

# THE MESSENGER

## PAYSON PARK CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL / UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## DECEMBER 2016

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*"We believe God is calling us to walk in the ways of Jesus Christ  
and to bear witness to the Gospel through worship and service, empowered by the Holy Spirit."*

December is a wonderful month. For listening.

In December, the hints of snow help me to hear a certain sound. I hear swish-swish, my cross country skis in the snow. I love exploring the outdoors, snow gently falling, swish-swish, as I glide through the woods. I'll also hear the sound of my not-quite-in-shape breath, and my Patricia calling out, Wait up!

In December, the hints of ice help me to hear a certain sound. I hear kish-kish, my ice skates on an outdoor rink. My daughters or my friends call out to me. Soon the ponds also may be ready for us. We skate and skate, laughing, chasing, scarves flying. Kish-kish.

In December, I also listen for another sound. You. I remind myself how much you have to teach me. In December, and in all months, I yearn to listen to what you have to say. After all, the first day of December will only be Day 31, my 31<sup>st</sup> day among you. I have so much to learn, to listen.

In December, I will ask Church Council to reconstitute the Crossroads Home groupings, or their equivalent. I would love for us to gather in small groups, hosted at the homes of our members, and listen. I look forward to visiting with each group, gathered around good food and good company. I look forward to learning your stories. To listen to your joy, your pain, your hope. To join with you as we listen to God.

As Payson Park Church community, as part of the greater Boston area, as a nation, as a common humanity stretched across our globe, we need to listen to each other now more than ever.

December is a wonderful month. For listening.

These are the sounds I anticipate hearing:

Laughter in church, from children and adults.

Our congregation saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Our youth group singing Christmas carols to our shut-ins.

Silent Night on Christmas Eve, the lights down low,  
hot wax dripping oh so slowly on our hands from  
the candles we are holding.

Grace at Christmas dinner.

Swish-swish.

Kish-kish.

You.



# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4**

**10:30 AM**

*Second Sunday of Advent: The Candle of Peace  
Holy Communion & Food Pantry Collection  
The Rev. Eric Wefald preaching*

We are grateful to the many members and friends of Payson Park who greet us each Sunday. The acolytes greeting from God's Garden are Fiona Rodriguez-Clark and Carolyn Gulley. Lighting the Candle of Peace is Ann Alves. Altar flowers are given by Janet David in memory of Marion, Tom and Kathleen Serino. The deacons serving communion are Marty Gledhill, Cynthia Lasker and Merry & Terry Ray. The deacon on duty is Nancy Fergus. The fellowship hour is given by Ann Alves and Al & Marty Gledhill. Reading scripture is Ann Alves. The ushers greeting are Cynthia Lasker & Carl Miller.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**

**10:30 AM**

*Third Sunday of Advent: The Pink Candle of Joy  
Christmas Pageant & Church Party/Luncheon  
The Rev. Eric Wefald presiding*

Lighting the Candle of Joy are Carolyn, Ned & Wendy Gulley. Altar flowers are given by Cindy Lou Benson and Molly Jo Rivelli in honor of the youth in God's Garden. Altar flowers are also given by Janet Coleman in memory of her brother, Kevin Finnerty. The Christmas luncheon and party is given by the Christian Education and Mission & Outreach committees. A suggested donation of \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 per family is asked. The deacon on duty is Lorraine Clifford. The ushers greeting are Ann Alves & Carl Miller.



## THANK YOU FOR FULFILLING YOUR 2016 PLEDGE!

Please note, the year-end deadline for having your contributions appear in 2016 for tax purposes is Tuesday, December 27, 2016. Any money received after December 27 will be recorded in 2017! Thank you for fulfilling your 2016 pledge.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**

**10:30 AM**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent: The Candle of Love  
Service of Lessons & Carols, The Christmas Fund Offering  
The Rev. Eric Wefald presiding*

Lighting the Candle of Love are Herb, Sandy, Ryan & Katie Philpott. The poinsettia flowers decorating the sanctuary are given in memory of loved ones. Altar flowers are given by the Diaconate in memory of past members. The deacon on duty is Pat Cappadona. Hosting fellowship hour is Susan Harper, Jane Marshall and Kay & Bill Hudgins. Reading scripture are members of the congregation. The ushers greeting are Sally Markham & Carl Miller.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**5:30 PM**

