

# THE MESSENGER

## PAYSON PARK CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
365 BELMONT STREET, BELMONT, MA 02478 617-484-1542

*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.*

### MAY 2011

It's come to my attention that the children enjoy (and even *expect*) a joke or riddle on Easter and Christmas Eve. Working to keep them engaged through those worship services, I look for quips that are not only funny but also help me to make the theological point of the day. And so this past Sunday I asked, *Why are bunnies the luckiest animals in the world?* answering, then, *Because they each have four rabbits feet!*

With the arrival of Easter we toss aside superstition and celebrate our faith in an active God who lives with and through us. Knowing how so many people hope a rabbit's foot might bring them good luck, we recognize that the wood we knock on is that of the cross, a symbol not only of sacrifice but of ultimate unity and peace. Our "luck" is found by travelling from Calvary to the empty tomb where we hear the angels say, *Why are you looking for the living among the dead?* as God's never ending love is revealed to those first disciples. Over and over again we sing *Alleluia*, giving thanks that *Christ is risen and with Christ we rise!*

As the festive spirit of Easter begins to fade, I wonder how we can keep this proclamation alive — for we know it's not just children who can have short attention spans. What might we do to live in deep Easter grace? How can it be real in our days? Again, I turn to words I shared with you last Sunday: *Remember that every act is an act of self-definition. Every thought carries the energy of creation. Every word is a declaration of what is true for you.* In "Conversations with God," Neale Donald Walsch reminds us, *Each moment of your life is a holy moment, a moment of creation. Each moment is a new beginning. In each, you are born again.* As simple as it sounds, this is how we are called to be Christian men and women. We must recognize the preciousness of each moment as it pulses with life and God's creative love. For then we are truly awakened, able to live in deep relationship with our selves and one another, all in the dazzling light of the resurrection. Alleluia! Amen!

In Easter hope from The Reverend Lael Atkinson



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# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MAY 1

10:30 AM

**A Service of Holy Communion  
and Food Pantry Collection:**

**The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching**

The acolytes are Harry Thidemann & Julian Thourot. The altar flowers are given by Armen & Janet David in memory of Thomas & Marion Serino. The deacons serving communion are Lorraine Clifford, Marty Gledhill, Cynthia Lasker, Carl Miller and Merry & Terry Ray. The deacon on duty and reading scripture is Cynthia Lasker. The fellowship hour is given by the Mission & Outreach Committee. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller & Gretchen Dunoyer.

SUNDAY, MAY 8

10:30 AM

**Blanket the World with Love:  
Church World Service Blanket Drive**

**The Reverend Linda Knight preaching:**

**“The Journey Home”**

**The Reverend Lael Atkinson presiding  
Alleluia & Youth Choirs Singing *Alleluia Canon*  
Cherub Choir Singing**

The acolytes are Harry Thidemann & Julian Thourot. The altar flowers are given by Willa Rockett in memory of Bertie & Willa Wye & Frank Rockett. The deacon on duty is Winnie Snow. The fellowship hour is given by the Music Committee. Reading scripture is Ned Gulley. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller & Susan Clark.



SUNDAY, MAY 15

10:30 AM

**Every Day is Earth Day:**

**The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching**

The acolytes are Harry Thidemann & Julian Thourot. The altar flowers are given by Joan Agius in memory of Edward & Marjorie Dwyer, parent and grandparents. The altar flowers are also given by Bruce & Holly Bloomfield in memory of our mothers, Elsie Bloomfield and Eileen Brennan. The deacon on duty and reading scripture is Nancy Fergus. The fellowship hour is given by the Finance Committee. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller & Cynthia Lasker.

SUNDAY, MAY 22

10:30 AM

**A Service of Baptism & Commissioning:**

**The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching**

The acolytes are Harry Thidemann & Julian Thourot. The altar flowers are given by Bob & Linda Jones in memory of Guy & Ruth Jones. Altar flowers are also given by Merry & Terry Ray in memory of Merry's father and mother, Rev. & Mrs. J. Walter Sillen and Terry's father, Mr. S. Bruce Ray. The deacon on duty and reading scripture is Winnie Snow. The fellowship hour is given by the Endowment Trustees. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller & Nancy Slavinsky.

