



# THE FLAMING CHALICE

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## Sunday Service Previews

### December 6

Hanukkah Service-Freedom's Flames  
Rev. Joy Atkinson

The service will celebrate Hanukkah, a holiday whose theme is religious freedom, and the sermon will tell the story of a historical Unitarian struggle for religious freedom—the story of Faustus Socinus and the Polish Bretheren.

### December 13

Toward Bethlehem  
Rev. Joy Atkinson

What can we Unitarian Universalists make of the traditional nativity story? How might it speak to us? The sermon will explore the rich mythic and universal themes of the Christmas story.

### December 20

Giving, Getting, and The Real Gifts of Christmas  
Rev. Joy Atkinson

We will explore what giving and getting means in our lives, and celebrate the special gifts of the season, besides those that are wrapped in bright paper and ribbon.

### December 27

Where is the Love-Worship Led Service

Like the Black Eyed Peas sing, "Where is the love", we do only have one world but it's up to us to figure out where the love went. Today several members will touch on this subject.

### Additional December Holiday Services

#### Friday, December 19 7 PM

Winter Solstice Meditation Service

Rev. Joy Atkinson  
We will pause in the midst of the holiday rush, and gather for a meditative service. Join us as we welcome returning light in the midst of the darkness.

#### Thursday, December 24 7PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service We come together on this silent night to celebrate Christmas with singing, readings, music by the choir, a homily by Joy and the glow of candlelight. After the service there will be hot mulled cider. You are invited to bring holiday goodies to share.

Happy Holidays!

# Words of Joy

by Joy Atkinson  
Interim Minister

*Let me take the time  
To watch the candle's light;  
And know it is the same  
Vast silence of the silver stars.*      --John Q. Parkhurst

As the holidays descend upon us, many of us speed up the pace of our lives, making lists of tasks, planning for or rushing to parties, decorating our homes, shopping for and wrapping gifts, sending cards, baking, cooking and cleaning, donating to and working for charities whose pace is also ramped up, and so on. The common denominator in all of this holiday activity is that we do it for others in our lives, even for those we may not know, because we care.

What may get lost in the rush is the need for self-care. With all of this activity, or even if your pace is a slower one, it is not uncommon to be visited by the holiday blues. Paradoxically, the blues may also descend on you if you have less to do during the holiday season. If, for instance, your loved ones are gone or are far away, the holiday cheer we are all “supposed” to feel may not be there for you as compensation for frenzied activity. It is especially important during this season to take time for yourself, and to remember to do those things that are restful and renewing for you.

Part of your holiday self-renewal may be your connection to this congregation—your spiritual community. There are many ways to connect: come to our holiday-themed Sunday services, stay after the service on December 13<sup>th</sup> to attend the holiday party, and join us around the piano for carol singing, come to our quiet Winter Solstice Meditation service on Friday, December 18 at 7 PM, celebrate Christmas Eve with us at our beautiful candlelight service at 7PM. And remember that you may always contact me, or our Pastoral Care Committee chaired by Georgia Gruver, for help in time of need, any time of the year.

*In this chilly and dark, but holy season  
when Orion wheels against the night sky  
and Sirius shines blue-hot in the darkness*

*May your pain and struggles  
soften for a moment into love and awe.*

*May hope, like a newborn child,  
be born anew within you,  
and may your life be blessed with peace.*

# Joy

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# RE Announcements

By  
*David Middleton*

*There are changes occurring with our children's RE program*

Our Director of Religious Education, Rennie Tomley, has resigned in order to focus on her other business and spend time with family. We thank her for her service to Starr King and wish her the best with her future endeavors.

For a long time, the RE council has been planning to move our youth to their very own classroom. Now, thanks to many of our fabulous church volunteers, one of our cottages has been cleaned, repaired, and decorated to receive our young people. Beginning Sunday, November 29 when the children are "sung out", they will go to the cottage at the edge of our upper parking lot for their lesson. Most Sunday lessons from then on will be held there. The children will be brought down to the social hall after their session, or parents may meet them at the cottage.



