

THE MESSENGER

PAYSON PARK CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

365 BELMONT STREET, BELMONT, MA 02478

617-484-1542

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JANUARY 2011

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.*

As the days of Christmas lead into the season of Epiphany, we shift our attention from the baby lying in the manger to the early events of Jesus' life. From the baptismal scene in the Jordan River, to the first miraculous act at the wedding in Cana, such stories illustrate the ways Jesus reveals God's healing and reconciling nature. Whether teaching in a synagogue or reaching out to those in need on the streets, we see that God's grace is for all people no matter what one's age or ethnicity, culture or creed. As God's beloved child, Jesus leads us to recognize that we, too, are cherished and loved as God's unique and blessed creation.

Of course there's a hitch. While the invitation comes continuously through the Spirit's presence, we must prayerfully respond to such grace. What will we do? Can we receive this unconditional acceptance and inspiration? Might we allow it to change our lives?

It's never too late. That's what we learn at the manger right on to scene at the empty tomb. New life and love are continuously offered as the Christian message shows us that no one can stop the power of peace that's offered by God. As we begin a new year together here – indeed, a new decade – it is my prayer that each and all of us may say “yes!” to such exuberant life. Just as Mary and Joseph gathered with the shepherds and Wise Men, so we, too, have the opportunity to build new community here at Payson Park Church and beyond. May we all be opened this year to new life and greater love by God's inspiring and sustaining power!

Prayerfully from The Reverend Lael Atkinson



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

10:30 AM

**Communion Sunday &
Food Pantry Collection Drive:**

**Lorrie Herzberg, In Care Seminarian, preaching;
The Reverend Lael Atkinson presiding**

Serving communion are Holly Bloomfield, Lorraine Clifford, Marty Gledhill, Carl Miller, Nancy Fergus and Winnie Snow. The deacons serving today is Carl Miller. The fellowship hour is given by the Endowment Trustees. Reading scripture is Al Gledhill. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Phil Ripley. Cindy Lou Benson will lead the food pantry collection drive for the Water-town Food Pantry.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

10:30 AM

Epiphany Sunday:

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

The altar flowers are given by Bob & Linda Jones in loving memory of Charles & Edna Giles. The fellowship hour is given by the Christian Education Committee. The deacon serving today is Nancy Fergus. Reading scripture is Betsy Hay. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Phil Ripley.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

10:30 AM

Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend:

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

The altar flowers are given by the Benjamin family in loving memory of Olive E. and Harold S. Moore. The fellowship hour is given by the Ushers. The deacon serving today is Pat Cappadona. Reading scripture is Carl Miller. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Winnie Snow.

SCRIPTURE READERS WELCOMED!

Would you like to give voice to one of the scripture readings during our Sunday morning worship services? A sign-up sheet for the upcoming months is on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. We would love to have you be a part of our prayerful time together in this way.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

10:30 AM

**Annual Meeting Sunday;
Youth Choirs Singing:**

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

The altar flowers are given by Armen & Janet David in loving memory of Thomas and Marion Serino. The annual meeting is hosted by the Diaconate to whom we are grateful. The deacon serving today is Marty Gledhill. Reading scripture is Melissa Melhorn. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Cynthia Lasker. Elizabeth Rose Connell will be baptized. The Youth Choirs are singing a special song.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

10:30 AM

**The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Guest Preacher To Be Announced**

The altar flowers are given by Rich MacDonald in loving memory of his mother, Amy MacDonald, and altar flowers also given by Joan Agius in loving memory of her parents, Edward and Marjorie Dwyer. The deacon serving today is Lorraine Clifford. The fellowship hour is given by the Church School parents. Reading scripture is Nancy Slavinsky. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Pat Cappadona.



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

We offer our gratitude to all those who worshipped with us through the month of December. Our services were filled with special components as we journeyed through the season of Advent together. Thank you for being a part of our Service of Holy Communion, the Annual Christmas Pageant, Lessons & Carols, and our Candlelight Christmas Eve worship.

WORSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS



PLEDGING OUR LIVES IN LOVE:

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As the annual stewardship campaign continues here at Payson Park Church, we thank YOU for making a financial pledge to benefit this community and the continued mission of Christ in this glorious and yet broken world. Working toward 100% participation, we have at this point received nearly 50 pledge cards. Thanks to those who have made such a commitment, and “please pledge soon!” to those who have not yet responded. Every friend and member counts as we work to build a community filled with God’s unifying and inspiring Spirit.

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 a cancellation, please call the church after 8:00 a.m. on Sunday. The recorded message will provide relevant information. If you call the church and do not hear the recording, please call again, the line may be busy with another caller.

“PEACE STARTS WITH A SMILE”

BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Help us grow as a faithful and loving community! In addition to wearing a name tag on Sunday mornings, it’s also important that we reach out to others each week. Please make an effort to talk to someone you do not know after worship, whether it’s someone new to our congregation or a long-time member. Take a chance, make a new connection. It’s all a part of “walking in the ways of Jesus” right here at Payson Park. Amen!

ANNUAL MEETING:

SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual Meeting of Payson Park Church will be held on Sunday, January 23, after worship. This is an important event as we not only review the past year but plan for the future. During the meeting we will gather for our annual Church Luncheon. Please speak with Nancy Fergus, Senior Deacon, if you would like to help plan this festivity. Childcare can be made available upon request. Please call the church office as soon as possible, 617/484-1542.



CELEBRATING DR. KING:

WORKING FOR JUSTICE & PEACE

Join us as we celebrate the ministry of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this year. On Sunday, January 16, The Reverend Lael Atkinson will help us reflect on the ways we are called to work for justice and peace, following in the footsteps of those who participated in the Civil Rights Movement.



CABLE BROADCAST SCHEDULE

If you or a loved one are unable to attend worship on Sundays, we hope you’ll join with us in the spirit of prayer during the week. The Sunday services of our church are broadcast on local cable networks at the following times: In Arlington - Sundays and Wednesdays at 4:30 pm, Belmont - Sundays at 9:00 am, and 4:00 pm, Waltham - Sundays at 8:00 am, Watertown - Sundays at 10:00 am and Mondays at 4:30 pm.

SHARING & CARING

ALTAR FLOWERS: HONORING OUR LOVED ONES



Would you like to honor someone in your life? Each Sunday our altar flowers are given in honor or remembrance of those we hold dear. Coordinated in the winter months for the calendar year by Cindy Lou Benson, our Administrative Coordinator, this program also offers us a chance to reach out to those in our congregation who cannot attend worship, as the flowers are regularly delivered by our pastor or others to those hospitalized or homebound. Please call the church office at 617/484-1542 to participate.

A NOTE ABOUT PARKING:

TREATING OUR MEMBERS & NEIGHBORS WELL

As we seek to grow together here at Payson Park Church, we celebrate the fact that the number of people attending Sunday services and other events is increasing. The challenge that arises from such growth is that parking space near the church is limited. Please park carefully, being sure you do not block a driveway. With the start of a new year and particularly as the winter's snow arrives, we want to be good neighbors. We also hope that those who arrive early to church for choir, ushering, or other duties, will save parking close to our entrances for those who have difficulty walking in the inclement weather. We thank you for presence here and for your caring consideration.

ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?

CHURCH LOST & FOUND

Did you leave a hat or glasses at church one Sunday? Are you missing a button or umbrella? If you get home and find something is lost, please call the Church Office during the week. It's there we have a Lost & Found box and we will be happy to help you locate your missing item if it has been turned in.

FROM THE CURTIS FAMILY: WITH LOVE AND APPRECIATION

“On behalf of the family of Jonathan Michael Curtis, we will be forever grateful for the incredible kindness and generosity for the hard work that you did before and during his memorial service.