SUNDAY, MAY 29

10:30 AM

**Memorial Day Weekend:**

**Lorrie Herzberg preaching**

The acolytes are Harry Thidemann & Julian Thourot. The deacon on duty is Merry Ray. The fellowship hour is given by the Diaconate. Reading scripture is Nancy Slavinsky. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller & Nancy Slavinsky.

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Thank you for traveling with us through the days of Lent to Easter! With the world in such a time of turbulence, our weekly gatherings of prayer, song, and reflection, offered us all meaning and support. The numbers below reflect our dedication to live as a people of the resurrection, thanks to the living Spirit of God!

April 3 - 72

April 10 - 69

April 17 - 97

April 24 - 202

# MISSION & OUTREACH NEWS

## A COMMUNITY IN ACTION:

### OUR ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Please bring in new canned goods and dry food items on the first Sunday of each month to continue with the mission project for our two local food pantries in Belmont and Watertown! Your contributions have been well received. Both pantries have specific needs. These lists are posted on the M & O board. May first recipient is Watertown.



## EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY!

### A SPECIAL CELEBRATION IN MAY

With the arrival of Earth Day on Easter this year, we've decided to create a special worship experience on Sunday, May 15. Marking the many ways we're invited to appreciate and tend to God's great creation, this service will help us think together about how we can be more loving and caring towards the Earth, and share it with all God's creatures. From our songs and prayers, the sermon, church school activities and special offerings at our time of fellowship, this day promises to be one full of inspiration and new awareness. If you would like to be a part of the planning or implementation of this worship experience, please speak with Isabel Best or our pastor.

## BRISTOL LODGE FOOD KITCHEN:

### HELPING THE HUNGRY NEAR HOME

Join us as we reach out to those in need right here in our area by preparing and serving a meal in Waltham. Upcoming dates for this service work are Tuesday, May 31 (recipe available on Mission Bulletin Board near church office or on-line on our website) for the noodles, sausage & peppers dish) and Wednesday, June 29 (taco salad). As always, thank you for your volunteerism!

## CHURCH WORLD SERVICE:

### BLANKET THE WORLD WITH A RAINBOW OF CARING

The Mission & Outreach Committee is sponsoring the Church World Service blanket drive on Sundays, May 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> during fellowship hour. The gray heavy weight and orange light weight blankets are distributed worldwide to survivors of emergencies and natural disasters where people have lost homes, families and hope. They provide shelter from the scorching sun, warmth at night, and comfort of knowing that people care.

You will have an opportunity to respond to this annual appeal by making a gift of \$5 per blanket in honor of your mother or other loved one and receive a special card to send them. Checks, payable to Payson Park Church with memo: CWS Blankets, or cash should be received by Mother's Day, May 8. Every gift you give will help bring hope to those in need.



## CARING FOR HUMANITY: OUR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN

Thank you for supporting the United Church of Christ relief effort following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. One of largest earthquakes ever recorded hit Japan on March 11, we considered how we could help communities in dire need and decided to use the Easter Offering as a means to reach out. If you would like to make a contribution — or *another* contribution — checks can be made out to Payson Park Church with the notation "Pacific earthquake/tsunami." We continue to keep the people of Japan in our prayers and will find other ways to offer assistance and support.

# WORSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

## DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS:

### ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING IN MAY

On Sunday, May 15, the Boston Association of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ will gather at 2:30 at First Church, UCC, in Cambridge. Would you like to attend this event? It's a chance to learn more about what's going on in the Association as well as to meet other men and women in area congregations. Please speak with Lael if you'd like more information. Remember: we are a single church part of a much greater whole!

