



THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954; Published by the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

Volume 55 Issue 8

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April 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, April 3, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Cindy Malley

Sunday, April 3, 11 AM. Potluck Luncheon followed by Church Annual Meeting at noon

Sunday, April 3, About 4 PM. Organ Crawl

Monday, April 4, 7 PM. AA meeting

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

Sunday, April 10, 10 AM. Association Sunday Worship at First Parish, Leominster

Monday, April 11, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday April 12, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies

Wednesday, April 13, 7 PM. (Tentative) Church Governing Board

Sunday, April 17, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Beth Ingham "Buddhism and the Concept of Non-Violence"

Sunday, April 17, 11 AM. Religious Education Committee

Monday, April 18, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, April 19, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies

Wednesday, April 20, 7 PM. Chalice Circle

Sunday, April 24, 10 AM. Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite Sheehan.

Monday, April 25, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday April 26, 5 - 8 PM. Daisies/Brownies

Tuesday, April 26, April newsletter material due

Thursday, April 28, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen
(low cost meal – everyone invited)

Saturday, April 30, 6 PM. Movie Night sponsored by the Religious Education Committee

Minister's Corner

This month I wrote my usual newspaper article for the Winchendon Courier. The title I gave the article was Miracle on Central Street. Hopefully it has been printed by the time you read this newsletter and you know what I was referring to. But if you did not get a chance to read it, here is a hint. What has been happening for a more than a decade, on the last Thursday of the month, in the basement of 126 Central Street? What has been happening with little money, sometimes very little help, often little organization, but involves many people from all walks of life? Did you get the hint? Our Neighbor's Kitchen is the miracle on Central Street. And it is a miracle that our own congregation not only houses, but actively participates in. Many of you are angels in this miraculous miracle. It is one of the best ministries that we do here at UUCW. Not the only ministry by a long shot, but from my point of view, it is one of the best. And so I wanted to tout to the town, and now tout to you, why I think that Our Neighbor's Kitchen is a miracle and why I am delighted that this past month it was revived once again.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen is the epitome of the theme of this year's worship services. Through this monthly meal we get a chance to "care for ourselves, care for each other and care for the other." And we get to do it with a community greater than any one of us. At this meal we get to socialize with our dear friends. Because we are not alone we find that we can do more in the kitchen or out on the floor than any single one of us could. We get to care for "the other" people in town who are just looking for a warm place to gather, a warm dinner in their belly, and someone else to share a meal with. In our day and age when so many people eat alone or do not

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have enough to eat, this is a big caring ministry. And when we actually get to come out of the kitchen and meet the people in the dining room they get to meet us and we are not “the other” to them. This meal is one of the biggest outreach programs that our church participates in. It is one of the most public displays of the character of our church – the place where you get treated well, no matter who you are. If you have not come to a meal, please do. You will be amazed.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen is a miracle to me because it keeps on going and you, the members and friends of this church keep on giving it your loving attention. That is also true about our worship services, our Religious Education programs, your participation in community service during the holiday seasons and in the ways that you so lovingly take care of this historic building. It is a miracle that a small group of people can make such a difference. Margaret Mead said “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has.”

April is a time of miracles. It is finally spring. We will be celebrating the miracle of resurrection on Easter. Our Neighbor's Kitchen is up and humming along with you and other people at the helm. There have been plenty of miracles in our church since we began back in 1866. Thank you everyone who acts as an angel of mercy, in any fashion. It is your love and commitment that keep the miracles happening!

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.

RE NEWS

Association Sunday is on April 10 in Leominster and we're looking forward to spending time with our UU brothers and sisters from the area. Nursery children and RE students begin worship in the sanctuary, as we do here at UUCW, and proceed downstairs together after the story for all ages. There we will meet new friends and work on a project together. We hope to see you all!

The REC will meet in the pine room during coffee hour on Sunday, April 17, to discuss plans for RE Sunday scheduled for June 5. Meetings are always open to anyone who would like to attend.

This year's Easter Service will be intergenerational so there will be no RE classes held that day. The nursery will still be available for children age 3 and under.

Movie Night has been changed to Saturday, April 30, at 6pm.

Last month Julie and I participated in the Clara Barton District Middle School Youth Rally. It was a fabulous day and will be a fond memory for years to come. Julie reflects on the day: “It was extremely entertaining and inventive and it was nice to know that there are other UUs.”

The potluck which REC recently hosted was an evening of good food and good company. Meals always taste better when shared with friends and served with a side of laughter!

We had a great time with our friends from Northfield! RE students focused on our 5th UU Source, science and reason, as we rotated through stations of hands-on science fun. Sharing our beloved Reverend Marguerite may lead to a tradition of mutual visits.

