

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954

Published by the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon



Volume 60 Issue 5

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Church Telephone 978-297-0554

JUNE 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

Saturday, June 4

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Summer Yard Sales

Sunday, June 5

11:00 am - Intergenerational Sunday
Worship - "RE Sunday" and Maypole
Dance

12:00 pm - Ice Cream Social - make your
own sundaes day!

Monday, June 6

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, June 9

5:30 pm - Our Neighbors Kitchen Soup
and Sandwich Night - 15-Bean Soup and
Cheesy Garlic Bread!

Sunday, June 12

11:00 am - Sunday Worship with Pastor
Inanna Arthen - Flower Communion,
Intergenerational. Last regular service of
the church year!

12:00 pm - UUCW Annual Meeting - all
are welcome! All UUCW members,
please attend!

Monday, June 13

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Saturday, June 18

9:00 am - 3:00 pm - Summer Solstice Flea
Market and Fair. RE Kids participate in
the Summer Solstice Parade.

Monday, June 20

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, June 23

5:30 pm - Our Neighbors Kitchen serves
Barbeque Summer Ribs!

Monday, June 27

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Saturday, July 2

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Summer Yard Sales

Sunday, July 3

11:00 am - Summer Sunday Worship

**Watch our website, Facebook page, the Courier
and your email for updates about Winchendon
Winds band concerts at UUCW on Sunday after-
noons this summer!**

From Your Minister

We've had a merry and busy month of May at UUCW, despite some uncooperative weather tripping up the best-laid plans once or twice. But that's spring in New England—never predictable, never the same two years in a row.

Our Maypole dance on May 1 was postponed until this month's RE Sunday due to chilly temperatures and rain, but we had an enjoyable Chalice Circle service on the theme of "Happiness." On May 8, I led a service for Mother's Day which focused on Mother Earth, Spring and folklore about nature spirits. On May 15, we shared a Chalice Circle service on "Stewardship" in which we talked about all kinds of stewardship—not just the environment or material things, but the importance of protecting and nurturing children and our senior citizens. May 22 was the day of our annual Blessing of the Animals service. UUCW welcomed animal companion guests, including dogs, a bunny, a ferret, a hermit crab and a lizard named Link. We extended our blessing to all our animal (and bird) companions not present, and the wild living things around us, too. On May 29, we had an Intergenerational service for Memorial Day.

Our Neighbors Kitchen served two delicious meals in May. On May 12, corn chowder with bacon and mini-pizzas got rave reviews. On May 26, chef David Faucher celebrated “Eat More Fruits and Vegetables Day” with a sumptuous meal of roasted vegetables, butternut squash risotto and salad.

May’s rainy start also washed out the first Saturday Yard Sale on May 7, but we launched the new season successfully on May 21. We were joined by the Winchendon Garden Club and the Toy Town Outdoor Market, so our front lawn has a lot to offer on Saturday mornings!

We’re preparing for this year’s Summer Solstice Fair on June 18. The RE kids will be marching in the parade, and we’ll have our food stand right by the curb and two lawns full of vendors and crafts.

June is an oddly contradictory month. It’s the beginning of real summer, all abloom with flowers and brilliant with some of the year’s loveliest weather. But it’s also somewhat melancholy, because June is filled with so much change, and along with that change, so much letting go. It’s the month of graduations, and graduations are often followed by graduates packing up and moving. They move out of their parents’ homes, they move to new places where they will take jobs or start college or graduate school, they go off to summer internships, or take trips and vacations.

June is also a traditional month for weddings, and those, too, mean endings as well as beginnings. It’s less common nowadays than it once was for newlyweds to leave their family homes and embark on their own after the marriage; more often, couples now have already taken that step before the wedding. But marriage still means a lot of change—moving to a bigger apartment, buying a home, getting new jobs and relocating for them, moving somewhere that has better schools or is more family-friendly.

Even people who aren’t getting a degree or switching their marital status often plan major changes in the summer, because there’s so much change in the air. June makes a space for it. Schools go on break. Many work places become quieter as their staff take summer vacations. The real estate market gets more active as homeowners finish spring clean-up and list their homes for sale. So the first garden produce and first roses coincide with a lot of bustle and energy on the part of those looking for new jobs and new homes during this annual window of extra opportunity.