## *Ugly Sweater Holiday Party*

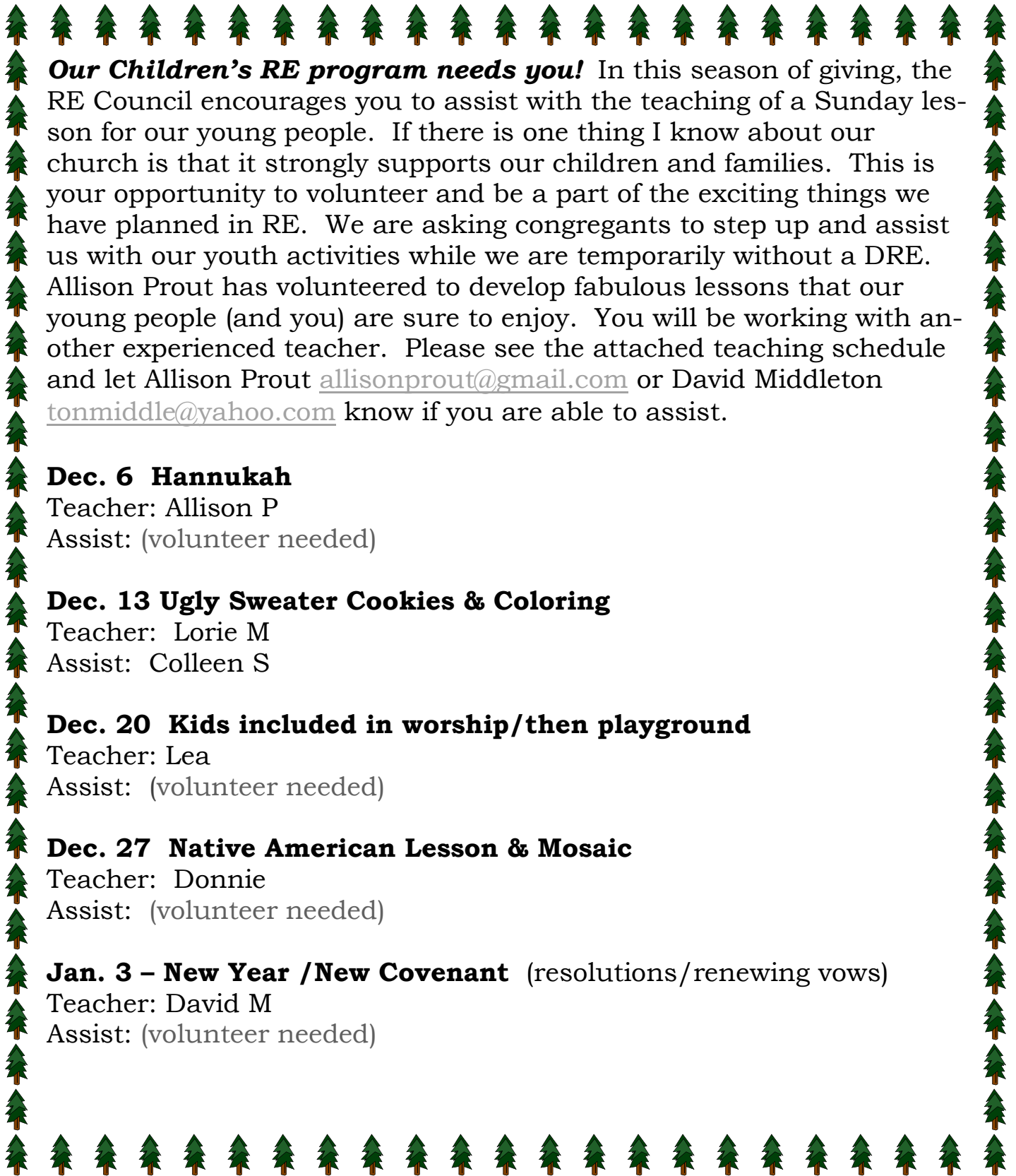
*after the service December 13*

**If there is one event you will not want to miss this year, this may be the one. After the service on December 13, all church members are invited to join us for warm cider, singing carols by the piano, and other festive activities. Please note, this party is for people of ALL ages. It is requested that you wear an ugly holiday sweater to church that day.**

**Rumor has it that there will be prizes for the most outrageous sweaters. While some may say that determining winners of a contest like this is highly subjective, our own Doug Sprague has years of experience judging ugly sweaters and will be there to verify the results.**

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# RE Needs You!



