guide us in a meaningful worship. Last week, church member, Jim Francek, introduced us to some of the beliefs and spiritual practices of Native Americans. Twelve years ago Jim was invited to be a pipe carrier following the ceremonial practice of the Lakota tribe. The experience included smudging with sage, drumming and an abbreviated "chanupa" pipe ceremony. Jim explained, "The pipe ceremony within many tribes is a key ceremony of opening themselves to being a conduit for the unconditional love of our creator for the purpose of healing the brokenness of the sacred hoop, connectedness of all creation."



As UU's we know that becoming involved in committee work is an opportunity for spiritual growth. You may have noticed a growing presence of youth in our church's committees. Jeanette, Molly & Alex G. are members of the church's Rainbow Task Force and will be working on various projects including a presentation to youth group in January.

There is still space for anyone interested in attending the Metro NY District Con on December 9 - 11 in Brooklyn. The UU-UNO Justice Con is a social action/social justice con with 30-50 youth and advisors. The focus will be on the UU Mission to the United Nations. For more information please contact Lily@uuwestport.org



Before You Turn up that Thermostat

Worried about energy costs this winter? Join our Environmental Action Group (EAG) in the Sanctuary at 12:30 on Sunday, December 4th, to learn how you can save energy and save money.

Fellow congregants will describe how having a Home Energy Solutions (HES) visit made their homes less drafty

and helped to cut down on their energy bills.

Our EAG is partnering with the Westport Home Energy Challenge to encourage congregants to have the CL&P sanctioned HES visit. During your visit, the professional, friendly, home energy experts will make a comprehensive assessment followed by on-the-spot improvements to your home.

The fee is nominal and the rewards are great. Why should you be paying for wasted energy?

This program is part of a federal Department of Energy grant to get 1,000 Westporters to reduce energy consumption by 20% and boost the use of clean, renewable energy.

By signing up for a CL&P sanctioned Home Energy Solutions visit for \$75 (free to income-eligible) you get a comprehensive home energy assessment AND on-the-spot weatherization and energy conservation measures. The Home Energy Solutions visit alone nets an average of 8-10% energy savings!

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Environmental Justice Council Starting in Metro NY District

The Metro NY District is starting our first Environmental Justice Council. The primary purpose of this Council is to educate UU leaders in global, regional, and local environmental justice issues. By gathering and training members of each congregation, we hope to concentrate our efforts at community organizing and begin to impact the critical issues of our day.

Environmental Justice identifies ecological issues as they relate to questions of race and class. To address these issues adequately, our District's Racial and Social Justice Consultant, the Rev. Peggy Clarke, and Right Relations Consultant, Dr. Frances Sink, have partnered to educate, organize, and empower our congregations to address these complex and critical issues.

The Environmental Justice Council will have its first meeting on Saturday, January 21, 2012, at the First Unitarian Society of Westchester in Hastings on Hudson NY at 10:30 am. We are asking every congregation to send at least one representative to this meeting. The Council will meet three times in 2012; one of those sessions will center on the nationally acclaimed GreenFaith Environmental Justice Tour in the Ironbound section of Newark, NJ.

If you have questions, please contact either Dr. Frances Sink at frances.sink@gmail.com or the Rev. Peggy Clarke at pclarke@uuma.org. RSVP before January 10.



REEL Justice Film for December:

"Of Gods & Men"

Saturday, December 3 at 7:30 in the Sanctuary

who value peace and human dignity above all else - are forced to make difficult decisions. Should they stay with the community they have grown up with over many years, or leave by order of the government? Should they act together or make individual choices? Should they accept the protection of the army or the rebels?

Director Xavier Beauvois tells the story from the inside - from the point of view of the monks and within the peaceful precinct of a monastery where we succumb to the daily rhythms of the band of brothers who chant in unison and who eat in silence. Slowly we learn how and why they have become so deeply entrenched in their community and how fragile the complex and contradictory nature of that relationship is when faced with the brute simplicity of fundamentalism. We also come to know the nine men as individuals, each with their own complex fears and concerns about the difficulties they face and the options available to them. Winner of the Cannes Film Festival 2010 Grand Prix. French with English subtitles.

A story of companionship, choice and the difficulties of remaining true to yourself and your beliefs in the most difficult of circumstances.

Based on the real-life story of a group of French Trappist monks living in a small village in the mountains of Algeria during the 1990's, the backdrop for the story is the brutal civil war that erupted between what was regarded as a corrupt government on one side of Algerian politics, and fundamentalist guerillas on the other. Finding themselves in the increasingly dangerous space between, the small group of nine monks -

Reminder: Cell Phones for Soldiers

We're still collecting cell phones. Donated phones are sold to a company that recycles them. The money received from recycling the cell phones is used to purchase calling cards that are sent to troops in need. While deployed soldiers are usually given 15 minutes of free talk time per week, an average cell phone sold will provide 100 minutes of talk time.

So bring in your used cell phones and leave them in the collection box at the social justice table in the foyer and we'll turn them into holiday phone calls home for troops abroad.

