



THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954; Published by the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

Volume 55 Issue 9

Rev. Marguerite Sheehan, MINISTER

CHURCH TELEPHONE: 978-297-0554

May 2011

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**

Church Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 1, 10 AM. Morning Worship: David Faucher

**Sunday, May 1, 2 PM. Film Series "Islamophobia"
First U U Society of Gardner, 66 Elm Street**

Monday, May 2, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, May 3, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies

Sunday, May 8, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite Sheehan.

Sunday, May 8, 11:30 AM. Church Governing Board

Monday, May 9, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday May 10, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies

Sunday, May 15, 10 AM. Morning Worship: To be announced

Monday, May 16, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies

Sunday, May 22, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite Sheehan. All Member Discussion on the future of our congregation.

Monday, May 23, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday May 24, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies

Wednesday, May 25, 7 PM. Chalice Circle

Thursday, May 26, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen
(low cost meal – everyone invited)

Sunday, May 29, 10 AM. Morning Worship: John White

Monday, May 30, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday May 31, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies

Tuesday, May 31, June-July newsletter material due

Minister's Corner

The Shakers, who most of us know by the hymn "Tis A Gift To Be Simple" also have another hymn that we might feel like singing this spring. It is called "Welcome Spring" and one of the verses goes like this: "We will not recline on the deeds of the past, and think that perfection is won, but start every day in the battle of life, as if it newly begun; each conquest some gem of the spirit will bring, a winter is lost in the life-giving spring." I must say that having come out of one of our harder winters (at least snow wise) the idea of every day being a battle of life has some merit to it! I know that many of us feel like we have been battling snow and cold, worry, fatigue and fear for much longer than a season. I also know that just about all of us are celebrating the fact that winter is finally lost in this life-giving spring. The refrain in this Shaker hymn is less battle fatigued and more celebratory. "Lovely spring: Beautiful spring! The woods with vocal welcomes ring, and we a grateful offering bring to our God who sends the spring."

What are you grateful for this spring and how are you sharing that gratitude? I for one am grateful for every one of you, young and old. I am grateful for all the ways that you give of yourselves to keep our congregation a place where we are both cared for and where we reach out to others. I am grateful for our beautiful and shining clean church, and for our religious education program (Tracy, our teachers and helpers, and of course our children!) I am grateful for the leadership of the church and those who step up to do what is needed. I am grateful that our new members have been welcomed into the church and that visitors are feeling like our church is a place where they feel "at home." I am grateful for the desire of many of you to reach out to other Unitarian

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(Minister's Meditation Continued from page 1)

Universalist churches in our district and for your creative thinking about how that might happen (I heard rumors about a summer picnic, a sharing of lay worship leaders...)

And finally, I am grateful for your willingness to look squarely at our financial and congregational health and your desire to be creative in re-imagining how we "do church." During our Easter service I talked about the gift of resurrection. We made a resurrection tree of hope and love for our lives and especially for our church. This May we will continue with this theme – imagining a life-giving spring that will both infuse and sustain us as the years go by. Please keep talking about what you are grateful for, in your daily lives and in our church life. Come to our May 22nd Congregational Meeting and participate fully, with the open mind and open heart that our church is known for. You might be surprised at how full you feel when you turn your thoughts to the blessings of this church.

Our church year is coming to a close. June 12th is our last formal service of the church year. We will be having our Annual Flower Communion and will have a chance to look back on the year and look forward to the year(s) to come. Until then, seize the day. As Rumi says "Lord the air smells good today!" Get out, put your feet on the ground, or soon in the ponds, and offer your gratitude to Who brings the spring!

*Peace and Joy,
Reverend Marguerite*

Wondering about Islam and Muslims?

The final film in our social justice films series that we have been co-sponsoring with the Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner is **next Sunday**, May 1st at 2 PM at 66 Elm Street in Gardner (child care and snacks provided.) The film is "Islamophobia" and is composed of short clips from Rabbis for Human Rights with Rabbis and Rabbinical students speaking out against fear and hatred of Islam. The film is 30 minutes which will give plenty of time for discussion. Join us if you would like to be more informed about Islam.

RE NEWS

On May 1st the children will meet together in the pine room for the last Children's Worship of the year.

We will wrap up our look at the 6 Sources with teachings from Earth-centered traditions. We have begun creating *Thank You* cards for our friends at First Parish of Northfield who gave us a beautiful hard-cover copy of "D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths" and a generous gift card for Michaels Arts & Crafts Store. Over the next few weeks, we are preparing for RE Sunday which is the one service of the year led completely by RE adults and children. The program is celebrated and children are recognized with certificates and flowers. RE families are asked to please make an extra effort to be at church the next few Sundays so that we may prepare. We are fortunate to have children in our church family so **please show your support by attending on June 5**. Stick around to enjoy the ice cream social immediately following the service too!

Looking Back ~ Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves at Association Sunday last month. RE students helped set up for the fellowship by putting up tables, spreading out tablecloths, and placing centerpieces. They also organized donations in the Pet Food Pantry which is run along with the Grains and Greens Program for people needing a little help providing food for themselves or their pets. Children of all ages spent time preparing Easter eggs with DRE Eddie Good for their annual Easter Egg Hunt while adults visited with one another. It was a good time with good people.

Tracy

NOW ON FACEBOOK

Thanks to Donna Marchand, our congregation now has a page on Facebook:

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

Check it out and sign up as a friend. Questions? Call Donna at 978-730-8413.

Last Chalice Group of the Year! - May 25th at 7PM

Everyone is invited to our final Chalice Group for this church year held this month on Wednesday May 25th at 7PM in the Minister's Study. Come join us for a time of quiet reflection and good listening on a topic loosely defined as "spiritual." As some wit once said "We are all spiritual beings living in a human body!" You do not need to have attended any of the groups this year. Feel free to bring a friend. Everyone is welcome!

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.

The Winchendon Community Action Committee is having a fund-raiser to benefit its programming: Friday, May 6, 2011 at the Colonial Hotel in Gardner, MA. This will be Joey & Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding and dinner.. Doors will open at 7; Show starts at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$50 pp. Call the CAC at 978-297-1667 or email amy.collette.feeley@gmail.com

HELP NEEDED

Hosts for coffee hour and Sunday morning greeters are needed! Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board downstairs. Please sign up!

Visit Our Church on the Internet:

www.uuwinchendon.org

Our newsletter is now being posted on our internet page.

Contact Information

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BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

Sara Michalewicz 05/14

Erika J. Gambill 05/20

Julia F. Cardinal 05/28

COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

May 1 Donna Marchand

May 8 Volunteer Needed

May 15 Volunteer Needed

May 22 Volunteer Needed

May 29 Volunteer Needed

GREETERS

April 3 Cindy Malley

May 8 Volunteer Needed

May 15 Volunteer Needed

May 22 Volunteer Needed

May 29 Volunteer Needed

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

126 Central Street P. O. Box 218

Winchendon, MA 01475

FIRST CLASS MAIL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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>