

Holiday Guide

Addison Independent

Thursday, November 27, 2025



INSIDE:

- Friends & Neighbors share traditions, Page 3
- What a baker makes this season, Page 10
- Chocolate and more in Bristol, Page 16
- Tractor parade in Little City, Page 13
 - Keep yourself balanced, Page 7
 - Calendar of Events, Pages 25-29
- Area Holiday Worship, Pages 30-33
 - Dining Out, Pages 34-39

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Family, food and festivities:

How your neighbors celebrate the holidays

By IAN CURRY

ADDISON COUNTY — For many, the winter holidays are a time of tradition and ritual, whether they've been handed down generation after generation since time immemorial, or simply a matter of habit. These traditions strengthen our connections to each other and with our community.

In light of the holiday season, several county residents shared how they spend their special days.

For many, the holidays are spent in the kitchen. Jessica Teets, a Bristol selectboard member and Middlebury College professor, said her clan likes to prepare holiday cookies that originate in her family's Czechoslovakian heritage.

"We make a holiday cookie that requires a special griddle with a hinge, so you flip the cookie over on the stove to cook both sides. You need more than one person to do this, so this is a fun family activity (with a hint of danger from accidents and burns!)," Teets said.

"Making the same cookies helps us feel connected to our family history, and starting a new tradition lets us create something new with our son. Old and new traditions are how we've blended what we inherited from our families with what we want to create with our son in our Vermont family. This blended Christmas tradition makes us feel connected to each other and those who came before us," she added.

Vergennes Mayor Chris Bearor is another county resident who feels at home in the kitchen. He said that one of the highlights of his holiday season is baking Dog Team Tavern sticky buns with his two daughters.

"We deliver them to our family and friends," he said. "This was an especially special way to connect with our family and friends during COVID, when we couldn't be together."

That spirit of sharing takes other forms for the Bearor family too.

"This year will mark the 11th year my wife has organized 'Cookie Day' — a special day where friends and family come to our house and spend the entire day making all kinds of holiday treats," he said.

The list of treats is extensive, ranging from gingerbread people, frosted sugar cookies, chocolate-covered pretzels,

“

“Though we couldn't bake together (during the pandemic), **we did a virtual Cookie Day** where everyone Zoomed in while baking our favorites. Then we did a porch swap with the treats.”

— Chris Bearor

shortbread and peppermint patties. Not even COVID could put a halt to Cookie Day.

"Though we couldn't bake together, we did a virtual Cookie Day where everyone Zoomed in while baking our favorites. Then we did a porch swap with the treats," Bearor said.

SHARING THE SPIRIT

The spirit of giving is prevalent in Addison County during the holidays. For Catie and Mark Raishart, owners of Foxglove Farm in Leicester, that spirit takes on a special form.

"One December morning, 12 years ago, when my children were quite young, our family received our first visit from our now beloved friend, Piper the Kindness Elf... Every morning in December for the last 12 years, Piper has shown up at our breakfast table bearing a piece of chocolate for each of my kids and a mission for the day...Piper wants to relay one message — this season is at its best when we think about each other," Catie Raishart explained.

"Piper's missions have inspired donations to Homeward Bound and Atria, she's explained why we donate to toy drives even while believing in Santa, she's sent my kids around the Hannaford lot to put shopping carts where they belong and on especially tired days she somehow knows to bring bubble bath to teach my kids to be kind to themselves," she added.

Raishart said that even with her children now teenagers, Piper allows her family to believe in a powerful kind of magic that stems from thinking about the wellbeing of others.

Family remains at the core of the holidays, even when other commitments might present challenges. Legislator (See Traditions on page 4)

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Kids at the McGill-Yetnick home in Bridport enjoy a night of fondue, pajamas, games and holiday movies each Christmas Eve. Shown here are, from left, Marella, Aislynnne, Amias and Callum digging into the edible treats of the evening.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUBILEE MCGILL

Traditions

(Continued from Page 3)

Jubilee McGill said that even amid chaotic schedules, her family still spends plenty of quality time together.

“With my husband working shifts outside the normal 9-5, Christmas morning wasn’t always something we could share,” McGill said. “Christmas Eve became our safe, cozy space, the night we knew we’d all be under the same roof. Over time, the fondue, the pajamas, the games, and the movies grew into a ritual that we all look forward to each year.”

Christmas Eve is a big night for her, her husband, Lawrence Yetnick, and their four kids. Celebrations involve all sorts of food, including cheese and chocolate fondue accompanied by bread, apples, pears and pretzels. Food is followed by a night filled with board games and Christmas movies, and finally “before bedtime, the kids leave out cookies and milk for Santa, and then everyone heads to sleep to wait for the magic.”

GETTING THE TREE

Jonathan and Cassandra Corcoran of Bristol echoed those sentiments. For them, family is the source of the many holiday traditions and customs they carry on today.

“We usually cut a tree on the solstice to mark the beginning of the holidays. Sometimes, we cut a tree at a farm or in the forest or buy one from the Boy Scouts in our town who source them nearby from a farm,” the Corcorans told us in an email.

Over time, that tree is decorated with lights, ornamental balls and bangles, and sometimes with white candles they light

“Christmastime is a time out of time, of turning inward from the world. It is **special and precious, a time of thanks and gratitude for life.**”

— Jonathan and Cassandra Corcoran

in the evenings. The whole process is communal, involving lots of singing and listening to different kinds of music.

“Christmastime is a time out of time, of turning inward from the world. It is special and precious, a time of thanks and gratitude for life: the darkest nights, the white snow, the stillness, the clean and clear smell of the freshly cut balsam fir, hot fires, the love of family and friends, sharing good food, drinks and conversations, playing silly, loud games of all kinds,” the Corcorans said.

Karl Lindholm knows a few things about games. The retired Middlebury College professor and regular sports columnist said his holidays have long been marked by football.

“When I was growing up in Lewiston, Maine, I lived in a neighborhood of
(See Traditions on page 9)

Kids & adults alike will enjoy holidays in Middlebury

One big day, then lots more to take part in

MIDDLEBURY — Holiday magic is once again coming to Middlebury. The shire town will once again be a hub of activity, with the exciting stretching from Thanksgiving through the New Year.

A traditionally very busy time will be the first Saturday in December, when the folks at the Better Middlebury Partnership have lots of activities planned to keep downtown bustling.

The first thing many youngsters will want to do on that Dec. 6 is to come get your photos taken with **Santa** and **Mrs. Claus** from 10 a.m.-12 noon indoors at Town Hall Theater. Children can fill out a Letter to Santa (available while you wait) to share their wish lists and then get their photos snapped by parents or caregivers. Get some fresh air time on **Free Horse and Wagon Rides** around town with our friend Macey. Board the wagon in from of the Middlebury Community Music Center (the stately old yellow house next to the post office) from 10 a.m. to noon. And while you are waiting for the wagon, there is a free open house and hands-on musical explorations and workshops at MCMC until 2 p.m.

Other activities to spread the holiday cheer include caroling on the steps of the Congregational Church of

Middlebury. This will also be a good day for free access to the marvelous winter trains exhibit at the **Sheldon Museum** up at Cannon Park. Enjoy live music, the decorated trees & wreaths raffle and seasonal activities in the makerspace between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

And of course the **Hot Cocoa Hut** is back in Cannon Park and will be serving cocoa with all the fixings from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The minimum donation is only 25 cents per cup (so you don't fill up on cocoa). If you don't get your fill this day, the cocoa hut will be open on two more Saturdays (Dec. 13 and 20, noon-4 p.m.) and two Thursdays during Midd Night Stroll (Dec. 4 and 11, 4:30-8:30 p.m.).

MORE GREAT FUN

There is so much going on in Middlebury this holiday season that we don't know how to cram it into one story. So here is a listing of some other things to get you into the holiday spirit and keep it humming along:


- Come to downtown Middlebury for the **Midd Night Stroll** on two separate Thursday evenings. On Dec. 4 and 11 to enjoy late-night shopping, carolers, festive lights and holiday magic throughout downtown. The Henry Sheldon Museum and store open so

(See Merry on page 9)



Four-year-old Lucas Zeno was one of many children who came to Town Hall Theater in Middlebury this past December to meet with Santa. It looks like the two got along famously.

PHOTO BY KOLLEEN HOBBS



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Monica Benjamin, along with daughter Winter and husband Colby check out the greenery at Sinclair Tree Farm in Ripton this past year.

Stay balanced this holiday season

By MONICA BENJAMIN

The first snow has me feeling excited for winter — and aware that the holidays are right around the corner! This time of year can be wonderful, filled with family, friends and traditions. But it can also be... a lot. Busy schedules, late nights and endless to-dos can make things feel more hectic than joyful. Here are a few gentle reminders to help you and your family find some balance (and maybe a little calm) this season.

Stick to routines (as best you can). Kids do best when life feels predictable. Try to keep nap times, bedtimes and mealtimes roughly on schedule — even when celebrations run long. A late night here and there is fine, but too many can lead to tired tears (for kids and parents). Full bellies and consistent sleep can go a long way toward keeping everyone in good spirits.

Help kids know what to expect. Holiday gatherings can be loud and full of surprises. Let your kids know ahead of time who will be there, what the plan is, and when it's time to head home. A

little preparation helps them feel more comfortable — and helps you avoid some of those mid-party meltdowns.

Protect your downtime; it's OK to say no. You don't have to make it to every party or event. Choose what matters most to your family and carve out some time for rest. A quiet morning at home in pajamas, baking cookies or watching snow fall out the window can be just as meaningful as any gathering and help everyone recharge.

A few cozy thoughts to carry with you:

- The best memories often happen in the quiet spaces between plans.
- Give yourself (and your kids) some grace. The holidays can be overwhelming, even when everything is "fun."
- When things feel rushed or overstimulating, pause and reconnect. A shared laugh or a hug can do wonders.

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season.

Editor's note: Monica Benjamin is a nurse practitioner at Porter Pediatrics in Middlebury.

Come join the holiday chorus

MIDDLEBURY — Every year in mid-December, friends and neighbors join together in downtown Middlebury for a Messiah Sing. The tradition continues again this year on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 21, starting at 2 p.m., at the Congregational Church of Middlebury (2 Main St., at the corner of Route 7).

Join this holiday "sing-along" of many of the beloved choruses from Handel's "Messiah" (including the well-known Hallelujah chorus). Several solo arias from the work will be offered by singers from our local community and across the state. Organizers also invite instrumentalists to join that day. Jeff Rehbach conducts.

Rehbach's love of "come one, come all" Messiah sing-a-longs began in his undergraduate dorm where a

harpichord playing resident organized a Messiah sing every year. Rehbach started as a singer and moved on to conducting the piece as a graduate student in musicology.

"It was just completely open. Anybody could come and sing. Anybody could come and play," Rehbach told the *Independent* in an interview a couple years ago. "So that's where, for me, the tradition started."

Rehbach brought that same spirit of openness to Addison County when he came here in the early 1980s as a librarian at Middlebury College. He got the Messiah sing going in Middlebury in 1984. It attracts as many as 300 singers, whose voices blend together under his well-practiced direction.

(See Chorus on page 19)

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As they are every year, youngsters this past December were mesmerized by a model train exhibit at the Sheldon Museum. INDEPENDENT FILE PHOTO/STEVE JAMES

Merry

(Continued from Page 5)

you can visit the Trains exhibit and enter the decorated Christmas tree & wreath raffle. Free. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org. During the first Stroll there will be a Christmas Tree Lighting in Triangle Park. And shop handmade gifts from local artisans during the second stroll night.