***Our Children's RE program needs you!*** In this season of giving, the RE Council encourages you to assist with the teaching of a Sunday lesson for our young people. If there is one thing I know about our church is that it strongly supports our children and families. This is your opportunity to volunteer and be a part of the exciting things we have planned in RE. We are asking congregants to step up and assist us with our youth activities while we are temporarily without a DRE. Allison Prout has volunteered to develop fabulous lessons that our young people (and you) are sure to enjoy. You will be working with another experienced teacher. Please see the attached teaching schedule and let Allison Prout [allisonprout@gmail.com](mailto:allisonprout@gmail.com) or David Middleton [tonmiddle@yahoo.com](mailto:tonmiddle@yahoo.com) know if you are able to assist.

**Dec. 6 Hannukah**

Teacher: Allison P  
Assist: (volunteer needed)

**Dec. 13 Ugly Sweater Cookies & Coloring**

Teacher: Lorie M  
Assist: Colleen S

**Dec. 20 Kids included in worship/then playground**

Teacher: Lea  
Assist: (volunteer needed)

**Dec. 27 Native American Lesson & Mosaic**

Teacher: Donnie  
Assist: (volunteer needed)

**Jan. 3 – New Year /New Covenant** (resolutions/renewing vows)

Teacher: David M  
Assist: (volunteer needed)

# President's Report



**Diana Dickerson**

I can't believe I ate all that turkey. What a beautiful and bountiful meal we had at SKUUC on Thanksgiving. If we had forgotten what we were celebrating, we got a big reminder. Not just the food, but working together, talking, laughing, singing, and remembering those things we are happy about and grateful for all year long. A huge "Thank You" to Donnie Rett and her faithful crew. You were all terrific and are very much appreciated!

Earlier this month our DRE gave notice that she would have to leave us on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. I know that it was a blow to us, but the RE Council is fast at work, with the Board and Rev. Joy, to fill that position. Watch for an announcement soon.

All our elves are working away for a busy December. We will be having extra services (see Rev. Joy's article) and a party after service on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. The RE Council does much of the work, but this is an 'all ages' SKUUC party. Please stay after the service for music, crafts, great food and good company.

