



# THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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**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, Jan. 6, 10 AM Morning Worship – Fire Communion led by Dave Faucher; coffee hour follows.**

Monday, Jan. 7, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 4:30 PM Brownies

**Wednesday, Jan. 9, 6:30 PM. Governing Board Meeting jointly with R E Committee, John White's home. All church members are invited.**

**Saturday, Jan. 12, 3 PM—5 PM RE Game Day; all are invited**

**Sunday, Jan. 13, 8:30 AM Welcome Table Breakfast**

**Sunday, Jan. 13, 10 AM Morning Worship — Inanna Arthen preaching; coffee hour follows.**

Monday, Jan. 14, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 15, 4:30 PM Brownies

**Sunday, Jan. 20, 10 AM Morning Worship — Patti Stanko preaching; coffee hour follows.**

Monday, Jan. 21, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 4:30 PM Brownies

**Sunday, Jan. 27, 10 AM Morning Worship — speaker TBA; coffee hour follows.**

Monday, Jan. 28, January newsletter material due

Monday, Jan. 28, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 4:30 PM Brownies

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

**Sunday, Feb. 3, 10 AM Morning Worship – coffee hour follows.**

## *FROM THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BOARD*

January is a time of reflection and hope. It's time to remember the positive; the good acts we did or that touched us in 2012.

We were busy...

We held the community's Martin Luther King service filling our church with people and song in remembrance of his non-violent ways and all those who still fight for civil rights.

We sponsored a challenge site for the United Way's Community Builder Day of Service to feed shut-in's around Winchendon, during a snowstorm in January.

We had movie nights for the kids and a game day for the entire family last winter.

We went bowling together in March.

We gathered in celebration for worship in Leominster with our friends from neighboring Unitarian Universalist congregations throughout the area in April.

We welcomed Claire Chase and Tammy Cisneros as new members in May.

We began to ring our church bell again in late May.

We had our best Summer Solstice fundraiser in many years in June.

We joined with other congregations in the area

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to hold activities together in July and August. Our activities took us to Winchester NH to one of the founding Universalist Churches, Peterborough NH for their speaker series, up Wachusett Mountain for a hike, and down to Barre Falls Dam for a summer picnic.

We celebrated the one year anniversary of Welcome Table Breakfast beginning in August. Our experience from the past year shows there is still great need beyond Our Neighbor's Kitchen in the community.

We learned to work together better in September.

We welcomed Lucinda Ellert, with all her experience and energy, as Music Director in early October.

We were joined by friends from other congregations in the area to discuss our hope and dreams for the future during the Gathered Here session in mid-October.

We said goodbye to Rev. Marguerite Sheehan as the paths of our paths diverged at the end of October.

We went to Petersham for worship, fellowship, and food with our neighboring congregations in November.

We celebrated with Allan Gordon and "J" McCrohon as they transitioned from friends to members in December.

We decided to call a new minister for quarter time for the remainder of the church year and use pulpit supply to supplement our worship schedule and variety with the plan to re-evaluate in May.

We celebrated a joyous Christmas Eve Candles & Carols service punctuated with performances by our Children's Choir with their songs of peace and Lucinda Ellert's "Moonlight Sonata" on the piano bringing warmth to the cold winter's night.

We had many people grace our pulpit to lead worship or speak on a subject close to their heart during the last year including: Julie Gambill, Margaret Hawthorne, Rev. Michelle LaGrave, Colleen La-

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## RE NEWS



The children did a fabulous job singing about peace on Christmas Eve! It isn't easy for so few young voices to ring out loudly in front of an audience. Thank you to all who helped the children rehearse – Lucinda, Sue, Wendy, and parents who practiced at home. During the weeks of preparing, RE time was also filled with making advent trees, creating ornaments which animals may eat (now hanging on the Christmas tree in Old Center), and "lighting" paper Menorahs.

FYI: Wendy will teach a combined RE class in the pine room on January 6<sup>th</sup> as I have that day off. Thank you, Wendy!

**Game Day** is on Saturday, January 12, from 3–5pm. Join us for an afternoon of fun for ALL ages. Friends are welcome too.



**Please spend some time with us!** Would you "show & tell" us something about yourself? Perhaps share a cause close to your heart or tell us about a journey you have traveled (geographical or spiritual). Maybe you could teach us a magic trick, a craft, or share a favorite memory from your childhood, or tell us about a hobby of yours. We would like to get to know you better! Please speak with Tracy if you can join us during RE or at coffee hour on an upcoming Sunday.

**Adult RE...** Here are a few of the celebrations happening in January: The Shinto New Year's celebration is **Oshogatsu**. Thousands of people visit shrines to thank the kami (life energy), ask for good fortune in the coming year, and make their resolutions. January 6 is the **Epiphany**, an ancient Christian feast day. In the East, it celebrates Jesus' birth and his baptism by John the Baptist. In the West, it is associated with the magi's visit so it also called Three Kings Day. January 14 is **Makar Sankranti**, an important Hindu festival celebrating the sun's journey into the northern hemisphere. Celebrations may include: kites, bonfires, gatherings of friends and relatives, bathing in rivers, food offerings to the Rain and Sun Gods, and honoring cattle for their work in the fields by dressing them with flowers and bells. On January 24 or 29, some Muslims celebrate **Milad Un Nabi**, the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. Families gather to eat and serve food to guests and the poor. Some also donate to charity. Stories are told of the Prophet's life, teachings, sufferings, and how he forgave even his most bitter enemies. In some regions, streets and mosques are decorated and lit up at night. January 26 is **Tu B'Shevat**, the Jewish "New Year for Trees" (one of four Jewish New Years). Jews often eat fruits associated with Israel, but are forbidden to eat the fruit of new trees for three years after being planted. A blessing is said after eating any fruit, especially those mentioned in the Torah (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates). They also try to eat a new fruit which they have not eaten this year. Some plant trees or collect money toward planting trees

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in Israel.

**Holy History...** Did you know that Paul Revere was a Unitarian? He and his wife, Rachel Walker Revere, were members of Second Church in Boston and paid an annual rent of 15 pounds sterling on their pew. This would be about \$1800 in today's money!

Happy New Year!  
*Tracy Gambill*, DRE

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perriere, Heather Mahoney, Cindy Malley, Ann McGrath, Wendy O'Brien, Rev. Marilyn Richards, Rev. Marguerite Sheehan, Patti Stanko, Nina Vecchi and Lisa Nuttal, John White, and even me.

We operated Our Neighbor's Kitchen and Welcome Table Breakfast month-in and month-out with the help of old and new friends.

We defied the odds continuing to grow as a congregational community between ministers.

We did all of this and much more together this year as a congregation --- as a family united in covenant.

Our Governing Board is committed to leading the way to build on the positive of 2012 for an even better 2013. Already on the books we've got guest speakers and events in the coming months to get us off to a good start. So gather you're strength and energy during this time of renewal, the New Year is just starting.

I wish you and your family a plentiful, hopeful, and Happy New Year,

### **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 a member of the Governing Board 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.**

## **Contact Information**

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### *BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY*

Jacob Nathaniel Elkins	January 03
Carol Bramblett	January 14

A decorative graphic with the words "Happy New Year" written in a large, elegant, cursive script. The text is in a golden-brown color and is set against a white background.

### **Change Your Address?**

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