- Take a break and enjoy free music at the **Advent Noontime Concerts** on three Thursdays at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. On Dec. 4, Robert Ludwig presents organ music of the Advent and Christmas season; Dec. 11 sees Lynette Combs playing seasonal music of Bach, Berlioz and Hugo Distler; and Dec. 18 is a community carol sing-along with sacred and secular songs of the season.

- The Middlebury Acting Company presents Charles Dickens's witty, socially conscious and heartwarming tale of Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim in **"A Christmas Carol"** at Town Hall Theater. There are performances on Dec. 5-7 and 11-13.

- There will be a **Toys for Kids Train Stop** at the Middlebury Amtrak Station on Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. The Vermont Rail System's Toys for Kids Train makes its final stop of the day. Meet Santa, enjoy a candy cane and donate new, unwrapped toys for children in need across Vermont.

- **"Night Fires,"** a tradition since 1982, weaves together song, story, poetry

and dance to honor the Winter Solstice. This year's performance at Town Hall Theater on Dec. 19-21, imagines the first-ever Interdependence Day celebration in a Vermont park on the longest night of the year.

- Another long-running tradition on Sunday, Dec. 21, is the **"Messiah Sing"** at the Congregational Church of Middlebury. All are welcome to this joyful community sing-along of selections from Handel's stirring musical work.

- If that's not enough winter kick-off for you, that same day is **"Solstice in the Shire: The Shortest Day."** Create edible ornaments, enjoy holiday treats and beverages and take part in an interactive performance of solstice stories celebrating the shortest day.

Some other things to fill in around the big events this season include:

- **Christmas tree and wreath raffle** at the Henry Sheldon Museum hosts its annual decorated Christmas tree and wreath raffle, featuring festive creations by local artists. View the trees and wreaths for free at 1 Park St. during museum hours and purchase raffle tickets in person or online. Ends Dec. 17.

- Stone Motors will hold its **"Stuff a Truck"** holiday toy drive through Dec. 23 at two Middlebury locations: on Route 7 South and 36 Boardman St. Drop off new holiday toys or cash donations to help HOPE deliver Christmas presents to Addison County kids.

Traditions

(Continued from Page 4)

boys, all older than I... The Cliffords had a big field next to their house where on Thanksgiving morning the Turkey Day Classic, a touch football game, was played," Lindholm recalled.

It wasn't until he got to junior high that the older boys invited Lindholm to play. But even then, "no one ever threw me the ball. I was still the youngest, the pecking order had long been established. 'Billy, I was wide open,' I'd complain, after the play. 'Sorry I missed ya,' he'd apologize. 'Do it again.'"

Those days of holiday football in Maine were one thing that contributed

to Lindholm's love for his hometown. After getting married to Brett Millier 35 years ago, and they began to make holiday plans, he realized how home and family were central to the holidays.

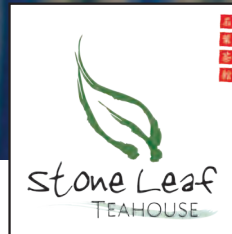
"I had never in my 45 years of life spent a Christmas Day anywhere but at my childhood home," Lindholm told his new wife.

So, it was decided.

"For 65 years straight, the Lindholms (and assorted spouses, kids, grandkids, and dogs) enjoyed Christmas Day right there in that same spot in Maine, 65 years straight for me," Lindholm said.

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Some make baking a holiday tradition

By IAN CURRY

MIDDLEBURY — The holidays are always a time for families and friends to gather and share memories, laughs and perhaps most importantly, food. For local bakers and chefs, there's no better time to shine in the kitchen, whether it be with popular favorites or with personal twists on classic dishes.

Nikki Bowdish runs Thistle & Honey Baking, a Middlebury home-bakery she launched during the fall of 2019. Bowdish has more than 15 years of professional baking experience and specializes in handmade wedding cakes and desserts.

The Independent spoke with Bowdish about some of the special dishes she likes to prepare for the family and friends who gather to celebrate the end-of-year holidays.



"Food and cooking are so important to my own holiday celebrations, because that's how we share traditions," Bowdish said.

When cooking for holidays, she's reminded of the days spent in her grandmother's kitchen with her cousins, "all wearing too-big aprons, baking holiday cookies together to bring home when the weekend was over."

Those experiences have helped her navigate cooking for the holidays ever since she and her husband first hosted family members for Thanksgiving 14 years ago.

"Adding seven extra people, all with personal traditions, we decided that rather than try and make everybody's favorite, we'd focus on making the basics the best. Pumpkin pie has long been my personal favorite dessert, and after that first big meal with everyone, it was formally requested by multiple people, with my older brother often requesting I make a few extra for him to take home," Bowdish said.

While she's sticking to the basics, Bowdish is not dumbing down her holiday dishes.

Her classic pumpkin pie includes a personal twist; Bowdish adds cracked black pepper "to help enhance the spicy nature of the pie."



Those who don't consider themselves pie-lovers would be happy to hear that Bowdish's oatmeal chocolate chip cookies are also a hit, especially among the kids.

"The oatmeal chocolate chip cookies get a dash of cinnamon and both semi-sweet and dark chocolate chunks to elevate them from a lunchbox favorite to a holiday treat," she said.

Bowdish's cooking isn't limited to desserts. While she says the Thanksgiving stuffing "is very much my husband's game," she provides the tastiest bread she can for the dish. But this year, she says she's parting from tradition slightly; rather than prepare a simple, no-knead rustic loaf, she's going a step further.

"Getting into sourdough this fall, I'm finding myself wanting to make specialty stuffing bread for it this year, infusing it with herbs and spices that

"We decided that rather than try and make everybody's favorite, we'd **focus on making the basics the best.**"

— baker Nikki Bowdish

will complement his cooking... This year, I'm making sourdough loaves and seasoning the dough prior to baking to intensify the flavor of the final dish even further," Bowdish told the *Independent*.

While a seasoned baker like Bowdish might feel at home preparing holiday treats in the kitchen, she said she likes to remind herself and her kids that being together is the most important ingredient.

And she'll continue baking her holiday classics for as long as they make her family, and herself, happy.

"I can only hope when they think of holiday celebrations, they picture baking in the kitchen, too," she said.

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Black Friday, Nov. 28

Enjoy breakfast in downtown Vergennes and then begin your holiday shopping along Main Street & Green Street where you will be warmly welcomed by shopkeepers ready to help you with your gift list!

Small Business Saturday, Nov. 29

Support your neighbors and shop SMALL! Downtown Vergennes is a Makers Community where highly-skilled artisans are selling their exceptional handmade ice cream, chocolate, women's fashions, natural wine, furniture, flowers, pottery, candles, jewelry, and wellness products directly to you!



Ho Ho Ho Holiday Roll Tractor Parade, Saturday, 4:30pm-6pm, Dec. 6

Join us for our First Annual Lighted Tractor Parade! Festivities will begin in Vergennes City Park with hot chocolate and cookies while we await the arrival of the S.D. Ireland Holiday Mixer Truck. Then the Tractor Parade (with Santa!) will roll through the downtown streets and finish at the Park. For details and to register your tractor (no entry fee): www.VergennesDowntown.org/holidayroll.

Grand Sponsors: Feed Commodities International & Bourdeau Bros.

Magic on Main, Thursday, Dec. 11

Can't shop during the day? Join us in the Little City where the shops will be open until 7pm! Enjoy special treats as you stroll through downtown Vergennes and discover a variety of perfect gifts for yourself or others around every corner. Enter at each shop for a chance to win a \$100 in Vergennes Green! Wrap up your evening with a glass of wine at 10 Green Street or dinner at Black Sheep Bistro, Park Squeeze, or Rockers Pizzeria. For shop specials: www.VergennesDowntown.org/magic-on-main.



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Lift up your holiday spirits in Vergennes

VERGENNES — Tradition returns to the Little City as Vergennes readies to kick off the holiday season.

With major renovations in progress at the Vergennes Opera House, There will be events spread around town, with activities at the Commodore Club, elementary school, Congregational Church, Bixby Library and, of course, on the City Green.

Before we get into the December madness, the Vergennes Partnership is looking to light a little fire with a Small Business Saturday promotion this Saturday, Nov. 29. Touch the goods,

meet the shop owners and keep your local downtown strong. Vergennes area merchants are encouraging people to shop locally and build up our local capital.

The following Saturday, Dec. 6, will see Santa and all his friends and associates peak in to Vergennes for a stroll around the city. A good place to start might be the annual Holiday Craft Fair at the Vergennes Union Elementary School. It will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and feature 70 vendors — woodcraft, jewelry, pottery, quilts and a lot more. More than 50 items

will be raffled, and look for an amazing concession stand. Proceeds to benefit the Pavillion Project. Also, take a photo with Santa.. Free admission.

As is often the case, a lot of the activity will take place at Bixby Memorial Library, which will host an open house from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. And — tradition again — Santa himself will be on hand to read Clement Moore's "Twas the Night Before Christmas" to the little tykes at around 10:30 a.m. It's great to see their eyes light up and their mouths go quiet as they settle in to listen to the Holiday Celebrity. Plus there will be a book sale downstairs all day, an a toy swap between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., a puzzle swap until 3 p.m., and holiday card making in Bixby's Half Round Room until 3 p.m.

And what would a Bixby Holiday be without some excellent singing? Up first, just after Santa finishing reading at 11 a.m., will be Va-et-Vient, the local trio that sings lively, heartwarming French tunes. Then at noon, it's Maiden Vermont, a women's a cappella chorus specializing in barbershop-style harmonies. It's all free.

The newest thing in this day of old traditions will be the city's first-ever Holiday Roll Tractor Parade!

A festive lineup of tractors, riding mowers and side-by-sides decked out in holiday lights — with costumed drivers behind the wheels — will bring extra sparkle and cheer to downtown. The parade route will start at Champlain Valley Christian School and end at City Park, where Vergennes Recreation volunteers and Northlands Job Corps students will serve up hot chocolate, cookies, and marshmallows for roasting over fire pits from 4:30-6 p.m. Once the much-anticipated S.D. Ireland Holiday Mixer Truck has made its appearance downtown around 5 p.m., the parade will commence. Be sure to look for Santa and a very special entry from the Grand Sponsors.

Prizes will be awarded to parade entries for Best Lighting Design, Best Costume, and Best Theme. Join the fun by entering your favorite tractor — register online at vergennesdowntown.org/holidayroll or in person at the



National Bank of Middlebury at 29 Green St.

If Broadway tunes are more to your liking, get a taste of that Midtown Magic right here in Vergennes with the 20th annual performance of Broadway Direct. Vergennes resident and owner of the Emerson Guest House on Main Street Bill Carmichael is a Broadway veteran, and he's been bringing a show he calls "Broadway Direct" to the Vergennes Opera House stage for two decades. Carmichael and several of his Broadway friends are once again going to bring the sounds of Broadway to Vergennes for two spectacular evenings on Friday, Dec. 5, and Saturday, Dec. 6. With the opera house tied up, the show will take place at the Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 S. Water St. The curtain is at 7 p.m.

If that doesn't get you ready for the holiday, there is still Champlain Valley Christian Reformed Church Christmas cookie sale on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Look for a large selection of Dutch specialties, fancy homemade cookies, and treats for sale. Enjoy hot cider and festive music while you shop.