Small Group Ministry News

The November topic for the Small Group Ministries was "Habits." Group members discussed how their good and bad habits are serving them. Our December topic will be "Presents," and participants will discuss their feelings about giving and receiving. By speaking from personal experience, members open themselves up to the possibility of friendship.

We have 16 active groups and there are over 150 people involved in this strong, solid program of monthly discussion groups. If you are interested in learning more about SGM, you can sample a Small Group after both worship services on December 11. A trained facilitator will lead a mini-version of a session, with the special topic of 'books.' A new, all-men group is being considered, so be sure to come if that's of interest to you.

UU Movie Discussion Group, Friday, Nov. 25



The UU Movie Discussion Group meets again on Friday, November 25th to discuss 2 films: "Margin Call" and "The Way", both currently playing at the Garden Cinema in Norwalk. Potluck dessert at 7:30; Discussion at 8. At the Meeting House. All are welcome.

Urgent: Immediate Employment Wanted

either in energy trading as a fundamental research analyst or in public relations/ marketing. Permanent or freelance. Please call Lorraine 203-845-0153.

Help ! I need somebody Help! Not just anybody

Interested in a business opportunity with music? Exit 43 seeks motivated, experienced marketing person to help us with band representation. Please call 203-222-1441 ask for Suzanne

Business Matters

Nobody likes change but everyone likes progress!

The business office is changing the way pledges and donations are recorded. The short of it is that everything is being recorded directly into QuickBooks, our accounting software. Previously data went into an archaic system called Church Management Systems and then the totals went into Quickbooks. Previously your statements came from CMS but will now come out of Quickbooks.

Using Quickbooks over CMS has a number of advantages. First it is easier to enter checks. Second, the ability to lookup one's records is quick. Third, we can email statements which saves us postage.

For us it is progress but making the changes has been time consuming. Initially your statements will look a bit "plain vanilla" but as time goes on we will "spruce" them up.

John Carroll
Business Manager

Going Away?

Want peace of mind?
Reliable and experienced care for your pets and your home.
Just call Lynn @ 203.919.9075.

Shawl Ministry members trade knitting needles for soup ladles!

Last Sunday the we prepared and served almost 50 quarts of soup after the services. All the proceeds will fulfill a pledge made by the Shawl Ministry in support of Avery Forbes' fundraising efforts for Beardsley School and Teach for America during her Appalachian Trail through hike. A big thank you from the knitters and the hiker for purchasing \$405 of soup - enough to cover our 18cent/mile contribution!

Why Become a member of the UUSC? Just Think Arab Spring!



Earlier this year, reporters covering the Arab Spring demonstrations in Tahrir Square commented that copies of a Arabic comic book were being passed around the young people in the Square.

The comic was about Martin Luther King and his non-violent campaign for civil rights, and served as a model for the demonstrators in Tahrir Square. At the time, there was no word for "nonviolence" in Arabic.

Where did the comic book come from?

Since 2001, UUSC has been partnering in the Middle East with the American Islamic Congress to promote free expression, nonviolence, and women's rights.

In 2007, Dalia Ziada, a 25-year-old woman became director of their Cairo office. She had to work under constant harassment from the security services and religious extremists. However, Dalia had been inspired by Martin Luther King's example and, with UUSC support, she translated an English language comic book about Martin Luther King into Arabic, including creating the word in Arabic that is now used to mean "nonviolence," and UUSC had it published.

So, where did the comic book that provided a model of nonviolence for the young people in Tahrir Square come from? It came from the courage of Dalia Ziada, and from the people committed to social justice who have supported her through UUSC.

This is an example of just one of the programs of the 50 grassroots organizations in 23 countries, including the United States, with which UUSC is working.

Support Guest at Your Table and Join the UUSC!



L to R: Jan Braunle, Carol Porter, Chris Place, Avery Forbes, Martha Constable, Susan Brady, Lynn Brooks.



UP-COMING EVENTS



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG

will take place on Saturday, December 10th. There will be a pot-luck at 6:00 with the sing-along beginning around 7:00.

HOLIDAY PAGEANT

There will be two mandatory rehearsals for everyone involved in the Pageant: Friday, Dec. 9, 4:30-6:00 Friday, Dec. 16, 4:30-6:00 Saturday, Dec. 24, 2:00 rehearsal and 4:00 Pageant

Sign-up sheet & permission form can be found on our church web site:

http://uuwestport.org/xmas.html

Please contact Ed Thompson if you have questions.



The annual HOLIDAY CONCERT/SERVICE will take place on Sunday, December 18th, at 11:00. This year's featured work will be A Celtic Noel, for Uilleann pipes, tin whistle, harp, organ, choir and soloists.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR

For all those interested in singing on Christmas Eve for the 9:00 pm candle-light service, there will be two rehearsals: Tuesday, Dec. 20, 8:00pm and Thursday, Dec. 22nd, 8:00pm.

Have questions or concerns, please contact Ed Thompson.

