



## Hallelujah in Advance

Every now and then, the persuasiveness of truth breaks in over the din of the everyday. Feel-good acts of charity give way to real work for justice. Fighting to eradicate poverty becomes more important than giving out gloves and coats. Climate change announces itself with brutal reality.

This is my last Advent e-Lation! reflection. Before long, you will have a new spiritual leader. A set of new eyes, a new voice, a new message. Someone who cares a great deal about the truth and whose job it will be to guide this congregation to a new place of advocacy and engagement with the world.

Advent promises not only life. It promises new life, which means change. Most of all, it celebrates truth. This Advent, let us prepare our hearts for the arrival of the Christ Child: the very same Christ Child who grew up not so meek and mild but who was so committed to the truth of God's love that he threw over the temple money changers' tables in a rage. Who healed people on the sabbath and hung out relentlessly with the uncouth.

As William Sloane Coffin put it: "Of course the church is conservative for it has so much to conserve. But let it conserve a vision of the world's destiny and not the structures of the world's past. Let the church, in remembering Christ, remember that it is conserving the most uprooting, the most revolutionary force in all human history. Everywhere he manifested his freedom and called others to theirs, calling them forth from family, national, and religious loyalties

to loyalty to the world at large. If ever there was a man who trusted his origins and had the courage to emerge from them, it was Christ.”

In the ever-emergent spirit that is Advent,  
*Jed*



RIP  
MEDICAL  
DEBT

## Moment for Mission

The December Faith in Action Moment for Mission is our annual “Alternative Christmas Gift” appeal. Each share that you purchase for \$10 will be donated to

the RIP Medical Debt Program through the Merrimack Valley Association of the NHUCC. RIP Medical Debt is a national organization with local campaigns to relieve low-income individuals/families of medical debt. Each \$1 donation offsets \$100 in medical debt.

Over a hundred million Americans, one in three, struggles with the weight of medical debt. Nearly half of U.S. adults delay or skip medical care due to high costs. Those with chronic health conditions like cancer are even more vulnerable to medical debt and the hardships of expensive medical care, treatments, and medications. Pre-retirement, pre-Medicare adults ages 50-64, rural adults, Native American adults, and those with cancer or a chronic illness are most likely to say they have current or past medical debt. This issue is driven by the health industry not by the individuals that require medical care.

Members of Faith in Action Ministry will be at coffee hours after the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. worship services on **Sunday, December 10**. We will take cash, check, or credit card. You may also purchase “shares” [online](#) and download a gift card.

## Family Promise



We will be hosting families the week of **December 10 to December 17** at South Church. We will need assistance from you to make this happen and be a meaningful experience for the families in our care. Opportunities include preparing dinner, serving dinner or breakfast, and visiting with the families, as well as staying overnight. For more information [e-mail our coordinators](#). To sign-up to volunteer: [click here](#).



## Local Performances

### **Christmas Carol:** Til December 17:

Dicken's "*A Christmas Carol*" adapted by


Jill Pinard. This original retelling at Hatbox Theatre focuses on how the dream like qualities of the ghosts' story aspects of Dicken's work can bring about redemption. Is it "an undigested vit of beef" – a lie in the original story – that leads Scrooge to have bad dreams: or is he really being visited by ghosts, intent of helping him redeem himself? Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30p.m. Sunday performances at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults, seniors, and members and \$19 for senior members.

To purchase tickets or for more information check out this [link](#).

**A Christmas Carol:** Til December 23 - Come celebrate the holiday season at the Palace Theatre located at 80 Hanover St., Manchester. See the tradition continue with Charles Dickens' classic story of Scrooge and Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol*. Tickets, \$28 to \$49. To purchase tickets or for more information check out this [link](#).

**The Nutcracker:** Celebrate the holidays with the tradition of the Nutcracker on Saturday, December 9 at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Audi located at 2 Prince Street, Concord. Presented by Turning Pointe Dance, the family-friendly is a wonderful kick-off to the holiday season that retains the classical, magical experience for all ages. Tickets are \$23. To purchase tickets or for more information check out this [link](#).





**Boston Holiday Pops:** The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra returns to SNHU Arena located at 555 Elm Street in Manchester to perform their beloved Holiday Pops concert on **Saturday, December 9** at 7:30p.m. The show, entitled “Unwrap the Magic,” strives to capture the magic of the Christmas season and the winter charms of New England. Tickets start at \$79.50. To purchase tickets or for more information check out this [link](#).


**Frosty:** The Barter Players are back with family favorite, Frosty. In playwright Catherine Bush’s adaptation of the classic story, a young orphan named Billy discovers magic in a stolen hat. When he places the hat on a snowman’s head, that snowman comes to life. Join Billy and Frosty as they embark on a New York City adventure filled with thrills and chills and discover that the real magic of Christmas is love. Performances are on **Saturday, December 9** at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at the Chubb Theatre located at 44 South Main Street, Concord. Tickets start at \$15. To purchase tickets or for more information check out this [link](#).

