



THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954; Published by the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

Volume 56 Issue 3

Rev. Marguerite Sheehan, MINISTER

CHURCH TELEPHONE: 978-297-0554

November 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, November 1, 4:30 PM Brownies .

Sunday, November 6, 10 AM Morning Worship: Patti Stanko

Sunday, November 6, 11 AM REC meeting, pine room

Monday, November 7, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, November 8, 4:30 PM Brownies .

Wednesday, November 9, 7 PM. Church Governing Board

Sunday, November 13, 8:30 AM Welcome Table Breakfast

Sunday, November 13, 10 AM Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite Sheehan (Jointly with area UU churches – see page 4.)

Sunday, November 13, 11 AM Pot luck Luncheon Area UUs joining us.

Sunday, November 13, 11:45 AM Changing the World: One Small Step at A Time (Joint meeting with area UU churches – see page 4.)

Monday, November 14, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 4:30 PM. Brownies

Thursday, November 17, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen (low price meal – everyone invited)

Sunday, November 20, 10 AM Morning Worship: John White

Monday, November 21, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, November 22, 4:30 PM .Brownies

Tuesday, November 22, 7 PM Chalice Group

Wednesday, November 23, 7 PM. Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at the United Parish of Winchendon,

Sunday, November 27 Morning Worship: Rev. Rev. Marguerite Sheehan

Monday, November 28, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, November 29, 4:30 PM Brownies .

Tuesday, November 29, December newsletter material due

Minister's Reflection

Periodically I hear from church members and friends of the church that they do not really know when they might call me for support. Partly that is because I am a “part time minister in a full time church” and everyone is aware that I am not in town as much as a full time and local minister. But the other part of this question is not so much a question of time, but of my role(s) in the life of the congregation. The question might be rephrased from “when” you might call on me, but rather “for what” you might call. This is a question that all congregations ask, no matter if the minister is full time or part time, if she/he lives in town or commutes. So here are some responses that I and other ministers have offered to answer that question.

CALL THE MINISTER WHEN...

- When you don't know me, but would like to.
- When you have problems you would like to discuss with your job, children, marriage, or anything else where a sympathetic ear might help.
- When you are going to the hospital or know of someone else in the congregation who is.
- When someone close to you has died or is critically ill or you're dealing with a significant loss of some kind.
- When you are planning to be married or divorced.
- When you would like your child dedicated.
- When you feel ready to join the congregation.
- When you have concerns or suggestions.

(Minister's Meditation Continued on page 2)

(Minister's Meditation Continued from page 1)

- When you have religious or spiritual questions.
- When you are seeking to deepen your spiritual life.
- When you would like help in working on your relationship with other church members.
- When you are upset with me or would like to express appreciation.
- When you want to make a large donation to the church and wonder how to do that!

I am sure that this list does not cover everything that might be on your mind so please just call me or email me when you would like my listening ear and presence. I am also very interested in getting together for short term “support groups” with a couple or more folks who might want to use a group to talk about things like these; the stresses and joys of parenting, how we care for our spiritual needs while caring for other people, what are my gifts and my purpose as an elder in the church, how do I plan my funeral. These kinds of topics are great one-on-one but they are often more fruitful with me and a group of other caring friends. Because remember, you are also ministers in our church!

If you want to convene a group or get together with me in person, you can email me at msheehan222@gmail.com or call me at home 413-253-9938, or pull me aside on a Sunday. I am available and do want to spend time with you. I love this part of my ministry so please, do not hesitate to ask!

Meanwhile, Happy Thanksgiving to all. We have so much to be thankful as members and friends of our church! The gifts of each of us are boundless.

In Peace,

Reverend Marguerite

CHALICE GROUP

Everyone is invited to the Chalice Group to be held this month on Tuesday, November 22, at 7 PM in the Minister's Study. Come join us for a time of quiet reflection and good listening. You do not need to have attended any of the groups before. Feel free to bring a friend. Everyone is welcome!

