

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954 Published by the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon



Volume 58 Issue 9

INANNA ARTHEN, M.DIV, MINISTER

Church Telephone 978-297-0554

MAY 2014

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 5:00 P.M.

PO 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

Monday, May 5

7:00 p.m. - AA Meeting

Tuesday, May 6

4:30 p.m. - Brownies

Sunday, May 11

5:00 p.m. - Sunday Worship - Mother's Day

Worship Leader: Inanna Arthen

6:00 p.m. - Post-Service Light Potluck Supper

Monday, May 12

7:00 p.m. - AA Meeting

Tuesday, May 13

4:30 pm - Brownies

Sunday, May 18

5:00 p.m. - Sunday Worship: "Humanist Gardens of the Renaissance"

Worship Leader: James McCrohan

6:00 p.m. - Post-Service Light Potluck Supper

Monday, May 19

7:00 p.m. - AA Meeting

Tuesday, May 20

4:30 pm - Brownies



Sunday, May 25

5:00 p.m. - Sunday Worship

6:00 p.m. - Post-Service Light Potluck Supper

Monday, May 26

7:00 p.m. - AA Meeting

Tuesday, May 27

4:30 pm - Brownies

Thursday, May 29

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen community supper. All are welcome!

Sunday, Jun 1

7:00 p.m. - Sunday Worship: RE Sunday

6:00 p.m. - Post Service Ice Cream Social

Monday, Jun 2

7:00 p.m. - AA Meeting

Tuesday, Jun 3

4:30 pm - Brownies

Sunday, Jun 8

5:00 p.m. - Sunday Worship: Flower Communion Service (multigenerational)

6:00 p.m. - **Congregational Meeting** and potluck.

This is our last Sunday service until September 8.

From Your Minister

If we had to pick a month in the calendar that fitted the adjective, "friendly," many of us would pick the month of May. As spring and warm weather advance in earnest, we feel expansive and generous. School is coming to an end and we're planning summer events and vacations. As we get outside for yard and garden work, we're seeing more of our neighbors. May begins with the Pagan holiday of Beltane, a fiery fertility festival with a saucy reputation—our ancient ancestors, so tradition goes, got to know each other *very* well at Beltane. We're more decorous nowadays, but love is surely in the air, singing with the birds and whispering in the soft breezes.

Friendship is something we need nowadays. The organization Lifeboat (<http://getlifeboat.com/>), formed to encourage and celebrate friendship, posted its "State of Friendship in America" report for 2013 on its website. They found that 75% of Americans are "not satisfied" with their friendships, while 63% say they're "not confident" about their friends. That seems like a rather high percentage of people who feel that something critical is missing in their lives. Boomers and Gen-Xers reported the highest level of dissatisfaction with their friend situation. Facebook activity had no correlation, either positive or negative, with real-life friends. Social media simply isn't the same thing.

How important are friendships? They can be vital to both our emotional and physical health. The website WebMD reports that cancer patients with strong social networks tend to live longer and experience better quality of life and response to treatment. People with a large circle of friends live longer after a heart attack than those with few friends. Satisfying social connections help us feel relaxed and at peace.

The Mayo Clinic asserts that the benefits of friendship include increased sense of belonging and life purpose, more happiness and less stress, and higher confidence and self-worth. Friends help you get through life traumas and can encourage you to avoid self-destructive habits such as excessive drinking or lack of exercise. But, the Clinic acknowledges,

“Many adults find it hard to develop new friendships or keep up existing friendships. Friendships may take a back seat to other priorities, such as work or caring for children or aging parents. You and your friends may have grown apart due to changes in your lives or interests. Or maybe you’ve moved to a new community and haven’t yet found a way to meet people. Developing and maintaining good friendships takes effort.”

But it needn’t take extraordinary effort. Kindling and nurturing friendships, and a strong supportive community, is one of the key functions of a church—especially a Unitarian Universalist church, which has no dogma or creed to preach but rather affirms acceptance and welcome to all. The Mayo Clinic lists “joining a faith community” as one of the six main ways that adults can make new friends. Lifeboat found that only about a quarter of Americans insist that their friends share their religious or spiritual outlook, and even fewer prioritize friends with the same political views. But a driving force behind social media involvement is the quest to find like-minded souls, people who have the same values and interests as we do. We’re looking for some group that makes us feel like we belong.

A place where you belong: that’s the role of a church, especially a liberal denomination like the Unitarian Universalists. What other institution is designed to follow us through every passage in our lives? We’re brought into a congregation as babies, grow up in its church school, marry in its sanctuary, bring our own children to church, and at the end of our lives our minister presides at our funeral. A church offers us a way to engage with the greater community and assist those in need, in more rewarding and direct ways than simply sending a check to some distant non-

profit organization. A church gives us a place to bring our sorrows and fears and find sympathy and comfort. Ministers are trained in counseling and intervention. Many congregations have a variety of special interest groups, committees and projects, and if you don’t find the one you’d most like to participate in, you’re free to start it up and invite others to join you.

