



THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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Rev. Marguerite Sheehan, MINISTER

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May 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

Wednesday, May 2, 6:30 PM. Governing Board Meeting, Pine Room. All members are invited.

Sunday, May 6, 10 AM Morning Worship: Nina Vecchi and Lisa Nuttal from the Wachusett Vegan Society

Sunday, May 6, 11:15 AM. Religious Education Committee

Monday, May 7, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, May 8, 4:30 PM Brownies .

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

Sunday, May 13, 10 AM Morning Worship & Blessing of the Animals: Rev. Marguerite

Sunday, May 13, 11:30 AM. Meeting for prospective new members in minister's study. Everyone is invited.

Monday, May 14, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, May 15, 4:30 PM. Brownies

Sunday, May 20, 10 AM Morning Worship: Heather Mahoney (CLF Service).

Monday, May 21, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, May 22, 4:30 PM. Brownies

Sunday, May 27, 10 AM Morning Worship & New Member Reception: Rev. Marguerite

Sunday, May 27, 11 AM Adjourned Annual Meeting: Budget Consideration

Monday, May 28, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, May 29, 4:30 PM. Brownies

Tuesday, May 29, May newsletter material due

Thursday, May 31, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen (low price meal – everyone invited)

MINISTER'S REFLECTION

It is Earth Day today. The rain is finally falling, transforming our dustbowl world into something lush. Now our hope is that we do not flood as the ground has been rock solid hard. This Earth Day I am ever more aware about the tender nature of our planet and how our climate appears to be changing rapidly. With that awareness I, like many of you, will be following the hummingbird, in our story for all ages today, who said "I am doing the best I can" to make a difference in the world. There is much out there, and inside our church, that calls for our caring and the best that we can do, will be enough. As the Christian mystic Julian of Norwich said "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well" Thank you everyone who came to the service and also stayed for our annual meeting. We are a small group who dearly loves this church community. Even the hummingbird would agree!

On May 13th, right after the Sunday service we will be hosting a conversation with individuals who are interesting in just what it means to be a formal or legal member of our church. We will be talking about what the church means to us, how the congregation is our religious home, and what gifts we have to share with each other. Those people who decide that they are ready and desiring of becoming legal members, will be invited to join us in our new member recognition ceremony on May 27th during the Sunday service. The folks in the congregation who are already members will happily welcome in the newer folks and take their hand in fellowship. This

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service is one of the highlights of our church year so, old or new, we hope that you will join us on the 27th!

Our church year is just about at the end. Our last service, which will be our flower communion, is scheduled for June 10th. Already a number of people have been asking me how we will be keeping in connection with each other over the summer. In times past we have had our sanctuary open on some days during the summer for silent meditation and fellowship. Other years we have had a church wide picnic during the middle of the summer. Some people this year are talking about traveling in car pools to Winchester NH (just South of Richmond) to the Universalist Heritage Society where there will be summer services highlighting Universalism. Last year we had an inter-church picnic at Lake Dennison. Our Neighbor's Kitchen will continue and we may even have a dinner out on the lawn! Our formal services go on hiatus but our desire to connect and to worship is ongoing? What do you think you would like to do this summer? How about an evening movie projected onto a screen outside the church? Talk about opening our doors and stepping out to the community! As always, the sky is the limit!

Meanwhile, May will be a busy month at the church; new members, Religious Education Sunday, our animal blessing, the continuation of our annual meeting, our flower celebration... Yes we are a small congregation, but let no one say that we are not active!

Peace and Happy Spring to all,

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

I hope the trees handed out at our Earth Day service have found happy homes and are adjusting well to their new surroundings!

There will be an REC meeting in the pine room at coffee hour on May 6. Plans for next fall's classes will be discussed, including a possible new structure for how we "do" Religious Education. All are welcome to attend.



The Blessing of the Animals service, postponed from October, is on May 13 and will be intergenerational. For safety, pets must be secured in carriers or on leashes. Photos may also be brought in.

