



THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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June 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

Sunday, June 3, 10 AM Morning Worship: Religious

Education Sunday: Children & Staff

Monday, June 4, 7 PM Putnam Alliance, 31 Harrisville Cir.

Monday, June 4, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, June 5, 4:30 PM Brownies .

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

Sunday, June 10, 8:30 AM Welcome Table Breakfast

Sunday, June 10, 10 AM Morning Worship & Flower Communion: Rev. Marguerite. Last regular service

Monday, June 11, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, June 12, 4:30 PM. Brownies

Saturday, June 16, All Day Annual Flea Market & Summer Solstice Celebration

Monday, June 18, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, June 19, July-August newsletter material due

Monday, June 25, 7 PM. AA meeting

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

Please join us for Flower Communion on Sunday, June 10th

In most Unitarian Universalist churches, Flower Communion is celebrated on the last day of service before the summer hiatus. Each person is asked to bring a flower or green and place it in a vase with others, symbolizing that we are each unique and bring our own special gifts to the church. The colorful bouquet shows that together we create a community that would not be the same without each person's contribution. At the end of the service, each person chooses

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MINISTER'S REFLECTION

Every year I am shocked when June arrives. Of course I should be prepared and in some ways I am. But in other ways I am amazed to wake up every day to early sunshine that (on a sunny day) lasts into the late evening. I am amazed that the water at my favorite pond is just about the right temperature for an early summer dip. And I am amazed at how many days I can stop at a local ice cream stand and happily stand around eating that creamy confection. June, and the summer it heralds in, is always amazing to me.

As I mentioned last month our church year is about to end with our Flower Celebration and last formal service on June 10th. I have already been reassured by many of you that you intend to keep in good connection with each other over the summer months and will be ready by September to come back "home" for our ingathering service. During the summer months our church doors will still be open to the weekly AA program and our monthly Our Neighbors Kitchen dinner and the Welcome Table breakfasts. Come for support, come for meals, come to help, come to make a difference, and be a difference, even in the heat of summer, in our community.

This year I have heard a few people in the congregation asking about religion and spirituality. Are the two, just different names for the same thing? Is it possible to be spiritual without being religious or religious without being spiritual? How does our church, in our worship services, our service projects, our fellowship, our education programs and our

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placement right here in the center of the town, serve as a place for spiritual development and religious expression? What, if anything, does being spiritual *and* religious have to do with how we conceive of God? How have you changed in your religious or spiritual understandings or practices over the years? How does each of us keep our spiritual wells full so that we do not go dry when we find ourselves on the run more than being contemplative? On any given day, does being involved in our church help you to feel spiritually full or more empty?

Because this has emerged as a church conversation I am planning to have this as my preaching theme for next year. Will you join me in reflecting on these questions during a Sunday worship service or a small group or in some other fashion? What a great time summer is to ponder these questions when we are faced with the splendor of creation and our place in it (which is certainly one facet of being both spiritual *and* religious.)

This year I will be “on call” for pastoral emergencies during my study leave and I will also spending vacation time in Maine and Vermont. Local ministers will cover for me, when we are out of town. I look forward to the different pace of summer! Meanwhile, enjoy the season. Rest up. Have fun. Connect and sometimes disconnect. Summer comes only once a year.

*Peace and Happy Summer 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

The special collection taken at last month's Blessing of the Animals Service was given to A Better Tomorrow Shelter for Cats. Our small congregation donated a total of \$100 to this newly founded organization in town. Sarah Fearing, Winchendon Animal Control Officer and director of this shelter, sent the church a nice thank you letter for our support. www.shelterforcats.org has more information, including a wish list, resources for pet owners, how to adopt a cat, and hours and events for the shelter.



Please join us on June 3rd for RE Sunday. This is our annual service led entirely by the children and adults of our Religious Education Program. It is an important part of the year for those in RE and we appreciate the support shown by all who attend. This is also our annual Ice Cream Social, so stick around for a sundae on Sunday! Thank you all who brought in toppings for this delicious coffee hour.

June 10th is the last day of church before our summer break. It is also Flower Communion so remember your flower or greenery! The children will go to their classes as usual, then come together in the pine room for a combined closing to the year.

The Summer Solstice Parade begins at 11am on Saturday, June 16th, this year. Anyone wishing to walk with the church group, should line up by 10:45am. *Children must have a responsible adult accompany them.* It is an easy walk down Central Street from the fire station to IGA. Our theme is

“This is a church of the helping hands”, so we plan to hand out (pun intended) small plastic hand clappers to children along the sidelines. Please let Tracy or Dana know if you plan to participate and the exact line up position will be emailed as soon as we have that information.

Sunny Summer Smiles, *Tracy*

Our Regular Services will resume on Sunday, September 9.

Summer 2012

At the Universalist Memorial Church in Winchester, New Hampshire

Members of The United Church of Winchester and of the Winchester community will join with Unitarian Universalists from near and far to mark this centennial.

Sunday, July 8, 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Mark Harris, minister, First Parish Church Waretown, Ma.

“A Classless Heaven”

Begins with a Grand Centennial Celebration

Following the devastating fire that demolished the original building, the one in which the 1803 Profession of Belief was adopted, Universalists from across the nation contributed to the building of another Universalist Church on this historic site. With their contributions and pledges in hand in July of 1912 the cornerstone was laid for this elegant, brick Memorial church. The vision and commitment of those forebears are continued in the work of the Universalist Heritage Foundation which now owns the building.

Universalists once believed that everyone, regardless of wealth or station in life, would be admitted to heaven because God’s love embraces the whole human race. How does that theology inform our vision of How Universalism calls us to bring heaven to earth today?

This topic is particularly relevant as the Universalist Heritage Foundation is exploring how the Memorial Church may best be used in the years ahead.

A celebratory reception will follow the service.

All are welcome.

Following the Welcome Table Breakfast that day, Winchendon UUs will carpool to the service in Winchester.

(Flower Communion Continued from page 1)

a flower to take home to remind us that we each get special gifts from the church. The Flower Communion service was created in 1923 by Norbert Capek (1870-1942), who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. Capek (CHAH-pek) got the idea while taking a walk in the springtime and noted that the flowers were like people – “different colors, different shapes, & different sizes, each needing different kinds of care – but each beautiful, each important & special, in its own way.”

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BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

Heather Mahoney June 02

Pauline Michalewicz June 6

David R. Faucher June 28

COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

June 3 Ice Cream Social

June 10 From Welcome Table

GREETERS & CHALICE LIGHTERS

June 3 R E Children

June 10 Volunteers needed

Our historic **Putnam Alliance** is must decide on its future. All church ladies who are interested are asked to meet on Monday, June 4, 7 PM at the Malley’s, 31 Harrisville Circle. **Decisions will be made.** For directions or information, call Cindy Malley at 978-297-9562.

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.

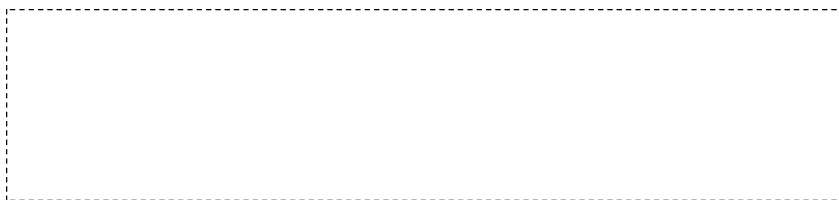
Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Universalist Memorial Church
in Winchester, New Hampshire

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

www.uuwinchendon.org

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon
is a member of the
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
<http://uua.org>