SOUNDINGS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Church in Westport

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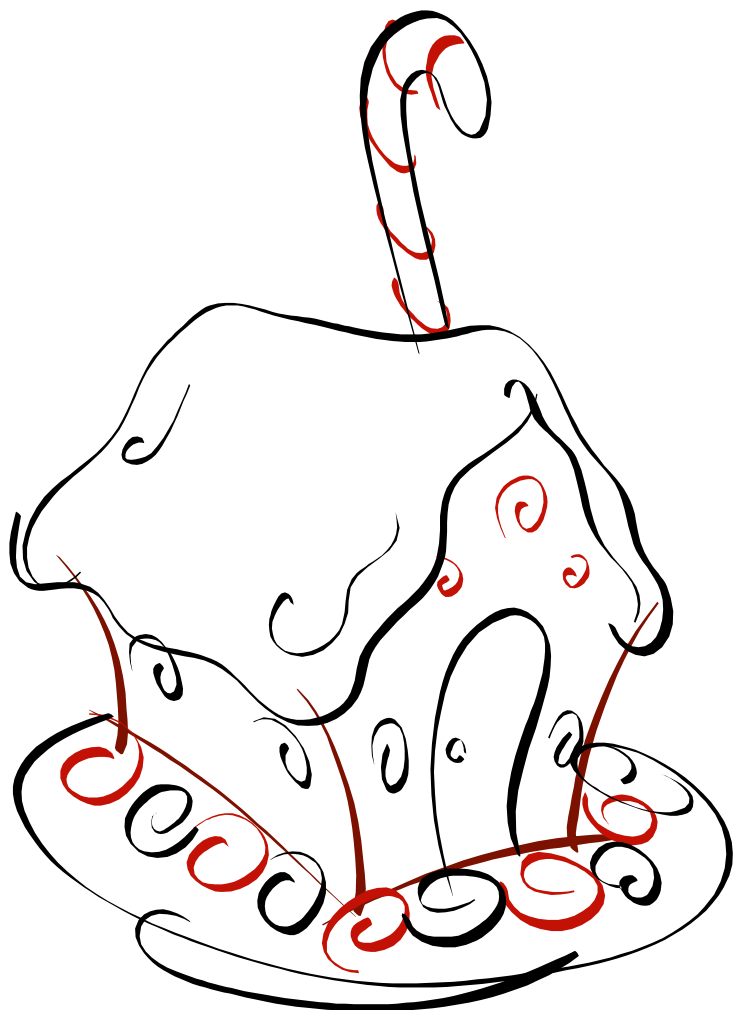
visit our website at www.uuwestport.org

The next SOUNDINGS deadline is Friday, Dec. 2, at noon (or before). Please e-mail your copy to: carpo@optonline.net

Calling all ELVES !!

It's almost that time of year again for the UU elves to help families of Beardsley School have a wonderful Christmas. We get "Letters to Santa" from the children most in need, and we become Santa's elves, purchasing some of the gifts they are wishing for and need. If you might be interested in joining our elves, please contact me for more information. No meetings. Everything is done by email. Presents are brought to the church. Felicity: felicitymedinger@sbc-global.net, or 203 924-9283.

Jewelry sale on December 11th after each service! Don't miss this chance to find a treasure. Also, a silent auction on Sundays in the Fellowship Room - check it out! Barb & Jean



*JOIN US FOR A
SWEET & SPICY
TRADITION FOR
ALL AGES!*

**Saturday
DECEMBER 10th
5 PM**

HOLIDAY PARTY

**5-6 PM GINGERBREAD
HOUSE-MAKING**

**6-7 PM POTLUCK DINNER
BRING A HEARTY
DISH TO SHARE**

**7-8 PM HOLIDAY CAROLING
WITH ED!**

**RSVP WITH # OF
PEOPLE MAKING
GINGERBREAD
HOUSES TO:**

**203.227.7205 x20
ucwevents@gmail.com**

Going once ... Going twice ... Going ALL THE WAY to the AUCTION "HALL" FOR PARKINSON'S

This is a BIG deal. On Saturday March 10th, 2012 we'll be holding an auction that will benefit the operating fund and the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinsons in honor of our very own Frank Hall. This will hopefully kick off a year+ celebration of his incredible ministry.



In order to have this auction, **WE NEED DONATIONS.** What kind? We're looking for anything many people will want to bid on of course. Donating any kind of service, like free plumbing, painting, landscaping are all great. Maybe tickets to a Yankee/Red Sox game, use of your vacation home for a week, a foursome at your golf club, lunch on your boat, playing piano at a dinner - the more creative and exclusive the better.

Please email jjkeenano@optonline.net with anything you may be able to donate. More on this great event coming soon.



food fight! chowda fest

Saturday, Feb. 4
11:00am - 4:00pm

Bedford Middle School, Westport
(\$6 Adults, \$2 Kids under 12)

4th Annual
1st
Benefitting The CT Food Bank

Save the date! Chowdafest IV will be bigger and better than 'evah". Proceeds are split between UUCW (us) and the CT Food Bank. 24 terrific restaurants. Over 33 decadent soups and chowders. For more information, go to www.Chowdafest.org.



SILENT NIGHT? Almost. The freak snow storm that hit us last October fell at the exact time we held our first Chilifest competition. Fortunately, the weather didn't deter about 300 people for attending, helping raise \$600 for the carpet fund. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out despite Mother Nature not.

