



# THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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Rev. Marguerite Sheehan, MINISTER

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February 2012

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

Saturday, February 4, 10 AM to 4 PM Girl Scoutn Cookie Sale on church steps

**Sunday, February 5, 10 AM Morning Worship: Heather Mahoney**

Monday, February 6, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 4:30 PM Brownies .

**Sunday, February 12, 8:30 AM Welcome Table Breakfast**

**Sunday, February 12, 10 AM Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite .**

**Sunday, February 12, 11:30 PM Church Governing Board** (All church members welcome.)

Monday, February 13, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, February 14, 4:30 PM. Brownies

**Saturday, February 18, 6 PM Movie Night**

**Sunday, February 19, 10 AM Morning Worship: John White: Religion of America's Founders**

Monday, February 20, 7 PM. AA meeting

Thursday, February 23, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen (low price meal – everyone invited)

**Sunday, February 26, 10 AM Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite**

Monday, February 27, 7 PM. AA meeting

Monday, February 27, January newsletter material due

Monday, February 27, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, February 28, 4:30 PM .Brownies

*If it is necessary to cancel a service because of weather, an email notice will be sent. If anyone needs a cancellation phone call in addition, please notify Cindy Malley at 978-297-9562 and she will plan to call you if we have to cancel..*

## Minister's Reflection

Finally we have arrived at my favorite holiday. February 2<sup>nd</sup> is my favorite day of the year, no matter the weather because it is smack dab in the middle of the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. This day is known as Brigid's Day in honor of the Celtic Goddess, and St Brigid's Day, in remembrance of the Irish Roman Catholic saint. It is also the Pagan quarter holiday of Imbolc. One of the fun things about Imbolc is that it is traditionally the day that the morning milkmaid is able to milk the dairy animals without a lantern, because the light has increased so much since the Solstice.

I love this day because it reminds me of my own Celtic heritage but even more so because the light is really on the increase. Those long dark days of fall and early winter are beginning to show signs of spring, at least to those of us Northern Hemisphere people who are desperately counting the increasing minutes. February is the month when the maple sap is really flowing. It is the month that the "snow fleas" are starting to hop in the woods on the warmest and sunniest days. It is the month that the gardeners are seriously pouring through the seed catalogues. Even though we are bound to have more snow and ice and cold for another month or two, by February 2<sup>nd</sup> I put more faith in the inevitable melt.

Celebrating the seasonal holidays is a reminder that our lives are ever changing. When we find ourselves despairing about a present situation (whether it be the weather, our financial picture, a relationship in flux, our Sunday worship attendance...) the seasonal holidays jolt us back to the

*(Minister's Meditation Continued on page 2)*

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reality that in fact everything changes and change is a good thing.

Recently Dave Faucher shared the book “Who Moved My Cheese” with me. That little book took the reality of change even one step farther. Change is not only cyclical and inevitable, but it can be exciting, rejuvenating, and inspirational. The key is learning to imagine or anticipate changes, adapt to the new situations, savor change and let go of the big one – fear. One of the simple and profound messages of that book is “When you move beyond your fear, you feel free.”

This year I have been devoting much of my preaching to the theme of “The purposes of our gathering.” Who are we as a congregation that is built on promises or covenants? Why do we come together, and in what ways? Where do we see ourselves going/growing in the next few years? What is the good news of our Unitarian Universalist faith? We now have an opportunity to take those wonderings to another level. Soon we will be looking more closely at our budget for next year. This is the time where we can either fall into fear or move beyond. I hope that we enter our stewardship campaign with acceptance that change is in the air, anticipation and imagination, and trust that we can adapt and even savor the excitement that comes with trying new things. In this season of increasing light, can we take the risk to not ask “Who moved my cheese (or my church?)” but “Where is our cheese (or our mission) now, in the year 2012?”