We have heard so many comments on what a beautiful service it was. The service, the music, the reception were all perfect. We couldn't have done it without you! The Payson Park Church community is a shining example of God's love in action. We thank you for being such a loving, caring and helpful community in our time of sorrow.”

With love & appreciation, the Curtis family



A MESSAGE FROM OUR YOUTH MUSIC DIRECTOR, MOLLY JO RIVELLI:

Many thanks to all the children, parents, and staff for all of your help with the Christmas Pageant! Being new, I certainly needed much help. Thank you for anticipating my mistakes before I made them, for thinking of things that needed to be done, and for providing me with such talented and well-behaved children to direct! I truly enjoyed my first pageant at Payson Park Church! Happy New Year!

SHARING & CARING

NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED INTO THE LIFE OF PAYSON PARK CHURCH

Are you looking for a church to call “home” at this time in your life? Would you like to explore what it means to be a member of Payson Park Church and the United Church of Christ? New members will be received into the life of this congregation in March. Please speak with our pastor Lael if you have questions about membership opportunities.

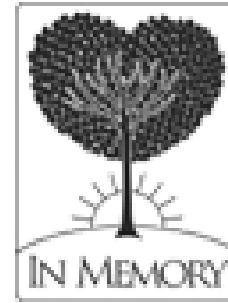


REACHING OUT TO THE YOUNG PAYSON PARK CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL

Are you looking for a nursery school program for your child? Do you have neighbors or friends who are making preschool and nursery plans for their young children? The Payson Park Church Nursery School is scheduling an Open House this winter. Nursery school scheduling is flexible, and discounts are available for Church members. Please call Janet Coleman, Nursery School Director, for more information (617/489-4824) or email her anytime at nurserydirector@paysonpark.org

CHURCH NURSERY CARE & SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Nursery care for infants (from birth to three years of age) is provided every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to noon under the supervision of a qualified staff. The church Nursery provides a Christian environment as well as a joyful safe space. Additionally, we welcome children and youth of all ages to participate in our Christian Education and Music programs. “God’s Garden” meets weekly during worship, and choir rehearsals are scheduled on Sundays after service. If you have questions about these programs or would like to serve as a volunteer teacher, please call our Christian Education Director, Cindy Lou Benson.



IN MEMORIAM

The month of December found us marking the loss of two longtime members of Payson Park Church, the light of Christmastide offering us all God’s comfort and hope in our grief.

BERNICE LINDEGREN FLEMMING OCTOBER 16, 1911 - DECEMBER 16, 2010


On Tuesday, December 21st, the Flemming family and friends gave thanks for the life of Bernice “Bunny” Flemming at a Memorial Service and reception. A long time member of Payson Park Church, Bunny’s loving nature will long be remembered as she shared so much in the life of the church as well as with her family and friends. Our condolences extend to her son John and her wider family.

ROBERT COREY

JULY 4, 1934 - DECEMBER 19, 2010

After worship on Sunday, December 19th, it was with sadness we received news of Bob’s death. An active member and cherished presence in our community, Bob will be missed. Visiting hours and Bob’s burial at Belmont Cemetery took place on December 22. A Memorial Service is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, February 6th, after Fellowship Hour on Super Bowl Sunday. If you would like to participate in the service or help with the reception, please contact the Church Office.

SHARING & CARING



Songs for Sophie

Inspired by *Sophie Pettengill* to raise money to bring
Love, Hope and Healing
to all children fighting childhood cancers

Performances featuring teachers and students from MJ's Music School:
*Molly Jo Rivelli, Chris Rivelli, Chris Bryant, Chris Fitz,
Greg Silva, the MJ's Music School Youth Choir, and more*

Sunday, January 16th at 3:00pm
Payson Park Church
365 Belmont Street
Belmont, Massachusetts