### PAYSON PARK NURSERY SCHOOL:

#### FALL ENROLLMENT BEGINS

Are you looking for a nursery school program for your child? Do you have neighbors or friends who are making plans for their young children for the fall? The Payson Park Nursery School is currently accepting applications for enrollment in September. Scheduling is flexible, and discounts are available for church members. Please call or email Janet Coleman, Nursery School Director, for more information (617/489-4824). [nurserydirector@paysonpark.org](mailto:nurserydirector@paysonpark.org)



### CHURCH WORK DAY:

#### WE NEED YOU!

With spring truly arriving, we open our church doors to old friends and new visitors each week with joy and gladness. Please help us make our church home sparkle this season as we gather Saturday, May 21 from 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for cleaning and other special projects. As specific efforts need to be coordinated, we ask that you let the Church Office know by Wednesday, May 18 if you will be coming. We offer a special thanks to Hank Thidemann and Cindy Lou Benson for organizing this effort.

## A SPECIAL INVITATION

### FROM THE BELMONT RELIGIOUS COUNCIL

Please join us on Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Temple Beth El for the Belmont Religious Council's Annual Meeting! In addition to a brief business meeting and supper fare served, we will host a panel discussion on "How our faith communities are helping young adults navigate through the difficult teen years." We look forward to your participation and hope you will spread the word among your congregation!

We are also looking for you to fill your delegate seats. According to the bylaws of the Belmont Religious Council (BRC), each participating faith community appoints two voting representatives to the Council. As stated in the by-laws: "Under normal circumstances, the two voting delegates will consist of one member of the clergy and one lay person from the congregation."

Delegates will gather for a half-hour business meeting before community members arrive so as to vote on next year's slate of officers and agree on future meeting dates, etc.. Please let us know who from your congregation will be joining us.

Faithfully yours,

2010/2011 BRC Executive Committee

Doug John, BRC President (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)

Rev. Alan Baughcum, Vice-president (Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC)

Deborah Lockett, Secretary (First Church of Belmont, Unitarian-Universalist)

John Robotham, Treasurer (St. Joseph Parish, Roman Catholic)

Please call the church office 617/484-1542, if you are interested in representing Payson Park Church.



# SHARING & CARING

## CELEBRATING NEW LIFE:

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM IN MAY

Through the year we have had the joy of getting to know the Robinson family through worship, fellowship, and their children's participation in God's Garden. On Sunday, May 22, we have the honor and delight of formally marking their faith and life with us as their daughter, Olivia, is baptized. Join her parents Trip and Ellen and sister Vivian, for this sacred moment as we give thanks for such new life in our midst!

## A WORD OF THANKS

### FROM CARL MILLER'S COUSIN

Many thanks to all the folks who shared in the knitting, laying on of hands, and blessing of the beautiful prayer shawl I received at the time of my mother's passing. The moment I took it out of its package and wrapped it around my shoulders, I could feel so much love radiating through its beautiful blue colors. I find the shawl very comforting to wear while reading scriptures and meditating. Thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers. Blessings to you all.

Maryjane Miller-Markins



## “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!

## THE JOURNEY TOWARDS ORDINATION:

### LORRIE HERZBERG'S ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL

On Wednesday, May 25, members of Payson Park and the churches of the Metropolitan Boston Association of the United Church of Christ will gather for the event of Lorrie Herzberg's Ecclesiastical Council. This is the final step Lorrie makes to prepare her for ordination as she presents a comprehensive account of her Christian theology. One and all are invited to attend this significant event in Lorrie's life and our community at 7:00 pm. A reception will follow – please speak with Sr. Deacon, Nancy Fergus, if you are able to help with preparations or serving.