*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service, The Christ Candle  
The Rev. Eric Wefald preaching*

Lighting the Christ Candle are Holly & Bruce Bloomfield. The ushers greeting are Susan Clark, Sally Markham and Carl Miller.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 & JANUARY 1**

**10:30 AM**

*Joint services with Plymouth Congregational Church.  
Payson Park goes to Plymouth on December 25.  
The Rev. Joe Zarro preaching  
  
Plymouth goes to Payson Park on January 1.  
The Rev. Bill Ragan preaching*



## NOVEMBER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

We are grateful to those who worshipped with us in the month of November. Below is a recording of our worship attendance. Thank you for being here!

November 6, Welcome Pastor Eric & Patricia - 68  
November 13 - 60  
November 20, Baptism & Thanksgiving Sunday - 84  
November 27 - TBD

# MISSION & SERVICE

## ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

### A MONTHLY OFFERING TO OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

On the first Sunday of each month the church collects food for our local food pantry. We call it the "Active Prayer of Thanksgiving." Please bring in new canned goods and dry food items on Sunday, Dec. 4. Thank you for being part of our local mission work.

## BRISTOL LODGE FOOD KITCHEN:

### SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Date: Tuesday, December 27

Place: Immanuel Methodist Church, 545 Moody St., Waltham

Time: drop off 3-5:00 p.m.; serve 5-5:45 p.m.

Menu: Lasagna, salad, bread

The lasagnas will be purchased at Costco, at the cost of \$13.99 per lasagna (serves 12). Cash donations are needed to cover the cost of the lasagnas as well as the salad ingredients, bread and beverages. A check can be written to "PPC", memo "Bristol Lodge" and left in the church office or given to Cynthia Lasker.

Several volunteers are needed to pick up a frozen lasagna at church, cook it and deliver it to Bristol or to another volunteer. Please contact [colasker@comcast.net](mailto:colasker@comcast.net) to sign up.



## THE MINISTRY OF ALL BELIEVERS:

### OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AROUND

Are you looking for a way to serve the church or the world? The Nominating Committee is currently recruiting members and friends of the congregation to serve on the committees of the church. If you would like to explore ways to offer your talents and time, please speak with Carl Miller or Nancy Fergus, committee co-chairs.

## CITY MISSION/COAT BOSTON

What a wonderful response to this appeal! 21 winter coats were delivered to City Mission for distribution this month to Boston school children. Your "Act of Kindness" will be appreciated by many children and their parents as the cold weather arrives. *Cynthia*



CHRISTMAS SHOPS

Share the joy of the season! City Mission's Christmas Shop once again celebrates its partnership with local churches, businesses and individuals who give gifts of the heart to help families and children in need. The gifts collected are made available to Homelessness Prevention participants, benefiting hundreds of families. City Mission believes that all of God's children deserve respect, love and a gift to call their own during the Christmas season.

Here is a list of suggested NEW items that are needed, with an emphasis on socks for children and adults and toys for all ages:

Sweaters and sweatshirts

Hats, mittens, gloves and scarves

Socks and underwear

Blankets and backpacks

Toys, books, games - all ages

Gift cards from Target, Walgreens, Marshalls, CVS, Kohls or other merchants

The gifts that you donate are not sold but are available at several Boston locations for children and adults to select for gift-giving to their families.

Collection boxes will be in the Narthex from November 27 until December 18. Children may bring their gifts to the Christmas Party at church on December 11 & Santa will share a sweet treat in return. Thank you for your generous support!

# MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

## A NOTE FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

For quite some time, we have kept three sets of hymnals in the sanctuary: The New Century Hymnal, the Chalice Hymnal, and the Pilgrim Hymnal. This can be confusing to visitors and new members. The Music Committee, the Diaconate, and Pastor Wefald have agreed to move the Chalice Hymnals, which originally came from Phillips Church, into the Chapel, which is officially named the Phillips Chapel in honor of that consolidation. The church maintains a CCLI license which will allow us to include hymns from the Chalice Hymnal as a bulletin insert when needed. This change will also create room for the pew Bibles to be kept in the pew racks for easier access.