I’m one of those people, as it appears that after four

years of house-hunting, budget-wrangling, earnestly beseeching the cooperation of Deity and the Universe and spending a lot on improvements to my house, I will *finally* be moving to Winchendon this summer. I’m looking forward to being able to give UUCW more time and attention (like regular minister’s office hours). I’d love to get more involved with the town and its governance, as well. Those will all be big changes—new home, new community, new routines, new friends.

Change is always as scary as it is exciting—and it can also be very frustrating. You know how it is with really big changes, the ones that impact our entire lives. We don’t just wave a magic wand and suddenly everything is effortlessly and completely different. The process of change can feel interminable. Wait for decisions, wait for deadlines, wait for replies from people; packing, scheduling, cleaning, tying up a thousand loose ends and taking care of a million details.

And this is also part of June’s energy. June is the month of the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year and the day when the sun reaches its highest point in the noonday sky. The word “solstice” comes from Latin for “the sun stands still.” The sun does appear to simply hang in the sky for a stretch of days, like a ball we’ve thrown straight up with all our might. It poises, straining to go further, fighting against gravity, finally losing and beginning the acceleration back to earth.

We know we wouldn’t really want summer to be endless, not even its most perfect days. The sameness would pall; it’s the variety of the seasons and the possibilities of the future that keep us vigorous and alive. But June can sometimes feel endless, even as it is filled with transitions. Life is change, the aphorism goes—to stop growing is to start dying. But constructive change with a foundation of stability; that, I think, is the closest to paradise we can come on earth.

Pastor Inanna Arthen

Don’t Miss Our Neighbors Kitchen in June!

Join us on Thursday, June 9 at 5:30 p.m. for Soup and Sandwich night cooked by Pastor Inanna Arthen. We’ll be having a rib-sticking 15-Bean Soup with Cheesy Garlic Bread for the “sandwich.”

On Thursday, June 23, chef extraordinaire David Faucher is planning one of our most popular meals: Barbeque Summer Ribs, with homemade barbeque sauce, along with sides, salad and dessert.

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.

Flower Communion Service

Join us on Sunday, June 12 at 11:00 a.m. for the last regular service of the church year—our Intergenerational Flower Communion service. This service has become a traditional year-end service for UU congregations. Please bring some flowers, which will be placed in a large vase. As part of the service, each person attending will choose a flower to take home. We can always use extra flowers, so show off what your garden is doing! Looking forward to seeing you.

UUCW Annual Meeting

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon will hold its Annual Meeting at noon (12:00 p.m.) on Sunday, June 12, after our Flower Communion service. We'll vote on officers, the budget and the minister's contract for the coming year and discuss other

business. All UUCW members are strongly encouraged to attend. The meeting is open to non-members and prospective members, and anyone with an interest in UUCW and its activities. Hope to see you there!

Summer Yard Sales

The new season of Saturday Yard Sales kicked off on May 21. We're open from 9:00 a.m. to around 1:00 p.m., and sharing the lawn with the Toy Town Outdoor Market, so there's plenty of great stuff to browse. Be sure you stop by!

We're looking for good-quality stuff to sell, and will take donations at any time. 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! Small furniture, small working appliances, toys, games and puzzles, books, all sorts of gift type items in good enough condition to be good gifts—these have all done well. Clothing, outdated electronics, and toys that are worn or shabby tend not to sell (and please, no stuffed animals). Items like furniture must be small enough to store between sales.

If you'd like to have your own table, we just ask that you make a donation to the church in return. All donations are tax-deductible; we can provide you with a letter to document your donation on request.

Yard Sales will be held twice a month through the summer and into the fall, weather permitting.

RE News

Despite the fact that June is a short month for us in the Religious Education part of church, it is jam-packed with exciting events! There are no RE classes in June, but on Sunday 6/5 we'll be having our annual RE Sunday Service. The kids and I have planned a wonderful service, so we hope to see you there! Following the service, if the weather holds nicely, we'll go outside to the back yard and weave and dance the Maypole. Though the first of May fell on a Sunday, the weather was frightful and not delightful. But what better way to put "delightful" back into the event than doing it on RE Sunday?! Then it will be back inside to have our ice cream social, where we'll make our own sundaes.

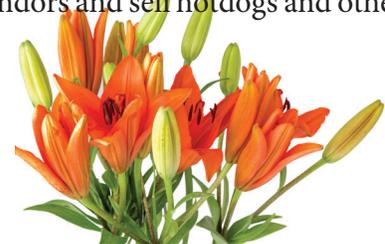
On June 12, there will be an intergenerational service with a flower communion (more on that elsewhere in this newsletter!), a favorite of both kids and adults.