## SUMMER SABBATICAL COVERAGE:

### THE MINISTRY & COMMISSIONING

### OF THE REVEREND JOHN BROCK

As we support the completion of our Pastor's sabbatical this summer, we are pleased that our community will be in good hands! Former Ministerial Intern and friend of the congregation, John Brock, will be leading worship, providing pastoral care, and attending fellowship group and committee gatherings. Ordained at Hope Central Church in March, John is excited to embark on ministry in this way. In celebration and recognition of his presence among us in this formal way, a special commissioning will take place during our worship service on Sunday, May 22. His ministry will begin formally, then, at the start of June and extend through Sunday, August 7. Join us in saying “Welcome back!” to John.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**LECTURE SERIES:  
SPONSORED BY THE  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

We were blessed last month to have Wendy Gulley talk with us not just about autism, but about her son Jay and their journey together as a family through the initially unfamiliar territory about having a child with autism. We learned that each child and adult with autism is as individual as every other child of God, that some are high functioning, their autism may not be easily noticeable and their achievements may rival and exceed those who do not have autism. Others, like Jay, may be very noticeably limited in their social interactions yet still have active and lively minds. Those of us who have spent time with Jay so his family can worship together can tell you he is a gentle, although active, soul with an occasional glint of mischief in his eyes! Some of the parents in the audience expressed their appreciation of Jay's presence among us as he is a teacher for their children in understanding and valuing human difference. "Jay's Buddies" is the name given to those who watch Jay monthly during worship so both of his parents can attend services with his sister Carolyn. Jay needs one adult who can monitor and respond if he bolts, as he occasionally does, and another who is simply present to maintain safe church policy. A wonderful side effect of volunteering is the adults who get to know each other better as they spend time with Jay. If you would like to participate periodically in this ministry, please let Wendy or Lorrie Herzberg know. A note can be left in the church office if you miss them during coffee hour. Join the blessing!



**AUTISM SPEAKS**  
It's time to listen.

**A WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK  
IN GOD'S GARDEN**

The youth in God's Garden, along with Cindy Lou Benson, Allen Buttimer and Molly Jo Rivelli took a walk through Holy Week in church school. The experience began with the events of Holy Week in Jerusalem; the story that is the center of our Christian faith. We robed in costume and imagined that we have come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Elizabeth Thidemann read Matthew 21:1-11, Jesus comes to Jerusalem as king. Molly Jo sang "Were you there when they waved the palms and sang?" With Nourayer Karakouzian playing the role of Jesus, we then proceeded with our palms and robes, laying them on the floor for Jesus' procession into Jerusalem. The next scene was the Last Supper, celebrating the Passover meal. Passover is a time to remember the escape of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt, led by Moses. The children circled round the table and an explanation of the food and the Passover meal was discussed. Eleanor Thidemann read Matthew 26:17-35. Molly Jo sang "Were you there when he gave them bread and wine?" For scene three we headed off to the puppet room which was made to look like the Garden of Gethsemane. We found Jesus praying while the disciples slept. Eleanor read Matthew 26:36-50 and Molly Jo sang "Were you there when he knelt and prayed to God?" Alice Troop put on the robe and acted the part of Jesus as the Roman guard; Harry Thidemann tied his wrists and we headed on the walk to Golgotha and the cross. Elliott Ronna read Matthew 27:32-37 as the crowd sat under the cross with the sign reading: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Molly Jo sang "Were you there when they led him to the cross?" We stayed at the cross for more readings and Molly Jo sang: "Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?" Our last two scenes were at the tomb. The youth listened to Matthew 28:1-10, words of the empty tomb and Molly Jo finished the walk singing to us these words: "Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?" Alleluia!

# SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

## FAMILY CAMP ON CAPE COD:

### AN OFFERING BY OUR DENOMINATION

Looking for a wonderful get-away for you and your family this summer? It's not too early to start planning! From August 7-August 13, the UCC offers a Family Camp at the Craigville Conference Center on the cape. The package includes 17 meals, 6 nights in a historic inn with all private room accommodations; on site private beach privileges with club house amenities; on site playground and fishing pond; morning programs for children; free time all afternoon and an evening program is optional. Morning children and teen programs includes skits, singing and arts & crafts. Evening program includes a movie, kite flying, a band concert, outdoor games and more. A great opportunity for parents who do not want to send a child to sleep away camp without them! The staff organizes all children's activities so adults or grandparents do not have to worry about finding things to do to entertain them and the time you spend together is quality. When was the last time you had time to look at the stars with your child? Busy parents need apply! Contact Cindy Lou Benson for more information.

