



THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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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, March 2, 7 PM. North County Sustainability Center meeting, parish hall
- Sunday, March 3, 10 AM Morning Worship — Chalice Circle service; coffee hour follows.**
- Sunday, March 3, 11:30 AM Ministerial Search Committee, Pine room**
- Monday, March 4, 7 PM. AA meeting
- Tuesday, March 5, 4:30 PM Brownies
- Wednesday, March 6, 6:30 PM. Governing Board Meeting, John White's. Church members invited.**
- Sunday, March 10, 8:30 AM – 9:15 AM. Welcome Table Breakfast**
- Sunday, March 10, 10 AM Morning Worship; Annual Teacher Appreciation Brunch follows**
- Monday, March 11, 7 PM. AA meeting
- Tuesday, March 12, 4:30 PM Brownies
- Saturday, March 16, 7 PM. North County Sustainability Center meeting, parish hall
- Sunday, March 17, 10 AM Morning Worship CLF service; coffee hour follows.**
- Sunday, March 17, 11:30 AM Summer Solstice Planning meeting; everyone invited**
- Monday, March 18, 7 PM. AA meeting
- Tuesday, March 19, 4:30 PM Brownies
- Sunday, March 24, 10 AM Morning Worship: John White will lead the service and speak; coffee hour follows.**
- Sunday, March 24, Noon; Playaway Lanes Bowling**
- Monday, March 25, 5 PM. April newsletter material
- Monday, March 25, 7 PM. AA meeting
- Tuesday, March 26, 4:30 PM Brownies
- Thursday, March 28, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen (low price meal – everyone invited)
- Sunday, March 31, 10 AM Easter Sunday Worship, Rev. Jane Thickstun preaching; NO coffee hour**
- Sunday, April 7, 10 AM Morning Worship; coffee**

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Winter is more than half way through. My girls are even getting sick of snow days. Not the part about not having school, just the part about having to be stuck in the house most of the day. Looking back, February was a fun month. The first weekend of the month we had Chalice Circle Sunday it was a cool but nice day. The second weekend we had a blizzard which canceled Movie Night, Welcome Table Breakfast, and Worship with guest musicians from Ashby. After two days of digging out we continued on with life. The third weekend we traveled down to Petersham to take part in their New Member Service welcoming new Unitarian Universalist members' into the larger UU community. There was a threat of snow, but we needed a breather. Finally we came to the last weekend of the month. More snow on Sunday — who would have guessed!

March is finally here now we've got a whole month to make up in activities. Our Ministerial Search process is underway with hopefully another meeting on March 3rd. Keep an eye out for the rescheduled Game Day \ Movie Night featuring a presentation of The Lorax. Plans are starting to come together for the Summer Solstice with a meeting about it on March 17th after service. And most importantly Teacher Appreciation Sunday was postponed; look for that in March too.

Please stay warm, keep your chin up, and shovels sharpened. The Spring Equinox is coming soon and with that these weekends of snow will turn to days of rain giving us a lush green Spring.

Thank You and Peace,

Dave

RE News



It was a whacky February for church! Snowstorms caused many cancellations: Welcome Table Breakfast, Movie Night, worship services (twice!), Secret Valentine Swap, and Teacher Appreciation Brunch. We'll plan on our Valentine Swap on March 3, so please bring your card if it isn't already at the church. I've seen some beautiful creations that are worth the wait! Our Teacher Appreciation Brunch will be held at coffee hour on March 10. Your presence means a lot as we salute our RE volunteers and thank them for their dedication to and care of the children in our congregation. Watch weekly announcements for a new Movie Night date.

Looking ahead to March... Remember to set your clocks one hour ahead on March 10 so you won't miss the monthly breakfast, our worship service, and the Teacher Appreciation Brunch! It will be a delicious morning. Join us for bowling on March 24. Bring a bag lunch to enjoy after the service and then we'll walk over to Play Away Lanes for some fun. All are welcome, spectators too!



Though class time has been somewhat inconsistent lately, Wendy continues to lead the Chalice Children

in the *We Are Many, We Are One* curriculum. Most recently, the class has explored feelings and diversity. The Explorers have been learning about important people in Unitarian history. Check out our class bulletin board where you'll find a Unitarian timeline that begins in 1566 with the world's first Unitarian church (in Transylvania). You will also find information on the only Unitarian king, the first Unitarian church in America, and the odd history surrounding King's Chapel in Boston.