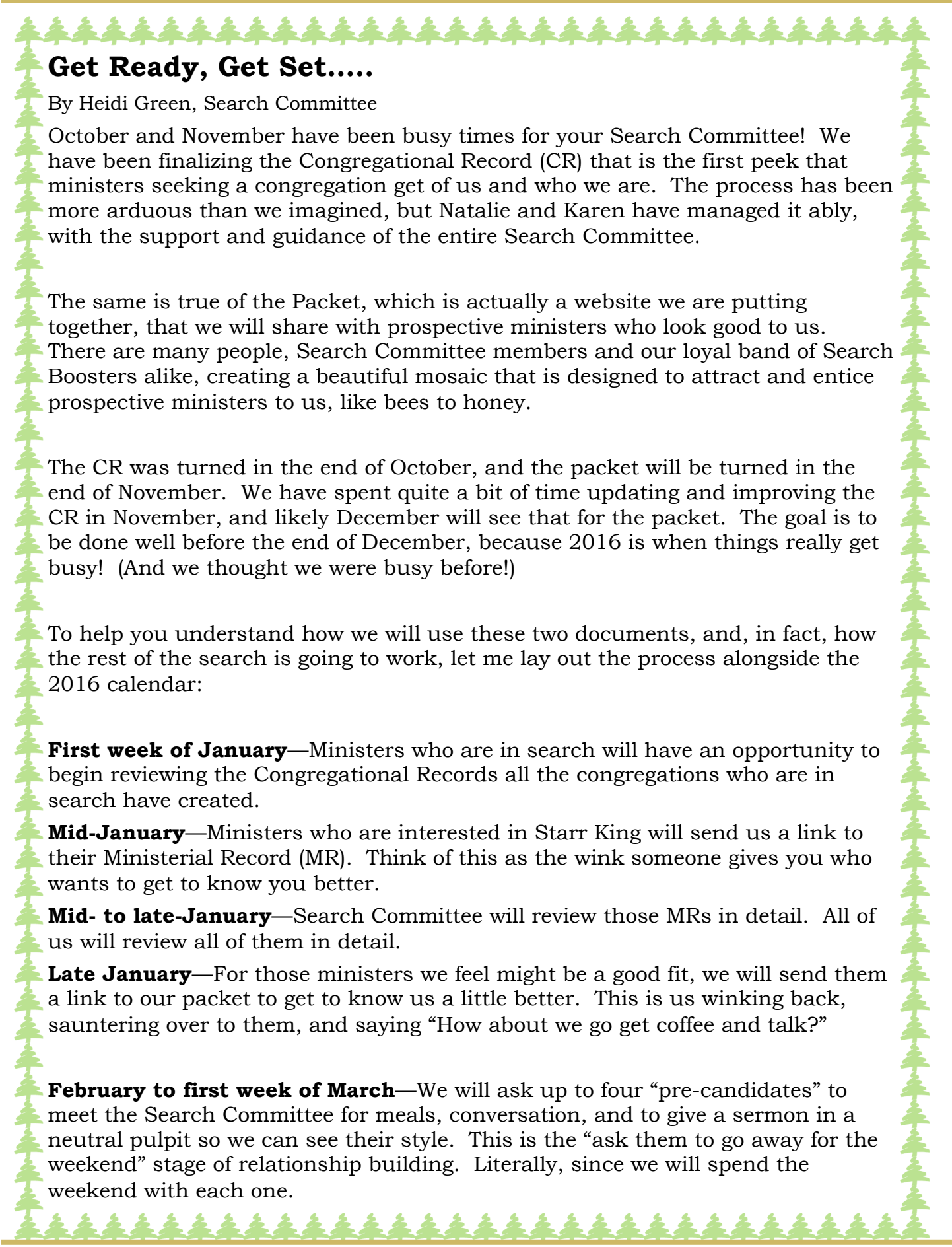
Did you all notice our new sign at the driveway? The primary mover in getting this done was Kirk Klausmeyer with help from his designer sister. As this is a small world, the sign company employee that Kirk worked with was Allison Fink, Stuart and Robin's daughter. I have gotten a ton of positive feedback. I hope everyone is happy with the outcome.

Did you know that we have a new Denominational Affairs Coordinator is Georgia Gruver? Do you know what that means? Georgia will help us to hear about UU activities that we might want to attend. We have been missing some very interesting and helpful seminars because we forget to take a look at the PCD or the UUA offerings. Now Georgia will help us to be connected to our larger church.

Have wonderful holidays, enjoy the activities, plug in some down time, and remember to breathe deeply as needed.

In Service,  
Diana Dickerson





## Get Ready, Get Set.....

By Heidi Green, Search Committee

October and November have been busy times for your Search Committee! We have been finalizing the Congregational Record (CR) that is the first peek that ministers seeking a congregation get of us and who we are. The process has been more arduous than we imagined, but Natalie and Karen have managed it ably, with the support and guidance of the entire Search Committee.

The same is true of the Packet, which is actually a website we are putting together, that we will share with prospective ministers who look good to us. There are many people, Search Committee members and our loyal band of Search Boosters alike, creating a beautiful mosaic that is designed to attract and entice prospective ministers to us, like bees to honey.

The CR was turned in the end of October, and the packet will be turned in the end of November. We have spent quite a bit of time updating and improving the CR in November, and likely December will see that for the packet. The goal is to be done well before the end of December, because 2016 is when things really get busy! (And we thought we were busy before!)