## CAMP CALUMET

Elizabeth and Eleanor Thidemann have been attending Camp Calumet for years and that is the camp they recommend! Camp Calumet, a Christian camp on the northern shore of Lake Ossipee, on the edge of New Hampshire's magnificent Mount Washington Valley. Calumet is the camp! Throughout the entire year, Calumet hosts thousands and thousands of folks of all ages, from all backgrounds and all walks of life. But Summer At Calumet? Summer is the most exciting time of the year to be at Calumet! Whether it's the Summer Camp for Kids or the Family & Adult Camp, the Thidemann girls recommend you check it out. [www.calumet.org](http://www.calumet.org)



## KIM DOYLE FUND

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUMMER FUN

The Kim Doyle Fund was designed to help families and their children go to summer church camp by offering scholarship funds to interested church members. Please speak with Cindy Lou Benson, Christian Education Director, for more information on this wonderful opportunity.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

TUESDAY, JUNE 28 THROUGH FRIDAY, JULY 1

9:00AM TO NOON

Teens and pre-teens are welcome to join Vacation Bible School and receive community service hours this year. Join PandaMania as a crew leader by starting your adventure at a special "staff" training meeting on Wednesday, June 22 at 4:00PM, attend PandaMania all four days, participate in all the fun activities while building relationships with your small group, arrive 20 minutes early to greet your crew each day and attend the 5 minute "staff" round up meeting at noon each day. If you're interested in being a PandaMania Crew Leader and counselor, speak with Cindy Lou, VBS Director, and receive your complimentary souvenir PandaMania t-shirt and Pandura Bandura!

# EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## THE JOY OF LEARNING:

### BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR LOAN IN THE PARLOR

Looking for a good book to stimulate your faith and spiritual practices? Or would you like to share a volume or two that you found particularly inspirational? The Christian Education Committee's book cart may be just the thing for you! Located in the parlor near the piano, this cart serves as our church's lending library. Working on the honor system, you're invited to browse the collection regularly and take a book to read, replacing it once you're finished. If you have questions or suggestions for this wonderful program, please speak with Lorrie Herzberg, chair of the Christian Education Committee.



## LECTURE SERIES:

### SPONSORED BY THE

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We will continue this lecture series at noon on the first Sunday of each month. Thank you to Wendy Gulley for speaking on the topic of autism. May 1st will be a discussion on Alzheimer with speaker Susan Rowlett, LICSW, Manager of the Care Consultation Program, Watertown branch of the National Alzheimer Association. We will conclude with the final discussion on June 5th with spokesperson Jaimi Lard and her interpreter Christine from the Perkins School for the Blind. Please join us as we continue building our community of faith by coming to a better understanding of those with special needs.

## SPECIAL INTERFAITH SERIES:

### UNDERSTANDING ISLAM IN OUR MODERN WORLD

Join us for a three-part series designed to deepen our understanding of Islam and Christian-Muslim dialogue. Each session will feature a talk by a guest speaker from the local Muslim community, followed by group discussion. The first session will provide a basic introduction the general history and practice of Islam; our second session will explore the history and experiences of Muslims in America. The final session will discuss best practices in interfaith dialogue, and what we can learn from each other's traditions. Our discussions will be moderated by Polly Hamlen, chair of the Commission for Ecumenism, MA Conference, UCC.

The sessions will be offered on three successive Thursday evenings, May 5th, 12th & 19th, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Light supper fare will be provided at 6:30 pm. Please let us know if you plan to attend by calling the Church Office (617/ 484-1542). We are inviting members and friends of other UCC churches in the Boston Association in the hopes of inspiring greater connection within the church and world in this turbulent time. All are welcome – bring a friend!



