



THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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WORSHIP SERVICE 10 A.M.

P. O. Box 218, Winchendon MA, 01475

**This is the Church of the Open Mind
This is the Church of the Helping Hands**

**This is the Church of the Loving Heart
This is the Church of the Caring Community**

Minister's Meditation

Church Calendar of Events

- Monday, Nov. 1, 7 PM. AA meeting
- Tuesday, Nov. 2, Election Day
- Tuesday, Nov. 2, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies
- Sunday, Nov. 7, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Patti Stanko**
- Monday, Nov. 8, 7 PM. AA meeting
- Tuesday, Nov. 9, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies
- Wednesday, Nov. 10, 7 PM. Governing Board**
- Saturday, Nov 13, 6 PM. Movie Night**
- Sunday, Nov. 14, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite Sheehan**
- Monday, Nov. 15, 7 PM. AA meeting
- Tuesday, Nov. 16, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies
- Thursday, Nov. 18, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen
(low cost meal—everyone invited)
- Sunday, Nov. 21, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Patrizia De Libero Brown: A Calling to Sacred Places**
- Monday, Nov. 22, 7 PM. AA meeting
- Tuesday, Nov. 23, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies
- Thursday, Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Day
- Friday, Nov 26, 12 – 4 PM. Toy Drive & Tree Decorating**
- Sunday, Nov. 28, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite Sheehan**
- Monday, Nov. 29, 7 PM. AA meeting
- Tuesday, Nov. 30, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies
- Tuesday, Nov. 30 December newsletter material due

Here we are; coming into the season of giving thanks for all that we have received in the past year and maybe even over a life time. Sometimes when you look with a longer view you can see more from each direction. See what our families and even our distant ancestors have bequeathed to us and see where our children, grandchildren and generations to come will be inheriting from us. Sometimes from the short view life appears more tedious and it can be even hard to know what to celebrate. From the long view, life and all its gifts, is awesome.

Recently I was given a book of graces and blessings. It is called Seasons of Thanks and is edited by a woman named Taz Tagore. Taz Tagore is also the founder of "Appreciation Network." Appreciation Network is a social enterprise that helps people express appreciation with beautiful gift baskets filled with products from socially responsive companies and designed by creative homeless youth. All the proceeds from the Network go to funding programs for impoverished and underappreciated youth.

When I heard about that program I thought, how rich and inspirational it was. I wondered if each of us in our church were to design a basket, what would be in it. Perhaps the products would be from our local area. Perhaps they would be created in our own homes. Perhaps they would be intangible "products" from our hearts. If we were the designers of a basket for this season and if we were going to give that basket to our community, what would it look like and what would be in it. And who would we be funding if our gift baskets went out to the world? Think about it and if you have an idea for a basket that our church could put out to our community let me know.

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It does not have to be practical or even possible. Let your imagination go wild. Who knows what even the dreaming will say about you and say about our church?

Taz Tagore wrote a prayer for the month of November. I think it says a lot about a woman who would found a network of appreciators. Here it is for you, as a gift for this season. Maybe it will be the lining for your basket. Maybe it will be a grace that you and your family will say around the table when you gather at Thanksgiving or any special meal. It spoke to me. Does it speak to you?

“May we join hands around the dinner table, to pray for the strength and patience to love one another. May our circle grow with every birth and union, into a community united by love, rather than by blood. May every hardship make our circle stronger. May it teach us that whenever we reach out in need, our hands will always be clasped in the palms of others.”

Reach out, not only in giving, but in need. Grow into a community united by love. The circle does not break with hardship but grows stronger. Look to your hands and see that they are not alone but clasped with others in love. May this Thanksgiving be one in which we join in appreciating each other and spreading appreciation out beyond our church walls, into the world.