On SATURDAY June 18 UUCW will take part in the annual Winchendon Solstice Parade. We're making plans to tote Clyde, the horse of many colors, and the mascot of the church of many colors, and wave to the crowds gathered for this annual event. The church will also host a huge variety of vendors and sell hotdogs and other treats.

I hope to see you at our fun, and meaningful, June events!

Fondly,

Kirsty Erikson
Lead RE Teacher



Spiritual Calendar

June 2: Juno Regina (ancient Rome): A day to honor women in positions of authority and political power. If you're supporting a woman candidate, legislator or juror this year, take a minute today to send her some extra good luck, and maybe even some money!

June 6: Ramadan (Islam): Beginning of the ninth month in the Islamic calendar, which is dedicated to holy observance in honor of Mohammed receiving the teachings of the Quran. Muslims fast during the daylight hours throughout the month, eating two meals per day: one before dawn and one after sunset. Charity is strongly emphasized. Giving a percentage of one's income to the poor is a pillar of Islam, and during Ramadan many Muslims give more. Ramadan ends with the holiday of Eid al Fitr.

June 11: Matralia (ancient Rome): A day to honor women who are childless yet nurturing. Send some good wishes to all the foster moms, aunts, caretakers and other women you know who love and support children (and babies of all kinds) even if they didn't become birth mothers themselves.

June 12-13: Shavuot (Jewish): Commemorates the descent of Moses from Mount Sinai with the tablets containing the Ten Commandments, or Torah. It is also an ancient celebration of first fruits and the first wheat harvest.

June 20: Summer Solstice / Litha (Pagan): The peak of the solar year, when the Sun reaches its highest point in the noon sky and the day is the longest. After Solstice, the days begin to shorten and the sun descends toward its lowest point at Winter Solstice. It's marked as "midsummer" because summer is at its prime, with trees fully leafed out and gardens beginning to bear their earliest produce. Spring babies are growing up and leaving their nests or dens.

June 24: Feast of St. John the Baptist (Christian): Traditionally celebrated as the birthday of St. John the Baptist (six months before the birth of Jesus), who prophesied Jesus' appearance as the Messiah and baptized Jesus at the beginning of his mission. This is an important date for Freemasons, as the first Grand Lodge in England was founded on this date in 1717. Saint John may have been a patron saint of stonemasons during the Middle Ages. Modern Pagans note that this feast occurs very near the Summer Solstice and has solar overtones.



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).

Saturday Yard Sale Summer Dates

June 4

July 2

July 16

July 30

August 13

August 27

Summer Solstice Fair 2016

Sue Faucher is still accepting 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).

We're still working out the format for our services, as our RE teacher is off for the summer. We welcome volunteers who would be interested in planning children's activities for an hour on Sunday mornings, so their parents can enjoy worship.

Our stone building is comfortably (and naturally) cool on hot summer days, so join us this summer!

Summer Sunday Service Dates:

July 3

July 17

July 31

August 14

August 28



This Month in UU History

- June 18, 1873: Unitarian Suffragist Susan B. Anthony was fined \$100 for voting in Rochester, NY. She refused to pay the fine and it was never collected.
- June 19, 1985: The UUA adopted the current version of the Principles and Purposes at General Assembly in Atlanta, GA. Developed from the 1961 version, the new Principles and Purposes affirmed women, other religious traditions and the environment.
- June 22, 1854: Religious Dissenters, which included Unitarians, were admitted to Oxford University in England for the first time.
- June 23, 1977: The UUA passed the Women and Religion Resolution at General Assembly in Ithaca, NY. This called UUs to examine the ways that traditional religion devalues women and supports their devaluing in secular culture. It called upon UU religious leaders to “put traditional assumptions and language in perspective and to avoid sexist assumptions and language in the future.”
- June 27, 1984: The UUA passed the Gay and Lesbian Services of Union Resolution at General Assembly in Columbus, OH. This affirmed our agreement for UU ministers to conduct such services for same-sex couples, and asked UU faith communities to support these unions.
- June 30, 1992: The UUA passed the Racial and Cultural Diversity in Unitarian Universalism Resolution at General Assembly in Calgary, Canada. This affirms our faith in a “global village” of many peoples and cultures.



June Birthdays

Heather Mahoney	June 2
Pauline Michalewicz	June 6
Jill Sackett	June 10
Inanna Arthen	June 20
David Faucher	June 28



UUCW Online

<http://uucw.ncmuuc.org>

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

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

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!

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).