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WORSHIP SERVICE 5 P.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**



Calendar of Church Events

- Sunday, Nov. 3, , 2 PM. Rehearsal for Messiah
- Sunday, Nov. 3, 4:30 PM. Children's Choir**
- Sunday, Nov. 3, 5 PM. Sunday Worship: Regional Fall Association Sunday, Inanna Arthen**
- Sunday, Nov. 3 6 PM. Light Potluck supper**
- Monday, Nov. 4, 6:30 PM. Governing Board Meeting,**
John White's. Church members invited
- Monday, Nov. 4, 7 PM. AA meeting
- Tuesday, Nov. 5, 4:30 PM Brownies
- Sunday, Nov. 10, 2 PM. Rehearsal for Messiah
- Sunday, Nov. 10, 4:30 PM. Children's Choir**
- Sunday, Nov. 10, 5 PM. Sunday Worship: Chalice Circle service on Faith**
- Sunday, Nov. 10, 6 PM. Light Potluck supper**
- Monday, Nov. 11, 7 PM. AA meeting
- Tuesday, Nov. 12, 4:30 PM Brownies

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FROM YOUR MINISTER

November is the one month of the year which includes a day intended to encourage feelings of gratitude and thankfulness. More than any other holiday, Thanksgiving traditionally focuses on family, community, and sharing. Eating a large meal with other people is central to the festivities. I've attended several friends' Thanksgiving dinners, and I also participated in some amazing, multi-cultural Thanksgiving dinners prepared by the guests in the shelter where I was a counselor. It was interesting to be in a large group of people from many different places and backgrounds, and find how many "family traditions" for Thanksgiving Day we had in common.



One such tradition is "saying grace" before the meal. For many people, Thanksgiving dinner is the only gathering of the year which starts with a prayer. When we "say grace" before breaking bread, we're almost always "offering thanks" or invoking a sense of gratitude for the food, our companions, and the blessings in our life. Just how sincerely we feel that gratitude is another story! But what do we mean by "grace" when we speak of this prayer?

"Grace" is a complex concept in Christian theology, but in simple terms, it refers to those blessings which are given to us without our earning or "deserving" them in any way. Grace is bestowed on us by God without any consideration of merit. To

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traditional Christians, this includes the gift of salvation, but to Unitarian-Universalists, no one is refused that gift. “Grace,” for us, extends far beyond that. Nearly everything that makes our lives enjoyable, wondrous or even possible is a form of Grace. It is a gift, something we didn’t earn, make or buy, which no one can earn, make, or buy, something without which none of us could earn, make or buy anything at all.

Life itself is a Grace given to us. The entire natural world and everything in it is a Grace given to us. Other people—their companionship, nurturing, love, help, comfort, entertainment and teaching—are a Grace given to us. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, the light of day, the resources and materials from which we make our shelter, tools, and art—every bit of it a gift, given to us freely and unconditionally, impossible for us to create for ourselves. The things in our lives which we “earn” or “pay for” or “work for” are such a tiny sliver of the whole bounty of good things we enjoy every day, they’re almost insignificant.

There are people who place enormous value on the things they think they have “earned” or “paid for.” They’re very concerned with what they, and other people, do and do not “deserve.” They jealously guard their “rights” and talk about people “who are too lazy to work” or “expect a handout.” They fail to recognize that every single one of us depends on “handouts” from the moment we draw our first breath to the day we’re laid to rest, no matter what kind of job we have or how much wealth we accrue. We are in debt to God and the Universe for our very existence and everything in our lives, and we are morally obligated to repay our Grace by sharing it with others. True gratitude doesn’t mean simply reflecting on how fortunate we are. It means extending our good fortune to everyone and everything within our reach.

When you say grace before Thanksgiving dinner this year, take a moment to reflect on this. Along with the traditional foods, the complicated family dynamics, the football games on TV and all the customs and celebrating, think about how much of your life is a gift, poured out onto you with boundless

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RE NEWS

We’ve been having some fun times in RE at the UUCW! Susan Faucher has been teaching Sunday School classes. The kids have made fall-themed crafts, including painted jack o’lanterns, and folded paper pumpkins which decorated the tables at Our Neighbor’s Kitchen community supper on October 24.

On Saturday, October 5, RE families past and current all met at Red Apple Farm for several hours of activities. We had a bumpy hayride around the orchards, and stopped midway in a field of sugar pumpkins where everyone found a pumpkin to bring home. We picked bags of apples right from the trees, saw the farm animals and had lunch at the farm’s barbeque stand. It was cloudy but dry, and a lovely day to be outdoors and exploring the rolling hillsides covered with fruit trees. This has become an established annual event, and we hope that everyone can join us next year.

On Saturday, October 19, several of the RE families worked all day on the bake sale whose proceeds benefitted the RE program, along with our last outdoor church tag sale until spring and a mitten drive. We’d like to thank everyone who visited the tag sale and bake sale and supported the church with your purchases!

All the kids participated in the multigenerational—and multimedia—service on October 27, which included two slide shows about Halloween themes. We saw the story of where jack o’lanterns come from, with two real jack o’lanterns for the young people to see—one carved from a rutabaga in the old style. We then had a presentation about Samhain and All Hallows and how they combined to make our modern Halloween.

Our musician, Lucinda Ellert, has been holding Children’s Choir practice on Sundays before the service. The church has purchased a set of songbooks, *May This Light Shine*, which is full of wonderful songs and chants for the kids to learn. If your child likes to sing and would be interested in joining the choir, he or she would be most welcome! The Children’s Choir is learning a song which will be included in our service on November 17.