RE NEWS

Our fourth annual Mitten Drive & Bake Sale was our best yet! We collected 45 pairs of mittens/gloves for Winchendon CAC, plus hats and a scarf. Many were beautifully hand-knit, including two pairs made in Hawaii. It seems they were donated just in time with the cooler weather we have had. The “Fall Flavors” Bake Sale brought in \$123.25 for the RE program. Thank you to all who helped make this day a success – for our church and for the community.

Did you see our scarecrows?! Children and adults in the RE program made two scarecrows for the Clark Memorial's Scarecrow Contest this year. We created a woman with dried flowers for hair, dressed in a colorful skirt and a person in a wheelchair with a jug head, wearing a church shirt. They looked great and everyone seemed to have a good time working together to stuff and dress. We hope the scarecrows reflected some of our Principles – the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; and acceptance of one another.



We are looking forward to our UU friends from other churches visiting on Nov. 13th. The children and youth will come together downstairs for games and get-to-know-you time. It's always a great chance to remind ourselves that there are more UUs out there!



The 7th Annual Toy Drive for the Spirit of Christmas is on Friday, Nov 25, 12 – 4 PM. Please help spread the word that we accept new and gently used toys for this special cause. Toys, books, puzzles, and such should be unwrapped and in good condition. Perhaps we'll top last year's total of 33 cars in our drive-thru. “Elves” will be ready to collect toys from cars and hand out candy canes and invitations to this year's Christmas Eve Service. This is also the time we decorate the tree in the sanctuary, listen to

(RE News continued on page 3)

(RE News Continued from page 2)

Christmas music, and enjoy hot chocolate together. Come on by for the afternoon, an hour, or ten minutes. The more, the merrier!



As we enter flu season, I would like to remind everyone that the adults who accompany children downstairs will help them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer

before going to the nursery or starting lessons in class. Hand washing will be up to parents at the start of coffee hour. If you have any concerns about your child using sanitizer, please let me know. We also ask that if your child is showing signs of the flu that s/he be kept home that morning. Thank you for helping us to stay healthy this year!

There will be a Religious Education Committee (REC) meeting after the service on Nov. 6th in the pine room. These meetings are always open to anyone wanting to attend.

Peace,
Tracy

We've Gone Electronic

This newsletter is primarily distributed electronically. It is emailed as an attachment to those for whom we have email addresses and is posted on the church website. If you have an email address that the church may not have, send us an email (whites573@verizon.net) so we will have it. Doing it this way saves us considerably in postage, paper and copier costs.

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.

Contact Information

Minister: **Rev. Marguerite Sheehan**
Phone: 413-253-9938
Email: msheehan222@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: **Tracy Gambill**
Phone 978-297-0023
Email: tgambill@uuwinchendon.org

Board chair: **David Faucher**
Phone 978-632-5588
Email: dfaucher@on24seven.com

Building & Grounds chair, treasurer, interim newsletter editor: **John White**
Phone 978-297-0716
Email: whites573@verizon.net

Putnam Alliance president: **Pauline Michalewicz**
Phone: 978-297-9983
Email: pmichalewicz@comcast.net

Sexton (Custodian): **Sue Faucher**
Phone 978-632-5588
Email: sfaucher@on24seven.com

BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOER

Tim Elkins	11/03
Marguerite Sheehan	11/06
Brennan Mahonery	11/07
Phyllis Priest	11/21
Erin Scott	11/22
Elaine Gaspard	11/27
Mardis Priest	11/27

COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

November 6	Cindy Malley
November 13	Luncheon; no hostess
November 20	Cindy Malley
November 27	Volunteer needed

GREETERS

November 6	Tracy Gambill
November 13	Volunteers needed
November 20	Volunteer needed
November 27	Volunteer needed

CHALICE LIGHTERS

November 6	Maddy Faucher
November 13	Volunteer needed
November 20	Erika Gambill
November 27	Volunteer needed
October 30	Volunteer needed

Changing the World: One Small Step at A Time

Please be sure to join us at our church for worship, a potluck lunch, and small groups on November 13, 2011. We are hosting a joint worship service with other Unitarian Universalist churches in North Central MA. The theme of the service will be Small Churches Making a Difference in Our Communities.