Tracy

HELP NEEDED

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

ACTION HEALTH SERVICES

Beginning on Tuesday, March 29th, and in collaboration with the Winchendon Housing Authority, ACTION Health Services will begin providing preventive dental services in Winchendon. Services will include dental exams and x-rays, cleanings, fluoride varnishes, and dental sealants and will be offered at the housing authority's Pearl Drive property. Services are open to all members of the community and those in need of additional treatment such as fillings, dentures, crowns, etc. will be referred to our Greater Gardner Community Health Center. Winchendon hours will be on Tuesdays from 9 AM. to 6 PM. For more information or to make an appointment, call 978-404-9176.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen

Our Neighbor's Kitchen is a grass roots community meal, served on the last Thursday of the month at 5:30PM (except for winter holiday months where the day may be different) at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon at 126 Central Street. All are welcome. A small donation (\$2 per person with a maximum of \$5 for a family) is gratefully accepted for the preparation of the meal. No one is turned away for inability to pay. Please come and eat with us!

Helpers are needed for a variety of tasks. Although the meal is "loosely organized" it cannot run smoothly without many hands. You are welcomed and needed to pitch in and help!

Early helpers come at about 10AM to help set up tables and prepare the meal. Someone will be there to direct you if you are a new volunteer.

Volunteers are also needed at about 4:30-5:00 to finish preparations, to plate up the food and during the meal to serve the people.

During the meal you can also help by just being a neighbor – coming to the meal, visiting with the people, showing your support for this dinner. Besides, the food is good and the company is great so it is fun! And at the end of the meal (about 6:30) helpers are also needed to clear off the tables, wash the dishes and put away the leftovers and pick up the chairs.

The church supports the meal by offering the space, paying for utilities and with church volunteers joining in with the community helpers. The meal is financially supported by donations, a small grant handled by our local CAC and support from other local churches. Additional financial donations are gratefully accepted at all times of the year. Checks can be made out to Our Neighbor's Kitchen and mailed to PO Box 218 Winchendon MA 01475.

FERRY BEACH CONFERENCE

Work and Play Week at Ferry Beach An Affordable Week for the Whole Family

June 19 - June 25

Come to this first conference of the season at Ferry Beach for the deep sense of camaraderie and satisfaction that only shared projects and good times can bring. The week begins on Sunday and runs during our staff training week. What better way to break in our summer crew and to help get our buildings and grounds in shape for the summer season! Each morning while parents work on Ferry Beach projects, children join the Ferry Beach Children's Program.

In exchange for working on Ferry Beach projects each morning, Work and Play Week participants pay for meals ONLY - this is a discount from previous years' low pricing! Work and Play Week is truly our most affordable week!

This summer's projects will be focused on landscaping around the new Ferry Beach dining facility. Of course, there will also be carpentry and painting projects, our existing landscaping and gardens need tending, our sewing team will have several exciting projects (If you want to be part of the sewing crew, please bring your own sewing machine) and because this takes place during the crew training week, there will be a lot of general cleanup.

All of the Ferry Beach traditions - chapel services (held in the evening during Work and Play Week), friendship circles, hospitality, vesper service, camp fires, and cookout night - are a part of Work and Play Week. So pack up your tools for a week of satisfying projects, a great vacation, and especially the camaraderie that is unique among people who work together.

We will mail you a list of projects before the conference begins. You can decide what tools you might want to pack, and we have lots stored in the tool-shed.

Annual Meeting Notice

The annual meeting of the Church will be held on **Sunday, April 3, 2011 at noon** in the parish hall. Business will include consideration of reports, election of officers for the year, and adoption of a budget. This may be a critical issue with present financial commitments being short of the need. It will also be proposed to change the fiscal year to run from July 1 to June 30 and the date for future annual meetings. All members are urged to attend. The annual meeting will be preceded by a pot luck luncheon immediately after church.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

We have now received returns from virtually all of our church family. Unfortunately, though some members have made very generous commitments and almost everyone committed to at least a little, we are still short of the amount needed to operate our program for the year. Is there anyone out there who can make a commitment? Is there anyone who has already committed that can commit more? Speak with Cindy Malley or John White if you may be able to help. Thank you!

ORGAN CRAWL

The spring Organ Crawl sponsored by the Monadnock Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will stop at our church on Sunday, April 3 at about 4 PM. The guild members and friends visit several organs, hear them, and learn a little about them in a day. Richard Boutwell, former organist at the Keene UU church and a retired Winchendon teacher will demonstrate the organ. John White has agreed to talk a little about the history of our instrument. Visits are open to church members and the community.

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 APRIL

Deborah Colburn 04/01

Wendy O'Brien 04/03

Jeannette Gutteridge 04/04

Nina Kriz 04/26

COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

April 3 No coffee hour

April 10 Service in Leominster

April 17 Sue Faucher

April 24 Easter; no coffee hour

GREETERS

April 3 Faucher family

April 10 Service in Leominster

April 17 Wendy O'Brien

April 24 Volunteer needed

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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>