And here's a couple other Vergennes holiday events to sample:

Candle Making and Cocoa on Sunday, Dec. 7, 2-5 p.m. at the Commodore Club. This fun event is for anyone 18 years and up and is \$20 for residents and \$25 for non-residents.

Ugly Christmas sweater party on Saturday, Dec. 7, 7-10 p.m., at the American Legion. Wear your most festive or outrageous holiday sweater. Dance cover band Nickel & Dime will play favorite hits from the 1970s to today. Admission by donation.

(See Vergennes spirit on page 18)

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Despite work at Opera House, the show must go on!

VERGENNES — Broadway veteran Bill Carmichael Walsh first hatched the idea 20 years ago of inviting some of his Broadway friends to come to Vergennes to perform in the historic Vergennes Opera House. At the time, Bill and his wife Susan, and their then toddler daughter Caitlin were newcomers to the Little City after purchasing the Emerson Guest House B&B. What started as a fun way to help raise support funds for the theater, turned into a much-anticipated annual event that has consistently drawn a large, diverse, and enthusiastic audience.

This year's 20th anniversary show will be special in many ways, not the least of which is the fact that it will be performed in the Vergennes Congregational Church, rather than on the Vergennes Opera House stage while the theater undergoes renovation to add an elevator tower and other access improvements.

The 20th Anniversary Broadway Direct Show will take place on Friday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 6, at 3 p.m.

Gerianne Smart, president of the Friends of the Vergennes Opera House, told Broadway World that Broadway Direct is such a highly anticipated and popular show that there was no way they could skip a year, despite the construction.

"The Vergennes community is so terrific that we had no trouble at all

finding an alternative site for this year's show and we are so looking forward to this special 20th Anniversary production," Smart said.

For the 20th anniversary of Broadway Direct, Bill Walsh will be joined by fan favorite Elisa VanDuyne along with Brian Golub, who performed last year. Joining Brian from NYC will be Madison Micucci who will be enjoying her first trip to the Little City. Caitlin Walsh, who is no stranger to Vergennes or the Opera House stage, will also be heading north from NYC and bringing her talented friend, David Postlewate to add to the evening's entertainment.


Ronnie Romano, versatile pianist and music director for the Middlebury College Community Chorus, Congregational Church of Middlebury, and the Wellspring Hospice singers, will once again accompany the performers.

As in years past, the Broadway Pros will be welcoming high school students to the stage. This year the cast is joined by two Champlain Valley Union High School seniors, Marin Walsh and Rowan Williams. Both students have performed extensively both in their school plays and in regional theater productions.

Editor's note: This story was written by Stephi Wild and comes courtesy of "Broadway World."




Starring in this year's "Broadway Direct" show in Vergennes will be, from left, Elisa VanDuyne, Bill Walsh, Brian Golub and Madison Micucci. The singing will take place at the Congregational Church on Dec. 5 and 6.



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FOR ALL THE LATEST UPDATES

The holidays are sweet and light in Bristol

BRISTOL — When it comes to the holidays, Bristol does it right. For the end-of-year celebrations, everyone looks forward to the Chocolate Walk (who doesn't like chocolate).

But even before December begins, the holidays arrive in Bristol with the Holley Jolly Holiday Market on Saturday, Nov. 29, at Holley Hall. The market, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., transforms the big public space into a vibrant hub of artisanal talent. Embrace the holiday spirit with a curated selection of high-end handmade goods from local vendors.

And then there is the sweet stuff — well, sweet and sentimental.

Events start on Friday, Dec. 5, with two of the locals' favorites: the Chocolate Walk downtown and the annual lighting of the Memory Tree on the Bristol green.

During the Chocolate Walk, from 5-8 p.m., everyone is invited to come to Bristol and experience a complimentary chocolate treat at downtown businesses. Move from store to store, sampling the decadent chocolate offerings, while browsing for gifts. Shops stay open late. There is no charge to participate, just an

appreciation for the various attributes of chocolate, such as to lift spirits, dispel economic woes, satisfy a craving, send the stock market soaring ... can chocolate really do all that?

Take a break from the chocolate to take part in the Memory Tree lighting at 5 p.m. There will be songs and hot chocolate for everyone.

The tree is sponsored by the Bristol Recreation Department. If you would like to purchase bulbs as symbols of loved ones present or past, the cost is \$5 each. You can purchase bulbs at the town clerk's office or Bristol Recreation Department office. Make checks for \$5 per honoree out to the Bristol Recreation Department and list your honoree on the memo portion. The deadline to order tree bulbs is Dec. 2.

Names of all honorees will be read aloud and displayed next to the Memory Tree on December 5th on the Town Green.

The holidays aren't all about chocolate. December also sees the annual candy cane hunt with Santa, on Friday, Dec. 12.

Bundle up the kids and make sure they have their flashlights, because the free Santa Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt



CIRQUE DE FEUGO takes center stage with a fire dancing performance during Bristol's Lumen celebration on Dec. 20. There will also be lantern-making in Holley Hall.

Photo courtesy of Bristol CORE

starts at 5 p.m. on the green. Santa has hidden candy canes all around the park. Who will be the most prized candy canes? Kids who find five candy canes will win, and a special prize will be awarded to the person who finds the rainbow candy cane!

Santa will be available for photos afterwards.

If you've had enough sweets for the time being, why not try the theatre? Middlebury Community Players' Company Be, in collaboration with Bristol Recreation Department, on that second weekend in December

will stage the Broadway comedy "The Roommate" at Holley Hall on Dec. 11, 12 and 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Have you ever met someone whose words and experiences move you so completely, that they open up possibilities for your life that you've never imagined? Come visit a small kitchen in Iowa and watch as two strangers change each other's lives in "The Roommate." Sharon, who is recently divorced and lives in Iowa, invites Robyn, a total stranger relocating from New York City, to be
(See Bristol on page 17)

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Bristol Recreation Holiday Events

Dec. 5, 5:00 PM:

Memory Tree Lighting with BES Chorus, followed by reading of names on Town Green. (Register honorees by Dec. 2).

Dec. 12, 5:00 PM:

Candy Cane Hunt with Santa, Town Green

Dec. 19, 5:20PM:

S. D. Ireland Holiday Truck, Town Green

Dec. 20, 10-11AM:

Story time with Mrs. Claus, Crafts and Cocoa, Holley Hall



www.BristolVtRec.com

Bristol Recreation Department



Celebrate with Community in Bristol

Festivities every weekend!

Small Business Saturday	11/29
The Chocolate Walk	12/5
FREE Hot Chocolate on Main Street	12/12
Lumen: Celebration of Fire & Light	12/20

For more details and a complete schedule, visit discoverbristolvt.com/blog/cool-yule-2025

BRISTOL CORE



Bristol

(Continued from Page 16)

her roommate. As the two get to know each other better, secrets are revealed and they learn more about themselves in the process. It's open seating; all tickets \$10, reservations are not required.

On Dec. 14, The Tillerman up on Route 116 north of the village will offer a cozy afternoon of holiday cookie decorating. They will have fires going in the parlor and dining rooms, holiday music on, beer, wine and a special cocktail available at the bar. The restaurant will be closed this evening.

For every ticket you purchase, participants will receive a dozen sugar cookies to decorate in a variety of holiday shapes. They will provide royal icing (white, red, yellow, blue), and some decorative goodies for you to choose from. Feel free to bring in your own decorations as well — maybe you have some old items in the back of your pantry or you have a specific vision for your cookies. FYI: this event is for age 12 and up.

If you need a shot of light as the days grow shorter, the SD Ireland Holiday Truck — the cement mixer covered in lights — will be at the Town Green on Dec. 19 at 5:20 p.m. and then will drive around the streets of Bristol before it makes its way back north.

There will be another Clause in Bristol on Dec. 20. Come to story time



DOWNTOWN BRISTOL IS a hub of activity with shops open late and a special treat for customers during the annual holiday Chocolate Walk. This year it's on Dec. 5.

Photo courtesy of Bristol CORE

with Mrs. Claus in Holley Hall from 10 to 11 a.m. You don't need to register.

The holidays get near to climax that evening with Lumen — Bristol's

annual celebration of fire and light.

Celebrations will kick off with a lantern-making workshop in Holley Hall at 4 p.m. At 6 p.m. there will be a

fire dancing performance from Cirque de Feugo on the Town Green. There will be fire pits and delicious foods throughout the evening.

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Vergennes spirit

(Continued from Page 14)

Kids' holiday ornament decorating on Saturday, Dec. 13, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Bixby Memorial Library. Drop in to decorate a holiday ornament to hang on the tree or give as a gift.

Wreath making workshop on Thursday, Dec. 11, 4:30-6:30 p.m., and again on Friday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. — both at Bixby Library. Bring greenery into your home this holiday season with a custom-made wreath. Limited space; reserve your spot by emailing miranda.degreenia@bixbylibrary.org.

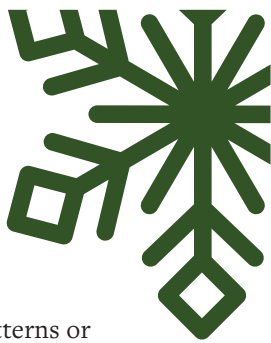
Kids' gift crafts: button machine

on Tuesday, Dec. 16,

3-4:30 p.m., at Bixby Library.

Design a one-of-a-kind button with fun designs, patterns or messages. Perfect to wear or give as a handmade gift.

Kids' make your own snow globes workshop on Saturday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m.-noon, at Bixby. Create a snow globe and bring winter magic into your home using jars, glitter and tiny decorations. Limited space.



Fireworks!

Once you make it through the holiday season, there's one more bit of holiday joy so you can end the season with a BANG!

It's the town of Middlebury's New Year's Eve fireworks and ice skating event. Sponsored by American Legion Post 27 and the town of Middlebury, all can watch fireworks set off from the Middlebury Recreation Fields next to Mary Hogan Elementary School beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31.

At the conclusion of the fireworks show head over to the Memorial Sports Center and enjoy free ice skating from 7 to 8:30 p.m. That should tie a nice bow on your holiday season in Middlebury.

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Members of the public come together each Christmas season at the Congregational Church of Middlebury to sing Handel's "Messiah" together.

Chorus

(Continued from Page 7)

Music scores are provided (or bring your own) for singers; if you play a string instrument, flute, oboe, or bassoon, orchestra parts are also available at the reading. Donations gratefully accepted at the door (\$5-10 adult / \$10-\$25 family). For more information, reach Jeff jeff.rehbach@gmail.com or 802-382-7493.

This is a performance not to watch, but to be a part of.

"The reward, the joy in this tradition, for me, is simply that it allows the

community to come together and to make music together and to enjoy doing it," Rehbach said. "It's just a delight that people are willing to take the risk of coming out and not necessarily knowing the music inside out, as we haven't rehearsed it, and simply have that sound fill this incredibly beautiful space and have that sense of joy — as a community — that music can bring."

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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Family friendly opera returns for holiday performance in Brandon

BRANDON — Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl & the Night Visitor" — a cherished holiday tradition that has brought warmth, joy and unity to the Brandon-area community each December — will return this holiday season. In Salisbury for years, (this year with your help) the beloved production will be at the Brandon Congregational Church with two performances on Saturday, Dec. 6, as recently announced by the Downtown Brandon Alliance, in partnership with Opera Vermont (known as OVT).

