



THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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Rev. Marguerite Sheehan, MINISTER
CHURCH TELEPHONE: 978-297-0554

September 2012

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**

Church Calendar of Events

- Monday, Sept. 3, 7 PM. AA meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 5, 6:30 PM. Governing Board Meeting, Pine Room. All members are invited.
Sunday, Sept. 9, 8:30 AM Welcome Table Breakfast
Sunday, Sept. 9, 10 AM Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite. Water Communion Sunday
Monday, Sept. 10, 7 PM. AA meeting
Sunday, Sept. 16, 10 AM Morning Worship: Julie Gambill
Monday, Sept. 17, 7 PM. AA meeting
Sunday, Sept. 23, 10 AM Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite
Monday, Sept. 24, 7 PM. AA meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 25, October newsletter material due
Thursday, Sept. 27, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen (low price meal – everyone invited)
Sunday, Sept. 30, 10 AM Morning Worship: Cindy Malley

Our Neighbors Kitchen

We are a volunteer effort and have three main opportunities for volunteers to pitch in on the day of the meal. Setup takes place on Thursday between 3 PM. and 4 PM. and helps get the tables ready for the meal. People looking to help serve are suggested to be present around 5 PM. to review any special instructions for the meal and will have time to sit, eat and share in fellowship. Cleanup begins as the meal is completed, around 6:15 PM., and usually completes shortly after 7 PM.

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MINISTER'S REFLECTION

Welcome back to church! What a long summer it has been and now as the days grow shorter how quickly it seems that it is ending and we are planning our “home coming” service. I know that while our formal Sunday services have been on hiatus, churching (meaning all that we do as a congregation to spread love and light in our world) has not really stopped. You have been spreading the message of our Unitarian Universalist faith wherever you have been all summer. This summer especially our church has been “on the move” worshipping and sharing fellowship with other Unitarian Universalists in North Central MA. Did you get to any of the joint services or other events? From talking with some of you I know that you have also reached out to each other to keep in touch and to share good and hard times. Our Governing Board gathered for a summer retreat, looking back and forward on the work of the congregation. Also I heard via the grape vine that a great time was had at John White’s home for the church picnic. I hope that during this hiatus of formal churching you had some rest and re-creation in these months, refreshing your spirits and your souls and reminding you of your connections with All That Is.

This year we will be gathering together for our “home coming” service and water communion on September 9th. For those of you who are not familiar with this Unitarian Universalist ritual, it is simply and profoundly, a way of communing with each other by sharing the waters of our lives. We each

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bring a small amount of water that is either literally from some source of refreshment from our summer (a pool or lake or the ocean..) or that symbolizes that refreshment. We combine all these waters together and bless them by sharing a few words about what has moved us, strengthened us or brought healing to us over these months. This water will be used later in the church year if we are blessed to have any child dedications. So when you come to church on September 9th bring a small container of water to share. Bring a friend or acquaintance too! What a good way to continue spreading the good word of our faith.

As a preview of the fall, we will be opening our church after the church service on Oct 14th to Unitarian Universalists from our local area. We will be having a potluck lunch and then all gather back in the sanctuary to participate in an interactive program called Gathered Here, where we all have a time to talk about what is moving and shaking about Unitarian Universalism and how we see the future of our faith tradition. On November 11th we are invited to travel to the Unitarian church in Petersham for an inter-church worship service, lead by the minister of that church, Reverend Michelle LaGrave. And finally, at some time this year (TBA) we will be having a recognition ceremony as we acknowledge the history and good work of the Putnam Alliance and how that group has officially disbanded but how the work continues within the congregation.

So, as you can see, church does not stop and thank goodness. We need each other too much and we have too much to offer and to gain by our gathering together. Thank goodness also for summer breaks, as all of us need time of refreshment. See you all on September 9th at 10AM as we come back to church!

Blessings,

Reverend Marguerite

RE NEWS

Welcome to a new Church Year!

The Religious Education Committee (REC) works with the Director of Religious Education (DRE) to run the RE program and plan multigenerational events. REC members include Susan Faucher, Heather Mahoney, Dana Malley, and Wendy O'Brien. Many fun things are planned for the coming months such as mini-golf, apple picking, game day, bowling, and movie nights. Anyone is welcome to attend an REC meeting (scheduled as needed) and/or offer comments and suggestions for such events ... or for ideas about Religious Education, in general.

Children will begin most Sunday mornings worshipping with their families in the sanctuary at 10AM. After the "Story for All Ages", children and teachers go downstairs to their class areas. Classes are designed to end at about 11AM. so we ask that if the service concludes early, adults remain upstairs until that time to allow classes to finish. Typically one Sunday each month, all children meet in the pine room for a "Children's Worship" during their RE time. There we listen to one another, share stone communion, sing, and do a craft or activity together. There are also intergenerational services scheduled throughout the church year when classes will not be held (though nursery is available). These are important times for everyone to worship in the sanctuary together.

