



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**

**The September Church Calendar
is on page 3**

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Sunday, September 8, 2013

**TO ALL LEGAL MEMBERS OF THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WINCHENDON**

You are hereby notified to meet and consider the following articles **in the Parish Hall of the Church on Sunday, September 8, 2013 at 11 A.M.**

ARTICLE I. To choose a moderator for the government of the meeting.

ARTICLE II. To see if the members will change the time of the regular Sunday service to 5 P. M. or some other appropriate time and to make any other necessary changes in the church schedule, or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE III. To see if the members will chose persons to fill the existing vacancies on the Governing Board or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE IV. To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

David Faucher, Chair Allen Gordon James McCrohon
John H. White, Treasurer Governing Board

WHAT TIME ON SUNDAY?

A special governing board meeting was convened on Sunday, August 11. Our musician of the past year, Lucinda Ellert, has accepted a better offer and will not be available for our usual Sunday mornings. What do we do?

That resulted in a very wide ranging discussion. Do we just look for another pianist/organist for Sunday mornings? It would mean the third new musician search in three years.

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FROM YOUR MINISTER

Welcome to a new church year at the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Winchendon, a year which brings many changes and opportunities for all of us. The church has a new minister. We're making new plans for the RE program. We're considering a different time for the service itself. We're standing at a crossroads—not a simple crossing of two streets but a complicated rotary with numerous avenues feeding into it and a wide choice of exits. Everyone in the congregation is affected by the decisions we'll make, and all of you may bring your wishes, needs and opinions to the table. That's what it means to be Unitarian-Universalist.

We'll be launching our new year on Sunday, September 8. Feel free to join us at 8:30 a.m. for the Welcome Table Breakfast in the Parish Hall. At 10:00 a.m. we'll gather for the multi-generational Water Communion Service. Please bring a small container of water to share, related to an event or experience from this past summer. We'll pour the water into one large bowl to symbolize our unity as a congregation. Following the service, we will hold a congregational meeting to vote on a proposed change in the regular Sunday service time from 10:00 in the morning to 5:00 p.m.

The element of Water is related spiritually to emotions, memories, dreams, feelings, and the unconscious mind. It is also the element associated with the season of Autumn, which officially begins on September 22. When we work with Water, we're connecting with our power to adapt, to flow and shift and accept transformation. Water is the only substance that exists in three forms at ordinary temperatures. We see it as a gas, or vapor, in steam,

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clouds and fog—and in the humid weather we had so much of this summer. We see it as a liquid in lakes, streams and rain. We see it as a solid when it freezes into ice, or falls from the sky as hail, sleet and snow. Water can completely fill a space of any shape, and yet its surface is always perfectly level. Water reflects back everything above it and holds mystery in its depths.

In times of change, we can draw on the spirit of Water which lies within all of us. We can allow ourselves to flow, to fill spaces that have taken new shapes or grown, to merge our thoughts and feelings with those of our friends and neighbors and family, to see that what we have in common is stronger than our disagreements.

It has been a summer of extremes. We've had stretches of record-breaking heat and humidity alternating with downpouring deluges and flood warnings. Many people have found their personal lives going through sudden and drastic turmoil as well. It seems that the political rhetoric and public commentary all around us has been full of fury, passion, outrage and hyperbole. It's hard to get through everyday tasks when the weather is oppressive or violent. It's hard to come to understanding when so many people are too upset to do anything but shout.

Water has the power to calm passions, temper heat and sooth pain. As Unitarian-Universalists, we are a faith of reason, but we also appreciate depth of feeling and commitment. As we reunite with our Water Communion Service, we can imagine doing what kids do on that first hot day at the beach—run fearlessly to the end of the dock, hold our breath and jump in.

Inanna Arthen, M. Div.

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 Inanna 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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Could we do something else for music such as pre recorded? While this was seen as possible, it would mean extra work for someone. That someone might be Ms. Inanna if she were conducting the service. This would likely take time away from her pastoral and promotional duties.

How important is music to our worship? Could we have a musician only part of the Sundays? Could we somehow find part time musicians to supplement our program?

Could we change the time of service so that Lucinda might be available? Is 10 am. sacrosanct? It was mentioned that if we were to have an 11:15 or 11:30 service she might be available. It was pointed out that our service was at 11 for over a hundred years. Then came the discussion about people's Sunday schedules. It was suggested that our present 10 am. time generally means there is too little time to do much before church and our various activities often run past noon: the day is pretty well broken up.

It was suggested that we might change to a late afternoon or evening service instead of one on Sunday morning. This would certainly be a major change for our Church. It wasn't mentioned that some, particularly smaller, churches have done this. Neither was it mentioned that our church as well as many other Unitarian churches had afternoon vesper services back in the late 19th century. The unasked question was whether our people would come.

Times were mentioned. 4 pm? 5 pm? 7 pm? What about fellowship before or after such a service. How would it fit in with people's schedules? Lots of questions and no definitive answers from the few people present. It seemed that a possible 5 pm. service might be best with the possibility of some organized fellowship afterward.

The next question was whether the governing board could implement such a change. It appears that they could under our bylaws, but that it wouldn't be good policy. The whole congregation needs to be involved in such a major decision. A few ideas were offered.

The decision was that we will hold our first service on September 8 at the usual 10 am. time and that we will hold a congregational meeting following that service to allow the whole congregation to make a decision on our worship going forward.

Calendar of Church Events

Monday, Sept. 2, 7 PM. AA meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 4, 6:30 PM. Governing Board Meeting, John White's. Church members invited
Sunday, Sept. 8, 8:30 AM – 9:15 AM. Welcome Table Breakfast
Sunday, Sept. 8, 10 AM Morning Worship: Water Communion, Inanna Arthen preaching
Sunday, Sept. 8, 11 AM. Special Congregational meeting on hour of Sunday service
Monday, Sept. 9, 7 PM. AA meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 10, 4:30 PM Brownies
Sunday, Sept. 15, Sunday Worship, Time to be decided
Monday, Sept. 16, 7 PM. AA meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 4:30 PM Brownies
Sunday, Sept. 22, Sunday Worship, Time to be decided
Monday, Sept. 23, 7 PM. AA meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 24, 4:30 PM Brownies
Tuesday, Sept. 24, 5 PM. October newsletter material
Thursday, Sept. 26, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen. (low price meal – everyone invited)
Sunday, Sept. 29, Sunday Worship, Time to be decided

RE News

Welcome Back!

The Religious Education Committee welcomes everyone, young and old, to the new church year! We are looking forward to having you and your family not only at our weekly Sunday School programs for the children, but at also family orientated programs that have been popular in the past, such as apple picking, the mitten drive for the Winchendon CAC, the Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive, and other fun activities. We would love to know what other type of programs you would like to see as well.

In our church school, "We come together to remind ourselves, to treat all people kindly, because they are our brothers and sisters; to take good care of the earth because it is our home; and to live lives full

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BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Willard White September 11

Sue Faucher September 15

BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

Tracy Gambill October 5

Hannah Gordon October 10

Katherine Faucher October 11

John White October 16

Ron Gaspard October 20

of goodness and love, because that is how we will make our world the best place it can be." Come join us as we take time to remind our youngest members of our responsibilities to each other and the earth (and have fun doing it too!).

With best wishes for the church year,

Religious Education Committee Members
Sue Faucher and Wendy O'Brien

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.