**Holiday POPS!:** A New Hampshire favorite . . . Nobody rings in the holiday like Symphony NH. Join Maestro Kalia for a high-energy performance at the Concord City Audi located at 2 Prince Street in Concord on Sunday, December 10 at 3 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$65. To purchase tickets or for more information check out this [link](#).

**Capital Jazz Orchestra Holiday Pops!:** The Capital Jazz Orchestra ‘Holiday Pops!’ show is an exciting annual tradition that highlights memorable musical chestnuts as well as featuring vocalists CJ and Laura Poole singing Yuletide classics. Narrator Laura Knoy will recite her unique reading of *The Night Before Christmas* and there is always a festive sing-a-long to put everyone in the Holiday spirit! The show is on **Sunday, December 10** at 4 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts. To purchase tickets or for more information check out this [link](#).

**Buzz Ball:** Greg and the Morning Buzz Team host to All-Star Cast of musicians, performers, comedians, and special guests. You never know who will show up at the BUZZ BALL! Join the fun on **Thursday, December 14** at 7 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts. To purchase tickets or for more information check out this [link](#).

**A Celtic Family Christmas:** Award-winning fiddle virtuosos Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy celebrate the holidays with an unforgettable evening of music, dance, and storytelling for the young and the young at heart. To fans of fiddle music, MacMaster needs no introduction. Throughout a 25-year recording career, this Order of Canada recipient has released 11 albums. She has won two JUNO Awards and 11 East Coast Music Awards and been nominated for a Grammy. Donnell is the former music leader of the internationally acclaimed family group Leahy, winners of three JUNO Awards. Widely



recognized as one of the best fiddlers in the world, his high-energy playing style makes him a highly popular performer. Join Natalie, Donnell, and their seven MacMaster-Leahy kids as they take to the stage for A Celtic Family Christmas, their beloved show where they share their favorite holiday music and traditions with audiences. Show is on **Friday, December 15** at 7 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts. To purchase tickets or for more information check out this [link](#).

**Mr. Aaron Holiday**: Mr. Aaron is a multi-instrumentalist performer and composer making music and videos for kids and their grown-ups, ages 0-10. He is a proud father of three amazing girls, and a longtime professional musician with a career playing in bands, musical theatre, and more. He will perform a kid-friendly holiday concert at on **Saturday, December 16** at 11 a.m. at the Bank of N.H. Stage in Concord. To purchase tickets or for more information check out this [link](#).

**The Nutcracker**: Safe/Haven Ballet is thrilled to bring our spirited, full-length ballet of The Nutcracker to The Capital Center for the Arts! This dynamic performance includes all of your favorite characters including a strong-minded Clara to the eccentric Drosselmeyer, the spooky Rats, and the beloved Sugarplum Fairy danced by artistic director, Lissa Curtis. In the Land of Sweets you will be introduced to a variation unique to Safe/Haven Ballet called The Brave American. We would love your energetic applause! Show is on **Saturday, December 16** at 4:30 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord. To purchase tickets or for more information check out this [link](#).

**The Nutcracker**: NH School of Ballet presents *The Nutcracker*, come watch the falling snow, the growing Christmas tree, and the wonderful dancers of NHSB dance this holiday tradition. Performance is on **Sunday, December 17** at 2 p.m. at the Audi located at 2 Prince Street in Concord. Tickets available at the studio and at the door. For more information, call 668-5330.

**How the Grinch Stole Christmas**: The story of a lonely creature who tries to cancel Christmas by stealing the gifts and decorations from the homes of the nearby town of Whoville on Christmas Eve. This ballet is full of laughter, romance, and an important lesson about the true meaning of the holiday season. The Grinch is a unique interactive experience for audience members of all ages and learning opportunity that transforms our ballet stage into a vibrant classroom! The performance is set to both classical music and contemporary holiday music and includes narration so each audience member has a clear understanding of the story and can fully appreciate the artistry of the professional dancers. Show is on **Sunday, December 17** at 4:30 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts. To purchase tickets or for more information check out this [link](#).

**Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas**: The Heather Pierson Jazz Trio performs a rich variety of originals, jazz and blues standards, and unique

re-workings of familiar American music. In their annual December offering, they share their interpretation of Vince Guaraldi's iconic soundtrack of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* plus other Guaraldi compositions and other holiday favorites. Heather is a pianist, singer/songwriter, and performer known for her bell tone vocals and equal parts New Orleans-Oscar-Brubeck jazz piano leanings. The Heather Pierson Jazz Trio perform the entirety of the Charlie Brown Christmas album as recorded by the Vince Guaraldi Trio, as well as other Guaraldi compositions. The show will be held on **Friday, December 22** at 7 p.m. at the Bank of N.H. Stage in Concord. To purchase tickets or for more information check out this [link](#).

**Red River:** The Red River presents four holiday movie favorites! Classically crafted to enhance your holiday season--- you will love them regardless of how many times you may have watched them. Especially enjoyable when seen on a big theater screen with an appreciative audience! And since we're in the holiday spirit, we're offering Polar Express tickets for only \$6 which includes free hot cocoa and festive fun, so bring the whole family! To learn more about these movies check out this [link](#).



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