The performances are advertised as beginning at 5 and 7 p.m.

This magical evening of music, lights, and celebration will be the centerpiece event for the DBA's Brandon Holiday Market and will surely draw families from all over Rutland and Addison counties and beyond to experience the spirit of the season in our vibrant downtown. More than just a performance of the family-friendly opera, "Amahl & The Night Visitors" is a moment for us all to come together as a community, in hope, harmony, and the spirit of generosity.

While it will be the same beloved performance as in years past, organizers will be introducing some new performers to the cast, beginning with Opera Vermont favorite Kathleen Echols as Amahl's Mother. You will

have seen Kathleen originate the role of Nancy Clutter in OVT's World-Premiere of "Truman and Nancy" or in a powerhouse performance as Nedda in OVT's performance of "Pagliacci" in February at the Highland Center for the Arts.

In addition, Baritone Liam Shannon, most recently seen as the Wizard of the mountains in OVT's September production of "La Fata del Nord," will take on the role of the wise King Melchior.

As the music director of this production, Brandon resident Tim Guiles will lead the principals and ensemble from the piano for this production. This marks Tim's debut with Opera Vermont, and the company so looks forward to more.

If you or anyone you know would like to be a part of the chorus for "Amahl & the Night Visitors" this year, please reach out to Joshua Collier at collier@operavermont.com, or Tim Guiles at timothyguiles@gmail.com. They'd love to have you!

In preparation for this year's performance, OVT is reaching out to all community leaders, businesses, and Opera Vermont family to ask for support in the endeavor to make this production, both performances, ticket-less to the public, so that anyone, regardless of means or ability, can come



The holiday performance of Opera Vermont's "Amahl & the Night Visitors" will come to Brandon Congregational Church for two performances on Saturday, Dec. 6.

to the performance in Brandon and experience the beauty and the magic of this production in this beautiful space.

Any donation you're able to make to these efforts will help cover essential expenses, including minimal performer fees, staging, lighting, sound equipment and community outreach.

The ultimate objective is to provide, for the first time in the Barn Opera/Opera Vermont history: free and accessible tickets to all. Opera Vermont's motto is "All of opera, for all of Vermont," and with this step they attempt to make that not just a saying but a reality.



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Saturday, Nov. 29th

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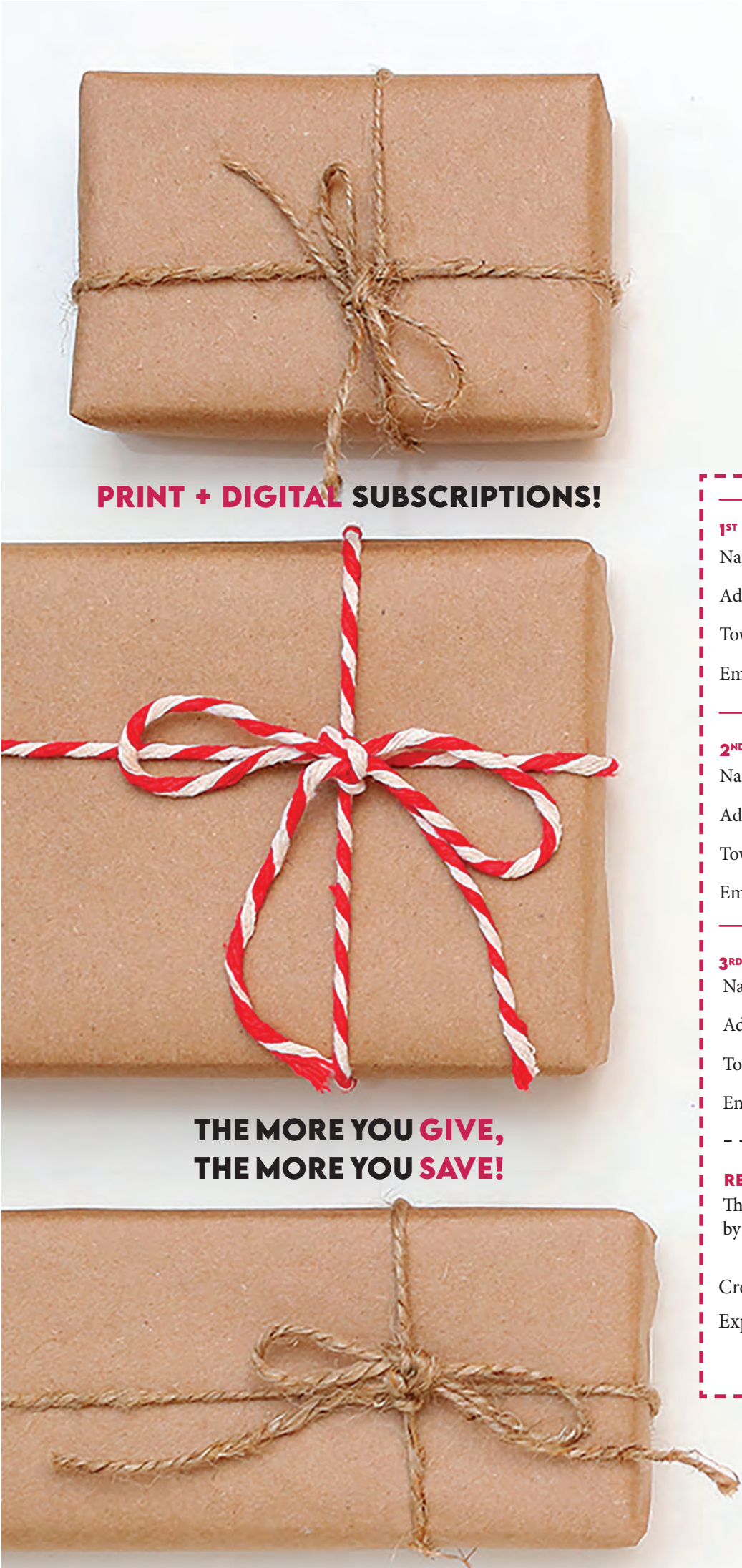


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Season Sponsor:





**nov
28**

FRIDAY

Christmas tree and wreath raffle in Middlebury. Ongoing through Wednesday, Dec. 17, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The Henry Sheldon Museum hosts its annual decorated Christmas tree and wreath raffle, featuring festive creations by local artists. View the trees and wreaths for free during museum hours and purchase raffle tickets in person or online. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

Holiday Gift Raffle in Shoreham. Ongoing through Saturday, Dec. 6, Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Stop by the library to buy tickets for the holiday gift raffle. Proceeds benefit the Platt Memorial Library Summer Concert Series in 2026. Put your tickets into the gifts you want to win. Winners drawn Saturday, Dec. 6; you do not need to be present to win. \$1 per ticket; \$5 for six tickets.

Stone Motors Stuff a Truck holiday toy drive in Middlebury. Ongoing through Tuesday, Dec. 23, at 2149 Route 7 South and 36 Boardman Street, Middlebury. Drop off new holiday toys or cash donations to Stone Motors stores to help HOPE deliver Christmas presents to Addison County kids.

Small Business Weekend in Middlebury. Friday, Nov. 28-Sunday, Nov. 30, downtown Middlebury. Kick off the season by shopping small at owner-run downtown businesses. Find unique gifts and soak up the holiday cheer all weekend long.

Holiday Trains at Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury. Friday, Nov. 28-Saturday, Jan.

3, train hours, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Annual tradition featuring a three-level Lionel train layout and backdrop of the Green Mountains by local artist Gayl Braisted. See the train on Wednesdays from 2-4:30 p.m., Thursdays, from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Fridays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Regular admission applies; admission is free during the Holiday Open House (Dec. 6), Midd Night Stroll (Dec. 4 and 11) and Community Day (Jan. 3). More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

**nov
29**

SATURDAY

Small Business Saturday in Brandon. Saturday, Nov. 29, all day, downtown Brandon. Celebrate small businesses, kick off your holiday shopping and support the local economy after Black Friday.

Med47 Annual Holiday Shoppe & Craft Fair in New Haven. Saturday, Nov. 29, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., New Haven Town Hall, 78 North St. The Brendon P. Cousino Med47 Foundation's annual holiday market features local crafters and artisans, attic treasures, home-baked goods, jams and jellies, syrup, fiber arts, stained glass and more. Proceeds support firefighters, EMTs and their families. More info at cmcousino@gmavt.net, 802-233-8334.

Small Business Saturday in Bristol. Saturday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. and downtown. Bristol will be buzzing with holiday cheer. Stop by the

Holley Jolly Market in Holley Hall and head downtown for holiday shopping, giveaways and more.

The Holley Jolly Holiday Market in Bristol. Saturday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. The Holley Jolly Holiday Market transforms Holley Hall into a vibrant hub of artisanal talent. Embrace the holiday spirit with a curated selection of high-end handmade goods from local vendors.

"Cabaret on 46th" in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 29, 7-8 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Opera Company of Middlebury's Youth Opera Company presents "Cabaret on 46th," where talented teens take the stage for an eclectic repertoire spanning musical theater to operetta. Suggested donation \$20; free for attendees under 26. More info at ocmvermont.org, via email at production@ocmvermont.org or call 802-388-7432.

**nov
30**

SUNDAY

Green Mountain Club Hike: Mt. Grant in Lincoln. Sunday, Nov. 30. Moderate 8-mile hike via the Cooley Glen and Long trails to the summit of Mt. Grant, with 2,200 feet of elevation gain. Enjoy a piece of the Bread Loaf Wilderness. Contact Dwight Griesman at dwight.griesman@gmail.com to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org. Free.

Library Holiday Auction in Brandon. Sunday, Nov. 30, 3-6 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Silent auction with light refreshments, wine and beer. Presented by

the Friends of the Brandon Library.
Memory Tree Lighting in Brandon. Sunday, Nov. 30, 3:30 p.m., Brandon Central Park (by the fountain), 2 Franklin St. Honor loved ones who have passed and brighten the dark winter months with the lighting of the Memory Tree. Carol singing by the Brandon Festival Singers will begin at 3:30 p.m.; the Memory Tree will be lit at 4 p.m.

**dec
1**

MONDAY

African drumming sessions in Middlebury. Monday, Dec. 1, and weekly on Mondays, 2-3 p.m., Counseling Service of Addison County, 17 Court St. Learn beginner-friendly West African rhythms with Shelly. Some drums available or bring your own. Free. Drop-in. Park in back, enter through the door facing the convenience store. More info at 802-388-3093.

Needle-felted snowman workshop in Shoreham. Monday, Dec. 1, 6-8 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Join local fiber artist Wendy-Ann Durkee to create a needle-felted snow person. Workshop designed for adults and confident teen crafters. \$25, participants receive Vermont-grown wool, a set of needle-felting needles, a felting sponge and a library discount. Limited to 8 participants, stop by the library or call 802-897-2647 to reserve your spot.



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dec 2 TUESDAY

American Red Cross blood drive in Middlebury. Tuesday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., American Legion Middlebury, 49 Wilson Rd. Community blood drive hosted by the American Red Cross. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 1-800-RED CROSS.

Yarn and other crafts in Middlebury. Tuesday, Dec. 2, and weekly on Tuesdays, 2:30-4 p.m., Counseling Service of Addison County, 17 Court St. Bring your own projects; share skills with others. Hosted by Marie. Free. Drop-in. Park in back, enter through the door facing the convenience store. More info at 802-388-3093.

