

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954 Published by the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon



Volume 60 Issue 3

PASTOR INANNA ARTHEN, M.DIV, MINISTER

Church Telephone 978-297-0554

APRIL 2016

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 A.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

Sunday, April 3

11:00 am - Sunday Worship - Chalice
Circle Service

11:00 am - RE "Beginnings" Class

11:30 am - RE "Questings" Class

12:00 pm - Family Potluck lunch—all are
welcome!

Monday, April 4

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Sunday, April 10

11:00 am - Sunday Worship with Pastor
Inanna Arthen

11:00 am - RE "Beginnings" Class

11:30 am - RE "Questings" Class

12:00 pm - Family Potluck lunch—all are
welcome!

Monday, April 11

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, April 14

5:30 p.m. - Our Neighbors Kitchen
"Soup and Sandwich" Night! "Titanic"
Vegetable Soup and Egg Salad Sandwich

Sunday, April 17

11:00 am - Sunday Worship

11:00 am - RE "Beginnings" Class

11:30 am - RE "Questings" Class

12:00 pm - Family Potluck lunch—all are
welcome!

Monday, April 18

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Sunday, April 24

11:00 am - Sunday Worship with Pastor
Inanna Arthen

11:00 am - RE "Beginnings" Class

11:30 am - RE "Questings" Class

12:00 pm - Family Potluck lunch—all are
welcome!

Monday, April 25

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, April 28

5:30 p.m. - Our Neighbors Kitchen serves
"Spring Chicken" Dinner!

Sunday, May 1

11:00 am - Sunday Worship

11:00 am - RE "Beginnings" Class

11:30 am - RE "Questings" Class

12:00 pm - Family Potluck lunch—all are
welcome!

Monday, May 2

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

**Don't Forget--Sunday worship at 11:00 a.m., Our
Neighbor's Kitchen Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.!**

From Your Minister

We've had a lively March at UUCW!

On Sunday, March 6, I led a service titled, "It's About Time" in anticipation of Daylight Saving Time starting the following Saturday. We talked about the history of calendars and how arbitrary our time measurements are, and how we can think about the mysterious "Fourth Dimension." On Sunday, March 13, I led a Chalice Circle Service in which we talked about "Identity"—how many different identities we have and what they all mean. On Sunday, March 20, I led a service on the theme of the Spring Equinox, "The First Day of Everything." On Easter Sunday, March 27, UUCW hosted an intergenerational Easter Service followed by an Easter egg "scavenger hunt" and a holiday potluck lunch.

We're seeing more old friends return to Our Neighbor's Kitchen at its new/old day and time of Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. On March 10, we served hearty, creamy leek-and-potato soup to celebrate both the Welsh St. David's Day and the Irish St. Patrick's Day. Leek-and-potato soup is popular in both countries, and the leek is a Welsh national symbol. With the soup we had chicken salad sandwiches. On March 24, chef extraordinaire David Faucher cooked one of our favorite dinners, corned beef and cabbage with all the trimmings, including Irish soda bread. We have two delicious meals planned for April—see below for details!

With an early Easter this year, April stretches out ahead of us with few significant dates to claim our attention. Massachusetts residents have a local holiday on April 18, Patriot's Day, and most public schools have that week off (although many colleges or universities do not). Patriot's Day is also the traditional date of the annual Boston Marathon, one of the country's most important marathon races. In just three weeks, more than 32,000 runners will leave the starting line in Hopkinton for the 26-mile course.

Sadly, the fun and excitement of the Boston Marathon has been shadowed in recent years by the bombing in 2013. Three people were killed, one of them an eight year old boy, and 264 were injured, including 16 people who lost limbs.

Since then, we've been horrified and saddened by a number of other bombings, most recently in Brussels and Pakistan. Our world seems to be growing more violent and out of control by the day, and our leaders seem unable to effectively contain the problem.

Unitarian Universalists have a hard time confronting the dark side of life. We're all about inclusion and diversity and tolerance and acceptance. The evils we stand against tend to be things which divide our society from within: racism, oppression, bigotry, hatred of LGBTQ persons, economic inequality, sexism. We fly our rainbow flags and post signs affirming that Black Lives Matter. We oppose our government's aggression against other countries.

But how do we handle the kind of evil that impels people to kill innocent civilians with bombs in public places? What do we say to those whose families are shattered by a mass shooting or terrorist attack? How can we as UUs become part of the solution to violence of this kind?

We should be part of the solution. Since the Age

of Enlightenment, "liberal religion" has stood at the forefront of social change, rational thought, and revolutionary political ideas. If there is a solution to the turmoil and extremism tearing our world apart right now, it will not be found in another kind of extremism. It will be found in that middle ground where opposites can meet, where reason and spiritual belief may find harmony, and where those of many interests and histories agree to put a larger goal ahead of their individual concerns.

