

A Leaner, Greener Winter Holiday Season

Dear Members and Friends,

During the past few months the Worship Committee has been busy planning for our winter holiday services. We've reflected on past practices in the light of our Society's leaner budget, environmental considerations for a "green" congregation, specifics of fire safety, and the time commitment required to decorate and "undecorate" the Great Hall. For a number of years the committee has been ignoring the House and Property Committee's request that we limit live greens and adhere to fire safety regulations about lit candles in the pews. This year's budgetary constraints make the time propitious for these changes. The Worship Committee would like to gradually acquire some tasteful artificial greens and individual candles, as there is money in the budget over the coming years.

This December our leaner, greener sanctuary will have a beautiful wreath, made by Sally Lawton, hung high on the wall behind the pulpit. We'll set up the tall candelabras with candles glowing with tiny electric lights. As in previous years we invite donations of poinsettias in memory or in honor of loved ones to bring holiday cheer to the Great Hall and to the lives of those in our midst to whom we'll deliver them after December 24th. In place of a live tree at our Intergenerational Winter Holiday Service will be beautifully decorated large baskets for accepting donations of children's and adult's mittens, hats and scarves for Grace House and Jessie's House and donations of white men's cotton socks and large and extra-large men's underwear for the Interfaith Cot Shelter.

With full awareness of their impact, we offer these changes of our cherished traditions. May the light of our caring for each other, our community, and our world during this season inspire, sustain, and support us.

Mardi Abuza, for the Worship Committee

WINTER HOLIDAY POINSETTIA ORDERS

Your Name(s) _____

Number of Poinsettias at \$10 _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Total amount enclosed _____ Please make check out to: The Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence

Please circle your preference: I will collect my poinsettia(s) after Dec. 24. I would like you to deliver my poinsettia to someone in the congregation for me.

Please complete and return to the office by December 7th.