Pins and Needles Craft Club in Brandon. Tuesday, Dec. 2 and weekly on Tuesdays, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Bring your own supplies and stitch or craft with the group. Free.

Serious Reads Book Talk in Brandon. Tuesday, Dec. 2, 6-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Monthly discussion of thought-provoking titles. Stop in or call 802-247-8230 to reserve the book. Free.

dec 3 WEDNESDAY

Art and creative writing in Middlebury. Wednesday, Dec. 3 and weekly on Wednesdays, 1:30-3 p.m., Counseling Service of Addison County, 17 Court St. Work on your own projects or try prompts with Nate; supplies available or bring your own. Park in back, use the door facing the convenience store. Free. Drop-in. More info at 802-388-3093.

Kids' Club After School in Shoreham. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2:45-4 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. A special guest from the Middlebury Studio School will lead a holiday card-making activity. Open to children ages 5-12.

Moonlight Madness in Brandon. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 4-8 p.m., downtown Brandon. Shop local this holiday season and take advantage of bargains, sales, specials and drawings throughout town. Many shops will offer 20% off storewide and be open 'til 8 p.m. More info at brandon.org, info@brandon.org, 802-247-6401.

Winter Village in Brandon. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 4-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. A European-style Christmas market with food, music, shopping and holiday cheer. Enjoy twinkling lights, mulled wine, spicy sausage sandwiches, handmade crafts and greenery, rich cocoa, live performances, fire pits and café seating.

Brush Hour in Brandon. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 6-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4

Franklin St. Relax with paint-by-numbers; materials provided. Free.

The People vs. Big Tech: A Vermont Town Hall Series in Brandon. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 6-8 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Data privacy town hall with Vermont State Rep. Monique Priestley. Learn how privacy, artificial intelligence, and digital ads affect everyday life and what you can do. Reservations at peoplevsbigtech.com.

Isaiah J. Thompson Trio: A Guaraldi holiday at Middlebury College. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 7:30-9 p.m., Robison Concert Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Road. Rising star jazz pianist Isaiah J. Thompson makes his Middlebury debut with "A Guaraldi Holiday." Tickets \$30/\$20/\$10/\$5 at middlebury.edu/college/box-office.

dec 4 THURSDAY

Advent noontime concert in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 4, noon, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. Robert Ludwig, director of music at St. Stephen's, presents organ music of the Advent and Christmas season by Franck, Bach, Dupré and André Carter. Free.

ASL Club in Brandon. Thursday, Dec 4 and weekly on Thursdays, 4-5 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Collaborative American Sign Language learning using video tutorials.

Midd Night Stroll in Middlebury. Thursday Dec. 4, 5-8 p.m., downtown Middlebury. Enjoy late-night shopping, carolers, festive lights and holiday magic throughout downtown.

Henry Sheldon Museum and store open during Midd Night Stroll in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 4, 5-8 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Find gifts at the museum store, visit the Trains exhibit, make seasonal crafts in the Makerspace and enter the decorated Christmas tree & wreath raffle. Free. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

Christmas Tree Lighting in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 4, exact time TBD, Triangle Park, Merchants Row and Main St. Join the community to light the tree during the first Midd Night Stroll.

Craft Fair at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 4, 5-8 p.m., Town Hall Theater Anderson Wing, 72-76 Merchants Row. Shop handmade gifts from local artisans during the first stroll night.

"The Journey of the Saint by César De María" play at Middlebury College. Thursday, Dec. 4, 7:30-9 p.m., Wright Theatre, 96 Chateau Rd. A rollicking adventure told by a traveling theatre troupe. Two artists flee the Spanish Inquisition and cross the Atlantic to deliver



DOUG SINCLAIR OF the Sinclair Family tree farm in Ripton dutifully trusses up a tree with plastic mesh wrap during the farm's December 2024 season.

Independent photo/Steve James

a holy relic to revolutionaries. More info at middlebury.edu/events/event/journey-saint-cesar-de-maria-0.

dec 5 FRIDAY

Winter Village in Brandon. Friday, Dec. 5, 4-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. See Dec. 3 listing.

"Frozen: Cold, Quiet, Pure" opening reception in Middlebury. Friday, Dec. 5, 4-7 p.m., PhotoPlace Gallery, 3 Park St. Celebrate the opening of a winter-themed fine art photography exhibition exploring clean lines, soft textures and silent spaces. Selected by juror Paula Tognarelli. Exhibition runs Dec. 5-27.

Salisbury Mills family full moon hike in Salisbury. Friday, Dec. 5, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Salisbury Mills Preserve, 1660 West Shore Rd. Family-friendly evening hike with Vermont Land Trust and Middlebury Area Land Trust on a 0.75 mile trail. Learn about nocturnal animals, play a game and enjoy storytime at the trailhead plus hot cocoa and a snack. Bring water, snacks and a headlamp or flashlight; dress for the weather. Register at vlt.org/events/salisbury-mills-family-full-moon-hike.

Memory tree lighting in Bristol. Friday, Dec. 5, 5 p.m., Bristol Town Green, intersection of West and North St. Memory tree lighting with the Bristol Elementary School chorus,

followed by a reading of the names. Register an honoree by Dec. 2. More info at bristolvtrec.com.

The Chocolate Walk in Bristol. Friday, Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m., downtown Bristol. Shops stay open late with chocolate treats, community spirit and holiday shopping. Browse, nibble and support local businesses during this Bristol CORE event.

Community supper in New Haven. Friday, Dec. 5, 5:30-7 p.m., New Haven Congregational Church, 91 Town Hill Rd. The New Haven Ladies Union invites you to enjoy a casual dinner with neighbors. Menu includes shepherd's pie, salad, roll, dessert and beverage. All are welcome. No takeout. Served until the food is gone.

Broadway Direct 20th Anniversary Show in Vergennes. Friday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m., Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 S. Water St. Broadway veteran Bill Carmichael Walsh and guests from Broadway join local talent for a special anniversary concert. Tickets \$20 adults, \$10 students. Part of the Vergennes Opera House "Off Stage" series. Tickets at vergennessoperahouse.org.

Tina Friml & Friends in Middlebury. Friday, Dec. 5 (rescheduled from Nov. 14), 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. World-famous comedian and Middlebury native Tina Friml returns home to headline a night of stand-up comedy. Tickets \$10-\$20.

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- Freeze leftovers
- Donate food that meets guidelines
- Dispose of any food waste properly (compost!)



From the Addison County Solid Waste Management District

Calendar

Friday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m., New Haven United Reformed Church, 1660 Route 7 (4 miles north of Middlebury). Christmas songs, readings and refreshments to prepare for the holiday season. All are welcome. Snow date Saturday, Dec. 6. More info at 802-877-2486.

"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury. Friday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. Middlebury Acting Company presents Dickens's witty, socially conscious and heartwarming tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's journey from miser to benefactor, guided by ghosts and unforgettable characters. Tickets at addisonarts.org/event/a-christmas-carol. Pay what you can; for assistance with pricing email melissa@middlesburyactors.org.

"The Journey of the Saint by César De María" play at Middlebury College. Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30-9 p.m., Wright Theatre, 96 Chateau Rd. See Dec. 4 listing.

dec 6 SATURDAY

St. Paul's Christmas Bazaar in Orwell. Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Orwell Town Hall, Main St. Handmade gifts and crafts, Christmas decorations, ornaments, wreaths, raffles, silent auction and baked goods. No flea market or lunch this year due to town hall kitchen renovations.

American Red Cross blood drive in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 133 Valley View Drive. See Dec. 2 listing.

Holiday Craft Fair in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Vergennes Union Elementary School, 43 East St. There will be over 70 vendors, proceeds to benefit the Pavillion Project. Free admission. Email progress8773761@gmail.com to register and reserve your spot now.

Friends of the Bixby Library book sale in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Otter Creek Room, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Used book sale offering gently used fiction, nonfiction, children's, YA, gardening, sci-fi/fantasy, Vermont books and more. Proceeds support Bixby Library programs. Entrance from the back parking lot. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

Santa & Mrs. Claus in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 6, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Visit Santa and Mrs. Claus and share holiday wishes.

Henry Sheldon Museum Holiday Open House in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The Henry Sheldon Museum hosts its annual Holiday Open House with live holiday music, a decorated Christmas tree and wreath raffle, the Trains exhibit for all ages and seasonal crafting in the Makerspace. Free. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

Holiday card making in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Half Round Room, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Make festive holiday cards during the Holiday Stroll. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

East Middlebury Craft Fair in East Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sara Partridge Community House and Library, 431 E Main St. Local vendor and book sale sponsored by the East Middlebury Historical Society.

Carriage rides in Middlebury. Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Cannon Park, Main St. and Park St., Middlebury. Enjoy a cozy ride through town and warm up with a cup of cocoa at the hot cocoa hut on Cannon Park.

Storytime with Santa in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 6, 10:30-11 a.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Enjoy a special storytime with Santa Claus during the Holiday Stroll.

Toy swap in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 6,

10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Bixby Hall, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Find new-to-you treasures at the community toy swap in Bixby Hall. More info at bixbylibrary.org/event/toy-swap.

Va-et-Vient performance in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-noon, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Enjoy lively, heartwarming French tunes from Addison County female trio Va-et-Vient during the Holiday Stroll. Free. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

Maiden Vermont performance in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 6, noon-1 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Enjoy a Holiday Stroll performance by Maiden Vermont, a women's a cappella chorus specializing in barbershop-style harmonies. Free. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

Winter Village in Brandon. Saturday, Dec. 6, 12-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. See Dec. 3 listing. On Saturday, Santa will visit the Brandon Town Hall, where there will be family games, crafts and entertainment from 1 to 5 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 6, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 5 listing.

Broadway Direct 20th Anniversary Show in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 6, 3 p.m., Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 S. Water St. See Dec. 5 listing.

Ho Ho Ho Holiday Roll Tractor Parade in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 6, 4:30-6 p.m., City Park, 179 Main St. Vergennes' first Holiday Roll Tractor Parade features tractors, riding mowers and side-by-sides decked out in holiday lights, plus an appearance by the S.D. Ireland Holiday Mixer Truck. Enjoy hot chocolate, cookies, marshmallow roasting over fire pits and music, with downtown shops open until 7 p.m. Free.

Santa Comes to Salisbury in Salisbury. Saturday, Dec. 6, 4:30 p.m., Veterans Park, 515 Maple St. Bonfire, carols and Santa's arrival, followed by a hay wagon ride to the Congregational Church for tree decorating, cocoa, cookies and stories. Door prizes for two families. Free.

CombustOMatics in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 6, 5-8 p.m., Rosie's Restaurant, 886 Route 7. Rosie's Restaurant hosts live music with CombustOMatics as part of its December live music series.

"Amahl & the Night Visitors" in Brandon. Saturday, Dec. 6, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., Brandon Congregational Church, 1 Carver St. The Downtown Brandon Alliance, in partnership with Opera Vermont, presents two performances of this holiday opera. Free.

Bingo at St. Peter's Church in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 6, doors open 5 p.m., games 6 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. Family-friendly bingo with cash prizes, 50/50 raffle and refreshments. Sponsored by the St. Peter's Cemetery Committee to benefit cemetery improvements.

"The Journey of the Saint by César De María" play at Middlebury College. Saturday, Dec. 6, 7:30-9 p.m., Wright Theatre, 96 Chateau Rd. See Dec. 4 listing.

dec 7 SUNDAY

"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury. Sunday, Dec. 7, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 5 listing.