Blessings, Reverend Marguerite

CARING CONNECTIONS

UUCW is a caring congregation. Along with our Putnam Alliance, we reach out to each other to offer caring and we remember each others' joys and concerns. Please let Reverend Marguerite know if you would like to visit other members and friends, deliver flowers or an occasional meal, act as a greeter on Sunday services, offer a ride to church or any number of “caring connections” or if you are in need of a “caring connection” yourself at this time.

Rev. Marguerite informs us that she would like to not announce her sermon titles in the monthly newsletter. This gives her more flexibility to preach what seems timely rather than put a topic in stone.

Kaaren Scanio, a volunteer from Ahimsa Haven Animal Rescue, spoke with the congregation at coffee hour last month. She shared pictures of a few of the animals she has rescued, including a huge woodland tortoise that was Federal Expressed to a turtle rescue in CA, and an adorable ferret who she trained to obey commands like a dog. Kaaren shared some history, explained what Ahimsa does, and how it works with the town's animal shelter. She also displayed plans for the proposed new building (for which Winchendon has already donated 7 acres). There are brochures on the card table just inside the parish hall or you may visit www.ahimsahaven.org for more information on this volunteer-run, no-kill animal rescue organization. The week following this special guest, we honored the animals in our lives with the Blessing of the Animals. It's always such a sweet service, watching the children with their furry friends and blessing the critters with Rev Marguerite. A collection was taken for Ahimsa Haven as well. [We raised over \$70. ~ Ed.]

On Halloween, the Religious Education Committee held a Mitten Drive and Bake Sale. It was our third year and it gets better each time! The Winchendon CAC was quite pleased with the mittens and gloves; there will be many warm hands this fall and winter because of our efforts. We appreciate everyone's help with making the bake sale a success too. Thank you for bringing in tasty treats, helping at the table, and/or buying baked goods!

They're back...Movie Nights were so popular last year, we're bringing them back! Join us Saturday, November 13, at 6pm in the parish hall for a double feature (short cartoon episodes of a seasonal favorite). Our annual Toy Drive for the Spirit of Christmas is 12 – 4 PM on Friday, November 26. The Spirit of Christmas serves families in many towns in the area such as Winchendon, Gardner, Templeton, Athol, Royalston, and beyond. A flyer is included with this newsletter ... would you help spread the word by putting it up in a prominent spot while you're out and about? “Elves” collect new and gently used toys, books, games, puzzles, etc. from donators that day. This is also the day that we decorate the tree in the sanctuary. Stop by

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for a cup of hot chocolate and say hi to the elves!

November News...

- Clocks "Fall Back" ~ Sunday, Nov 7
- Movie Night ~ Saturday, Nov 13, 6pm
- REC Meeting ~ Sunday, Nov 21
- Toy Drive & Tree Decorating ~ Friday, Nov 26, 12-4pm
- Children's Worship ~ Nov 28

"A child is not a vase to be filled, but a fire to be lit." ~ François Rabelais (French Renaissance writer, doctor, & humanist)

Tracy

tgambill@uuwinchendon.org

The First Parish Unitarian Church in Northfield (which we visited in October and where Rev. Marguerite is also minister) will hold a concert on Sunday, November 7 at 2 PM. Performing will be Olive Street Brass, a brass quintet. The music will include selections from the Renaissance to the twentieth century; rags and light jazz. The collection will benefit the church's restoration fund.

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner, 66 Elm Street, will hold its 126th Annual Fall Fair on Saturday, November 20 from 9 AM. to 2 PM. Offerings will include candles, coffee shop, baked goods, and craft items. They will also have a raffle, a tea cup auction and a silent auction. Crafters and vendors are invited to rent tables. For more information call 978-632-0222.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Bertha Bryant has moved to Baldwinville Nursing Home (where Ray Clement, our former organist and church member, resides.) Both would be more than happy to have visitors! Roger Bryant remains at home and is also happy to have visitors.

Rev Marguerite

PATRIZIA DE LIBERO BROWN

On November 21st, we will welcome Patrizia De Libero Brown to our service as a very special guest speaker. Her talk is titled "A Calling to Sacred Places".