The nursery is available each week for ages 3 and under. Sue Faucher can answer any questions you may have regarding nursery care. Religious Education classes will be blended a little differently this year – Wendy O'Brien will teach the Chalice Children class of K – 1st grade in the pine room and I will lead the Explorers class of 2nd grade and older in the parish hall. *Please note that ages/grades for RE programs are approximate and are dependent on a variety of things, including individual readiness.*

Each month, I would like to include a bit of **Adult Religious Education** in the newsletter. Whether the information is new to you, or you already know it, I hope to encourage everyone to read the RE News and perhaps take a deeper look at the topics covered. As Unitarian Universalists, our 3rd and 4th principles remind us that we encourage spiritual growth

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in our congregations and a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. In that spirit, I offer this new piece...

What is Rosh Hashanah? Meaning "First of the Year" in Hebrew, it is a solemn time for Jewish people to reflect on their sins over the past year, seek forgiveness, and pledge to do better in the coming year. It is from sundown Sept. 16 through sundown Sept. 18 this year and begins the "High Holy Days" – ten days of repentance, prayer, and charity. These ten days end on **Yom Kippur**, the holiest day of the year. Known as the Day of Atonement, it is a day of fasting and prayers. This year it starts at sundown Sept. 25 and ends at sundown Sept. 26. There are symbols and rituals related to the High Holy Days, including sounding the shofar (ram's horn), eating sweets in hopes of a sweet year to come, and casting off sins in a river. L'Shanah Tovah (li-SHAH-nuh TOH-vuh) is a wish for a good year.

Please feel free to speak with me at coffee hour or call/email to share your thoughts. I'd like to hear what's on your mind!

Tracy Gambill, DRE

Chalice Children Class

Hello! This year in the Chalice Children's class we will be using the curriculum "We are Many, We are One." Tracy and I have used this curriculum several times in the past, and I am so pleased to be able to use it again with a new group of students! The philosophy of the curriculum is that children learn about religion through relationships with one another and the outside world. The specific objectives are:

- feel support and affirmation for their individuality
- experience a sense of belonging and importance as members of a group
- being learning how to make their class a peaceful and friendly place
- connect with the classroom and congregation as an open, straightforward place where all aspects of life can be discussed

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Contact Information

Minister: **Rev. Marguerite Sheehan**

Phone: 413-253-9938

Email: msheehan222@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: **Tracy Gambill**

Phone 978-297-0023

Email: tgambill@uuwinchendon.org

Board chair: **David Faucher**

Phone 978-632-5588

Email: dfaucher@on24seven.com

Board Members:

Cindy Malley, vice chair; b.charmer@verizon.net

Wendy O'Brien, secretary; wendy@webgurus.com

John White, treasurer; whites573@verizon.net

Building & Grounds chair, treasurer, interim newsletter editor:

John White

Phone 978-297-0716

Email: whites573@verizon.net

Organist / Pianist:

Sexton (Custodian): **Sue Faucher**

Phone 978-632-5588

Email: sfaucher@on24seven.com

BIRTHDAY IN SEPTEMBER

Susan Faucher

September 15

COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

No information available

GREETERS & CHALICE LIGHTERS

.No information available

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.

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.

Putnam Alliance

By Wendy O'Brien

In 1848, even prior to the existence of our church building, women in the Winchendon area founded the Putnam Alliance. Among their objectives were, "to quicken religious life and promote fellowship in our church, to aid in extending the Unitarian faith, to lend a helping hand to worthy causes, and to further the intellectual and spiritual growth of our members." Over the years, the Alliance has continued these objectives, changing them as the church needs changed, but always with the purpose of "lending a helping hand."

For over 100 years the Alliance, then mostly known as the Putnam Benevolent Society, served as a ladies' auxiliary to the church. Originally church membership consisted only of men. Women were unlikely work outside the home. Radio, television, and even movies did not exist. The internet was far in the future. While there was always plenty of work at home, they were happy for an opportunity to socialize and work together for the good of the church. Meetings were held in the afternoon of the first Wednesday of the month except in the summer. For many years the Alliance put on large monthly suppers and arranged entertainment afterwards. At the same time they also contributed to the official church activities. Over time more women were unable to attend in the afternoon and many became more involved directly in the church organization. The governing board of the church has gone from having no women to, often, a majority being women. .

