



THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954; Published by the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

Volume 57 Issue 8

April 2013

WORSHIP SERVICE 10 A.M.

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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

Saturday, April 6, 7 PM. North County Sustainability Center meeting, parish hall

Sunday, April 7, 8:30 AM – 9:15 AM. Welcome Table Breakfast

Sunday, April 7, 10 AM Morning Worship — Chalice Circle service; coffee hour follows.

Monday, April 8, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, April 9, 4:30 PM Brownies

Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 PM. Governing Board Meeting, John White's. Church members invited.

Sunday, April 14, 10 AM Annual Association Sunday Service: First Church Unitarian Universalist, Leominster

Monday, April 15, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 4:30 PM Brownies

Saturday April 20, Movie Day: Noon Potluck luncheon; 1 PM. Games time; 2 PM. Movie: *The Lorax* Everyone invited.

Saturday, April 20, 7 PM. North County Sustainability Center meeting, parish hall

Sunday, April 21, 10 AM Morning Worship; coffee hour follows.

Monday, April 22, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, April 23, 4:30 PM Brownies

Tuesday, April 23, 5 PM. April newsletter material

Thursday, April 25, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen (low price meal – everyone invited)

Sunday, April 28, 10 AM Morning Worship; coffee hour follows.

Monday, April 29, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, April 30, 4:30 PM Brownies

Association Sunday is April 14

As has been our custom for the last several years, our congregation will join with those of the other churches in North Central Massachusetts for a joint Association Sunday worship service at the First Church Unitarian Universalist in Leominster. For those of us in a tiny group, it is great to be part of many UUs gathered in one place to worship together and realize we all share a common purpose. The service is at 10 AM. We will try to car pool from Winchendon leaving our church at about 9. Speak with Dave Faucher if you would like a ride.

As part of our joint effort, the children will have a combined RE class there with other UU children from the area. There will also be a joint choir for the service; rehearsal will be before the service. (Sorry, no time mentioned in any material at hand.)

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

We continue our year of transitions and the best one of all, Spring is coming. If only every positive change were as simple as just waiting for the turn of seasons. And, change and movement forward is something that we need to continue to cherish and support.

There has been quite a bit of activity surrounding our Ministerial Search. Allan Gordon, "J" McCro-

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RE News

(From the Boar Chair, Continued from page 1)

hon, Patti Stanko, John White, and I have all been busy moving this process forward. By the end of April we expect to have most, if not all, of the interviews completed and if we're lucky, a decision for the congregation

Like Spring the coming Summer Solstice too has begun to stir with planning and commitments from vendors. Last year was the largest Solstice event we have had in a number of years. This year the goal is to more than double last year's success and we are well on our way to that goal.

Another right of Spring in our area's circle of Unitarian Universalist churches is the Regional Association Sunday in Leominster held on April 14th this year. Sometimes we tend to feel isolated seeing the same people week after week at worship and events, this is an opportunity to break that cycle. Worship with the nine other congregations of the area, meet new people, and share in the music and energy that only can be created when a sanctuary full of people singing and celebrating life together can bring. The guest speaker for this year's event is Don Southerland on the topic of ministry. And hey, if that's not enough reason to go, after service you'll find the more eclectic potluck style lunch you can imagine. Salads, sandwiches, and deserts will not let you go home hungry. Keep your eyes open for information about a car-pool down to Leominster on that morning.

Spring is also a time of change and just to make sure everyone can attend the Regional Association Sunday in Leominster we will be moving Welcome Table Breakfast from our normal second Sunday of the month to the first Sunday. So this month have a nice homemade breakfast then participate in thoughtful sharing and listening upstairs.

We are a busy, busy congregation. Soon we will be beginning our stewardship campaign in preparation for the next fiscal year. Our goal in stewardship is to sustain our ability to support the community of Winchendon. The reach of our congregation spreads beyond the walls of our beautiful building. Through

(From the Boar Chair, Continued on page 3)

Looking ahead... The congregation will be in Leominster on April 14 for Association Sunday and children will have a combined RE class there with other UU children from the area. Movie Night has been rescheduled as a Movie Day on Saturday, April 20th. We will begin with a potluck lunch at 12pm, followed by games at 1pm, and The Lorax at 2pm. Everyone is invited and welcome to join us for some or all of the activities. Please see Sue or Tracy for more details.



Looking back... We had a delicious Teacher Appreciation Brunch on March 10th. Wendy and Sue each received a certificate of appreciation, a "peace" stone, and a gift card to the Gardner Ale House. I was surprised with a beautifully hand-made pottery tea light holder -- Thank you! Ten of us enjoyed a string of bowling at Play Away Lanes after service on March 24th. The children's choir sang a special song during the Easter service before going on an Easter Egg Hunt and making bird "shops" (for nest building materials).

Adult RE... Vaisakhi is the Sikh New Year festival and is one of the most important dates of this faith. Celebrated on April 13, it also commemorates the year Sikhism was born – 1699. Vaisakhi had first been celebrated as a harvest festival in parts of India. Places of worship, called Gudwaras (GUR-dwahr-uh), are decorated and visited. Parades, dancing, and singing and chanting scriptures and hymns happen

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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.