Simple friendship is something we need at all times, not just when things are tough or we’re going through a major life change. Many people, of all denominations, have stopped attending church on a regular basis. But what are they missing out on? Shared experiences are the foundation stones of relationships; attending services gives you something to talk about with everyone else in the congregation. UUs by definition are on a path of exploration and spiritual growth. No one is going to tell you what to think in a UU church, but you’ll probably find many things worth thinking about.

I’m a part of many small groups and communities of all different sorts, and almost all of them are suffering from a lack of participation and member drift. Sometimes it seems to me that people tend to focus on the half-empty part of the glass. A congregation or community doesn’t have to be a perfect fit for you to have a place there. You won’t get along with everyone. Belonging is a complicated thing. It takes time to develop, and it shouldn’t be cast away lightly.

Times are tough, and it’s in just such times that we need each other more than ever. Why should you come to church? Because you have friends here, whether you know it or not. The door is always open for you. This is your home.

Inanna Arthen, M.Div



From the Governing Board Chair

Hello Friends,

This morning I woke up to the birds singing. The sun was just beginning to brighten the horizon and it was already in the mid-40s. The procession of seasons continues relentlessly. Birds migrate, bulbs sprout after the cold winter, bringing with them green buds and flowers of every color. Spring is here.

Last weekend I went on a hike with my daughters along the walking path in Gardner by the hospital. We talked about how she and her friends are making crafts that she wants to sell at Summer Solstice. To do this she decided that supporting Religious Education at our Church is important enough to her to dedicate her time and money to making crafts to sell to get money to donate.

At Our Neighbor's Kitchen we have a new volunteer. Dave Wright wanted to help the community, so he uses his time to help with setup and cleanup of the meal.

After John White passed in January, Wendy O'Brien came forward and helped with the transition of the church financials. I'm very grateful for all the assistance she provided.

We all have choices about how we use the resources of time and money to allow us to demonstrate our conviction to causes and our communities. I ask that you take a moment to think about what's important to you. By choosing to support our Congregation you're demonstrating that it's important to you that there is a liberal pulpit in your community during these times of religious fanaticism. You're demonstrating that it's important to you that your community has a public meal for food and fellowship each month. You're demonstrating that having a community, a place, where all people are welcomed without regard to beliefs, economics, race, gender, or sexual orientation in Winchendon is important to you. You're demonstrating that supporting our UU Principles is important to you.

With Spring comes renewal, and it's the time of year we renew our commitment to the Congregation. Some people may decide to show their commitment in time, like Dave and Wendy, others may pledge money like Katherine. Whatever you can do, it will be gratefully accepted to support our Congregation as we enter its 148th year.

Remember: we have our Congregational Meeting

coming up on June 8 immediately following our Flower Communion service at 5:00 p.m. Come and let your voice be heard as we elect officers and decide where we as a Congregation will put our energies for the coming Church Year.

Thanks and Peace,
Dave

UUCW Member Survey

We'd really like to hear your responses to the 2014 member survey! If you didn't get a survey with your Financial Commitment Letter, let us know and we can mail you one. Or, you can fill out the survey online. Because we're using the free Basic account on SurveyMonkey, the survey had to be posted in two sections—be sure you fill out both parts! Here are the links:

Part 1: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YDPZBGZ>

Part 2: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YDBT3J8>

Thanks!

2014 Congregational Meeting

The UUCW Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the church Parish Hall. You'll have a chance to discuss any issues or concerns you have and vote on officers and agenda items for the coming church year. If you have any questions, contact us at any time. We look forward to seeing you!

Yard Sale Time is Coming!

It's almost time for our ever-popular UUCW Yard Sales to resume for a new season! Right now, soggy ground allowing, we're aiming to hold our first 2014 Yard Sale on Saturday, May 17. The Yard Sales generally take place the third Saturday of the month. We may do two per month this summer, if there is enough interest.

If you'd like to donate materials for a Yard Sale, or have a table of your own, please contact the church or Sue Faucher (978-632-5588 or sfaucher@on24seven.com). Items can be dropped off or we can arrange to pick them up.

Winchendon's 250th Celebration Summer Solstice Fair and Yard Sale!

Would you like to be a vendor at the UUCW for Winchendon's biggest birthday bash ever?

The Town of Winchendon is throwing its 250th Anniversary gala next month. On Saturday, June 21, events will continue from morning until night. There will be a parade at 4:00 p.m., going right by the church on Central Street, and fireworks at dusk. We're expecting 10,000 to 15,000 people to join in the fun. UUCW will be in the middle of it all, and you can be there!

A 10' x 10' space in front of the church is \$30.00; a space on the side yard is \$25.00. You'll need to be able to arrive early to set up and then move your vehicle to a spot in back of the church, as the police are being very strict about closing roads and parking due to the many events using the streets around the center of town. We'll have lights on the lawns after dark.

If you'd like to reserve a spot, or want more information, contact Sue Faucher at 978-632-5588, or by email at sfaucher@on24seven.com. The church is located at 126 Central Street in Winchendon. For more information about the whole celebration, see its Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Winchendons-250th-Anniversary-Celebration/188982651141044>.