Ted Perry Holiday Trio in Middlebury. Sunday, Dec. 7, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. The Ted Perry Trio presents a special holiday jazz performance with guest vocalist Ryan Montbleau, performing classic holiday songs and other heartwarming tunes. \$30 standard; \$40 generous. Tickets at addisonarts.org/event/ted-perry-trio-holiday-show.

Ugly Christmas sweater party in Vergennes.

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Saturday, Dec. 7, 7-10 p.m., American Legion, 100 Armory Lane. Wear your most festive or outrageous holiday sweater. Dance cover band Nickel & Dime will play favorite hits from the 1970s to today. Admission by donation. Open to the public. More info at ajs802@comcast.net.

dec 9 TUESDAY

Milk and Honey Quilters Guild holiday potluck and gift exchange in Middlebury. Tuesday, Dec. 9, 5:30 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court. In-person meeting featuring a holiday potluck and Yankee gift exchange for guild members. Bring a dish to share, your own place setting and a gift-wrapped sewing or quilt-related item to participate in the exchange. More info at milkandhoneyquilters.com/guild-meetings.

Bixby Book Club in Vergennes. Tuesday, Dec. 9, 6-7 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. December's pick is "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle. Didn't finish the book? No problem — this is a no-judgment book club. Copies available at the circulation desk; email martha.sanborn@bixbylibrary.org to reserve.

dec 10 WEDNESDAY

Holiday wrapping spot in Shoreham. Wednesday, Dec. 10, 5-7 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Need a place to wrap gifts? Stop by the library! Gift wrap for Christmas and Hanukkah provided, plus large tables, tape, scissors, ribbons and help if needed. Bring your gifts and a festive spirit.

Grief Group with La Dimora in Brandon. Wednesday, Dec. 10, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Support group gathering with end-of-life doula Becki Lund of La Dimora for people navigating any kind of grief. Free.

Four Calling Birds in Bristol. Wednesday, Dec. 10, 6-8 p.m., the Tillerman, 1868 N. 116. Enjoy drinks and music by the fire as Four Calling Birds sing acoustic, folk winter tunes and favorite Christmas carols with rich vocal harmonies. Guests are welcome to sing along. More info at thetillermanvt.com.

A to Z Book Club in Shoreham. Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Monthly hybrid book club where readers choose a book based on a challenge letter. December's letter is "X": find a title word or author's name starting with X. Attend in person or contact the library for the Zoom link.



dec 11 THURSDAY

Advent noontime concert in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 11, noon, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. Lynette Combs of Montpelier will play seasonal music of Bach, Berlioz and the mid-20th century composer Hugo Distler. Free.

Classic Film Club in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 11, 1 p.m., Marquis Theater, Main Street. Screening of "The Thomas Crown Affair" starring Faye Dunaway, followed by discussion. Free. Popcorn provided.

Moonlight Madness in Brandon. Thursday, Dec. 11, 4-8 p.m., downtown Brandon. Shop local this holiday season and take advantage of opportunities throughout town. Many shops will offer 20% off and be open 'til 8 p.m. More info at brandon.org, info@brandon.org, 802-247-6401.

Winter Village in Brandon. Thursday, Dec. 11, 4-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. A European-style Christmas market with food, music, shopping and holiday cheer. Enjoy twinkling lights, mulled wine, spicy sausage sandwiches, handmade crafts and greenery, rich cocoa, live performances, fire pits and café seating.

Wreath making workshop in Vergennes. Thursday, Dec. 11, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Bring greenery into your home this holiday season with a custom-made wreath. Limited space; reserve your spot by emailing miranda.degrenia@bixbylibrary.org.

Midd Night Stroll in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 11, 5-8 p.m., downtown Middlebury. Shop handmade gifts from local artisans, including at National Bank of Middlebury, during the second stroll night.

Henry Sheldon Museum and store open during Midd Night Stroll in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 11, 5-8 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Find gifts at the museum store, visit the Trains exhibit, make seasonal crafts in the Makerspace and enter the decorated Christmas tree & wreath raffle. Free. More info at henrysheldondomuseum.org.

"Bringing Up Beaver" presentation in Salisbury. Thursday, Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m., Salisbury Meeting House, 853 Maple St. Licensed wildlife rehabilitator John Aberth will discuss "Bringing Up Beaver," his book about raising an orphaned beaver kit and the two-year journey to release it back into the wild.

"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. Middlebury Acting Company presents Dickens's witty, socially conscious and heartwarming tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's

journey from miser to benefactor, guided by ghosts and unforgettable characters. Tickets at addisonarts.org/event/a-christmas-carol. Pay what you can; for assistance with pricing email melissa@middleburyactors.org.

"The Roommate" in Bristol. Thursday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. Middlebury Community Players' Company Be, in collaboration with Bristol Recreation Department, presents this Broadway comedy. Open seating; all tickets \$10, cash or check only. Reservations are not required, but to be added to a reservation list call 802-377-3540. More info: middleburycommunityplayers.org.

dec 12 FRIDAY

Wreath making workshop in Vergennes. Friday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. See Dec. 11 listing.

Winter Village in Brandon. Friday, Dec. 12, 4-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. See Dec. 11 listing.

Candy cane hunt with Santa in Bristol. Friday, Dec. 12, 5 p.m., Bristol Town Green, intersection of West and North St. Candy cane hunt with Santa on the town green. More info at bristolvtrec.com.

Free hot chocolate and carols on Main Street in Bristol. Friday, Dec. 12, 5-7 p.m., Main Street. After the candy cane hunt, enjoy a free cup of hot chocolate and holiday entertainment from Bristol CORE. Free. More info at discoverbristolvt.com.

"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury. Friday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 11 listing.

Krampusnacht "Touch the Wild" in Rochester. Friday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., 185 Brandon Mountain Road. The fireside solstice gathering returns to explore how we can touch the wild through song, story and ritual in the frosty night air. Tickets on sale in early November at baldmountaintheater.org.

"The Roommate" in Bristol. Friday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. See Dec. 11 listing.

dec 13 SATURDAY

Mountain View 4-H craft and vendor sale in Bridport. Saturday, Dec. 13, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Bridport Central School, 3442 Route 22A. The annual sale features vendors and crafters along with 4-H members selling handmade crafts, baked goods and lunch. Free admission.

31st annual Christmas cookie sale in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (or until sold out), Champlain Valley Christian Reformed Church, 73 Church St.

The cookie sale features a large selection of Dutch specialties, fancy homemade cookies and other treats for sale. Choose and package your favorites and enjoy hot cider and festive music while you shop. More info at 802-417-4300.

Kids' holiday ornament decorating in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 13, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Half Round Room, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Drop in to decorate a holiday ornament to hang on the tree or give as a gift. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

Winter Village in Brandon. Saturday, Dec. 13, 12-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. See Dec. 11 listing. On Saturday, Santa will visit the Brandon Town Hall, where there will be family games, crafts and entertainment from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Cuss and Cut Block Printing in Brandon. Saturday, December 13, 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Learn linoleum block printing and let the profanities fly as you create. Ages 18 and up, no experience necessary. Spots are limited, please email info@brandonpubliclibrary.org to register.

Fiber Arts Circle in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 13, 12-2 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Bixby's Fiber Arts Circle every other Saturday. Bring a work-in-progress or use yarn and knit/crochet kits from the Library of Things. All experience levels and ages welcome. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

The Met: Live in HD "Andrea Chénier" in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 13, 1 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Giordano's passionate tragedy stars tenor Piotr Beczala as the virtuous poet ensnared by the French Revolution, with soprano Sonya Yoncheva as Maddalena di Coigny and baritone Igor Golovatenko as Carlo Gérard. Tickets \$10-\$24 at addisonarts.org.

Cookies and a Craft with Mr. Claus in Shoreham. Saturday, Dec. 13, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. A quieter, simpler visit with Mr. Claus. Write your list for Santa, make a holiday craft, enjoy cookies or a candy cane, and pick up a free book in the cozy library. Free and open to all.

"The Roommate" in Bristol. Saturday, Dec. 13, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. See Dec. 11 listing.

"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 11 listing.

Bingo at St. Peter's Church in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 13, doors open 5 p.m., games 6 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. Family-friendly bingo with cash prizes, 50/50 raffle and refreshments. Sponsored by the St. Peter's Historic Preservation Committee to benefit restoration of the church bell tower.

Bob Gagnon Trio in Middlebury. Saturday,

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Thanksgiving Eve 11/26 10-3pm
Thanksgiving 11/27 - Closed
Christmas Eve 12/24 - Closed
Christmas Day 12/25 - Closed
New Year's Eve 12/31 - 10-3pm
New Year's Day 1/1 - Closed

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Gift Certificates Available



Dec. 13, 5-8 p.m., Rosie's Restaurant, 887 Route 7. Live music from the Bob Gagnon Trio at Rosie's Restaurant. Part of Rosie's December live music series.

Christmas decorating contest in Brandon. Saturday, Dec. 13, 5 p.m., around Brandon. String up your lights in preparation for the contest. Judges will tour Brandon starting at 5 p.m. and evaluate decor across four categories: residential traditional, residential whimsical (includes inflatables), civic and commercial. Call in your own place or someone else's to ensure judges see the display. Judges may also nominate favorites. More info at info@brandon.org, 802-247-6401.

Krampusnacht "Touch the Wild" in Rochester. Saturday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., 185 Brandon Mountain Road. See Dec. 12 listing.

Kat Wright & Brett Hughes Holiday Show in Lincoln. Saturday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. Kat Wright and Brett Hughes bring their 12th annual holiday show back to the Burnham Hall stage for a magical evening of music that embodies all the holiday feels. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets at sevendaystickets.com.

High Horse house concert in New Haven. SOLD OUT. Saturday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., private home, New Haven (address provided with ticket purchase). Progressive acoustic string band High Horse plays an intimate house concert. Attendance limited to 46.

dec 14 SUNDAY

Audubon Christmas bird count in Middlebury. Sunday, Dec. 14, all day, all of Bridport and Cornwall and parts of Addison, Middlebury, Salisbury, Shoreham and Whiting. Backyard bird watchers who live within a 15-mile radius of the Lemon Fair River are invited to report the maximum number of each species of bird they see at their birdfeeders. Field watchers will also count birds in the vicinity. For more details, contact Kris or Jim Andrews at jandrews@VtHerpAtlas.org. Free.

Breakfast buffet in Vergennes. Sunday, Dec. 14, 8-10 a.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. Menu includes omelets, scrambled eggs, French toast, plain and blueberry pancakes with maple syrup, sausage gravy on biscuits, cornbread, home fries and mini muffins. Juice, tea and coffee available. \$13 adults, \$8 children 8-12; under 8 free. Sponsored by Vergennes Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Brandon Festival Singers in Brandon. Sunday, Dec. 14, 3 p.m., Brandon Congregational Church, 1 Carver St. Annual concert that brings together singers and musicians from area communities for a joyous Christmas celebration. Free, a portion of donations will go to charity.

Darkness to Light: A preparation for Christmas in Middlebury. Sunday, Dec. 14, 4 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. The Choir of St. Stephen's presents a Lessons and Carols service that moves from darkness to light and features choral music from the Renaissance to the 21st century. Free.