To help you understand how we will use these two documents, and, in fact, how the rest of the search is going to work, let me lay out the process alongside the 2016 calendar:

**First week of January**—Ministers who are in search will have an opportunity to begin reviewing the Congregational Records all the congregations who are in search have created.

**Mid-January**—Ministers who are interested in Starr King will send us a link to their Ministerial Record (MR). Think of this as the wink someone gives you who wants to get to know you better.

**Mid- to late-January**—Search Committee will review those MRs in detail. All of us will review all of them in detail.

**Late January**—For those ministers we feel might be a good fit, we will send them a link to our packet to get to know us a little better. This is us winking back, sauntering over to them, and saying “How about we go get coffee and talk?”

**February to first week of March**—We will ask up to four “pre-candidates” to meet the Search Committee for meals, conversation, and to give a sermon in a neutral pulpit so we can see their style. This is the “ask them to go away for the weekend” stage of relationship building. Literally, since we will spend the weekend with each one.



**April 7<sup>th</sup>**—This is the day that we will extend an invitation to OUR candidate—the one you will meet and vote on—to join the dance with us. You can imagine how busy we will be leading up to this.

Once our choice accepts us, we'll arrange a candidating week for them here, so you can meet them, hear them two successive Sundays, and vote—hopefully in 100% agreement—to call them as our next minister.

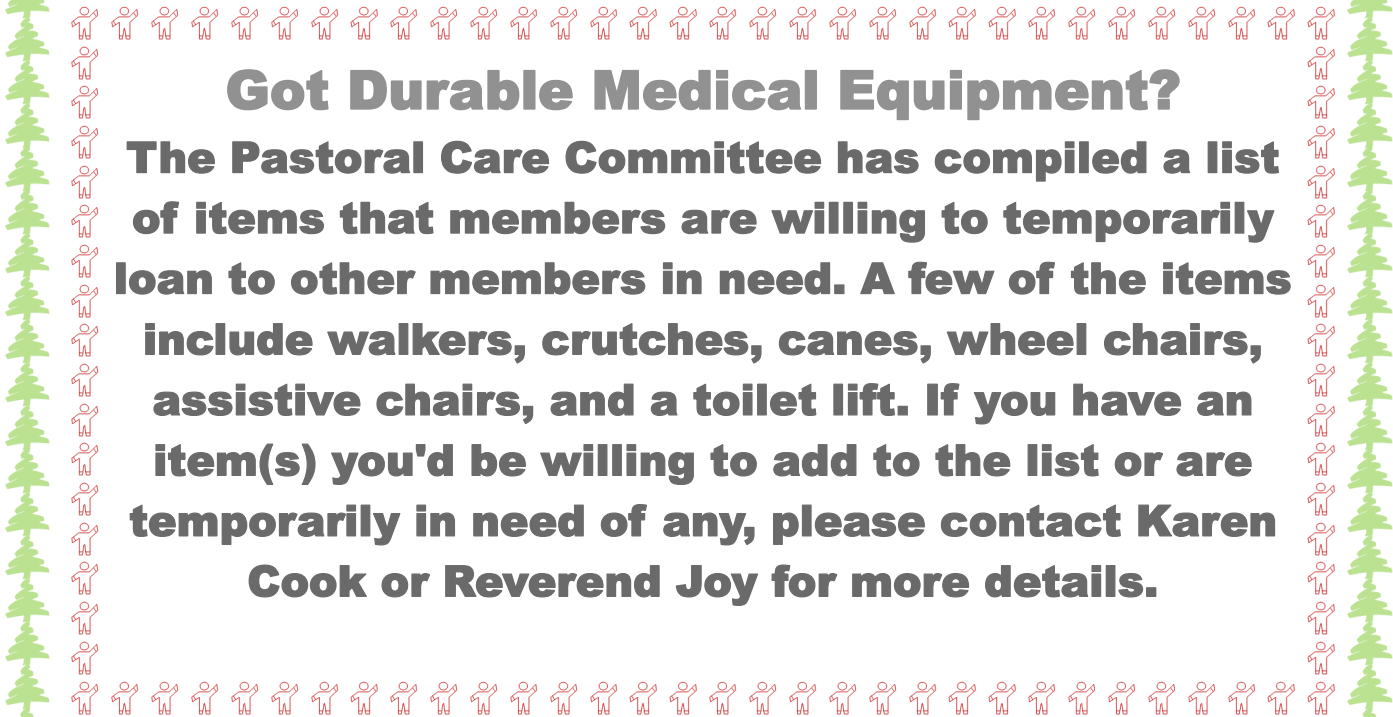
***To recap, here's what we'll be doing:***