If you would be interested in teaching some Sunday School classes, we’d love to hear from you! Please contact me with your suggestions or questions at any time.

—Inanna Arthen, M.Div.

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

We've come to another flip of the calendar. October was a good month in our community. There were a lot of positive things happening around the congregation.

October is a popular month to be born during. We celebrated many birthdays Katherine Faucher, Tracy Gambill, Ronald Gaspard, Hannah Gordon, Heather LaChance, "J" McCrohon, . There was also a special birthday party for John White put on by his family at the church celebrating his 85 years on earth.

Mid-month we concluded our Yard Sales / Flea Markets for the season. This initiative brought in



several hundred dollars into the church coffers over the four events. It also helped to solidify the foot traffic around the Winchendon Farmer's Market, using our lawn since mid-June two days a week. The Yard Sale, Farmer's Market, and other cooperative events happening out in front of the church re-

mind us that we are part of the larger community of Winchendon and we sometimes need to step outside the church building to grow. I would also like to thank a couple of people who were key in making these yard sales happen. Allan Gordon first proposed and was there at every yard sale and Sue Faucher managed the sales on the church tables. Without their Saturday mornings and help these events wouldn't have happened. Sue tells me this has already got her thinking about how to improve on this next year or even a possible indoor winter yard sale. Our final yard sale, the Religious Education Committee's Bake Sale was supported with long hours in the kitchen by Inanna Arthen, Tracy Gambill, Julia White-Cardinal, and Sue Faucher.

There was a lot happening on the lawn this summer and fall. The Winchendon Farmer's Market was a successful partnership which hopefully will continue next spring. The foot traffic helped our events

and we helped draw more people to the market vendors. I would like to thank Patty Stanko, who was critical in offering use of the lawn for the Winchendon Farmer's Market and the Agricultural Committee of Winchendon for accepting the offer.

We also had a change in our Religious Education program. Wendy O'Brien stepped down as the head RE teacher. Wendy has been with the RE program at the church for a very long time and will be greatly missed. Sue Faucher has stepped into her role and continues the tradition of providing a Unitarian Universalist religious education to the children of the congregation under the support and direction of our minister Inanna Arthen. I wish Wendy hope for a brighter tomorrow and the knowledge that she will always be welcome in this community of support.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen started a new tradition of having a Harvest Dinner in October. There was roast pork loin, lentils cooked in hard apple cider, seasonal squashes, and an apple walnut salad on the menu. We were down a couple of volunteers this month. Liz Strong who has been helping since last winter was in the hospital. I would like to wish her a speedy recovery. Inanna Arthen, Ward Clark, The Faucher's, The Winchendon School, and John White kept things moving along.

October was a fun month too! The start of the month brought our annual apple picking at Red Apple Farm. Nothing says fall like riding through the pumpkin fields and apple orchards on a hayride. Some of these apples came back in the form of tasty treats to our Sunday evening potlucks. Closing the month out we had a movie night with the Gordon's and Faucher's at in the parish hall to watch "Hotel Transylvania."

We are a church and our Sunday Services ended on a high note this month with Inanna Arthen's presentation of "Crossing the Threshold." Her talk about Samhain and its history and the sources of our Halloween imagery brought a spot light onto our continuum with the pagan traditions of ancient Ireland.

Inanna spoke of the October being the threshold of the darker part of the year. I know November as being the meteorological end of autumn. It's also known as the gap between foliage and ski weather known as "mud season." Whatever you want to call my you have a wonderful November.

Thanks and Peace
Dave Faucher



Volunteers Wanted

Volunteering is a great way to participate in the congregation and help the community. It's also a means of building and expanding your skills, meeting new people, and having fun. Right now we are looking for people interested in helping out in following ways:

- RE Teacher
- Children's Programming
- Worship Services
- Governing Board
- Fairs and Flea Markets

If you are interested in one of these opportunities or have an idea about something you would like to do please contact our Minister, Inanna Arthen, or Governing Board Chair, Dave Faucher.

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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love and unqualified generosity. If we could all pass along even a fraction of what we receive to those who have less, we could make our world a much better place. It all starts with one word: "Grace."

Inanna Arthen, M.Div.

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BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Tim Elkins	November 03
Phyllis Priest	November 21
Elaine Gaspard	November 27

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Friday, Nov. 15, 7 PM. Toy Town Tunes

Sunday, Nov. 17, 2 PM. Rehearsal for Messiah

Sunday, Nov. 17, 4:30 PM. Children's Choir

Sunday, Nov. 17, 5 PM. Sunday Worship: Inanna Arthen

Sunday, Nov. 17, 6 PM. Light Potluck supper

Monday, Nov. 18, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 19, 4:30 PM Brownies

Thursday, Nov. 21, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen. (low price meal – everyone invited)

Sunday, Nov. 24, 2 PM. Rehearsal for Messiah

Sunday, Nov. 24, 4:30 PM. Children's Choir

Sunday, Nov. 24, 5 PM. Sunday Worship

Sunday, Nov. 24, 6 PM. Light Potluck supper

Sunday, Nov. 24, 7 PM. October newsletter material

Monday, Nov. 25, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 26, 4:30 PM Brownies

Friday, Nov. 29 10 AM. Toy Drive for Spirit of Christmas