



THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

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Rev. Marguerite Sheehan, MINISTER

CHURCH TELEPHONE: 978-297-0554

December 2011

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**

Annual Community Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24
7 P. M.

EVERYONE WELCOME
COME AND BRING YOUR

Church Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 4, 10 AM Morning Worship: Cindy Malley

Monday, December 5, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, December 6, 4:30 PM Brownies .

Sunday, December 11, 8:30 AM Welcome Table Breakfast

Sunday, December 11, 10 AM Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite

Sunday, December 11, 11:30 AM. Church Governing Board

Monday, December 12, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 4:30 PM. Brownies

Sunday, December 18, 10 AM Morning Worship: Julie Gambill

Monday, December 19, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, December 20, 4:30 PM .Brownies

Saturday, December 24, 7 PM. Annual Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25 NO MORNING WORSHIP

Monday, December 26, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, December 27, January newsletter material due

Thursday, December 29, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen
(low price meal – everyone invited)

Minister's Meditation

Are you ready for Christmas? People are already asking me this, and as usual I can confidently say "No!" I am not ready for Christmas and do not expect to be ready until the day arrives. I am someone who, although quite organized for most of my daily chores and responsibilities, is never ready for something like Christmas. Maybe because deep inside me there is still the faithful child who, although expecting and hoping for good things to come my way, also believes that there is something mysterious and graceful about life. In other words, I go about my life knowing that really I am not really in charge. Every Sunday in Advent we have been lighting our candles of hope and joy and love and peace. We have collected our mittens and toys for children who are in need. We are getting ready for Christmas Eve where we will tell the old stories and watch our beautiful children taking center stage. We are as ready as we will ever be. But in the end, we will not be ready. Something will likely go astray. Someone will forget their lines, or forget to put out the candy canes, or will sing a carol off tune. We will not be ready, but Christmas will come and God willing, we will be here to share it with each other. So in advance of that day, here is another way to think about "readiness" for Christmas.

No one is ever really ready for Christmas.

If we were really all prepared:

If every gift we had contemplated had been obtained;

If all the goodies our friends deserve were baked and cooled and stored just so;

If we never snapped at someone we care about,

(Minister's Meditation Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

nor stopped short of being all we could be;
 If our minds were 100% loving and our hearts
 were 100% generous;
 They would be ready - and truly not need Christ-
 mas quite so much.
 So come Christmas, most needed of seasons.
 Come with the reminder that love does not de-
 pend on perfection
 But on our willingness to risk connection.
 Come into the unready manger of our hearts that
 we may feel the warmth of new life
 And give flesh to the promise of hope that cries
 to bring healing into the world.
 Come Christmas! Come Love! Come Hope!
 Be born in our unready hearts on this silent and
 holy night.

(by M. Maureen Killoran)

Peace to all, Reverend Marguerite

CARING CONNECTIONS

UUCW is a caring congregation. Along with our Putnam Alliance, we reach out to each other to offer caring and we remember each others' joys and concerns. Please let Reverend Marguerite 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.

Phyllis and Mardis Priest have moved to Sunrise Senior Living in Leominster and would be happy to receive cards, phone calls or visits from old friends.

As a caring congregation we are invited also to keep up connections with Bertha Bryant who is living at the Baldwinville Nursing Home, Roger Bryant who is at home, and Charlotte Drury who resides at Broadview Assisted Living.

RE NEWS

Everyone involved with the Religious Education program will spend the next few Sundays preparing for the children's presentation on Christmas Eve. Each year we try to do something a little different, and this year we are doing "The First Christmas Carol", adapted from a poem by Rev. Dan Larsen. We do not rehearse outside of church time because families are so busy this time of year so it is important that children attend each of these next few Sundays. We will probably spend some time during a coffee hour (or two) practicing in the sanctuary as well. Invite family, friends, and neighbors to our Christmas Eve Service – it is always a beautiful evening!

It was an unseasonably warm day on our 7th Annual Toy Drive for the Spirit of Christmas. Our "elves", some wearing short sleeves, jingled their bells and wore their elf hats while collecting toys from vehicles in our drive-thru. Each donor received a candy cane and an invitation to our Christmas Eve Service, along with information on this month's Welcome Table Breakfast and Our Neighbors Kitchen. Lori Robinson was quite pleased with the donations, her kick off to the Christmas season. The children also spent the afternoon sipping hot chocolate, decorating the Christmas tree in the back of the sanctuary, and later taking a much deserved pizza break. Our first Sweet Sale attracted many patrons and was a delicious addition to our festivities.

Please note that there are no RE classes on New Year's Day.

Peace & Joy this Holiday Season!

Tracy

NOW ON FACEBOOK

Thanks to Donna Marchand, our congregation now has a page on Facebook:

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

Check it out and sign up as a friend. Questions? Call Donna at 978-730-8413.

Sign up downstairs to host coffee hour, to be our greeter or light our chalice. These jobs are fairly easy and greatly appreciated.

On November 25th, the church held a bake sale. I would personally like to thank our generous bakers, Tracy Gambill, Heather Mahoney, Sue Farcher and Pauline Michalewicz and my helpers, Heather Mahoney and Wendy O'Brien. I would also like to thank Julie Gambill for helping me set up and price the table that morning. Thank you all! Your efforts were greatly appreciated! – Cindy Malley

CHALICE GROUPS ON SABBATICAL

We have decided to put our chalice groups “on sabbatical” for the rest of this year. At this time we do not have the interest or the readiness or the scheduling ability to get together a spiritual reflection group that can sustain itself. That is the way of all good things. They have their time and place and then it is time to try something new. If you have an idea for how different people in our congregation and in the greater community might come together, whether in work or study or reflection or play, do not hesitate to bring up the idea. Congregations that are thriving are ones that are responsive to the needs of the people and are open to new ways of “doing church.” How can our congregation thrive and grow and celebrate our unique place in Winchendon. I would love to hear your thoughts about this question! What is the next “connection” on our horizon?
~ Rev Marguerite



Change Your Address?

If you do change your address, either 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.

Contact Information

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BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

Julie S. Gambill	12/15
Scott Gambill	12/31

COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

December 4	Dave Faucher
December 11	Welcome Table
December 18	Wendy O'Brien
December 25	No service

GREETERS

December 4	Erika Gambill
December 11	Cindy Malley
December 18	Volunteer needed
December 24, Christmas Eve	Volunteers needed

CHALICE LIGHTERS

December 4	Maddy Faucher
December 11	Volunteer needed
December 18	Erika Gambill
December 24, Christmas Eve	

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

126 Central Street P. O. Box 218

Winchendon, MA 01475

FIRST CLASS MAIL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



For more information, service times, and past topics, please visit our website at

www.uuwinchendon.org

Please watch for updates, new sermons, and Photos of good times



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon

is a member of the

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

<http://uua.org>