

The Seekonk Congregational Church  
United Church Of Christ

# The Caller

*Gathered 1885*



✦ COME TO WORSHIP!!

9:00 A.M. OR 10:30 A.M.

## REMEMBER~~

God loves you and there's nothing you can do about it...AND there is everything you can do about it... like honor the Holy Source of Life with your presence in worship...!!

Here in our Seekonk Congregational Church UCC we have **ONE** hour a week to worship with praise and thanksgiving... and **167** hours to live out our faith in the world!!

**January 6 - Epiphany Sunday: Carry forth the LIGHT OF CHRIST into 2019.**

**January 13 - Affirming our Baptisms**

**January 20 - Steadfastlove...a Compound Word to live by...**

**January 27 - The Spirit of God is Upon Me?**



## FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

Looking back at the Christmas Season... I share with you words from an email sent to me on Christmas Day:

“I will forever hold in my memory the power of this past Christmas Eve... the humor and laughter...beauty and wonder...and all the children and youth filled me with an overflowing sense of the holy! It was awesome and definitely full of God’s Holy Spirit in this place!”

As we face into the New Year 2019 full of promise and uncertainties, I think of a friend’s comment said every year as the old year became part of the record... *“Cherish the good you’ve done—strive for harmony in all relationships... and LIVE into the LOVE and INTEGRITY of who you are as a child of God!”* Great advice for the New Year – right?

**THIS CHURCH...** *is the title of a poem by Ann Weems:*

**We don’t pretend to understand the mystery  
of what goes on in God’s Church**

**We just know we feel a pervading spirit of love**

**That reaches into the niches of all of us**

**And pulls us out into the open,**

**Free and alive an belonging.**

**We believe this spirit of love exists because**

**God’s Spirit lives within this Church,**

**This community of persons trying**

**to be the Good News.**

**We see this Church as a circle of persons holding hands...**

**and supporting each other, accepting each other,**

**loving each other**

**Each person in this circle is facing outward...**

**reaching into God’s world,**

**listening for the whimpering,**

**watching for the hurting,**

**willing to offer a cup of cold water**

**in the name of Jesus Christ.**

**Sometimes they need the water;**

**Sometimes you need the water,**

**Sometimes I need the water.**

**Being a part of this Church means knowing that**

**the cup is always filled in the name of Jesus Christ!Amen**

In 2019-May we hold fast to the Hope and Humor...

Cherish the good and commit to living the love and integrity of who we are as God’s people in this place!

*Blessings In Faith and love, Joy*

## FROM THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER

### CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

#### JANUARY 2019

6 9:00AM WORSHIP (*EPIPHANY=Sharing the Light*)

10:15AM - **CONNECTING WITH PARENTS AND**

**CONFIRMANDS IN THE WATJEN CENTER**

*(all parents and confirmands are*

*“required” to attend this informal gathering)*

13 9:00AM WORSHIP ~~ **Baptism Sunday**

10:15AM RECITE THE 23<sup>RD</sup> PSALM  
TO BOARD OF DEACONS

10:30AM CLASS



19-20 SATURDAY AND SUNDAY...

**SLEEP OUT** to raise awareness of HOMELESS –

*(Fund raiser to help others) –special guests / speakers / etc.*

20 9:00AM WORSHIP and Beginning of 10:30 Worship

27 9:00AM WORSHIP

10:30AM MEANING of Baptism  
and other UCC beliefs (blue booklets)

Sunday Jan 27, 2019

### “Racial Justice Awareness”

Lunch option: 12:15 - 12:45PM (please rsvp)

Program begins 12:45 - 5:00PM

**Seekonk Congregational Church**  
**600 Fall River Ave, Seekonk, MA**

**Includes:** presentations, videos & discussions to  
**Inform and Engage** youth about social justice issues and to  
**Develop** their strong young voice into the future of change!

