



THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

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Rev. Marguerite Sheehan, MINISTER
CHURCH TELEPHONE: 978-297-0554

September 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**

We're Going Electronic

Starting with this issue, this newsletter will be primarily distributed electronically. It will be emailed as an attachment to those for whom we have email addresses and will be posted on the church website (as it already is.) If you have an email address that the church may not have, send us an email (whites573@verizon.net) so we will have it.

If you don't have email and need a printed copy, we will send it that way. Please let us know if you want a print copy by mailing us a note to the church box (above.)

Church Calendar of Events

Monday, Sept. 4, 7 PM. AA meeting

Saturday, Sept. 10, 2 — 4 PM Open House at Church

Sunday, Sept. 11, 8:30 AM Welcome Table Breakfast

Sunday, Sept. 11, 10 AM Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite Sheehan

Sunday, Sept. 11, 11:30 AM. Church Governing Board

Monday, Sept. 12, 7 PM. AA meeting

Sunday, Sept. 18, 10 AM Morning Worship: Cindy Malley "Come Dream a Dream With Me"

Sunday, Sept. 18, 2 PM. Mini-Golf (RE program)

Monday, Sept. 19, 7 PM. AA meeting

Sunday, Sept 25 Morning Worship: Rev. Rev. Marguerite Sheehan

Monday, Sept. 26, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 27, October newsletter material due

Thursday, Sept. 29, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen
(low cost meal – everyone invited)

Saturday, October 1, time TBA R E Apple Picking

Minister's Meditation

Welcome home! Welcome home everyone who is a member or a friend of our church. Welcome home anyone who has ever attended a Sunday service or a Thursday evening community dinner or an ecumenical service, a fundraiser dinner, or a religious education event. Welcome home anyone who has wondered what Unitarian Universalism is all about and who might consider on September 11th or any other day, to venture into our doors, hoping that you might be fully welcomed. Yes, our church year is resuming and we enthusiastically welcome you and yours to come in and take a seat. We have been waiting for you.

Our ingathering "welcome home" Sunday is happening on an auspicious day; September 11, 2011, the 10th anniversary of the day that 2 planes crashed into the World Trade Center, another plane crashed into the Pentagon and a 4th jet crashed in Pennsylvania. When we gather on this day we will be doing so with memories of tragedy and of heroism, with grief for all that was lost on that day and for the ongoing violence of war. We will be gathering as a religious people whose hearts and souls continue to spill over with hope and commitment for a diverse and peaceful community at home and abroad. If there ever was a year for us to focus ourselves on the purposes of church, this year is the one. And so when we welcome everyone into our sanctuary on September 11th it will be with a renewed passion for peace, for social justice, for a love that defies hate and for a hand stretched out to take in the stranger. As Rev Max Coots, a life long Unitarian Universalist minister so eloquently said "When love is felt or fear is know, when holidays and holy days and such times come, when anniversaries arrive by calendar or consciousness...when lives

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are born or people die, something sacred is sensed in soil or sky, mark the time.”

And so let us come back home and mark the time of this anniversary. Let us mark also the time that has passed over the summer by sharing in our annual water communion. Everyone who comes to the service on September 11th is asked to bring a small amount of water that represents what has touched you, healed you, challenged you or refreshed you this summer. We will pour this water and these words into a common bowl and in blessing the waters we will be blessing the people and the life of this church. Welcome home. We have missed you and we are so happy to be coming back together. Bring a bit of water. Bring yourself and even better; bring a friend or an acquaintance to church on September 11th. Start the morning off by sharing in a community breakfast in our social room and then come upstairs to the sanctuary, the place of safety and healing. Help us fill the water bowl with life and love, memories, commitments and hopes for a better world. This is our faith. Welcome home.

Reverend Marguerite

Water Communion Service

Our opening Sunday will include our annual water communion ceremony. Please bring a small amount of water and some words (or a song or a dance!) that might symbolize not so much where you spent your summer or found your water, but what has touched you, healed you, challenged you or refreshed you this summer. We will bless the water and in doing so give thanks for all that is our lives!