## THE GOOD AFTERNOONS:

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 25 AT NOON

With spring in full bloom as May comes to a close, the Good Afternoons will break from their monthly discussions about the care of and healing of the body to gather together for a time of more informal sharing at *Not Your Average Joe's* in Watertown Square. Everyone is welcome to be part of this annual luncheon as we celebrate another great year of sharing together. If you need a ride, please call the Church Office by Monday, May 23.

# MAY 2011

## SUNDAY, MAY 1

**10:30 AM**

9:30 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal  
 10:00 AM Nursery Care  
 10:30 AM Worship & Church School  
 10:45 AM Nursery Music Time with Molly Jo  
 11:15 AM Cherub Choir Rehearsal  
 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour/M & O Committee  
 11:40 AM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal  
 12:00 PM Lecture on Alzheimer's Disease

## TUESDAY, MAY 3 *(Office closing at noon)*

9:00AM Food Pantry Drop off /Watertown  
 2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love Fellowship

*Note: Council Meeting moved to May 10th*

## THURSDAY, MAY 5

6:30 PM Adult Ed: Understanding Islam

## SUNDAY, MAY 8 **10:30 AM**

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 9:30 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal  
 10:00 AM Nursery Care  
 10:30 AM Worship & Church School  
 11:15 AM Cherub Choir Rehearsal  
 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour/Music Committee  
 11:40 AM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal

## TUESDAY, MAY 10

2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love Fellowship  
 6:00 PM Property Committee  
 7:00 PM Church Council

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

6:00 PM Belmont Religious Council (offsite)

## THURSDAY, MAY 12

6:30 PM Adult Ed: Understanding Islam

## SUNDAY, MAY 15 **10:30 AM**

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 9:30 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal  
 10:00 AM Nursery Care  
 10:30 AM Worship & Church School  
 11:15 AM Cherub Choir Rehearsal  
 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour/Finance Committee  
 11:40 AM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal  
 12:00 PM Christian Education Committee  
 2:00 PM MBA - UCC Meeting (offsite)

## TUESDAY, MAY 17

2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love Fellowship  
 6:30 PM Diaconate Meeting

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

*Messenger Deadline & Work Day Sign up*

## THURSDAY, MAY 19

6:30 PM Adult Ed: Understanding Islam

## SATURDAY, MAY 21

9:00 AM Church Work Day

## SUNDAY, MAY 22 **10:30 AM**

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 9:30 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal  
 10:00 AM Nursery Care  
 10:30 AM Worship & Church School  
 11:15 AM Cherub Choir Rehearsal  
 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour/Endowment Trustees  
 11:40 AM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal

## TUESDAY, MAY 24

2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love Fellowship

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 25 *Sign up - Church Work Day*

9:00 AM Messenger Committee  
 12:00 PM The Good Afternoons  
 7:00 PM Ecclesiastical Council

## THURSDAY, MAY 26

*Note: No Adult Education Class*

## SUNDAY, MAY 29 **10:30 AM**

9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 9:30 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal  
 10:00 AM Nursery Care  
 10:30 AM Worship & One Room School House  
 11:15 AM Cherub Choir Rehearsal  
 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour/ Diaconate  
 11:40 AM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal

## TUESDAY, MAY 31

2:00 PM Faith, Hope, & Love Fellowship  
 5:00 PM Bristol Lodge Meal: Serving

### **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

### **CHILDREN’S LITERATURE AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH**



In preparation for Youth Sunday, which will be on Pentecost Sunday, June 12, this year, the children and youth in God’s Garden will explore not only the scripture verses associated with this special day but also contemporary children’s literature. I am hopeful that the books and resources will help us consider ways in which children's and adolescent books can be a link to Biblical stories and many aspects of our Christian faith. The resource for ministry I will use to help us explore this avenue of study is a blog from Union Presbyterian Seminary in North Carolina and I am very excited about it. It was shared to me from the church network group, Communities of Practice. We meet monthly and come back to Payson Park every month with new and exciting resources I am pleased to share with our youth.