Toys for Kids Train stop in Middlebury. Sunday, Dec. 14, 6-6:30 p.m., Middlebury Amtrak Station, 30 Middle Seymour St. The Vermont Rail System's Toys for Kids Train makes its final stop of the day. Meet Santa, enjoy a candy cane and donate new, unwrapped toys for children in need across Vermont.

dec 16 TUESDAY

Kids' gift crafts: button machine in Vergennes. Tuesday, Dec. 16, 3-4:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Design a one-of-

a-kind button with fun designs, patterns or messages. Perfect to wear or give as a handmade gift. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

dec 17 WEDNESDAY

Brush Hour in Brandon. Wednesday, Dec. 17, 6-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. See Dec. 3 listing.

dec 18 THURSDAY

"Christmas in the Air" in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 18, noon, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. Community carol sing-along. Music Director Robert Ludwig will lead sacred and secular songs of the season and share stories about the history of several favorites.

Cookbook Club in Brandon. Thursday, Dec. 18, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Share dishes and discuss the month's cookbook. Free.

dec 19 FRIDAY

Winter Village in Brandon. Friday, Dec. 19, 4-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. See Dec. 11 listing.

"Night Fires" in Middlebury. Friday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. A magical Winter Solstice dream play created and directed by Marianne Lust, now in its fourth decade, featuring a mix of new performers and "old-timers" with a wholly new story each year. Tickets \$15-\$45 at addisonarts.org/event/night-fires-2.

SD Ireland holiday truck in Bristol. Friday, Dec. 19, 5:20 p.m., Bristol Town Green, intersection of West and North St. Visit from the SD Ireland holiday truck on the town green. More info at bristolvtrec.com.

dec 20 SATURDAY

Kids' make your own snow globes Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m.-noon, Bixby Memorial Library. Create a snow globe and bring winter magic into your home using jars, glitter and tiny decorations. Limited space: RSVP by emailing shelby.gagne@bixbylibrary.org. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

Winter Village in Brandon. Saturday, Dec. 20, 12-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. See Dec. 11 listing. On Saturday, Santa will visit the Brandon Town Hall, where there will be family games, crafts and entertainment from 1 to 5 p.m. Neshobe School students will sing in the park.

Build a Solar Robot in Shoreham. Saturday, Dec. 20, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Kids ages 8 and up can build a solar-powered mini robot in honor of the winter solstice. Ms. Abby will lead the

build. Limited to 11 participants, stop by the library or call 802-897-2647 to register.

"Night Fires" in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 20, 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 19 listing.

Lumen: Bristol's Celebration of Fire & Light in Bristol. Saturday, Dec. 20, 4-7 p.m., Bristol Town Green and Holley Hall, 1 South St. Free community celebration featuring a lantern-making workshop in Holley Hall at 4 p.m. and a fire-dancing performance by Cirque de Feugo on the Town Green at 6 p.m., plus fire pits and delicious food. Free.

O & Schu in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 20, 5-8 p.m., Rosie's Restaurant, 887 Route 7. Live music from O & Schu as part of Rosie's December live music series.

Reverse Parade in Brandon. Saturday, Dec. 20, 6 p.m., 1386 Pearl St. A reverse parade where spectators drive by to enjoy the covered bridge illuminated with lights, festive decorations, elves awaiting Santa and Barn Opera well-wishers spreading holiday cheer.

Holiday music at the Tillerman in Bristol. Saturday, Dec. 20, 6 p.m., the Tillerman, 1868 N. 116. Enjoy joyful holiday music in the barn by the band Sunday Morning. Drinks available. More info at thetillermanvt.com.

dec 21 SUNDAY

Annual Messiah Sing in Middlebury. Sunday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 2 Main St. Joyful community sing-along of selections from Handel's Messiah, led by Jeff Rehbach. All are welcome to join and sing favorite choruses or play in the orchestra. Suggested donation \$5-10 adults, \$10-\$25 families. More info at jeff.rehbach@gmail.com, 802-382-7493.

Solstice in the Shire: The Shortest Day in Middlebury. Sunday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Create edible ornaments, enjoy holiday treats and beverages and take part in an interactive performance of solstice stories celebrating the shortest day. Surprise performances by local actors and musicians. Free; donations accepted.

"Night Fires" in Middlebury. Sunday, Dec. 21, 4 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 19 listing.

Reverse Parade in Brandon. Sunday, Dec. 21, 6 p.m., 1386 Pearl St. See Dec. 20 listing.

Shannon Wright & Friends holiday concert in Brandon. Sunday, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m., Brandon Inn, 20 Park St. A holiday concert for everyone with music to herald the season. Free.

dec 27 SATURDAY

Fiber Arts Circle in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 27, 12-2 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Bixby's Fiber Arts Circle every other Saturday. Bring a work-in-progress or use yarn and knit/

crochet kits from the Library of Things. All experience levels and ages welcome. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

Spencer Lewis in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 27, 5-8 p.m., Rosie's Restaurant, 887 Route 7. Live music from Spencer Lewis as part of Rosie's December live music series.

dec 29 MONDAY

Family Game Night in Shoreham. Monday, Dec. 29, 5-7:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Bring the whole family to play from the library's growing board game collection or bring your own games to play or share. Arrive by 5 p.m. for pizza.

dec 30 TUESDAY

Crown Chakra drum Circle in Middlebury. Tuesday, Dec. 30, 6:30 p.m., 54 Main St., Unit B. Brought to you by Breanna Elaine music and Love Play Grow Wellness. \$10 suggested donation.

dec 31 WEDNESDAY

Fireworks and ice skating in Middlebury. Tuesday, Dec. 31, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Middlebury Rec Park, Mary Hogan Dr. Fireworks begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by free ice skating at Memorial Sports Center.

New Year's Eve with Soule Monde in Middlebury. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 7-10 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. An early New Year's Eve concert with avant-funk duo Soule Monde, featuring dynamic melodies and bold improvisation. Family-friendly. Tickets \$15-\$35 at addisonarts.org/event/soule-monde-new-years-eve.

jan 2 FRIDAY

"Filling the Frame" opening reception in Middlebury. Friday, Jan. 2, 4-7 p.m., PhotoPlace Gallery, 3 Park St. Celebrate the opening of a fine art photography exhibition selected by juror Dallas Crow, showcasing layered compositions and richly textured scenes that embrace visual abundance. Exhibition runs Jan. 2-31.

jan 3 SATURDAY

Henry Sheldon Museum Community Day in Middlebury. Saturday, Jan. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Saturday, Jan. 3 is the last day to see the holiday trains and museum exhibitions for the season, with special events throughout the day and after-holiday bargains in the museum store. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.



LIGHTS PROJECTED ONTO Middlebury's falls add a festive glow to downtown during the holiday season.

Photo by Jonathan Blake



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MIDDLEBURY, UCC

CHRISTMAS GUIDE

DECEMBER 2025

3	Advent Taizé Service 7:00 p.m. in Unity Hall
6	"A Very Merry Middlebury" Caroling 10:00 a.m. on the Church Steps
7	Second Advent Worship Service 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
14	Third Advent Worship Service 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
21	Fourth Advent Worship Service & Christmas Pageant 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary Messiah Sing 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
24	Christmas Eve Worship Services 4:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

802-388-7634

www.midducc.org

@midducc

Worship

ADDISON COUNTY — A number of Addison County-area churches have set their schedules for special Christmas events and services. Note that these plans may change. If your church service isn't listed, please email the information to calendar@addisonindependent.com and we will run it in the weeks coming up to the holidays.

ADDISON

West Addison United Methodist Church will hold a Christmas Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. This service replaces the regular morning worship service that day. All are invited to attend. No service on Christmas Day.

BRANDON/FOREST DALE

St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church will hold Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 6 p.m.

BRIDPORT

Bridport Church will hold a Christmas Eve service in the Meeting Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24.

Saint Bernadette's Catholic Church will hold Christmas Day Mass at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 25. Christmas Eve masses will be held at St. Mary's in Middlebury (see Middlebury listing).

BRISTOL

Saint Ambrose Roman Catholic Church will celebrate the

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sunday, December 14
4:00 pm Advent Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 24
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Pageant and Holy Eucharist
8:30 pm Carol Prelude*
9:00 pm Holy Eucharist *

Christmas Day, December 25
10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Carols

Sunday, December 28
10:30 am Christmas Lessons and Carols Service *

*These services will also be broadcast on Zoom



St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church

802.388.7200

3 Main St. on the Green • Middlebury, VT
STSTEPHENSmidd.org
Please visit our website for the latest updates on Christmas worship and life at St. Stephen's

Worship

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, Dec. 8, at 5:30 p.m. Rorate Mass will be held on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 6:30 a.m. Confession schedule during Christmas week is as follows: Sunday, Dec. 21, from 7:30-8:15 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 7-7:45 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 6:30-8 am and Wednesday, Dec. 24, from 1-2:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. Christmas Day Mass is at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 25.

EAST MIDDLEBURY

The **East Middlebury United Methodist Church** and the **Middlebury United Methodist Church** will hold a combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. at the East Middlebury Church, located at the corner of 2 Church Street and Route 125 in East Middlebury.

MIDDLEBURY

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saint Mary's) Catholic Church will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, Dec. 8, at 12:05 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. St. Mary's will hold two Christmas Eve Masses on Wednesday, Dec. 24: Vigil Mass at 4 p.m. and Mass at Night at 7:30 p.m. (choral prelude begins at 7:15 p.m.). Christmas Day Mass will be held at St. Bernadette's in Bridport at 9 a.m. (see Bridport listing).

The **Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society** will hold two Christmas Eve services on Wednesday, Dec. 24. The 4 p.m. service will feature an all-ages pageant with group candle lighting and singing of "Silent Night." The 7 p.m. service, "We Are the Light of the World!" will explore the Christmas Spirit with songs, music, poetry and candle lighting. All are welcome. Attend either service in person or online via Zoom link at cvuus.org.

HAPPY CHANUKAH

Chanukah begins the night of Sunday
December 14th and ends Monday the 22nd



HAVURAH OF ADDISON COUNTY

56 N. Pleasant St. Middlebury
havurahaddisoncounty.org

Shoreham Congregational Church



The Shoreham Congregational Church welcomes
you to its Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
at 5 PM on Wednesday, December 24.

All are invited to celebrate Advent during our worship services
at 10 AM on Sundays, November 30, December 7, 14, and 21.

28 SCHOOL ROAD, SHOREHAM



Assumption of the
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
ST. MARY'S - ST. BERNADETTE - ST. GENEVIEVE



Solemnity of Christmas

Vigil Mass - Dec. 24, 4 pm - St. Mary's
Mass at Night - Dec. 24, 7:30 pm - St. Mary's
Mass During Day - Dec. 25, 9 am - St. Bernadette
www.stmaryvermontcatholic.org
Parish Office 802-388-2943

Bridport Church

Please join us
Christmas Eve
At 6:30 PM

54/72 Middle Road,
Bridport, Vermont



(Meeting Hall)



Worship

The Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC will hold weekly Sunday services at 10 a.m. Christmas Eve services will be held at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24.

Memorial Baptist Church will hold weekly Advent Sunday services at 10 a.m. A Christmas Eve candle lighting service will be held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. A Christmas Day service will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 25.