The First Christmas

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & LUNCHEON & PARTY

Please mark your calendar for the Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 11. Don't miss the opportunity to share this presentation with your friends and neighbors; please invite them to church that day! The Christmas Luncheon and Party will follow the service. Join us for this festive time filled with food, fellowship and caroling hosted by the Mission & Outreach Committee and the Christian Education Committee. A donation of \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 per family is suggested. A gift swap with Santa will take place. Bring a gift item for the City Mission Society annual toy drive and Santa will share a sweet treat.

## THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

December is a season full of wonderful opportunities for us all to get together, and especially to make music! Our annual Christmas pageant, performed by our youth, is one of the highlights of my year. I hope it is one of yours, as well. I am so proud of each of our youth here at Payson Park. The way they tell the Christmas story is heartfelt and beautiful, and done with enthusiasm and teamwork. I also appreciate all the parents and my fellow staff members who help make these productions a great success. My special thanks to Cindy Lou! Thank you so much! Merry Christmas to everyone! *Molly Jo*

## HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING!

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING EVENT

Join a choir of angels as members and friends of Payson Park Church go caroling a weekend in late December. The joy of song and Christian fellowship will be shared with our homebound neighbors and friends. For more information, please speak with Emily Dallman or Wendy Gulley.



*Silent Night,  
Holy Night*

## SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT:

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Mark your calendars for the Christmas Eve service on Saturday, December 24, at 5:30 pm. This service will be filled with the joy of song and celebration – and candlelight. All families and members of the church are encouraged to attend – and please bring a neighbor or friend!

# EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST:**

### **GATHERING ON THURSDAY MORNINGS**

The Men's Breakfast group has established itself as a weekly event that many of the Payson Park men participate in and look forward to. Together we study the lectionary scripture lessons that serve as the basis for our Sunday worship services each week. This is a great way for men to get to know each other better. The group meets in the MacDonald Room parlor at 7 am. Speak to Pastor Eric for more information. There will be no meeting on Dec. 22 or 29. Breakfast will resume on Jan. 5, 2017.

## **FAITHFUL REFLECTIONS:**

### **THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Would you like a chance to talk about your spirituality with other people? *Faithful Reflections* is a class that provides just such opportunities as Pastor Eric leads us in conversation about the coming week's passages of scripture. Join us in the parlor on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 11:15 am. There will be no meeting on Dec. 22 or 29. The study group will resume on Jan. 5, 2017.



## **THE GULLEY'S ON STAGE:**

Hear Carolyn Gulley sing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and see her traipse down the yellow brick road in her school's production of "The Wizard of Oz"-- she'll be Dorothy! The show is at 6pm on Wednesday, December 14th at the Atrium School in Watertown. And Ned will be singing in the chorus again (and has a small speaking part) in the Christmas Revels at Sanders Theater in Cambridge, with 17 shows from December 9 to 27. This will be the first Christmas Revels production with our own Megan Henderson as the music director, and the theme this year is Acadian-Cajun music and dancing. See [revels.org](http://revels.org) for more information.

## **THEOLOGY, LITERATURE AND COFFEE:**

### **DECEMBER 11 @ 9:00 AM**

The adult education group led by our ministerial associate, the Rev. Bill Ragan, will finish the discussion of *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, translated by Edith Grossman. At this last session, Kate, the daughter of Mark and Susan Clark, who has lived in South America for many years until just recently, will be helping us understand the challenges of translation from the original Spanish. Even if you have not read the book, please come and join us. We will be choosing our next book on the 11th.. Come and experience our "Stillspeaking" God at Theology, Literature and Coffee! Please feel free to contact Bill Ragan at 484-860-4108 or [minassoc@paysonpark.org](mailto:minassoc@paysonpark.org) with any questions about this adult education opportunity.

## **YOUTH GROUP:**

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4**

First Fridays Youth Group had lots of fun last month playing games, enjoying pizza and decorating cookies. They made Thanksgiving cards to send to our homebound church members. The group meets on the first Friday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 pm for pizza, prayer, and fun activities. On Friday, December 4, we will decorate the Sanctuary Christmas Tree, please bring an angel ornament to share.

