

Pontine Theatre Performs Donald Hall's Christmas Snow

December 13 at South Danbury Church

Press release

On the evening of Tuesday, December 13, the South Danbury Church and At Eagle Pond, Inc. will present Pontine Theatre of Portsmouth in their adaptation of poet Donald Hall's short story, "Christmas Snow."

The story is an imagined Christmas at Eagle Pond Farm in 1938, the year that Don was ten.

All the time that he was growing up in Connecticut, Don came to New Hampshire to spend summers at the Wilmot farm with his grandparents, but he was never actually there at Christmas. This story, appearing originally in The New Yorker in 1964, allowed him to invent what he had so long wanted. In later years, Don conjured a second Christmas trip north, in 1940, when he was twelve. That story was published in hardcover in 2012 as Christmas at Eagle Pond.

After Don and poet Jane Kenyon, early in their marriage, arrived in 1975 to live at the farm until Jane's death in 1995 and Don's in 2018, they came to know snow at Christmas intimately – as well as the annual Christmas pageant and tree at the South Danbury church, which they frequently wrote about with

affection in poems and prose.

Staged for a small audience, Pontine's dramatized reading of "Christmas Snow" features hand-drawn props and storytelling but has no conventional actors. It is performed in one act, in one hour, with music by fiddler Ellen Carlson.

Pontine Theater (www.pontine.org) was founded in 1977 by Marguerite Matthews, after she studied with the French actor Etienne Decroux at his L'École du Mime Corporeal in Paris. In 1982, Greg Gathers, with a BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art, began designing and constructing Pontine's sets, puppets, masks, and costumes, and in 1984 he joined Marguerite as co-director of the company. In addition to other productions through the year, every Yuletide they celebrate the season with a holiday work drawn from New England literature and stories – which, this year, is Christmas Snow.

The performance, for adults and older children, is at 7 PM at the South Danbury Church. There is no charge to attend, but reservations are recommended because seating is limited. Email at.eagle.pond@gmail.com to register.

For more information about Eagle Pond Farm, and the nonprofit At Eagle Pond, Inc. and its activities, visit AtEaglePond.org.

Andover Community Church December 2022

Worship returns to the church; furnace fixed

Donna Thompson and Pastor Bill Blomquist Andover Community Church

It's hard to believe we are in the last month of 2022. The year has flown by so fast.

There has been so much going on in our church for the month of November and continuing into December.

In November we held our annual Operation Christmas Child. This consists of filling up shoe boxes for a certain age group of children. Then, once they are all collected, we deliver them to a sister church who is the collection site for our area. Then, all the boxes are delivered to the main warehouse for Samaritan's Purse. These boxes go all over the world. For some children this may be the only Christmas gift they will receive. This year we collected over 100 boxes. (up from 64 boxes last year)

We are now worshiping back in the church again. As some of you know, our furnace died and we've been meeting in Grange Hall. After numerous successful fundraisers and donations (rummage sales, bake sales, food sales, and designated gifts) we were able to purchase a new furnace. We would like to thank Gary at Christian Repair and Huckleberry's – and all who donated - for making this happen. We appreciate all your work!

Our Outreach to the surrounding communities continues to happen. Each Wednesday evening a group gathers at the downtown Franklin laundromat and provides food, prayers, clothing, and friendship. We just finished our second 10-week GriefShare program at

the Andover Hub, an Advent Wreath building morning, and of course, the Third Friday of the month Andover Community Coffeehouse where church members sell food, hot/cold meals and baked goods. Between our continued support of Twin Rivers and other local non-profits, we continue to make an impact in the local community.

We're gearing up for the church's "New Year" season: Advent. Advent is an ancient tradition in the church calendar marked by a change of colors, music, and liturgy – all in preparation to welcome the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve. Traditionally it has been a time when Christians reflect on the coming of Christ and seek to prepare their hearts through prayer, good works, fasting, and meditation in this "penitential season." The Season of Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas with weekly lighting of the Advent Wreath and special music around themes of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. Each Sunday a family lights a candle and reads a Bible passage. By Christmas Eve the entire wreath is lit and reflects the joy of the season.

We welcome you to join us for Advent and Christmas Eve services. Advent services are at 9:30 AM Sundays, Christmas Eve (with a special Godly Play program for kids) will be at 5:30 PM, and Christmas Festival of Lessons and Music happens Christmas Morning at 9:30 AM. For more information please contact Pastor Bill at 603 735-5160 or visit andovercommunitynh.com.

So we end another year wishing everyone a safe and healthy holiday, and a very safe New Years Eve. We look forward to seeing all of you next year.



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TOO GOOD NOT TO REPEAT

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you *vote every day* about the kind of community you want to live in.”

- Marjorie Moore

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