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 connec-

RE NEWS

We have had an interesting summer in New England with tornadoes, an earthquake, and Hurricane Irene! Now it is time to turn our attention to autumn and transitions that it brings – back to school, cooler weather, resuming church services...

OPEN HOUSE

OPEN HOUSE ... You are needed at the second annual Open House on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2–4pm. Please join us as we invite the community in to learn who we are and how we “do church”. Whether you can be there for the whole time or only 20 minutes, we need

you there! We will give tours, have crafts for the kids to do, and offer refreshments as we open our doors and hearts to curious people.

Great news for us! Susan, Dana, and Wendy are all returning as volunteers in the Religious Education program. Susan is back in the nursery with our smallest friends. Dana will again be with our youngest students in the *Chalice Children* class. Wendy will lead the 1st and 2nd graders in the *Explorers* class. Yours truly will volunteer with the *Seekers* class of grades 3–5.

On most Sundays, children will begin upstairs worshipping with their families. After the story for all ages, the children will proceed downstairs with their teachers to their respective rooms. Classes are designed to end at about 11am so we ask that if service concludes early, adults remain upstairs until that time to allow classes to finish without interruption. Thank you for understanding that it is difficult to maintain focus when people enter the parish hall while classes are in session. Usually on the last Sunday of each month, all the children will meet in the pine room for a Children’s Worship during RE time. The different ages mix as we listen to one another, share stone communion, sing, and do a craft or activity. There are also intergenerational services scheduled throughout the church year when classes will not be held (though the nursery is available for children ages 3 and under). These are times that allow for everyone to worship in the sanctuary together.

The RE Committee (REC) is busy planning fun multigenerational events in the coming months such as mini-golf, apple picking, game day, bowling, and movie nights. Anyone is welcome to attend an REC meeting (scheduled as needed) and/or offer comments and suggestions for such events ... or for ideas about Religious Education, in general.

Upcoming Events* ... Be sure to join us!

- OPEN HOUSE ~ Saturday, Sept. 10, 2–4 pm
- Water Communion ~ Sunday, Sept. 11
- Mini-Golf ~ Sunday, Sept. 18, 2 pm
- Apple Picking ~ Saturday, Oct. 1, time TBA

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**Events/times subject to change. Updates will be in church announcements or you may check with the DRE or REC.*

RE Families... Thank you for returning completed **REGISTRATION FORMS** to me as soon as possible. I am available at coffee hour to speak with or you may email me anytime with what's on your mind.

Looking forward to a terrific church year together!
Tracy Gambill, Director of Religious Education (DRE)
tgambill@uuwinchendon.org

SIGN-UPS NEEDED

In the Fellowship Hall there are sign-up sheets for the following weekly volunteer duties: Coffee hour Host, Greeter and Chalice Lighter. These jobs are generally easy to do and greatly appreciated. Please look at your calendar and sign-up! If you have any questions, please speak to Cindy Malley. Thank you!

The Religious Education Committee will be holding an Open House on Saturday, September 10th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in our Parish Hall. This is a chance for you and your children to meet the Director of Religious Education as well as teachers and learn about the curricula for the coming year. There will be crafts available for the children as well as refreshments. Currently there are Religious Education Classes for all ages and nursery care for younger children is also available. For more information, please contact Tracy Gambill, Director of Religious Education at (978) 297-0554 or visit our new website at www.uuwinchendon.org.

MURRAY TUCKERMAN

The memorial service for Murray Tuckerman, who passed away June 6 will be held in the Church on Sunday, October 9 at 1:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.

While most of their activity was some years ago, Murray and his late wife Byrde were very active in both the Church and the community. Murray served on the Planning Board for several years. Byrde was a prime mover in local art and cultural activities. They are survived by three daughters, a son, and several grandchildren.

Contact Information

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BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Danni Langley Sept. 13

Jacob C. Colburn Sept. 14

Susan Faucher Sept. 15

Tyrone Gomez Sept. 27

Listings of coffee hour hostesses, greeters, and chalice lighters were not available at press time. Sorry.