**RI Conference UCC Confirmation Event**

All 7th grade -12th graders welcome as well

**PLEASE RSVP** Kristin Putney #774-991-1555

[email:mitchmoon12@hotmail.com](mailto:mitchmoon12@hotmail.com)

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM CALENDAR

JANUARY 2019 ~

6<sup>th</sup> Children Begin in church with family ~ Epiphany  
special Coffee Hour

13<sup>th</sup> Regular Classes ~ Baptism Sunday

20<sup>th</sup> Regular Classes

4PM - 10AM Youth Group Lock-In

27<sup>th</sup> Regular Classes



(3rd - 8th Grade)

### SKY zone / FAITH zone

**Sunday, Jan 6, 2019 1:00 - 4:00 PM**

**1:00 pm - 2:30 pm FAITH zone**

( youth must attend this to participate in sky zone group)

**Meet at Seekonk Church** 600 Fall River Ave, Seekonk, MA

Youth Program includes snacks & Epiphany activities

**2:30 pm - 4:00 pm SKY zone** (youth must attend above)

Youth & Leaders will travel to Sky Zone for 2:40 pm at  
70 Pawtucket Ave, East Providence, RI  
(program ends at sky zone)

Youth must fill out (prior to arriving!)

a **waiver form available online ONLY!**

(waivers valid for one year)

**FEE: \$12 ( please bring sky zone socks or \$1 fee extra)**

Register with Kristin Putney 774-991-1555

**Needed estimate count by Sat 12/29!**

**(final count by Wed, Jan 2)**

# PEOPLE AND PASSAGES

*Our thoughts, condolences and prayers are with:  
~ The Family of Lisa Houle, sister of Lori Keough*



## NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

### OVERFLOWING THANKS!!! ~~~

- ❖ To all who participated in the Advent and Christmas worship services – readers, sacred dancers, youth choir, children's choir, cherub choir, senior choir, bell choir, guitar choir, candle-lighters, ushers, greeters, 5<sup>th</sup> graders, church school children, givers of flowers, decorators, liturgists, story tellers, and worshippers!
- ❖ **CHILDREN'S CHOIR:(K-5th grade)** *Madeleine Bentley, Stephen Bentley, Twyla Maloney-Stevenson, Vera Maloney-Stevenson, Lillian D'Angelo, Medeline DeSousa, Justin Glidden, Luke Glidden, Luke Sluter, Aram Sluter, Rocque Dutil, Alanna Celio, Nathaniel Higgins, Megan Gherardini, Teddy Gherardini, James Schuller, Anthony Porraro, Violet Guerra, Ruby Guerra, Adison Sobczak, Alexa Roy, Michael Ryder, Adreanna Dutra, Andrea Dutra, Julianna Dutra, Abby Almeida, Miranda Bujold*
- ❖ **YOUTH CHOIR: (6th -12th grade)** *Courtney Dias, Emma Hindle, Eddie Hindle, Mackenzie Morgenweck, Angie Kwolek, Mason Fox, Arielle Fox, Melissa Keller, Nate Inman, Zack Inman, Garrett Inman, Christopher Strycharz, Janel Olson*
- ❖ **5PM SACRED DANCERS:** *Twyla Maloney-Stevenson, Vera Maloney-Stevenson, Megan Gherardini, Abby Almeida, Arielle Fox, Emma Hindle, Courtney Dias, Janel Olson, Adison Sobczak, Ruby Guerra, Madeleine Bentley, Julianna Dutra, Adreanna Dutra and Andrea Dutra*
- ❖ **11PM SACRED DANCERS:** *Allison Houle and Haley Salgueiro*
- ❖ **PARTICIPANTS IN THE STORY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE:** *Kristin Putney, Craig Grant, Lucy Codega, Zoe Morgenweck, Lauren Keough, Erin Keough, Jaiden Weremay*
- ❖ **SENIOR CHOIR:** *Shelley Alves, Betty Graham, David Graham, Craig Grant, Brian Burns, Cheryl Geremia, Alice Supinski, Kristin Brzozowy, Jessica Burt, Pat Smith*
- ❖ **HANDBELLS:** *Yvette Sousa, Pat Smith, Craig Grant, Nancy Poor, Ginny Smith, Pat Martin, Hazel Greene and Susan Barrow*
- ❖ Many thanks to Andrew Correia & Charlene Williams, Directors of J.H. Williams & Co., Funeral Home for donating calendars for the New Year 2019. Calendars are available for you to pick up on the table in front of the office or at either entry of the church.

## NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE CONTINUED

- ❖ To all who gave with such self-giving generous hearts to the mission of Christmas through angel tree gifts, food donations and gift certificates
- ❖ To Rev. Marilyn and many who helped out with the many tasks performed for the crèche...
- ❖ To all who helped with the Bazaar and especially to those who chaired and co-chaired, may thanks for all of their hard work.
- ❖ To all who helped with the Santa Breakfast...
- ❖ For all who took flowers to the homebound... and all who made visits.
- ❖ To 4 Town Farm and their beautiful poinsettias...
- ❖ To Evergreen Tree and Landscaping for so many gifts of assistance with wreaths, centerpieces and help.
- ❖ To Betty-Ann Brown, Hazel Greene, Ellie Conyers, Connie Rhodes and Cynthia Black who helped with the December Caller and to David Graham for delivering it to the Bulk Mailing Center

*The thank you list is truly endless – impossible to name all the names but please know you are blessed!!*

Truly it is the greatest 'joy' to serve this faith community as your minister/pastor/teacher and i am truly humbled by your Christmas gift given to me on Christmas Eve by the deacons. Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to be the Senior Minister in this time and place!! With gratitude and love... Joy

**NEW MEMBER SEMINAR:** January 13, 2019 at Noon for all who want to join as members of the church

## Don't Miss This Amazing Story Saturday, January 26, 2019 from 2:00-4:00PM

*In the Sanctuary of the Seekonk Congregational Church  
with refreshments following*



In 1933, two long time members of our church, Helen Crews and Helen Michaud met on the steps of the Anne C. Green grammar school in Seekonk, MA. They've been friends ever since. Join Helen C. and Helen M. and two actors and a musician as we share the amazing insightful story of ***The Two Helens.***

# Italian Night Dinner!



*Saturday, February 9, 2019*

**Serving from 5:00 until 7:00PM**

*(take out also available)*

## \*\*\*\*\*MENU\*\*\*\*\*

- ◆ Tossed Garden Salad-crisp and fresh!
- ◆ Fresh Baked Italian Bread
- ◆ Delicious Pasta-cooked Al Dente!
- ◆ **Homemade Meatballs**-seasoned to perfection!
- ◆ Home-Baked Assorted Desserts
- ◆ Beverages-Hot and Cold

- ◇ Adults.....\$9.00
- ◇ Children 3-12.....\$4.00
- ◇ Children under 3.....FREE



**FOR TICKET RESERVATIONS CALL:  
CHURCH OFFICE 508-336-9355**



*“Many Hands Make Lighter Work”*

**CAN YOU HELP IN ANY WAY??? PLEASE SIGN UP**

## RE-GIFTING IS GOOD

If you happen to have received a gift this Christmas that wasn't exactly to your liking but you think might have value to others, how about donating it to the **Italian Night Dinner before February 3<sup>rd</sup>** and we can use it for a drawing item. With the economy in such bad shape, we are concerned that many businesses that have donated to this event in the past will not be able to do so this year. *If you have something that you think will do well in a drawing, see Bill Codega or Dave Graham* about how we can put this item to good use.

## FROM THE BOARD DEACONS



The Deacon's Fund goes to help those in our faith community in need of emergency help or those who have special needs! For those who give via paper envelopes, the envelopes are GREEN and in the offering envelope box for the first Sunday of each month. OR if you give on-line, go to [www.scc-ucc.com](http://www.scc-ucc.com) and click on the online giving button at the top right hand corner and fill out the online giving form.

We thank all who give faithfully and encourage others to consider a small gift for this fund each month.

## From the Board of Trustees

*The Trustees would like to extend our best wishes for a safe and Happy New Year.*

**REMINDER...**People needed to help shovel walks when we have snow storms... JUST COME!!  
We have shovels or bring your own.

## FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

### STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORMS

#### Electronic Giving ~ Traditional: Church Envelope

For more information regarding Electronic Giving (*forms*) and Pledge Cards for those who have not yet pledged please call Maria in the office 508-336-9355. Forms and online giving are also available on our web site: [www.scc-ucc.com](http://www.scc-ucc.com) *Your Stewardship Committee*

## MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION



On behalf of all those who received the various gifts given by our church community this Christmas, the Mission and Social Action Committee would once again like to thank you for your incredible generosity! Thank you one and all, and we wish you a wonderful New Year!

Please continue to bring in food items for our pantry. Peanut butter, tuna fish, canned soups and stews, spam, jelly, cereal, canned chicken are especially appreciated. This food is available for people to take if they need a little help, or to help others in need. Thank you.

**CANS & BOTTLES** MA Deposit Only: Save the environment and people!! Bring donations to the green bins - lift lid - drop in clean bottles and cans. Money goes for hunger /shelter / mission concerns.



# EARNEST WORKERS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**JANUARY 2, 2019**

**10:00AM** Business Meeting ; Watjen Center  
**10:30AM** Sarah Stevenson, LICSW  
Caregiver and Caregiving Support Professional  
**12:00PM** Lunch

**JANUARY 16, 2019**

**10:00AM** Business Meeting : Watjen Center  
**10:30AM** Grace Note Singers / Betty Graham  
**12:00PM** Lunch

We invite and welcome others to join us in our Earnest Worker events and activities!

If you are new to the Earnest Workers we generally meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month from approximately 10:00AM-12:30PM.

Sometimes we have activities, sometimes we have guest speakers, and sometimes we take field trips to local places. We always have fun and laugh a lot!

## SOUP & BREAD SALE

Soup & Bread Sale Sunday morning after both Services  
on **January 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**



## CARING MINISTRY

The Caring Ministry delivered Christmas cheer to our home bound and nursing home residents this past month with a Christmas plant.

Cards and visits are ongoing during each month. If you have a family member who needs a visit, call or send a card please let me or the church office know.

## KITCHEN MINISTRY

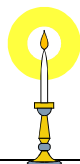
The kitchen continues to be monitored each week. Thanks to all who use the kitchen and keep it neat and clean for the next group to use. If we all work together it makes light the work.

If you need assistance please contact me and I will be glad to help you. *Betty-Ann Brown for the Kitchen Ministry*

## CANDLELIGHT SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

Thursday January 24 at 6:30 pm

Readings, Prayers, Lighting Individual Candles,  
A Beautiful Meditative Time  
of healing comfort and reflection ...  
All welcome - invite a friend or two...



## CALLING ALL CREATIVE PEOPLE

All Ages Welcome to Showcase their Talents of Arts,  
Crafts of all types and Music

January 13, 2019

Woodworth Hall ~ During both Coffee Hours

Sponsored by the Music & Fine Arts

**Please Contact:** Pat Smith – 401-438-7325, Craig Grant –  
508-336-6525, Cathy Strycharz – 401-438-8646

**BLOOD DRIVE....** Saturday, January 12, 2019  
from 10:30AM-1:30PM in Woodworth Hall.



## PRISM OF PRAISE

*Community Gospel Choir*  
*Many Colors, One Light*

February 23, 2019...Saturday ~ 6PM

Seekonk Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

**FREE ADMISSION** (Doors open at 5:30PM)

**Love Offering proceeds to benefit:** The Seekonk  
Congregational Church  
Wider Mission & Youth Ministry

## Ideas for “Alternative Gift Giving” for Haiti

The January mission trip to Haiti is scheduled from January 9th to the 15th.

1) BRUSHES, ROLLERS, AND PANS are being sought as both Madame Eveline and Maxo would like painting done at the orphanages. Or donations toward purchase of paint in Haiti also welcome - leave at church office marked Haiti or bring to church.

2) Vitamins for children in Haiti

3) The cost for the Sponsorship Program to help a child attend school for one year in Haiti is \$240. If you would like to give a gift make check payable to the RICUCC and write Haiti Task Force Sponsorship on the memo line. Leave at the church office and it will be sent to the Task Force member in charge.