This is an opportunity to travel through the eyes of a pilgrim who was led by an inner calling to special places around the world: Tibet, Nepal, India, Uzbekistan, Botswana, South Africa, Egypt, Mount Sinai, Jordan, Jerusalem. This is a journey of the Spirit, in the search of the meaning of Sacredness.

Patrizia De Libero Brown was born in Italy in 1972. She grew up in Rome and has lived in Syria, Ireland and London. Moved by spiritual reasons, she left her job and traveled in Asia as a solo backpacker through the Middle East, India, Tibet, China, Nepal, Uzbekistan and also in Africa and Central America, looking for guidance and answers to inner questions.

In 2006 she became a tour guide in Egypt and Jordan and a Tour Director for an English company based on responsible tourism. During personal pilgrimages to the Holy Land and Mount Sinai, she felt a clear calling: connecting people to sacred places.

In 2007 a meeting with the Vice President and MD of Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi, a department of the Vatican, offered an opportunity to work at the Pastoral Centre, helping people on their journeys of the spirit, through the way of the pilgrimage.

She now lives in Massachusetts with her dear husband Martin, an elementary school teacher, in the peaceful countryside where she is still working for Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi connecting people from across Canada and America to sacred places.

We welcome her and hope that you, too, will chose to join us for this unusual and exciting opportunity.

Cindy Malley

OUR NEIGHBORS KITCHEN

Dear Friends and Members of UUCW,

I just wanted to give a "shout out" of thanks to everyone who helped put on, clean up and in any other way participated at Our Neighbor's Kitchen last Thursday. The crowd was larger than usual and everyone was so clearly happy to have a night out on the town visiting with friends, eating a warm meal, and just being cared for. I continue to see this meal as one of our most important community connections in a town that struggles on so many levels. Quite a few of the people who regularly come to eat see this meal as an indicator of how sociable and caring our church is. I also know that many do not get enough food, so the practical filling of bellies is also a gift. It is not at all easy to accomplish. It takes much hard work, patience, willingness to collaborate with an ever changing crew of volunteers. Last night three clergy or church representatives from the other local churches were there and were very impressed. So, thank you for this great service! This is another indicator that our small church body is able to "care for the other" and in doing so, care for each other and our own selves

One more story about Our Neighbor's Kitchen - last night [Thursday] I had to go out to the car to get something. Two local young adults were in the driveway. One was telling the other that maybe they could come in for the meal. The other said that he had noodles at home so did not want to come in. I said "Save the noodles for another day and come in, there is plenty of food for everyone." The fellow was embarrassed that he did not have \$2.00 so I let him know that if they did not have the money they could still eat. They came in and had a great time.

Thank you again for all your hard work and loving care. All help is appreciated!

Blessings, Rev Marguerite

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BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Tim Elkins	November 3
Rev. Marguerite Sheehan	November 6
Brennan Mahoney	November 7
Phyllis Priest	November 21
Elaine Gaspard	November 27
Mardis Priest	November 27

COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

November 7	Patti Stanko
November 14	Nina Kriz
November 21	Julia Cardinal
November 28	Donna Marchand

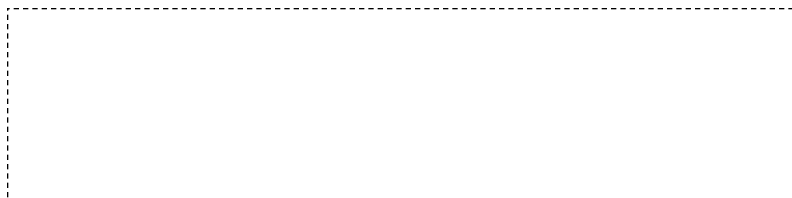
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For more information, service times, and past topics, please visit our website at

www.uuwinchendon.org

Please watch for updates, new sermons, and Photos of good times



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

is a member of the

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

<http://uua.org>