It has been said, "an eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind." Horrifying acts create a desire for vengeance, but harsh reactions only radicalize more potential terrorists. Prevention is the only action that truly makes sense, but how can that be accomplished? Do we incarcerate people for what they *might* do? Do we undertake to place everyone under surveillance? Our government has been trying those means since 9/11 and the bombings are still going on.

There are no easy answers. Remaking the world to be more fair, more rational, more compassionate, and more nurturing is a challenge that has daunted leaders, movements and nations for millennia. Yet, as the natural world is renewed around us and life unfolds before our eyes in another lovely spring, these are good thoughts to ponder. Darkness is a thing with no substance of its own. It becomes nothing before the power of the light.

Pastor Inanna Arthen, M.Div

Our Neighbor's Kitchen Offers Two Great Meals in April

Join us on Thursday, April 14 at 5:30 p.m. for Soup and Sandwich night cooked by Pastor Inanna Arthen.

As many history buffs know, April 14 is the anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, 104 years ago in 1912. Did you know that two residents of Winchendon, Percival Wayland White and his son Richard, were on board the doomed ship? Richard is now buried in the cemetery on Glenallen Street.

In memory of those who endured and survived the tragedy and those who were lost, Pastor Arthen will be cooking a dish from the luxury ship's menu, hearty vegetable soup. We'll have zingy egg salad sandwiches on the side. Join us for a warming spring meal, along with some lovely music and maybe some Titanic trivia to ponder.

On Thursday, April 28 at 5:30 p.m., join us for a tummy-pleasing meal of “Spring Chicken” with sides, salad and dessert, cooked by our chef extraordinaire David Faucher and assistants.

We can always use more volunteers! If you'd like to help with set-up, come to the church between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. If you want to help with serving, come at around 5:15 p.m. so we can go over any special protocols for the night's menu. Clean-up starts around 6:15 p.m. and is usually done shortly after 7:00 p.m. Volunteers have a chance to sit down and share the meal and fellowship.

Talking About Money

In this election year, it seems that we're all talking about nothing else. We're all feeling the pinch, and whoever we're supporting for President, we hope that he or she will improve our personal financial situation and the economy as a whole.

In the meantime, we all need to help each other. We here at UUCW are very grateful for the support we get from our members, volunteers and friends. We'd be nothing without all of you. But sometimes we have to ask for a little more.

We'll be sending our annual Pledge letter out soon. Everything we receive is dedicated to helping our church, our congregation, and our community of

Winchendon. We stretch every penny as far as it will go, and you'd be surprised how far that is! But we're working hard to grow our church and expand our programs and services, and that takes money.

We depend on your generosity, and we fully appreciate how tough the times are. Thanks to all of you for giving us the ability to help so many people.

Summer Yard Sales Begin on May 7!

We'll be launching our new season of Summer Yard Sales on May 7 (weather permitting, and we really hope it does). We're looking for plenty of good-quality stuff to sell this year. If you're going to be spring-cleaning your attics, down-sizing, de-cluttering, moving, or just want to pay it forward, bring it to us! Goods must be clean and in good repair, and portable enough to be stored between sales if it doesn't sell the first day. But aside from that, anything goes. If you'd like to have your own table, we just ask that you make a donation to the church in return.

The first three weeks of Yard Sales, we'll be joined by the Winchendon Garden Club. They'll be selling live plants and other things for your garden and home.

Yard Sales will be held twice a month through the summer and into the fall, as late as the temperature



RE News



What a fun time we've been having in our two RE classes. While our younger Beginnings class have been discovering what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist through songs and stories and art, our Questing class members have been exploring some of the deeper, harder questions of life and religion and what it all means. There have been great conversations, thoughtful responses, and some hands-on activities to keep bodies busy while minds are being engaged. The Questing Class has also been attending the opening part of adult services, something that helps them feel connected to the larger church community.

As we head into April, there will be more conversations to explore, more finding out of who we are as individuals, and how our own, unique individual gifts can be woven together to form one cohesive, loving church community.

Our doors are always open! Your children are invited to come, be with us, and make new friends. Happy Spring!

If you have any questions regarding the RE Program, please feel free to contact Kirsty Johnson Erikson at 978-534-1946 or email her at kirstyerikson@gmail.com.

Kirsty Erikson
Lead RE Teacher

Spiritual Calendar

April 1: Veneralia (ancient Rome). Festival of Venus. Images of the goddess were taken from temples and washed, then dressed in new clothing and finery.

April 8-15: Hindu New Year (Hindu). New Year in the Hindu calendar.

April 14: Baisakhi (Vaisakhi) (Sikh). Commemorates the founding of the Khalsa, a distinctive Sikh brotherhood.