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.

A Note From the Treasurer

While many church activities are suspended over the summer, we still have bills to pay: salaries, electricity, lawn care, insurance, etc. That means we need money. Very little has come in during July and August. Only two or three families have kept up their pledges during the vacation. I have to ask the many who have fallen behind to catch up on their pledges as soon as possible so we will have enough cash to pay our bills. Thank you.

We have been advised that our pianist/organist, Sang Hee Kim, will not be with us this year. We have greatly enjoyed her playing for us these past six years. She will be missed. At this writing, we have no word about a replacement musician.

From an email early this week:

I need a few volunteers for our first service (and of course beyond also). We need a greeter and we need a chalice lighter. We do not need a coffee hour host since we will be having the monthly breakfast. But, of course, they will be needed in the future also. There are sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall, but since we didn't have the meeting last weekend I wasn't able to corner any of you. So, any volunteers?

Also, I am still in need of service leaders for October 2nd and 16th. Heather volunteered to present one of the CLF sermons on one day- but no date is set in stone for her. After these 2 dates are taken, the next open dates are in December. Really. So, please, if you are thinking of doing a service, let me know.

Cindy Malley 978-297-9562

[It may be that September 11 is now filled, but even so, people are needed for the other dates.]

You might be a UU if . . .

- △ you have ever been in an argument over whether or not breast milk is vegan.
- △ when you dress for a formal evening out you wear a little black dress, pearls-and Birkenstocks (and your wife thinks you look great!)
- △ you are unsure about the gender of God.
- △ you own six pairs of Birkenstocks and your favorite pair needs to be thrown away.

WELCOME TABLE

With the success of Our Neighbors Kitchen on the last Thursday of each month, the Church Governing Board has approved trying a similar community breakfast. It will be on the second Sunday of each month. This will be an opportunity for church people to enjoy a good breakfast and fellowship before our morning worship. We started in August with Dave Faucher preparing pancakes, bacon, scrambled eggs, toast, hash browns, fruit, coffee, and juice. *[Did the editor forget something?]* There was a good attendance of mostly church people. Starting this month there will be more publicity and we hope to be joined by more people from the community. Come and invite your friends to join us for a delicious meal. See the poster on the next page of this newsletter.



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- △ you get Newt Gingrich confused with the Grinch who Stole Christmas.
 - △ the money you sent to the Sierra Club last year was more than you spent on your mother at Christmas.
 - △ you think the Holy Trinity is "reduce, reuse and recycle."
 - △ you study the "ten suggestions" instead of the "Ten Commandments."
 - △ the only time "Jesus" is mentioned at church is when someone trips or stubs a toe.
 - △ your child says to you before eating dinner at a friend's house "I'll remember to say my 'pleases' and 'thank yous' but I'm not going to say that dinner 'pledge of allegiance'."
 - △ You think a Holy day of Obligation is your turn to do coffee.
 - △ You get mail from committees you didn't know you were on.
 - △ You know at least two people who are upset that trees had to die for your church to be built.

Forwarded over the internet

Everyone is Invited **TO THE**

*Welcome
Table*



LOW PRICE BREAKFAST
CONVERSATION AND FELLOWSHIP
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11,
SERVING 8:30 – 9:15

Cafeteria Style



*Unitarian Universalist
Church*

126 Central Street
Winchendon

DONATION REQUESTED

**Church members and friends are particularly invited.
Come to breakfast and stay for worship..**

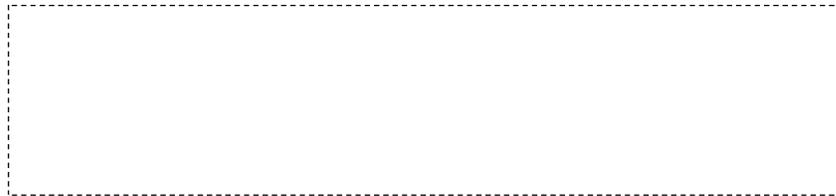
Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

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>