**JANUARY**—checking references, selecting potentials, striving for consensus

**FEBRUARY**—every weekend meeting with candidates, continuing reference checks during the weeks

**MARCH**—going over and over the files and information, everyone reading everything, going back to our research about who we are as a congregation, more consensus, finding that ONE RIGHT PERSON

***Many thanks to all of you for putting your trust in us and supporting us. We anticipate stunning success!!***



**Got Durable Medical Equipment?**

**The Pastoral Care Committee has compiled a list of items that members are willing to temporarily loan to other members in need. A few of the items include walkers, crutches, canes, wheel chairs, assistive chairs, and a toilet lift. If you have an item(s) you'd be willing to add to the list or are temporarily in need of any, please contact Karen Cook or Reverend Joy for more details.**





## Preview of an UN-Common Read

By Heidi Green for the Anti-Racism Multicultural Alliance (ARMCA)

I've heard that Sunday is the most segregated day of the week.

The monochromatic view around Starr King is actually the rule across all types of denominations, from evangelical to liberal.

This despite our oft-stated frustration with the situation at Starr King. But church on Sunday mornings is not the only place where segregation is common. School cafeterias are another problem area, as the title of the Starr King 2015-16 common read indicates:

*Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* by Beverly Daniel Tatum, Phd.

The book is actually about a variety of conversations on race, not just about school kids. It's also about more than black and white. It's about the mosaic of race, and understanding our identities within that. The book is well researched, with many citations; but Tatum is a storyteller, and that is how she compellingly navigates the sensitive topics she explores.

Spoiler alert: Tatum explains that whites are not to 'blame' for black kids sitting together in the cafeteria. The culprit is racism—which she defines as a **system of advantage** based on race, as opposed to defining it as anyone's feelings of prejudice.

There is 'internalized oppression' which people of color play into that maintains racist systems, and, on the flip side, ignorance of how those systems oppress people of color that white people play into, thereby maintaining racist systems.

The book is an interesting and thought-provoking read. We will be discussing it in February, using the discussion guide at the back of the book, as well as coming up with our own questions. It's a fun and safe opportunity to participate in each other's growth as we make room for everyone who might want to share our sanctuary.

Come to the back of the Fellowship Hall after service to buy the book. Or ask Rene and Rene Castle, who are distributing the books. ***Let's get reading!***



# WHEEL OF LIFE

*Happy Birthday to you.....*

07 Mary Lou Schuler

13 Zelma Nunez-Borja

13 Stuart Fink

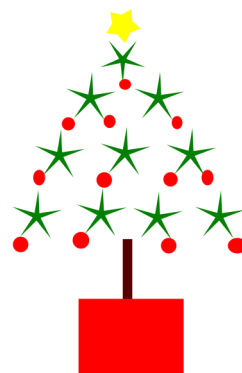
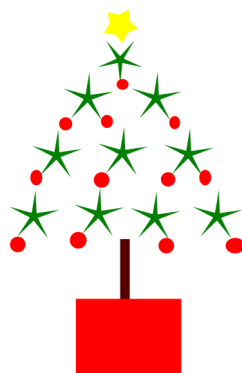
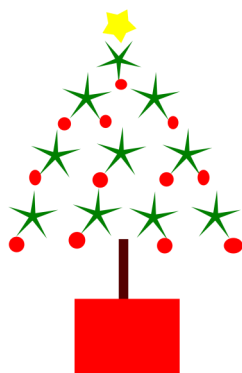
16 Henry Sprague

24 Chris Selig

25 Holly Robinson

29 Glen Jacob

31 Mary Swain



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## *ONGOING ACTIVITIES*

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### ***Anti-Racism Multicultural Alliance***

Meets the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month from 7:00 - 8:30 PM in the conference room. February, May, and November meets with Peace & Justice Team (2nd Sunday, noon).