The Middlebury United Methodist Church and the East Middlebury United Methodist Church will hold a combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. at the East Middlebury Church, located at the corner of 2 Church St. and Route 125 in East Middlebury.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church will hold Advent noontime concerts on Thursday, Dec. 4, 11, and 18, at 12 noon. Concerts are free and all are welcome. On Sunday, Dec. 14, there will be an Advent Lessons and Carols service at 4 p.m. On Wednesday, Dec. 24, a Christmas Eve pageant and Holy Eucharist will be held at 4 p.m.; and at 8:30 p.m. there will be a Carol Prelude followed by a Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist at 9 p.m. The Christmas Day Holy Eucharist takes place on Thursday, Dec. 25, at 10 a.m. On Sunday, Dec. 28, there will be a 10:30 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols service. All services are in person; some will be broadcast on Zoom. Please visit ststephensmidd.org for Zoom links and more information.

ORWELL

First Congregational Church of Orwell will hold a Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 7:30 p.m.

St. Paul Catholic Church in Orwell will hold a Christmas Eve Mass on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 6 p.m.

SHOREHAM

Shoreham Congregational Church will hold a Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. Advent services will be held at 10 a.m. on the following Sundays: Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Dec. 21.

VERGENNES

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church will hold a Christmas Eve Festival Service of Holy Eucharist on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m.

Vergennes United Methodist Church will hold a Christmas Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend. No service on Christmas Day.

WEYBRIDGE

Weybridge Congregational Church will hold a Christmas Eve worship service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m.

Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalists



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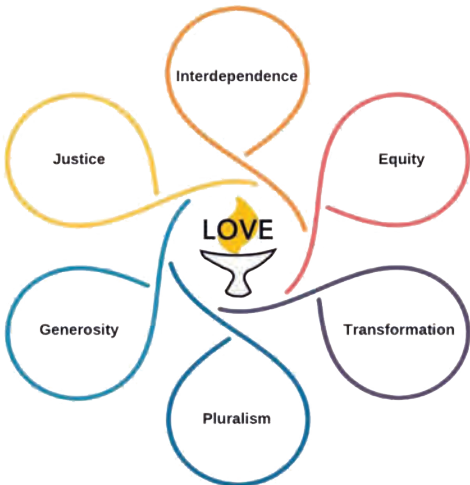
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Rev. Tricia and Rev. Christina





ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

FR. STEVEN R. MARCHAND, PASTOR

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 8th at 5:30pm

Christmas Eve Mass

Wednesday, December 24th at 6:30pm

Rorate Mass

Saturday, December 20th at 6:30am

Christmas Day Mass

Thursday, December 25th at 8:30am

Christmas Week Confession Schedule

Sunday, December 21st 7:30-8:15am

Tuesday, December 23rd 7:00-7:45am & 6:30-8:00pm

Wednesday, December 24th 1:00-1:30pm

11 SCHOOL STREET, BRISTOL ♦ (802) 453-2488
STAMBROSESTPETER.VERMONTCATHOLIC.ORG



MIDDLEBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADVENT CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Sundays, December 7, 14, 21 at 11:00 a.m.

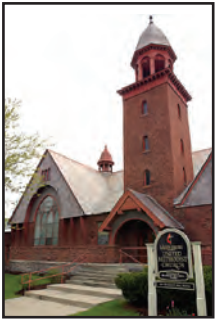
CHRISTMAS CONCERT at Middlebury United Methodist Church on Thursday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. to benefit Charter House.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

SERVICE at 4:00 p.m. together with East Middlebury United Methodist Church at 2 Church Street, East Middlebury.



REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES
Sundays at 11:00 . A.M.



43 North Pleasant Street (corner of Seminary Street), Middlebury • 802-388-2510
Pastor: John Chico Martin
Minister of Music: Dr. Kevin Parizo

Weybridge Congregational Church
Celebrate Advent and Christmas
on Weybridge Hill!

Advent Worship

is at 10am on Sundays
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, and 21

Christmas Eve Worship

is at 5pm on
Wednesday, December 24

Services are in person
at 2790 Weybridge Road
and on Zoom - email
weybridgechurch@gmail.com
for the Zoom link.



Weybridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Visit weybridgechurch.org
for more info
about our church.

MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

97 S. PLEASANT ST, MIDDLEBURY

ADVENT SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 4:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 10:00 A.M.

Learn more at
MemorialBaptistVT.org
membaptistvt@gmail.com
802-388-7472



GLÜHWEIN

Ingredients

- 1 bottle of Marquette or Ragtime Red
- 1/4 cup of honey or maple (1/2 the sweetener if using Ragtime Red)
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1 tsp whole allspice
- 6-8 whole cloves
- 1 orange, sliced into rounds

Instructions

Pour wine into a small pot or slow-cooker and begin to heat. Add orange slices and honey, or your preferred sweetener. Tie up a cheesecloth bundle of allspice and cloves, or add straight to the pot along with the cinnamon sticks. Heat the wine gently but do not let it boil, as it will cook off the alcohol! Heat for 20-40 minutes and enjoy.



MESQUITE PENICILLIN

Ingredients

- 2 ounces Lost Lantern Gentle Giant Texas Single Malt Whiskey
- 3/4 ounce honey-ginger syrup (see below)
- 3/4 ounce fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 ounce Lost Lantern Flame Mesquite-Smoked Whiskey

Instructions

- Combine Gentle Giant, honey-ginger syrup, lemon juice, and ice in a cocktail shaker
- Shake and strain into a rocks glass filled with one or two large ice cubes
- Float Flame and garnish with candied ginger

Honey-Ginger Syrup

- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 cup water
- 3-inch chunk of ginger

Instructions

Combine ingredients in a small pan, bring to a boil, then simmer for 5-10 minutes. Chill in fridge for several hours, then strain out ginger.



LINCOLN PEAK VINEYARD

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lostlanternwhiskey.com

COTTON-HEADED HINNY MUGGINS

Rocks

ice sphere

Ingredients

2 oz Piggyback Rye

½ oz spiced simple

Bar spoonful Allspice dram

2 dashes cardamom bitters

Garnish

smoking cinnamon stick and star anise

Instructions

Light cinnamon stick and put under glass to “smoke”, pour ingredients over ice sphere,
Stir, Strain




AMERICAN
FLATBREAD
Middlebury Hearth

**Celebrate your
holidays with us!**

LUNCH!
Wed-Saturday 11-2
fireside seating available

Dinner:
Tues-Thur 5-9 & Fri-Sat 4:30-9

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• see our website for details •

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MAPLE CRANBERRY SAUCE

Ingredients

12 oz Fresh Cranberries
1 Cup Apple Cider
1 Cup Pure Vermont Maple Syrup (Dark Robust works best)

Instructions

1. Place ingredients in a large pot over medium heat.
2. Allow the ingredients to

simmer, stirring occasionally.
3. When the cranberries begin to pop and sizzle use a potato masher to crush the berries.
4. The sauce is ready when it coats the back of a spoon and begins to jell.
5. Serve warm from the stove or cool from the fridge.

LOIS'S MAPLE BAKED BEANS

Ingredients

2 lbs. Dried Yellow Eye Beans
½ lb. Salt Pork or Bacon
½ tsp. Baking Soda
1 tsp. Dry Mustard
1 tsp. Dry Ginger
1 Medium Sized Onion, Quartered
2 Cups Pure Vermont Maple Syrup

Instructions

1. Wash and pick over beans. Cover with cold water, add baking soda and soak overnight.
2. In the morning, rinse beans and boil gently in fresh water until

skins blow off the beans.
3. Preheat oven to 325 degrees or get the crock pot ready.
4. Drain off bean water and keep.
5. Place onion in the bottom of crock pot or casserole dish and add remaining ingredients.
6. Score the salt pork and place on top of beans. Pour in enough bean water to just cover the beans.
7. Bake covered in oven until done or in a crock pot for about 8 hours.
8. Check periodically, adding bean water as needed.

Serves 10 or more

FIRE & ICE FETTUCCHINI ALFREDO

Ingredients

8 oz pasta of choice
2 cups Monument Farms Heavy cream
1 Tbsp chopped garlic
½ tsp kosher salt
½ tsp black pepper
Kraft grated parmesan cheese

Instructions

Cook the pasta and set aside. In a sauté pan add two cups Monument Farms heavy cream, a tablespoon of chopped garlic, half teaspoon of kosher salt and half teaspoon of fresh cracked black pepper. Bring to a full rolling boil, add cooked pasta, and a half cup of grated Kraft parmesan cheese, stir until thickened. Serve in a bowl with garlic butter.



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THAI BBQ CHICKEN

Ingredients

1 Whole Chicken
Sticky Rice

Marinade

1 tsp. Chopped Lemongrass
1 tsp. Chopped Garlic
1 tsp. Grated Orange Rind or Orange Juice
1/2 tsp. Salt
1/2 tsp. Black Peppercorns
1 tsp. Cilantro Root
1 tsp. Soy Sauce
1 tsp. Oyster Sauce
1 Tbsp. Brown Sugar

Dipping Sauce

1 Tbsp. Lemon Juice
1/2 tsp. Brown Sugar
1 Tbsp. Fish Sauce
1/2 tsp. Chopped Cilantro or Spring Onion
Chili Powder to Taste

Instructions

1. For the recipe to be at its finest, it's best to marinate the chicken overnight and grill it the next day, but if you don't have the time, marinate the chicken for at least a few hours.
2. Mix marinade ingredients.
3. Butterfly cut the whole chicken, starting from the breast side down to the end. Flatten chicken out and lightly prick with a fork.
4. Rub the marinade into all parts of the chicken.
5. Cover and refrigerate overnight.
6. Grill over a low, even heat, turning every 20 minutes until the chicken is cooked through to the bone and the skin is dark golden brown — or bake into a 350° F oven until the internal temperature reaches 165° F.
7. After grilling, cut chicken apart. Cut off the drumsticks and wings, and chop the rest of the chicken into strips or pieces.
8. Serve with sticky rice and dipping sauce.



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Please make reservations for parties of 6 or more.

**We will be Closed the week of Thanksgiving
and will reopen on Wednesday, December 3rd.**

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK: Sabai Sabai Thai Cuisine
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ARTICHOKE DIP

Ingredients

- 2 cans of artichoke hearts
- ½-1 cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup parmesan cheese
- 1 Tbsp granulated garlic
- 1-2 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Directions

Drain the artichokes — it's okay to have a little juice. Chop them into small pieces. In a 9x9 inch baking dish, mix all ingredients together. The measurements are a rough estimate — you can increase or decrease to taste. Wing it, add love, and have fun!

Bake at 350 degrees for about 27 minutes, until golden brown and bubbly on the sides.

To dip, you can use corn chips, baguette, Ritz crackers, or any other favorite cracker or bread product! YUM!



GREG'S MARKET HOLIDAY ONION DIP

Ingredients

- 2 (8oz) blocks cream cheese
- 1 large white onion chopped/diced
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2-3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- A splash of milk
- Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions

Serve immediately with Ruffles potato chips. Or, for deeper flavor, let chill for 24 hours before serving.

GREG'S QUICK QUESO

Ingredients

- 2 hothouse tomatoes, diced
- 1 large red onion, diced
- 2-3 jalapeños, diced (remove seeds for less heat)
- Juice from one lemon
- 1 32oz (2lb.) brick of Velveeta cheese, cubed.

Instructions

Mix all ingredients together in a large microwave safe bowl. Microwave in 1-2 minute intervals, stirring between each round. Enjoy with tortilla chips or your favorite cracker or bread!





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