

MINISTER'S CORNER

December is here and did you know it is Read a New Book Month, Write to a Friend Month and Hi Neighbor Month? It is also Universal Human Rights Month, Safe Toy Month and Spiritual Literacy Month. During December we will recognize World Aids Day, Rosa Parks Day, and Human Rights Day. And there is Bodhi Day, Chanukah, Christmas, Hijira and the Winter Solstice. There is much to celebrate this month.

Of course the biggest holiday in this country is Christmas. It is so widespread that 84% of non-Christians report that they celebrate Christmas in some way. And as usual there are the complaints about Christmas being too commercial and too busy, and that the spirit of the season gets lost in the frenzy of buying. There is a man named Reverend Billy who calls it the "Shopocalypse." While in the midst of finding gifts for everyone on one's list it may seem so very overwhelming and we wonder why we are fighting crowds and losing our minds. It is precisely at that moment you should stop and remember why you are shopping. It is because you care about the people for whom you are looking to buy a gift. You care.

Whether it is the person who delivers the newspaper, or your heart's greatest love, you care about them. This is the spirit of the season to care about people. It is caring about people you don't know and might never meet when you donate a gift to First in Families or some other charity of your choosing. It is caring about people you see everyday when you spend hours looking for just the right gift to give them. It is because you care.

The spirit of the season is about sharing our love through our caring. It does not take gifts to show that we care, it can be as simple as a phone call or a note to a friend you haven't seen in awhile. Or reaching out to someone who is far from family, or having a difficult time and inviting them into your family for bit. There are countless ways to show that you care about people. And there are so many people who need, especially at this of the year, to know that someone cares about them. If you know someone who may want a little extra care at this time, let me know. If you need a little extra care let me know. I am one of the ones who cares. Let each of us be one of the ones who care.

May your holidays be joyous and safe. And may the peace and hope the season remain with you throughout the year.

Peace and many kind blessings,
Rev. Cheryl

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 6 Reverend Cheryl
December 13 Choir Sunday
December 20 Reverend Cheryl / Caroling Service
December 24 5:00 pm Christmas Pageant
8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with Reverend Cheryl
December 27 Worship Committee (1 Service Only, no Religious Education)