# Christmas Poinsettias

## In Loving Memory of:

Catherine Travers  
Florence & Harold Hayes  
Clair D. and Dorothea S. Utter  
Herb Brown  
Janice Moran  
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Santos  
Silverio Santos  
Theresa Patenaude  
Lorraine Patenaude  
Marie Jeanne McHerney  
Wayne Travassos  
Edmond Travassos  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Deslauriers  
Robert Haher  
Louis Rose  
John & Barbara Lamberton  
My Son Edward  
My Son Paul  
Ed & Ann St.Laurent  
Rebecca Hopkins  
Steven St.Laurent  
Kathy Burnett Baker & Bob Burnett  
Marge & Jerry Fagundes  
Grammie  
Family & Friends  
Reg Mowry  
Roland & Donna Everitt  
My Parents-Helen & Jack Landry  
My Parents-Lloyd & Lillian Johnson  
Al Baker  
Bert and Bernice Smith  
Bert and Mary Smith  
Grandma, Grandpa & Vo  
Barbara August  
George and Phoebe Bateson  
Robert, Madeline and George Rupert  
Deitrick Family  
-Lester, Esther, Bud, Barbara and Dianne  
Peter and Leona Augustyniak  
Barbara "Nanny" August  
Anne Burton  
Ruth & Harvey Tracy  
Manuel Matos (Vo)  
Dorothy Fox (Gramma Dot)  
Loved Ones  
David & Margaret Love (my parents)  
William H. Libby  
Florence & Gordon Soderlund  
My Loved Ones  
My Mother & Father  
who were married at this church in 1933



## Given By:

Ralph Travers  
Rev.Joy Utter&Rev.Daehler Hayes  
Family  
Betty-Ann Brown  
The Staff  
Deslauriers Family  
Deslauriers Family  
Deslauriers Family  
Deslauriers Family  
Deslauriers Family  
Deslauriers Family  
Deslauriers Family  
Dorothy Rietzel  
Kim Johnson  
Lamberton Family  
Bette Angell  
Thomas Thornton  
Lisa Hopkins  
Lisa Hopkins  
Lisa Hopkins  
Don & Jan Burnett  
Kathy Dias & Carol Saisselin  
Hannah, Grace & Lilly  
Beverly Martell & Lori Ferreira  
Ron & LoriAnn Mowry  
Ron & LoriAnn Mowry  
Donna Euell  
Lesley  
Elaine Baker  
Elaine Baker  
Elaine Baker  
Lynelle & Michael  
Ed August  
Love Ron and Jan Rupert  
Love Ron and Jan Rupert  
  
Ed August  
Ed August  
Love her Family  
Gail, Arthur & Garry  
Gail, Arthur & Garry  
Love Liz, Elliott, Mason & Arielle  
Love Liz, Elliott, Mason & Arielle  
Lisbon & Motta Families  
Anne  
Anne  
Karen Caron  
Brenda Michaud  
  
Harry B. Manning Jr.



## In Honor Of:

Ron & Jay Burnett & families  
Missy Burnett Koopman  
Mike Baker  
Mason Luke, a special boy  
Gabby & Reagan, our beautiful granddaughters  
All children in foster care  
Ed "Poppy" August  
Our Children  
-Jaime, Chris, Lyndsey, Tim, Keli & Maggie  
Our Grandchildren  
-Saarah, Rachele, Alyssa, Cali & Samantha  
Helen Mowry  
Meme & Papa, Grandad  
Ruth David (Nanny, Nana)  
Arielle  
Doris Davenport  
Michael, Lynelle & Shain  
My beautiful Grandchildren  
-Ethan, Lillian, Ember, Cece & Henley  
My Daughters  
-Courtney, Christen, Megan, Bethany, Carrie & Molly  
My Grandchildren  
-Chace, Lyla, Vivian, Sofia, & Lucan



## Given By:

Don & Jan Burnett  
Don & Jan Burnett  
Don & Jan Burnett  
Addie & Tom Heelan  
Addie & Tom Heelan  
Addie & Tom Heelan  
Love his Family  
  
Love Jan and Ron Rupert  
  
Love Jan and Ron Rupert  
Ron & LoriAnn Mowry  
Hannah, Grace & Lilly  
Love Liz, Elliott, Mason &  
  