Suggested donation: \$15

All proceeds to benefit Dana Farber & The Jimmy Fund

Sophie Pettengill is 3 years old. She is the daughter of my friend Julia. Sophie was diagnosed with leukemia last April. During the past several months, I've watched as her family has battled this terrible childhood cancer with the most grace and dignity imaginable. Though her treatments will continue for years to come, Sophie is doing really well and is maintaining as normal a childhood as one could hope for. Sophie's successful treatments and happiness during this time are due, in large part, to those wonderful doctors and nurses who treat her and offer support in many ways at Dana Farber. For more about this wonderful charity, see www.jimmyfund.org and to read more about Sophie, please see www.caringbridge.org/visit/sophielivpettengill. We, the teachers and students from MJ's Music School, hope you will join us on Sunday, January 16, at 3:00 PM for an afternoon of opera, jazz, blues, and more to raise money to support the Jimmy Fund.

Thank You! *Molly Jo*

MISSION & OUTREACH

A COMMUNITY IN ACTION WITH AN ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: AN OFFERING TO OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Please bring in new canned goods and dry food items on Sunday, January 2nd, to continue with the mission project for our two local food pantries in Belmont and Watertown! The “Active Prayer of Thanksgiving” will take place during the children’s moment in worship and will be an offering of food (and/or money for food) to help feed God’s hungry children. There will be a procession to the altar steps where the donations will be delivered. After church the teen youth will gather the offering for this month’s recipient, the Watertown Food Pantry.



BRISTOL LODGE FOOD KITCHEN HELPING THE HUNGRY NEAR HOME

Date: Monday, January 31
Delivery: 3-5 p.m. delivery to Emmanuel
Methodist Church, Waltham
Serve: 5-5:45 p.m.

In the spirit of a new year, why not consider a new personal mission? Help is needed in preparing monthly hot meals for men and women in the Waltham area. It’s easy to buy the ingredients and prepare the basic meal for 12 people and it’s also rewarding to serve the food to the appreciative guests at the Waltham church. Check the M & O bulletin board for details, recipes and sign-up. Please speak with Cynthia Lasker if you have any questions. The future dates are:

(Feb. - possibly sandwich-making at church on a Sunday)
Thursday, March 31, Friday, April 29, Tuesday, May 31,
Wednesday, June 29.



WALKING IN THE WAYS OF JESUS:

A WORD OF GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SERVICE

Heartfelt appreciation and thanks to all members and friend of Payson Park Church who, with loving generosity, responded to all the Mission and Outreach appeals throughout 2010.

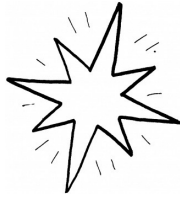
It was so good to have the support of your pledges and contributions to the United Church of Christ’s One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, and Christmas Fund; the Easter Offering for Chile Earthquake survivors; the Thanksgiving Offering for Pilgrim Church; the God’s Garden ongoing collection of items for the Belmont and Watertown Food Pantries; Church World Service Blanket Drive; and City Mission Society’s Book Drive and Christmas Gifts Collection.

Through your giving, you recognize God’s mystic bond that makes all people one and offer hope and help to those in need. May you be blessed in your caring and sharing.

- Your Mission and Outreach Committee



EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP



THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Long before there was a cross
A tiny heart beat with the
purest Love the world
would ever know.

And two faithful people
Carried that Love to
Bethlehem so it might be
born in every heart one day.

When the world had forgotten
The One who created every man,
wise men remembered
and came to kneel before
the Author of their lives.

And seekers everywhere set out
To find Him, drawn by the
radiant light of His love.

Long before we knew His
Name, He cherished everyone
of us - before His tiny
lips spoke a word,
He knew us by heart.

At this time called Christmas
it is our chance to
give Him the greatest gift
we could offer in return—
the gift of ourselves.

Paige De Rayscher

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES:

SPECIAL OFFERINGS IN FEBRUARY

Has the Christian tradition seemed irrelevant or inaccessible to you? Do you wonder what it means to be a person of faith in contemporary times? These weekly discussions seek to provide a place for education as well as exploration as Lael leads us in reflecting on the upcoming Sunday's gospel text, allowing us to contemplate and discuss the theme of our worship service in an extended manner. Mark your calendars for Thursday evenings in February, as we will gather again for these classes at that time.

FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE FELLOWSHIP

TUESDAYS IN JANUARY, 2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

The group is back from taking their winter break! They would like to invite you to join them whether you knit or not. They meet on these Tuesdays: 4, 11, 18, and 25 weather permitting. Inspired by the knitting of prayer shawls, this is a time of "sharing and caring" in the spirit of faith, hope, and love, please consider coming once or every week to get together with new and old-time friends of the church.



THE GOOD AFTERNOONS:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

Through the year we have enjoyed sharing tips about healthy living. In our January gathering we will review the information we have shared, discussing together the joys and challenges we face with aging. If you have the afternoon free and would like to join us from 2:00 — 3:30 pm, please come. All ages are welcome as we give thanks for God's creation in this unique and spiritual way.

JANUARY 2011

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

10:30 AM

**Communion Sunday &
Food Pantry Collection Drive:**

Lorrie Herzberg, In Care Seminarian, preaching;

The Reverend Lael Atkinson presiding

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Nursery Care
10:30 AM Worship & Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

9:00AM Drop off food pantry
2:00 PM Faith, Hope & Love
7:00 PM Church Council

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

10:30 AM

Epiphany Sunday:

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Nursery Care
10:30 AM Worship & Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

2:00 PM Faith, Hope & Love
7:30 PM Property Committee



SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

10:30 AM

Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend:

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:45 AM Youth Choir rehearsal
10:00 AM Nursery Care
10:30 AM Worship & Church School
3:00 PM Songs for Sophie Benefit

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

2:00 PM Faith, Hope & Love

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19 Messenger Deadline

2:00 PM The Good Afternoons

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

10:30 AM

Annual Meeting Sunday;

Youth Choirs Singing:

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Nursery Care
10:30 AM Worship & Church School
11:30 AM Annual Meeting & Luncheon

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

2:00 PM Faith, Hope & Love

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

9:00 AM Messenger Committee

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

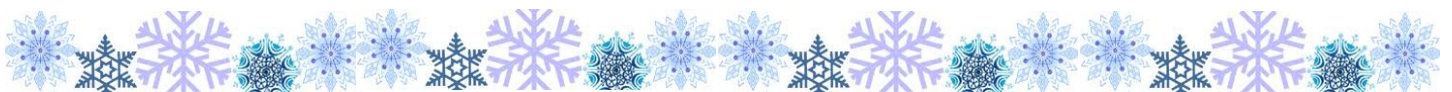
10:30 AM

Guest Preacher, To Be Announced

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:45 AM Youth Choir rehearsal
10:00 AM Nursery Care
10:30 AM Worship & Church School

MONDAY, JANUARY 31

5:00 PM Bristol Lodge Food Kitchen Delivery



DO YOU NEED TO REACH THE PASTOR?

The Reverend Lael Atkinson can be reached through the Church Office or at home (617) 464-4990.

THE MESSENGER

PAYSON PARK CHURCH
365 BELMONT STREET
BELMONT MA 02478-3438

“THE CHRISTMAS STORY”



Payson Park Church celebrated the Christmas season with their annual pageant, presented by the Children's Music Ministries followed by the festive Christmas luncheon! Angels and Innkeeper shown in the front row are Alice Troop as Angel Gabriel, Michaela Landry, Vivian Robinson, Lilly Hay and Eleanor Thidemann. Middle row: Three Wise Men: Adam Cronin, Elliott Ronna and Henry Troop. Back row are the Shepherds with Joseph and Mary: Carolyn Gulley, Audrey Hayes, Elizabeth Connell, Zac Karakouzian as Joseph, Nicholas Karakouzian, Emily Ronna as Mary, Rose Muldrew and Julian Thourot. Not shown are the props managers: Harry Thidemann and Matthew Muldrew.