



THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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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**

MINISTER'S REFLECTION

Church Calendar of Events

- Monday, Oct. 1, 7 PM. AA meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 2, 4:30 PM Brownies
Saturday, Oct. 6, Mini Golf, 202 Entertainment, Orange
Sign up with Ms. Tracy
Sunday, Oct. 7, 10 AM Morning Worship
Monday, Oct. 8, 7 PM. AA meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 9, 4:30 PM Brownies
Wednesday, Oct. 10, 6:30 PM. Governing Board Meeting, Pine Room. All members are invited.
Sunday, Oct. 14, 8:30 AM Welcome Table Breakfast
Sunday, Oct. 14, 10 AM Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite.
Sunday, Oct. 14, After Church Pot Luck Luncheon
Sunday, Oct. 14, 1 PM. Gathered Here Discussion with members of neighboring churches.
Monday, Oct. 15, 7 PM. AA meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 16, 4:30 PM Brownies
Sunday, Oct. 21, 10 AM Morning Worship:
Monday, Oct. 22, 7 PM. AA meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 23, 4:30 PM Brownies
Tuesday, Oct. 23, October newsletter material due
Thursday, Oct. 25, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen
(low price meal – everyone invited)
Sunday, Oct. 28, 10 AM Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite
Monday, Oct. 29, 7 PM. AA meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 30, 4:30 PM Brownies

It is been almost 4 years exactly since I came to be your minister in Winchendon. My first activity in November 2008 was going to a meeting at the town offices and hearing from all the churches, social agencies and civic groups talk about the needs in town and how everyone could work together to help meet those needs. Since that time I learned about the many caring ministries of UUCW and saw how this small group of concerned Unitarian Universalists could make a difference in their town and how you were willing and ready to partner with others to do this important work. Those caring hands and loving hearts and open minds impressed me four years ago and now, as now as I begin my departure from your caring community I am even more impressed by your reach into the community.

I hope over the next few months as you work toward redefining yourself as a church and begin to search for the right person to be your minister that you will make a list of what is unique and powerful about UUCW. My list includes the fact that even in this small congregation, just about every person, young and old, is closely involved with the ministries of the church. You fully participate in worship, singing with more enthusiasm than ever. You offer prayers of love to each and the world, and you stand at the pulpit and preach this message. You organize mitten and food drives, collect money for the animal shelter and bless all animals. You serve a hot and delicious dinner and breakfast for neighbors. You educate yourselves and your children about Unitar-

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ian Universalism and you live that faith day by day. You keep the church building in sparkling condition, even repairing the church steeple so that the bell can ring again! You stand out against racism and honor the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. every year in concert with other churches in town. You are now known as a church with a "wonderful fellowship" because you have learned that the church is more that the folks who come to worship – it is the folks who are touched by your caring hands and loving hearts. My list could go on and I do hope that you make your own list and use it to look backward and forward into the future.

I will miss everyone at UUCW when I leave for my new position at Trinity Church in Shelburne Falls. I leave stronger as a minister and more aware of what I do not know. It is humbling to be a parish minister because church life includes lots of opportunities for making mistakes and asking for forgiveness and being stretched beyond what a minister is "trained" to do. Thank you for your patience over these past four years as we have walked together. My prayer for you is that you will continue to exercise that patience with each other. Transitions are hard but without them we would be stagnant and who really wants to stand still? My first messages to you when we met in 2008 were "be kind, be kind, be kind" and "love, love, love." I leave you now in 2012 having learned more about kindness and more about love and I still say please "be kind and love." May God, the Source of all Compassion and Courage, be with you every day.

Blessings, Reverend Marguerite

GATHERED HERE

On October 14th, the local congregations group will host a UUA "Gathered Here" session at our church. It will be a discussion of where congregants think the UUA should be going in the next 5-10 years. The Welcome Table Breakfast will open the day, the regular service will be held, followed by a potluck from 12-1 and from 1-2 the "Gathered Here" session will be held upstairs. Childcare will be provided.

RE NEWS

The children spent their first day back in RE together in the pine room with a Children's Worship. We listened to each person's favorite memory from the summer, learned a new hymn, and got reacquainted with a few games. Everyone has grown so much over the summer! Our new blend of classes are off to a great start and students seem to be settling in well. Each family is asked to fill out a registration form and return it to Tracy as soon as possible.

All are invited for mini-golf at 2pm on Saturday, October 6, at 202 Entertainment in Orange. A group of 15 or more is only \$3 per person. Otherwise adults are \$6, age 6-12 is \$4, 5 and under is \$3. Please let Tracy know if you plan to go. Friends are welcome!

There will be a Children's Worship during RE on October 14 as we welcome others into our congregation for a "Gathered Here" service. After the potluck lunch, children may watch a movie while adults have further discussions in the sanctuary.



Adult Religious Education... Halloween is based on the pagan holiday of **Samhain** (SOW-in). It was celebrated centuries ago by the Celts

in Europe as a way of marking the end of summer – a time for the final harvest and bringing animals in from the fields. It was also believed to be the time of year when the veil between the living and dead was thinnest. Celebrations included huge bonfires to help the dead on their journey and to keep them away from the living. People would dress in costumes, usually made of animal skins, enjoy feasts, and put out offerings of food and drink to please the souls who had passed. Christian holy days were later set to coincide with "pagan" holidays in an attempt to convert the pagans. November 1st became All Saints' Day,

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BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

Tracy Gambill	October 05
Hannah Gordon	October 10
Katherine R. Faucher	October 11
John H. White	October 16
Ronald Gaspard	October 20

COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

October 7	Volunteer Needed
October 14	Pot Luck meal
October 21	Julia Cardinal
October 28	Volunteer Needed

GREETERS & CHALICE LIGHTERS

October 7	Erika Gambill
October 14	Volunteer Needed
October 21	Volunteer Needed
October 28	Volunteer Needed

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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or All Hallows Day, and the night before eventually became known as All Hallows Eve (Halloween).

Holy History... On October 27, 1553, Michael Servetus was burned at the stake in Switzerland. He had been sentenced to death for challenging the doctrine of the Trinity and publishing *On the Errors of the Trinity*. Servetus died with his books chained to his legs and his death led to demands for religious tolerance. On September 30, 1770, John Murray preached his first Universalist sermon in America when his boat ran aground at Cranberry Inlet, New Jersey. There he met Thomas Potter, who had been waiting for God to send him a preacher with a message of universal salvation. This was the beginning of Universalism in America.

Tracy Gambill, DRE

CARING CONNECTIONS

UUCW is a caring congregation. 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.