



THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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February 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

Tuesday, Feb. 1, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 7 PM. Chalice Group

Sunday, Feb. 6, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Pauline Michalewicz

Monday, Feb. 7, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 8, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies

Sunday, Feb. 13, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite Sheehan

Monday, Feb. 14, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday Feb. 15, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies

Sunday, Feb. 20, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Dave Faucher

Monday, Feb. 21, AA meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 22, March newsletter material due

Thursday, Feb. 24, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen
(low cost meal—everyone invited)

Sunday, Feb. 27, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite Sheehan

Monday, Feb. 28, 7 PM. AA meeting

CHALICE GROUP! EVERYONE WELCOME

Our next monthly Chalice Group will meet at 7 PM on February 2. We will either meet in the social room or the ministers' study depending on our numbers. This is an open group gathering to have a quiet time to reflect, to listen and to build fellowship. Please come and invite a friend. There is no preparation and no homework. Just come and be together.

Minister's Reflection

I am writing this reflection on the day before Dorrie and I get on a plane to fly to Italy. This opportunity to travel to Italy came out of the blue as a gift from an old friend who was spending two weeks in Europe and invited us to come along for the second week. Neither Dorrie nor I had ever envisioned being in Italy so we are going on this adventure with bags packed but with our minds pretty open. We will be staying in the cities of Rome and Perugia and taking train rides to other parts of the country. St Francis, who it is said wrote the words to our hymn "All Creatures of the Earth and Sky" was born in Perugia and started the Franciscan order of monks. His love of all creatures makes him the patron saint of animals. I will not be surprised if I bring back a greater appreciation of this mystic and his love for "brother sun and sister moon" Other than that, I have no real idea of what I am going to experience!

And isn't that the real truth of life? We live our lives with our bags packed and think that we know where we are going and what is going to happen. But as all of us who have lived more than a moment or two know, life is more surprising than that. Sometimes we are surprised by joyful arrivals like an unexpected trip to Italy. Or surprised when a friend calls to check up on us when we have been sad or fearful. Or surprised when a snowstorm keeps us (and maybe our kids) home from work and school and we get to slow down, drink hot chocolate and breathe.

And other times we are surprised and saddened when a healthy friend (or ourselves) are diagnosed with a terrible sickness and suddenly everything we planned to say and do changes. Our bags are packed and the trip is postponed or cancelled and we are left with wondering "what now?" This is the

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real truth of life. There is little that we control. Our efforts are important, often crucial to the outcomes, but there is much that comes at us and the only thing that we can control is our response.

Our response is no little thing. Our response comes from a deep place within that has been seeded and watered, sometimes for years, before being called into play. How we respond is something that we do have a good measure of control over. We can learn to nurture a grateful response to life (including the good times and the hard times.) St Francis is reported to have written the prayer that begins with the line "God make me an instrument of thy peace, where there is hatred let me sow love, where there is injury pardon." This is one way of saying "I cannot keep hatred or injury or suffering or disappointment from coming into my life but I can choose my response." So, as you too step out of your house, bags packed, not really knowing where you are going today, may you do so with an attitude that is welcoming, forgiving, and embracing of all that is our life. Practice embracing what happens. You may be surprised at what happens next. Arrivederci.

Reverend Marguerite

Interested in Becoming a Member of UUCW?

We are planning a new member recognition ceremony at church on Sunday March 13th! If you are interested in becoming a member and would like to talk with Rev Marguerite and some of the church members please consider joining us for a short get together for a question and answer group on Wednesday, February 16th at 10AM. For more info about membership or this meeting you could speak to Rev Marguerite or Cindy Malley.

We would like to thank our former Sexton, Bethany Laney, for all of her loving care and hard work through the years with us. We appreciate all of your efforts. Thank you.

We would also like to welcome to our paid staff, Sue Faucher as our new Sexton. Welcome!"

RE News

The Religious Education Committee has planned a few special activities for everyone in February:

Our annual Secret Valentine Swap is upon us! We will pick names on Sunday, February 6, and materials will be available to make (or take home and make) a card for them. Please include the recipient's name on the front of the card, but do *not* include your name. It is a Secret Valentine Swap, after all! Valentines will be handed out during the intergenerational service the following week (Feb 13).

Everyone is invited to movie night on Saturday, February 19, at 6pm. As of the newsletter deadline, a decision on title had yet to be made and suggestions are welcome. See an REC member or me if you have an idea for a family friendly film.

Join us for a Teacher Appreciation Brunch immediately after the service on Sunday, February 27. This is a small way to let our RE volunteers know that we are grateful for all they do. It is nice to honor them in the middle of the church year to remind them how much we value their patience, creativity, and time. The RE program would not be possible without our wonderful volunteers.
THANK YOU WENDY, DANA, AND SUE!

Love & Light, Tracy

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.

A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

Our Financial Commitment Campaign will be getting under way soon. With the start of a new fiscal year on March first, it is time once again to consider what we find valuable and how we can contribute to our congregation's financial health. So please start thinking about your ability to support our spiritual community. And when the time comes, make the choice to help.

News from The Putnam Alliance

For a number of years, the Alliance has participated in fund-raising for the Church. One of our fundraisers has been selling RADA cutlery. The time has come however to put an end to that era.

On February 6th, from 12:00 to 2:00pm in the Parish Hall, the cutlery that we have on hand (and there's plenty) will be going On Sale for cost! We must liquidate all of our inventory. It's win win for everyone!

So please join us for this fantastic event. Bring your family, friends, and anyone you know that would like to save a bundle at an amazing Sale.

Do we Have Your Correct Information?

We try to keep our information on members of our church family up to date, but need everyone's help. Please advise the Church by mail or email if your email address, mail address, or phone number changes so that we can correct our records. Our volunteers are not omniscient! We do honor requests for privacy of information. Email address for changes: whites573@verizon.net. Or mail to the church box, No. 218, Winchendon.

Visit Our Church on the Internet:

www.uuwinchendon.org

Our newsletter is now being posted on our internet page.

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BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

Keegan Mahoney February 5

Gary Michalewicz February 22

Nicholas Kriz February 26

COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

February 6 Patti Stanko

February 13 Elaine Gaspard

February 20 Julia Cardinal

February 27 Teacher Appreciation Day

GREETERS

No one has signed up.

AN EASY WAY TO HELP OUT

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

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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
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<http://uua.org>