## **THE PHILPOTT'S ON STAGE**

Herb, Sandy, Ryan, & Katie Philpott will once again be performing in the Reagle Music Theatre of Greater Boston's annual presentation of "ChristmasTime". Based on the original Radio City Christmas spectacular, the production features singers, dancers, kids, a full orchestra, professional sets and lighting, a live Nativity, and even an appearance by Santa himself. The show is fun for all ages. Performances are at the Robinson Auditorium at Waltham High, 617 Lexington Street in Waltham, on Saturday and Sunday, December 3, 4, 10, and 11, at 1pm and 4pm each day. Tickets and additional details are available at <http://www.reaglemusictheatre.com>, or call the Box Office at 781-891-5600. Be sure to look for Herb and Sandy among the Victorian carolers in the lobby before the show!

# ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

## LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW... BUT, PLEASE, NOT ON SUNDAY!

As we enter the winter season, the Diaconate reminds you that Sunday morning worship services will be cancelled when a parking ban is in effect in Belmont. To confirm such a cancellation, please call the church after 8:00 am on the Sunday in question. The recorded message will provide information about the morning service. If you call the church and do not hear the recording, please call again. The line may be busy with another caller. Thank you!

## REACHING OUT TO CHURCH MEMBERS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

As the holiday season unfolds, we have the opportunity to offer our care to those long-time members of the church who are not able to attend worship regularly at this time in their lives. Please reach out to those you miss seeing on Sundays with a note or phone call. It is with such loving outreach we offer the loving Spirit of Christ to the wider community.

## CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST: POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Join in the festive and loving spirit of this sacred season!

Poinsettias will adorn our worship space Sunday, December 18, and Christmas Eve.

Donor Name & envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order #\_\_\_\_\_ 6.5" poinsettia (s) for the altar at \$7.00 each. Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_

I would like the flower (s) to be given:

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

OR

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

After the service on Sunday, Dec. 18, I would like to: (please check one)

Take my plant with me OR

Have my plant (s) shared with others.

**ORDER DUE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH**

Checks may be made payable to Payson Park Church.



# DECEMBER 2016

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast, Bible Study
- 10:00 AM Faithful Reflections Bible Study

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

- 6:00 PM First Fridays Youth Group

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

*Second Sunday in Advent, the Candle of Peace*  
*Communion Service & Food Pantry Collection*

- 9:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 AM Nursery Care
- 10:30 AM Worship & Pageant Dress Rehearsal
- 11:30 AM Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:30 AM Fellowship Hr. (*Al, Marty & Ann*)

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 (*poinsettia order due*)

- 9:00 AM Food Pantry Belmont Delivery
- 7:00 PM Church Council

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 1:30 PM Staff Meeting

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast, Bible Study
- 10:00 AM Faithful Reflections, Bible Study

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 10:00 AM Christmas Luncheon Set-up

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

*Third Sunday in Advent, the Candle of Joy*  
*Christmas Pageant & Luncheon*

- 9:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 AM Nursery Care
- 9:00 AM T. L. & C.
- 9:00AM Pageant - Full Dress Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship & Pageant
- 11:30 AM Christmas Luncheon

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 12:00 PM Communities of Practice (*offsite*)
- 6:30 PM Finance Committee
- 7:00 PM Property Committee

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14 *Messenger Deadline*

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- 10:00 AM Faithful Reflections Bible Study



## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

*Fourth Sunday of Advent, The Candle of Love*  
*Service of Lessons & Carols*

- 9:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 AM Nursery Care
- 9:15 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship & Church School
- 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour (*Bill, Kay, Susan, Jane*)
- TBD Christmas Caroling (*offsite*)

## Tuesday December 20

- 5:00 PM Bristol Lodge meal serving

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 5:30 PM *Christmas Eve Service, The Christ Candle*

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

*Union Service at Plymouth Congregational Church*

DECEMBER 26-28 (*office closed*)



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The Rev. Eric Wefald, Pastor,  
can be reached through the Church Office,  
617/484-1542  
or by email at [pastoreric@paysonpark.org](mailto:pastoreric@paysonpark.org)

The Rev. Bill Ragan, Ministerial Associate,  
can be reached on his cell phone 484/860-4108  
or by email at [minassoc@paysonpark.org](mailto:minassoc@paysonpark.org)

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**CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST:  
POINSETTIAS ADORN THE SANCTUARY**

Join in the festive and loving spirit of this sacred season!

Poinsettias will adorn our worship space on  
Sunday, December 18, Service of Lessons and Carols  
and the 5:30 pm Christmas Eve service.