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We will start by focusing on how each of us is important and special. I will be sending letters to your children before our first class meeting on Sunday, September 15th, introducing myself and asking your child to bring in something that reminds them of summer that they may want to share with the class. As always, if you have any special concerns or comments, please feel free to talk to either Tracy or myself (603-585-9106 or at wendy@webgurus.com). I'm looking forward to a great church school year!

Best wishes,
Wendy O'Brien

In more recent years, members of the Alliance have coordinated our coffee hour, written countless cards and letters to those who were "lonely or discouraged," provided flowers for the altar and to those who were ill, and raised funds both for the use of the Alliance and the UUCW.

In 2012, while these primary needs of the church have not changed, society has. Women now have many commitments outside of church life. In fact, many of us come to church seeking solace from the business of daily life. Gradually, over the years, many of the Alliance activities have shifted to the regular congregation. Church members now coordinate coffee hour, send out birthday cards, get well cards, and sympathy cards. Our wonderful minister, Rev. Marguerite, and many members have been so helpful to others by visiting the housebound and assisting those who need help after illness. Beginning in 2011, the church members took on organizing and running the annual Solstice Fair, and in 2012 brought in more than \$1,000.

At the start of the 2011-2012 church year, it became clear that Putnam Alliance was losing its relevance in today's world, as there was only one active member. This past June after notice to all known former Alliance members and other church women, seven women from our current congregation met, paid their annual dues to the Alliance, and discussed the Alliance's future. It was determined, after much thoughtful discussion, to dissolve the Alliance. The primary reason for dissolution was that all of the former duties of Alliance members had been gradually absorbed by the church membership. It was decided that in memory of all the women who were members in Putnam Alliance, recent and in the past, that we would hold a formal ceremony during a service in the church year. Alliance funds would be used first to pay off the remaining amounts for the Equal Access Entrance and the recent refinishing of the church's front doors. Remaining Alliance funds and property would be then transferred over to the UUCW during the formal service.

While it is sad to say good bye to one of our most cherished church organizations, it is important to realize how our congregation has grown spiritually through helping others. By "picking up" the former duties of Alliance members, our members, both men and women, have shown their love for each other, this church, and the wider community. We truly are a church of the open mind, loving heart, helping hands, and caring community.

Summary of UUCW Governing Board Meeting, June 28, 2012

Efforts will be made by various Board Members during July and August to secure a pianist for the 2012-2013 church year. Various summer activities will be offered this summer, including the Monadnock Lyceum Series in Peterborough, NH; on July 8th, the UUCW will holding its monthly breakfast and then carpool up to Winchester, NH to the Universalist Heritage Center; and a UUCW summer potluck picnic was scheduled for August 18th. Concerning the church building, it was decided to prioritize the repair of the outside door handle in case other groups that use the building are having problems with it. Regarding the lift, John stated that he had submitted the application and the fee to the state and is waiting to hear back.

This year's Summer Solstice Fair raised \$1,158, which is a significant increase over last year's total. It was noted that more activities were held in the field behind the Clark, reducing the number of people in the front. It was decided to hold a Fall Fair in October, and hopefully combine it with the REC's mitten drive and bake sale. Names of new vendors are being collected from other area fairs. The Board approved a wedding application for July 13, 2013. It was decided to schedule the Governing Board summer retreat for Sunday, August 5th from 10-2.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy O'Brien

Organist / Pianist

Bob Popple resigned as our organist / pianist as of June 10. Bob said he very much liked our people and our instruments. However, he is an orthodox Christian and felt our Unitarian Universalist messages did not speak to him. He needs a really Christian church. We will miss him and his fine music. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

Wheelchair Lift

That is its official name, per the state elevator board, regardless of what we call it or what it gets used for. It was taken out of service late last spring when it became apparent that its inspection certificate was long out of date. We put in a new application promptly after we got the form, but the state seems to move slowly about such things.

Finally on August 21 the inspector arrived. The lift was found to work perfectly, but the rules have changed and the lift has to brought into compliance. The most critical change, that the key locks at the various levels and on the car are no longer required or even allowed, was an easy fix. While the key switches are still there, they no longer work or are needed. **The lift is now back in operation.**

Now all one has to do is push the button and the lift will come to your level. You have about 6 seconds to open the door. Then get in and **push and hold** the button on the car for the level you want to reach. If the car's movement startles you and you let go of the button, you won't be the first one. Just push again and hold it until you reach your level. You will have about 6 seconds to open the door. If you miss, just push the button for your level again and you will be able to get out.

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The meal is sustained by gifts from the people who attend, the religious communities of Winchendon, the Winchendon Community Action Committee, and its many volunteers.

If you or someone you know would like to receive prior notice about the ONK menu, send me an email or sign up at the meal.

Dave Faucher
Our Neighbor's Kitchen, Head Cook / Organizer
dfaucher@on24seven.com