Children go around to each animal with Rev Marguerite and help bless them. There will be a special collection for Ahimsa Haven Animal Rescue. Incorporated in 1999 as a nonprofit animal rescue group, their mission is to find good homes for abused, abandoned, homeless and unwanted domestic animals. The word "ahimsa" comes from some eastern religions and means "To do no harm, in thought or deed, to any living creature." Ahimsa Haven counts on donations to function, plus they are trying to build a shelter in Winchendon (they currently rely on personal homes where animals are fostered). Every penny goes to the animals because people volunteer their time to the cause and no one receives a salary. For more about Ahimsa Haven, go to www.ahimsahaven.org.

Children are already busy preparing for RE Sunday, scheduled for June 3. It is best if children attend each Sunday in May so that they will feel comfortable with their roles for the service. Of course, June 3 is also our annual Ice Cream Social. See the sign-up sheet downstairs near the kitchen for sundae topping ideas and add your name if you would like to bring in something. Thank you!

Warmly, *Tracy*

Guest Speaker for May 6th- Ethical Eating as a Spiritual Practice

Nina Vecchi and Lisa Nuttal from the Wachusett Vegan Society (WVS) share insights and inspirations from "The World Peace Diet - Eating For Spiritual Health And Social Harmony" by Will Tuttle, Ph.D. This service will highlight the explicit and invisible connections between our culture and our food and the relation they form as a contributor for a broad range of challenges facing humanity. Musical inspiration will include songs of peace from Gospel, American Indian and Hindu traditions. Vegan food samples will be supplied by WVS members at coffee hour and free resource materials will be available for those wishing more information on compassion towards animals, people, the planet and plant based nutrition and health.

Brief Annual Meeting Report

Principal actions taken at the 146th annual meeting which was held on April 22:

Elected John White moderator for the meeting.

Amended the bylaws so that a quorum of members will not exceed one third of the legal members of the Church.

Amended the bylaws to remove the clerk and the Putnam Alliance representative from the Governing Board. This makes it easier to find a clerk and there is presently no functioning Putnam Alliance.

Postponed consideration of the budget until an adjourned meeting to be held May 27 following the morning service.

Elected Heather Mahoney, clerk; John White, treasurer; Wendy O'Brien financial secretary; and Dave Faucher, auditor. Elected to the Governing Board: Dave Faucher, Cindy Malley, and Wendy O'Brien. Two board vacancies remain. The treasurer is also a governing board member.

Voted to engage the Rev. Marguerite Sheehan as minister for the next church year.

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BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

Cindy Malley	May 9
Sara Michalewicz	May 14
Erika Gambill	May 20
Julia Cardinal	May 28

COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

May 6	Vegan Society
May 13	From Welcome Table
May 20	Volunteer needed
May 27	Volunteer needed

GREETERS & CHALICE LIGHTERS

Volunteers needed for all Sundays now and in June.
Please sign up.

Sunday Flowers

Real flowers at the front of the sanctuary add a lot to our Sunday worship services. More donors are needed for this extra touch. If anyone can bring flowers on a Sunday, please call Cindy Malley, 978-297-9562, so she can get you on the list.

Change Your Address?

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.

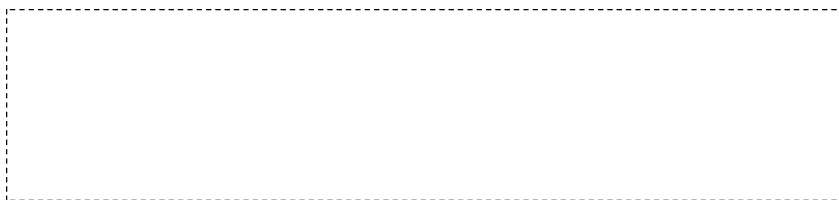
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For more information, service times, and past topics, please visit our website at

www.uuwinchendon.org

Please watch for updates, new sermons, and Photos of good times



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

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<http://uua.org>