Spiritual Calendar

May 9: Lemuria (Roman). A holiday to remember our loved ones who have passed on. Take time to reflect and feel grateful for the good things in your life passed on to you by your ancestors.

May 18: Feast of Pan (Greek). A holiday dedicated to the god of earth, wild animals, woodlands, simple pleasures and music. Put some food out for the birds and wild creatures, and listen to some folk music—play it yourself, and dance, if you're able!

May 25: Celebration of Tao. Honor the harmony of life and the right way of being.

May 29: Ascension Day (Christian).

Commemorates the Ascension of Christ into Heaven on the 40th day after Easter.

Jug o' Punch

On Saturday, May 17 at 4:00 p.m., New England Celtic Band Jug o'Punch will play at the Old Centre Congregational Church in Winchendon. Tickets are \$10.00 and should be purchased in advance because the concert is expected to sell out. Contact Shirley Parks at 978-297-3112 for tickets. (http://jugopunch.us/Home_Page.html)

May 30 and 31: Feast of the Queen of Heaven.

Whether you see her as Isis, Brigid, Mary or by another name, this is a day to honor the sacred Mother and acknowledge that we are all children of the Infinite.

June 1: Children's Day (China). By a happy coincidence, this is also RE Sunday at UUCW! The young people will help lead the service, and we'll have ice cream afterwards.

June 3: Second Festival of Peace (Roman). A day to invoke Pax, the goddess of peace. She had three holidays in the Roman calendar.

June 4: Shavuot (Judaism). Commemorates the day that God gave the Torah to the nation of Israel on Mount Sinai.

This Month in UU History

May 6, 1829: Phebe Ann Coffin Hanaford was born on Nantucket Island. She became the first woman ordained to Universalist ministry when she was ordained by the Hingham Universalist Church in 1868.

May 10, 1818: Paul Revere died at age 83. Revere and his wife were leading members of the Second Church of Boston (Unitarian) and subscribed to a pew there.

May 12, 1902: Stephen Hole Fritchman was born in Cleveland, Ohio. Fritchman served as minister to Unitarian churches in Petersham, Massachusetts and Bangor, Maine as well as the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles. He was editor of the *The Christian Register* until he was fired in 1947 for his strong socialist views, which embroiled him in controversies with the American Unitarian Association. In 1976, the UUA awarded him its Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Liberal Religion.

May 15, 1961: The American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America consolidated to form the Unitarian Universalist Association.

May 17, 2004: On the first day that same-sex marriage was legal in Massachusetts, Hillary and Julie Goodridge were married at the UUA headquarters with UUA president William Sinkford officiating.

May 19, 1841: Unitarian Theodore Parker created an uproar within and outside the Unitarian movement with his sermon, "Discourse on the Transient and the Permanent in Christianity" which denied that Jesus performed miracles. Parker asserted that Christianity's "permanent" contribution was its ethical laws.

May 25, 1803: Ralph Waldo Emerson was born in Boston to a family of ministers. He served as minister of Second Church (Unitarian) in Boston for three years before resigning to become a lecturer, poet, essayist and Transcendentalist philosopher.

May 26, 1825: The American Unitarian Association was formed in Boston, Massachusetts.

June 1, 1652: John Biddle was arrested for leading a Unitarian service in London and exiled to the Scilly Islands.

June 3, 1870: Norbert Capek was born in Bohemia. A Unitarian minister, he created the Flower Communion Service. He died in the Dachau concentration camp.

May Birthdays



Cindy Malley	May 9
Sara Michalewicz	May 14
Erika J. Gambill	May 20
Julia F. Cardinal	May 28

Caring Connections

UUCW is a caring congregation. We reach out to each other to offer caring and we remember each other's 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 for Sunday services, offer a ride to church, or make any other "caring connection." Please let us know if you or someone close to you is in need of such a "caring connection" from us. You can call Inanna directly at 978-433-8866 (home) or 508-572-1624 (cell).

Change of Address?

We want to stay in touch! If you change your address, either U. S. Mail or email, please let us know. Email dfaucher@on24seven.com or send a written note to the church at P. O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475. Thanks!

UUCW has a New Website!

Please bookmark our new website:

<http://uucw.ncmuuc.org>

With a shiny new design, new content and regular updates, this is the place to go online for in-depth UUCW information!

Like Us on Facebook!

If you're on Facebook, be sure to "like" the UUCW page for all our news and updates. We'll be putting updates about the Summer Flea Market and 250th Celebration here, so "like" us to stay informed.

<https://www.facebook.com/uuinchendon>

Contact Information

Minister: Inanna Arthen, M.Div

Phone: 978-433-8866

Email: iarthen@inannaarthen.com

Musician: Lucinda Ellert

Phone: 781-944-7254

Email: lucindajellert@gmail.com

Governing Board Chair: David Faucher

Phone: 978-632-5588

Email: dfaucher@on24seven.com

Governing Board Members:

Allan Gordon: lilpun31@mass.rr.com

Secretary, James McCrohan:

jmccrohan@yahoo.com

Sexton (Custodian) Sue Faucher

Phone: 978-632-5588

Email: sfaucher@on24seven.com