Holy History... "Bloody Sunday" took place on March 7, 1965, when 600 civil rights marchers were attacked by law enforcement in Selma, Alabama. Thousands marched with Martin Luther King to Montgomery, AL (March 21–25), including more than 125 UU ministers. Three people were killed – James Reeb (UU minister), Jimmy Lee Jackson (African-American and church deacon), and Viola Liuzzo (UU layperson from Detroit). Sir Isaac Newton (Unitarian, mathematician, and inventor of calculus) died at age 84 on March 20, 1727. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, London; I saw his grave when I visited there in 2009. On March 31, 1889, Joseph H. Jordan was the first African-American to be ordained a Universalist minister.

Best Wishes,
Tracy Gambill, DRE

FAQS about UU Church of Winchendon membership and pledging:

We found this discussion in another church newsletter and with our annual support drive coming up soon, we have adapted it for our church and offer it to our readers.

I have been attending for a while but have not become a member. Is that okay?

Of course! We welcome everyone. Your presence enriches our collective experience, and you are valued here. Our church is open to everyone regardless of means or circumstance.

How long can I attend without officially joining the UUCW?

There is no given amount of time! Membership is a commitment to be a regular part of our community, and you need to be comfortable here before making that commitment

I put a contribution in the plate most weeks, as I can. Why the need to pledge?

All contributions are important, and fund the work of the church. But only pledged contributions help us build a secure budget for the next church year — secure in that we can count on this income as a part of our financial plan for the fiscal year.

I have not joined the church. Do I have a responsibility to pledge?

(FAQ, Continued on page 3)

(FAQ Continued from page 2)

It is only fair that someone who avails her/himself of the services of the church contribute to its support. As stated above, a pledge enables us to build a secure budget for the new year.

I feel as if I cannot afford to join right now, even though I would like to. What can I do?

Talk to Dave Faucher or John White. They understand, and can help you find a path to doing what is best for you at this time.

Are there limits to my involvement at UUCW if I am a non-member?

Good question! You must be a member of legal age and have made identified contributions (\$50 minimum) to the general work of the church during the current or last fiscal year to vote at any official congregational meeting, or hold elective office. Members who cannot support the church financially but support it through service to the church may be granted voting rights. You can volunteer to participate in most activities and services regardless of your membership status.

How do I become a member, and is it irrevocable?

If you are sixteen or older, talk to Dave or John about becoming a member. The by-laws provide: *Any person who has taken an interest in the activities of the church and understands the principles of Liberal Religion ... may be elected to membership in the church by ... the Governing board. Such a person shall become a member when he/she signs the bound attested copy of these by-laws.*

Irrevocable? As stated above, even if a member loses voting rights by failure to contribute (s)he is still considered a member. This applies even if the member moves away or many years of inactivity elapse. However, a member may withdraw by simply giving written notice of withdrawal. After all, every UU is on a constant quest for truth and personal meaning. If that quest draws them away, or if they simply relocate, they may wish to withdraw. Our denomination embraces personal choice.

People are encouraged to pledge on weekly or monthly basis. If I do not attend church on a Sunday, am I still expected to contribute for that week?

Unless a pledge is stated to be otherwise, we as-

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BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Sam Elkins | March 03 |
| Roger Bryant | March 06 |
| Mrs. Charlotte Drury | March 26 |
| Ann M. McGrath | March 29 |

sume the pledge is for every week (52 weeks) or every month (12 months). This is the way we figure the annual value of pledges when we calculate our annual budget. If a supporter skips a week or a month and does not make it up; it will leave the church short at the end of the year and it may be unable to pay its bills. Just because services are not held on some Sundays or during the summer, it does not mean expenses do not go on. We still need that contribution.

How can I be sure my contribution is credited to my pledge?

Since a check will have your name on it, it is a sure way to get the money credited toward your pledge. Checks can also be mailed to the church. If you are contributing cash, put it in an envelope with your name on it. We have provided envelopes at the rear of the church for this purpose; or if you contribute cash weekly, we can provide you a set of numbered envelopes that will also help you keep track of your contributions.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

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Winchendon, MA 01475

FIRST CLASS MAIL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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.

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.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

is a member of the



Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

<http://uua.org>