

*December 2023*

*St. Paul's Church of Palmer  
Unitarian Universalist  
There's a Place for You Here*



(413)283-8185  
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[www.stpaulspalmer.org](http://www.stpaulspalmer.org)

1060 Central St.  
P.O. Box 307  
Palmer MA 01069

*Join us for worship  
in the sanctuary  
at 10:00 a.m.*

## *December Celebrations!*

03 – Thea Slota  
12 – Susan King  
16 – Maurice Tierney  
18 – John Grzebien  
23 – Sheena Slota

### **SANCTUARY RESTORATION FUND UPDATE**

To date we have received **\$17,198** towards our goal of \$60,000. We appreciate every donation and hope to raise even more money in the coming year. If you have any suggestions on ways to raise funds, please reach out to Joanne in the office, Rev. Sousa or a member of the board of trustees.

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to attend.

### **HOLLY BERRY BAZAAR**

Our inaugural St. Paul's holiday bazaar is fast approaching! Much planning, preparation and excitement has already gone into our bazaar. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome the community and share the sincere friendship that we at St. Paul's enjoy. The bazaar will be held on Saturday, December 9th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tables will be arranged on Monday. Bazaar preparations and set up will take place Friday beginning at 9 a.m.

### **PIE BAKING FEST**

On Saturday morning, December 2nd at 9:00 a.m. we will be baking pies for the bazaar. Please note the change of time from what was printed in the weekly email. All are invited to join in the fun!

## **CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT**

St. Paul's Christmas Eve service will be held in our lovely church sanctuary this year! If you would like to have a role in the service by way of a reading or in music please see Rev. Sousa.

## **SAVE THE DATES**

Upcoming 2024 Winter Events at St. Paul's: Magic Show on January 20th; Friendship Sunday (bring a friend to church) on February 11th; Kids in the Congo Dinner on February 24th.

## **NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!**

Thanks to the hard work of Jo Condon, St. Paul's Church has a new Facebook page. Our old one has been deleted thanks to the efforts of Sue King and Joanne Baldrige. It is still in its infancy but be sure to follow it. It will be a great resource for announcements, photos, and inspirational snippets.

## **HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S CONT.**

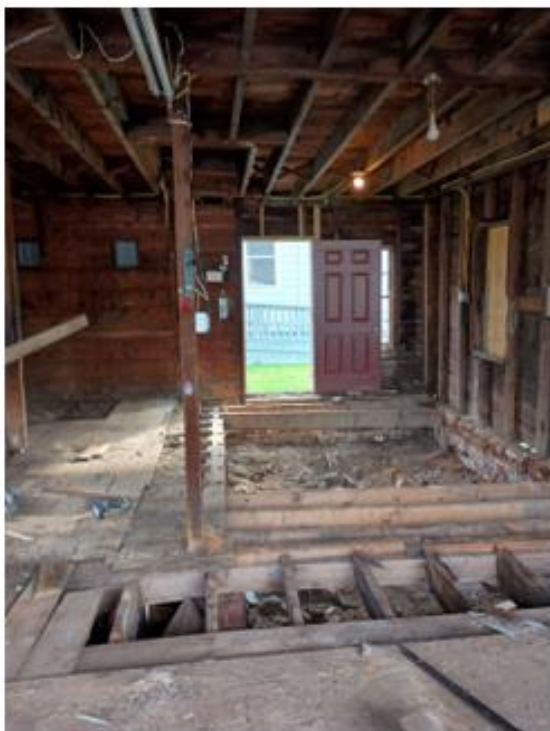
Following Whittemore, the Rev. John H. Willis from Stafford, CT, spoke in Thorndike and found there an interested audience. A society was organized in Thorndike; however no records of it exist today. An attempt to form a society in Palmer in 1839 failed. For nearly 20 years there is no account of what happened to the early Universalist pioneers in our area. In the winter of 1857-58, the pastor of the Palmer congregational Church spearheaded a revival. Although the revival generated a great deal of enthusiasm, many people were critical of the minister's dogmatic "un-Christian spirit" and harsh preaching. It was this group of unsatisfied people who invited the Rev. H. R. Nye, a Universalist, to hold services in the Antique Hotel the following summer. The response was overwhelming, so unlike the days of the 1830's! It must have warmed the hearts of the old-time Universalists. Arrangements were made for more services. Included in the list of preachers were "Father" Whittemore and John H. Willis, the pioneers; plus J.G. Adams, H. Fay, G.J. Sanger, C.A. Bradley, Lucius Holmes, J.H. Marvin, J.W. Wilson and Thomas Borden.

This time a Universalist Society was formed. The Rev. N. R. Wright was called to minister to the congregation. In February 1860, they drew up a constitution. The name of the group was "The First Universalist Society in Palmer". Its objectives were to "promote truth and morality among its members and also in the world at large," and as "the Gospel of the Lord, Jesus Christ is calculated above all truth" the society pledged to "support the preaching of the Gospel, and aid in any other practicable way in spreading the knowledge of it among men". The Profession of Faith adopted was that of the Universalist Convention at Winchester, NH, in 1803. Signers of the constitution included C.C. Shaw, Marshall Fox, John A. Squires, S.R. Lawrence, George Robinson, J.W. Robinson and Mary A. Shaw.

From: *St. Paul's Church of Palmer 1876-1976*

## BARN RENOVATION

The old foundation has been shored up and the old floor replaced. Soon the barn will be a useful structure once again instead of a rotting inevitable danger. Please check out the following pictures taken by our own June Bacon. One of the more interesting discoveries the workers made was uncovering an old root cellar full of trash in one corner of the barn.





# Celtic Noëls

Christmas music from Brittany  
and elsewhere in France

## WINGS OF SONG

A 40-voice community chorus  
directed by Nym Cooke



**Saturday, December 9** - 7:30 p.m.

**St. Joachim Chapel**

16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA

**Sunday, December 10** - 3 p.m.

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Church**

18 East Main Street, Webster, MA



- Free Admission (freewill offering taken)
- Handicap accessible venues
- Refreshments served
- Website: [www.wingsofsong.org](http://www.wingsofsong.org)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/wingsofsong.org](http://www.facebook.com/wingsofsong.org)
- More information: [wingsofsongchorus@gmail.com](mailto:wingsofsongchorus@gmail.com)



**ADMINISTRATOR’S OFFICE HOURS**

Joanne Baldrige, your Office Administrator, will be in the office on Monday from 11-4 p.m. and Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9-2. Please feel free to stop by with questions, suggestions for the newsletter or just to visit. I can also be reached at (413) 283-8185 or [stpaulsuuchurch@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsuuchurch@gmail.com).

**DECEMBER 2023**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 World AIDS Day	2 International Spirit of the Game Day
3 Sunday Worship	4 Wildlife Conservation Day	5 International Volunteer Day	6 Mitten Tree Day	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8 Hannukah begins	9 Holly Berry Bazaar
10 Sunday Worship	11 Holiday Food Drive for Needy Animals Day	12 Festival of Unmentionable Thoughts	13 Board of Trustees	14 Day of the Monkey	15 Bill of Rights Day	16 National Wreaths Across America Day
17 Sunday Worship	18 Flake Appreciation Day	19 Look For an Evergreen Day	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 Winter Solstice	22 National Cookie Exchange Day	23 HumanLight
24/31 Christmas Eve/New Year's Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 National Whiner's Day	27 Visit the Zoo Day	28 National Box of Chocolates Day	29 Still Need To Do Day	30 Festival of Enormous Changes at the Last Minute