*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



February is a full month that includes our Secret Valentine Swap, a Movie Night, and the annual Teacher Appreciation Brunch. We will choose names at coffee hour on February 5 and art supplies will be available to create a special Valentine for your chosen person. The Swap will happen the following week on Sunday, February 12. Movie Night is scheduled for Saturday, February 18, at 6 PM in the Parish Hall, and will feature “The Smurfs”. This is a nice, low-key way to start off school vacation. Please join us on Sunday, February 26, for a special brunch to recognize the volunteer teachers that make our Religious Education Program possible. It is just a small way to show our gratitude for their important work with the children of the church. Please let Tracy know if you can help out in some way.

Unfortunately, Game Day on January 21 was cancelled due to slippery road conditions. It has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 4. We will begin with a potluck lunch after the service, so mark your calendars for this “play date”. ALL ages are invited and everyone is welcome to bring a favorite game with them. We work together to run the church, now it’s time to play together!

*Warmly, Tracy*

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We note with sorrow the passing of John R. Damon, descendent of a church founder, past member of the Standing Committee and Fitzwilliam selectman for many years. He is survived by his wife Beverly, four children, several grandchildren, and a sister, church member Harriet Ries.

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For those who contribute cash on a weekly basis, prenumbered offering envelopes are available and will make this easier. Speak with John White before or after the morning service.

### Change Your Address?

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If you do change your address, either U, S. Mail or email, please let us know. Email whites573@verizon.net or send a written note to the church at P. O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475. Thank you.

**Summary Meeting Notes  
January Governing Board Meeting**

The Board spent significant time on brainstorming ideas of what the church had done well over the past year, and how to build on these successes in the future.. It was noted that the CAC was hoping to use the church's kitchen to make a meal for shut-ins. The Martin Luther King Service will take place on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. The service schedule has been filled through February. A future grant proposal might be for the addition of an automatic dishwasher that would have a sanitizing rinse, making the church eligible to work with the Worcester County Food Bank. The Annual Meeting was scheduled for April 22, 2012. The work on repairing the church tower has continued. It is estimated that approximately \$5,000 has been raised above pledges for the fiscal year. Even with this, the church will be in a deficit. January, February, and March 2012 will be the most difficult months due to oil usage. The next Governing Board meeting will be February 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. The March meeting will be March 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. At the February meeting there will be discussion of plans for our upcoming pledge drive, including the possibility of a potluck kickoff fundraiser after church on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy O'Brien, Secretary

Interfaith Council of Franklin County will present A World House Divided? An Interfaith Soul Food Conversation Café on Thursday, February 16, from 5:30 to 8 PM at First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street, Greenfield, MA *Potluck Supper Provided.*

**A World House Divided?**

During Black History Month, and as a way to honor the spiritual principles that inspired Rev. Martin Luther King's life, let us explore the beliefs that both unite and divide us in our evolving "world house" of religions. Here are some questions that we will animate our conversation:

- What does faith teach us about differences?
- How do we love our neighbors as ourselves when our neighbors look, act, and dress differently? What does faith teach us about loving one another when our beliefs and cultures are different?
- What is the long-term effect on a group when its followers have long believed that theirs is the "one true" religion?
- When have you been an outsider or in the minority group? How did it feel?
- Can a diversity of faith, culture, race, and experience enrich us and bring our own beloved communities into deeper connection?

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*BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY*

Kayden Gordon	02/03
Dustin Hartford	02/04
Gary Michalewicz	02/22
Keegan W. Mahoney	02/25

*COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES*

February 5	Amy Scott
February 12	from Welcome Table
February 19	volunteer needed
February 25	Teacher Appreciation

*GREETERS*

February 5	Volunteer needed
February 12	Tammy Cisneros
February 19	Volunteer needed
February 25	Volunteer needed

*CHALICE LIGHTERS*

February 5	Volunteer needed
February 12	Tammy Cisneros
February 19	Volunteer needed
February 25	Volunteer needed

*We need volunteers for all three of these jobs for most Sundays for the remainder of the year. Please sign up*