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BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

Wendy O'Brien April 03

Violet Malley April 23

afraid of some change.”

Thanks and Peace

Dave



(R E News, Continued from page 2)

throughout the day. Their holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib, is carried in a place of honor in the procession.

The Ridván Festival is a 12-day Bahá'í sacred festival (April 21–May 2) that celebrates the time in 1863 when Bahá'u'lláh proclaimed his mission as God's Messenger. Bahá'u'lláh means 'the glory of God' in Arabic. The announcement was made at a garden in Baghdad that became known as the Garden of Ridván (Paradise). The holy days are filled with communal prayers and celebrations.

Holy History... On April 26, 1689, The English Parliament passed the Toleration Act, which granted limited freedom to dissent from the Church of England. Unitarians and Roman Catholics were excluded, however.

Edward Everett Hale was born in Boston, MA on April 3, 1822. He was a Unitarian minister who served, among other places, Church of the Unity in Worcester. He wrote many stories, including "The Man without a Country" published in 1863. Rev Hale spoke at the dedication of our church on November 13, 1867!

Best Wishes,
Tracy Gambill, DRE

(From the Boar Chair, Continued from page 2)

your support the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon you are helping feed your neighbors, making a safe space for community groups to meet, young local musicians a stage, and keeping the liberal pulpit open and accessible in these times of religious extreme. So when you get that letter in the mail or call take a moment. Think, not only about what your gift means to you and you family; think about what your gift means to how you would like to see this changing world.

In a year of transitions April is nature's month of transition from Winter to Spring. Our congregation too has spent the Winter, like nature, preparing for a coming rebirth. It will not happen all at once but more like the sprouts just peeking out of the snow. In time the snow will melt and we'll end up with a garden full of flowers. Like hymn says "don't be

EDITORIAL

There is no such thing as a free lunch. That's a statement right up there with Murphy' Law in being usually very true. What it means is that if someone offers you a free lunch, that person expects something in return. Perhaps it is only companionship for an hour or so. More often it is something that is likely to cost you either in money or in time.

Most of us are involved in the UU Church of Winchendon because we want some benefit from that association. While a few want the Church as a means of serving our community and humankind in general, most of us also expect something personal. We may expect it as a place to support us when we need that support: When things don't go well. When friends or loved ones are sick or die. When someone wrongs us. When we lose a job or are faced with unexpected expenses. We may expect Church as a place to help us with our need for knowledge and understanding of our world. To aid our search for meaning in our lives. Then there is our need for fellowship, particularly with like minded people.

As I suggested, there is no such thing as a free lunch. If we want these things from our Church, we must be willing to pay for them. If we want the benefits of a church, we have to support it. There are two ways to support our Church. The first is with one's time and energy. In a tiny congregation such as ours, we need a lot of that from each of us since we are so few. The other is money. It costs the church money to support the staff who work for us. We have a beautiful building and it costs money to operate and maintain it. And our various program activities take money as well as members' time.

While some churches may charge people for each service they provide, that isn't the way most churches operate. Most churches provide the services each person needs — particularly because most of those services are intangible and impossible to price — and asks the recipient to pay according to their ability. That's just of the way most churches are. Even the new pope is now stressing the need for the Church to serve the poor. There are those among us who are not only poor in money but also poor in

time and energy. A church of whatever religion or denomination calls upon its flock to be generous. Those that have need to give more to help support those who have not.

April brings us to our annual drive for support. This is the time when the Church asks its members and users to pledge their support of its program. Last year we asked not only financial support but also pledges of time and energy to do the many jobs that need doing. We will do so again this year. But, let's face it, money is the critical issue here. With the sparse funds we have, we are looking for a quarter time minister since we cannot afford the half time minister that the Rev. Marguerite was. Without more generosity on the part of our users and members, we might not be able to afford even that. And we also have a religious education program, a music program, a building to maintain and a community outside the Church to serve. These too cost money. More generosity on the part of our members and users is badly needed.

Within our small congregation we will not mount a fancy fund drive. We don't have the members' time and energy for one. We will just point out the need for even greater support and hope our people will understand the need and be motivated to give generously.

John White



The Mouse trap !

A Mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife opening a package. "What food might this contain?" He was devastated to discover it was a mouse trap.

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning. "There is a mouse trap in the house!; there is a mouse trap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mouse trap in the house" The pig sympathized but said, "I am so very sorry Mr. Mouse, But there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured that you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow. She said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you. But it's no skin off my nose." So the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mouse trap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house like the sound of a mouse trap catching its

prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness she did not see that it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught.

The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital and she returned home with a fever.

Now everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient.

But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig.

The farmer's wife did not get well. She died; And so many people came for her funeral the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

So next time you hear that someone is facing a problem and think that it doesn't concern you, remember that when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and be willing to make that extra effort to encourage one another and help one another.

Author unknown

Do you have Email?

If you have email and are not receiving this newsletter electronically, please send us the email address so we can send it that way and save on paper and postage. The environment will thank you. Email whites573@verizon.net

Or if you 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.