### ***Church Bookstore***

Open on the THIRD SUNDAY of the month, after the service.

### ***Drum Circle***

Meets on the FIRST FRIDAY of the month, from 7 to 9 PM, in the Sanctuary. Come enjoy a fun, but spiritual, evening.

### ***Evening Meditation***

Meets EVERY WEDNESDAY of the month, from 7 to 8 PM. Come practice meditation and reap its benefits. Open to all.

### ***Morning Discovery***

Meets on the FIRST and THIRD WEDNESDAYS of the month, from 10:00 to 11:15 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. Join us to explore community, discuss spirituality, and share silence. Open to all.

### ***Peace & Justice Action Team***

Alternate meetings on the SECOND SUNDAY of the month following at 12:00 noon, in the Conference Room. Open to

### ***Small Group Ministry***

Meets twice a month for a predetermined number of months. Registration is required. Contact

### ***SKIT (Starr King Improv Troupe)***

Meets on the SECOND THURSDAY of the month, at 7:30 PM. Open to all.

### ***Starr King Choir***

Rehearsals are held Sunday mornings from 9 to 10 AM. All are welcome, especially men's voices. For information, contact Jo Murdach at 510-581-6794 or <allisonandjo@hotmail.com>.

### ***Starr King Elderberries***

Meets on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month, at 12:00 noon. Bring your lunch. Come enjoy learning about and discussing topics of particular interest to YOU! Open to all self-identified elders.

## Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church

22577 Bayview Avenue  
Hayward, CA 94541

Phone: 510-521-2060  
Email: office@starrking.org  
Hours: T, W, Th 9:30 AM  
to 2:30 PM



**A Welcoming Community**

## Church Leaders

**Parish Minister** (Interim):  
Rev. Joy Atkinson  
<minister@starrking.org>

**President:** Diana Dickerson  
<president@starrking.org>;  
<daesworkgd@comcast.net>  
Home phone: 510-786-2922

**Office Manager:** Kelli Abatangelo  
<office@starrking.org>

## Board of Trustees

**President:** Diana Dickerson

**Vice President:** Will Fitch

**Secretary:** Frank Burton

**Treasurer:** Marilyn Mosher

### Members at Large:

Wayne Bennion

Bob Britton

Betsy Dye

Stuart Fink

Kirk Klausmeyer

Sherry Thomas

## Committee Leaders

**Adult Religious Education:** Vacant

**Multicultural Alliance:** Beth Ogilve

**Buildings:** Bobby Robinson

**Chalice Editors:** Kathryn LaMar;  
Allison Prout

**Church Website:** Beth Ogilvie

**Committee Council:** Will Fitch

**Communications:** Melody Appleton

**FESCO Representative:** Kathryn  
Lamar

**Finance Committee:** Keith Lewis

**Fundraising:** Karen Cook

**Green Sanctuary:** Colleen Saia

**Grounds Care:** Walt Korus

**Hospitality/Membership:** Dirk  
Dino

**Interior:** Sherry Thomas

**Peace & Justice Action Team:**  
Frank Burton

**Nominating Committee:** Rebecca  
Parr

**Pastoral Care:** Karen Cook

**Religious Education:** David  
Middleton

**Social:** Joyce Kinnear

**Social Justice:** Mary Swain

**South Hayward Parish Rep:**  
Terry Owen

**Sunday Coffee:** Roy Dickerson

**Usher Coordinator:** Lavon Hodges

**Worship Committee:** Glen Jacob