Lisbon & Motta Families  
Mom & Dad  
Gram  
  
Mom  
  
Donna Euell

*The Wreaths on the walls of the sanctuary  
are given in Loving Memory of  
George and Nancy Clark given by their Family*



*The two wreaths hanging on the front doors of the Church  
are in Loving Memory of Family and Friends given by Rene Andrews*



# Peace on Earth



**The Seekonk Congregational Church is having a  
GIANT INDOOR / OUTDOOR YARD SALE  
~ SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019  
FROM 8:30AM-2PM ~**

**Reserve your space today! \$40 per space  
Call the church office to fill out the necessary form**

**LOCK-IN**

**AT THE SEEKONK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
FOR 5TH GRADE - 8TH GRADE  
(MLK Holiday Sun to Mon)**



Sunday, Jan 20 (arrival at 4pm) ----  
Monday, Jan 21 (pick up at 10am)

Please join us for an overnight adventure in Building Skills  
AND Building Faith!

**Fee: \$15 per child**

Mini Youth Concert, Moon Bounce obstacle, Pizza dinner,  
midnight movies and treats, craft and game centers, theme  
worship with candle ceremony, designer pancake & waffle  
breakfast, special guests

ALL ARE WELCOME BUT YOUTH MUST BE  
REGISTERED FOR EVENT (by Jan 8) IN ORDER TO  
PREPARE FOR ADVENTURE, SUPPLIES AND  
CHAPERONES!

text or email KRISTIN... cell:774-991-1555

email: [mitchmoon12@hotmail.com](mailto:mitchmoon12@hotmail.com)

-----  
Name of Youth \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned give my permission for my son/daughter to  
attend the Youth Group Lock-In on Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

Parents Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #'s \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or health concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

**Seekonk Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ**

600 Fall River Avenue

Seekonk, MA 02771

508-336-9355 Fax: 508-336-3296

Church Office Email: [seekonkucc@gmail.com](mailto:seekonkucc@gmail.com)

Rev. Joy Email: [revjoyucc@gmail.com](mailto:revjoyucc@gmail.com)

Web Site: [www.scc-ucc.com](http://www.scc-ucc.com)

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*A Special Thanks to Margaret MacKenney for sponsoring this month's Caller  
In Memory of Dolores Barrow*

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

TO BELIEVE IS TO CARE-----

-----TO CARE IS TO DO !!!

**2019**

Senior Minister: Rev. Joy C. Utter  
Associate Minister: Rev. Marilyn Ricci  
Director of Christian Education: Kristin Putney  
Director of Music: Susan Barrow  
Office Administrator: Maria Tavares  
Treasurer: Donna Euell  
***The Congregation Ministers***



Assistant for Operations: Louanne Jennings-Abelson  
Co-Senior Deacons: Stephen Houle and Ellen Hindle  
Moderator: Greg Salgueiro  
Parish Nurse: Addie Heelan  
Co-Trustee Chairs: Tom Heelan and Bruce Rhodes  
Conference Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. H. Daehler Hayes

## KEEPING CHRISTMAS

by Henry Van Dyke

It is a good thing to observe Christmas day.

The mere marking of times and seasons, when people agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom.

It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a person to set one's own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day and that is KEEPING CHRISTMAS.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people and to remember what other people have done for you?

To ignore what the world owes you and to think what you owe the world? To put your rights in the background and your duties in the middle distance and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground? To see that all human beings are just as real as you are and try to look behind their faces to their hearts hungry for joy? To own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life

but what you are going to give to life... To close your book of complaints against the management of the universe and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness...

Are you willing to do these things even for, a day?  
THEN you can KEEP CHRISTMAS.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children? to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old? To stop asking how much your friends love you and ask yourself whether you love them enough? To bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts...To try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you...To trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you...to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings with the gate open...

Are you willing to do these things, even for a day?  
THEN you can KEEP CHRISTMAS.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world...stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death...and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?

Then you can keep Christmas,

And if you can keep it for a day, why not always?  
But you can never keep it alone.