April 22-23: Theravadin New Year (Buddhist). New Year in the Buddhist calendar.

April 22: Festival of Ishtar (ancient Babylon). Ishtar was known as “the Star” and was the goddess of life, light, fertility and war. In the Bible she is called Ashtoreth and Asherah.

April 23-30: Pesach (Passover) (Jewish). An 8-day observance commemorating the release of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. It is marked with readings from the Book of Exodus and a ritual meal, the seder. Honors the ongoing struggle for freedom from tyranny of all peoples.

April 23: St. George’s Day (Christian). The patron saint of England, St. George was a 4th century knight reputed to have killed a dragon.

April 24: Palm Sunday (Orthodox Christian). Because the Orthodox Church uses a different calendar, it observes many holidays on a different date than the western Church.

April 29: Good Friday (Orthodox Christian).

April 30: Mahavir Jayanti (Janma Kalyānak) (Jain). Commemorates founder Lord Mahavira’s birthday. Believers visit shrines and reflect on holy teachings. Jainism is an ancient Indian religion whose core philosophy is *ahimsa*, or non-violence toward all living things.

April 30: Beltane / May Eve / Walpurgisnacht (Pagan). A Celtic fire festival marking the midpoint of the year (which began at Samhain on November 1) and the start of the summer season. Bonfires were kindled on hilltops, and people read fortunes and asked for good luck. Herds of cattle and sheep were moved to summer pasture.



remains clement (unless we completely run out of merchandize).

To donate goods and materials for the Yard Sales, or have a table of your own, please contact the church or Sue Faucher (978-632-5588).

Summer Solstice Fair 2016

Sue Faucher is taking applications for vendor spaces for the Summer Solstice Fair on Saturday, June 18. If you’re a vendor and would like a space, don’t delay! 10’ x 10’ spaces are only \$30 for the front yard and \$25 for the side and back. Don’t miss this great opportunity to reach hundreds of fair-goers at Winchendon’s biggest party and UUCW’s most popular event of the year! Contact Sue at sfaucher@on24seven.com or 978-632-5588.

Summer Worship Services

This year, we’ll continue to hold Sunday worship services at 11:00 a.m. every other week through the summer. Services will be held the same weekends as the Yard Sales (and we’ll have worship service even if

the Yard Sale is rained out).

I know, you’re saying, “but UU churches are never open in the summer!” We’ve heard the joke: “if you’re looking for worship services in the summer, try the Presbyterians.” But so many people stop by in the summer asking about our church, it only seems natural to have services. Why should new folks have to wait until September to find out more? And why should our existing members lose touch for three months?

Now you won’t. Join us on Sundays this summer! With its stone walls and cathedral ceiling, our sanctuary is a very comfortable place on hot summer days.

April Birthdays

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|----------------------|---------|
| Deborah Colburn | April 1 |
| Wendy O’Brien | April 3 |
| Jeannette Gutteridge | April 4 |



(If I’m missing any birthdays, please let me know!)

This Month in UU History

- April 1, 1786: Unitarian minister William Johnson Fox was born to poor parents in Uggleshall, Suffolk, England. He was a champion of the underprivileged. He served a number of churches, and in 1847 became a member of Parliament, where he was highly esteemed by Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli. Fox sponsored many bills to help the oppressed and poor, especially education bills.
- April 5, 1796: English Unitarian minister (and possessor of arguably the most wonderful name ever) Charles Wellbeloved was born. He authored several books and was a distinguished preacher, serving St. Saviourgate Chapel (Unitarian) in York for 67 years. Manchester College relocated to York just so Wellbeloved could serve as its principal from 1803 to 1840. He founded the Philosophical Society and the Archeological Museum in York along with other civic organizations.
- April 8, 1889: Unitarian Sir Adrian Boult was born in Chester, England. He was the conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra from 1930 to 1950, musical director of the BBC from 1930 to 1943 and conductor of the City of Birmingham Orchestra from 1922 to 1930.
- April 13, 1743: Unitarian and Patriot Thomas Jefferson was born in Shadwell, VA. He drafted the Declaration of Independence, served as governor of Virginia, and was the U.S. minister to France from 1785 to 1789. He was George Washington's Secretary of State, President John Adams' vice president and served two terms as President of the United States. He edited his own version of the Bible, still in use as The Jefferson Bible.
- April 17, 1774: Thomas Lindsey founded the Unitarian Society in London, the first church in England officially organized around Unitarian principles. At the time, it was still a criminal offense to be Unitarian in England. The first services were attended by 200 people, including Benjamin Franklin, who joined the church.



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 Online

<http://uucw.ncmuuc.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/uuwinchendon>

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).

Contact Information

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