We will be starting our day with our monthly Welcome Table breakfast from 8:30-9:15 (some folks from the UU churches may be attending). Worship is as usual at 10AM with Religious Education. We will have a potluck lunch from 11 to 11:45 and then the adults will adjourn to the Sanctuary for facilitated small groups (12 — 1 PM) talking about how our different churches are already involved in local social justice work and ways that we can either collaborate or find more inspiration to do this work. We will have a closing circle at 1:30. Child care for the small group time will be provided so come to church, bring your children, and invite

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-

a friend! This day was inspired by our experiences doing the Association Sunday in Leominster (which by the way will happen again this year in April.) As we enter the season of giving and receiving gifts, let's join with other small churches who, like we, want to make a difference for the common good.

SWEET SALE

This year, in conjunction with the Religious Education Committee's annual Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive, the church will be holding a sweet sale! All proceeds from the Sweet Sale will benefit the church. Bakers/ Candy Makers and workers are needed. If you can help, please speak to Cindy Malley.

So start of your holiday season right. Come to the church on Friday, November 25th. Bring your toys to help needy children in the area, then pick up something delicious to take home with you, helping the church in the process

Summary of October 5, 2011 Governing Board Meeting

Chairman Dave Faucher received an email from Donna Marchand, resigning from the Governing Board due to time constraints. Motion passed to accept Donna Marchand's resignation with sincere regret

Tracy Gambill, DRE, reported that 2 new families are participating. Rev. Marguerite emphasized that the new attendees came to us through the open house held by the REC. It was agreed that holding the event outside was beneficial. Tracy noted that the REC will use the church on Jan. 21st at 3:00 p.m. for game day; Feb. 18th at 6:00 p.m. for a movie night; and Apr. 14th at 6:00 p.m. for a movie night.

Rev. Marguerite explained what will happen with the November 13th service. She noted that at last year's Association Sunday many of the smaller churches wanted to get their congregations together to work on various programs. The clergy of these churches have now

(Governing Board Continued on page 5)

The Spirit of Christmas

Toy Drive



Friday, Nov. 25
12 – 4 pm



UU Church of Winchendon
126 Central Street

Drive Thru & “Elves” collect at your car!

Please leave new or gently used toys unwrapped.

Thank You!

(Governing Board Continued from page 4)

planned a workshop day on social justice/action at the UUCW.

Motion made to offer the painting created by Byrde Tuckerman to the family. Voted.

Dave Faucher reported that beginning with the Nov. 13th breakfast, the Girl Scouts will be in to assist as they work towards their community service badge.

Cindy Malley said that someone needs to take over the position of Coffee Hour liaison. The position involves lining people up for coffee hour each week. Rev. Marguerite noted that in Northfield, they bought non-perishable snacks to be used when no one has signed up for coffee hour. Seemed to be a good idea. Sharing the chalice lighting among the different children and adults is working well. The Board discussed the need for a new Facebook coordinator.

Cindy and Donna Marchand have been working on the advertisements for the church’s space for weddings. Dave Faucher may be able to find a graphic artist who could assist with this project.

There was a motion to approve application prepared by Wendy O’Brien for a Chalice Lighter Grant

from the Clara Barton District to modify the wayside pulpit to assist growth and social justice ministry. Voted..

John White made a motion to engage Robert Pople as organist at the fee of \$100 per Sunday, with the agreement on the basis that it could be terminated by either party with 30 days notice. Voted.

John reported that he had paid Craig Stevenson \$20,000 as a deposit of for the Tower work. The work should begin soon.

John stated that Church Mutual Insurance Co. has given the church a dividend of \$427, which he has applied to the insurance line. He noted that beginning in July, AA has increased its contribution from \$15 to \$25 per month. He also noted that some of the pledges for the “short” fiscal year were lump sums, and that these individuals needed to be solicited for fiscal year 2012. Then a general canvass should be made in the spring for fiscal year 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy O’Brien, Secretary

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>