

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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Church Telephone 978-297-0554

JULY 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, July 2

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

Sunday, July 3

11:00 am - Summer Worship Service

12:00 pm - UUCW Governing Board
Meeting in Fellowship Hall after the
service

1:30 pm - Winchendon Winds Band
Concert

Monday, July 4

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Sunday, July 10

1:30 pm - Winchendon Winds Band
Concert

Monday, July 11

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, July 14

5:30 pm - Our Neighbors Kitchen serves
Shepherd's Pie

Saturday, July 16

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

Sunday, July 17

11:00 am - Summer Worship Service

Monday, July 18

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Monday, July 25

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, July 28

5:30 pm - Our Neighbors Kitchen serves
Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo

Saturday, July 30

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

Sunday, July 31

11:00 am - Summer Worship Service

Monday, August 1

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

From Your Minister

It's July—and we're not taking a break. You're probably wondering what's going on. Don't UU churches always take the summer off? Isn't the Flower Communion service our traditional "farewell until September" service?

Many UU churches do take summer break, as we have in the past. But we're too busy now to stop for three months. We'll be serving Our Neighbors Kitchen dinners twice each month. Our Saturday Yard Sales are bringing people to the church all summer. This year, we're hosting the Winchendon Winds band concerts (see below for details). Dozens of people stepped inside the church sanctuary during the Solstice Fair to look around, many of them saying that they'd lived in town for years and had never seen the inside of our church before. Winchendon is bustling during the summer, and we need to be right there in the middle of it.

Along with summer worship services every other week (because we do need just a *bit* of a breather), this newsletter will go out in July and August. We'll keep on updating our website and Facebook page, and sending out our "email blasts" to let you know what's happening each week. If you're not on our email list and would like to be, send a message to Dave Faucher (dfaucher@on24seven.com) or me (iarthen@inannaarthen.com) and we'll be sure you're included.

We had a lively month of June. On June 5, the RE kids led the service for "RE Sunday," followed by a

make-your-own-sundae ice cream social. For the second time, however, the planned Maypole dance outside was rained out.

On June 12, we held our traditional multigenerational Flower Communion service, followed by the twice postponed Maypole dance. We refused to give up and Mother Nature finally gave in—the weather was beautiful. Following the service, we convened for Annual Meeting. Two new members, Celia Haigh and Kirsty Johnson Erikson, signed the membership book and joined the Governing Board, and I've been confirmed as your minister for another year. I think it's going to be a very exciting one.

The Solstice Fair on June 18 was great fun. The UUCW RE kids walked in the parade, and for the first time I walked with them—the first parade I've marched in for decades! We gave out lollipops with tags for Our Neighbor's Kitchen along the parade route. It was a glorious summer day—we couldn't have asked for better weather for a fair. The UUCW food concession sold hot dogs, chili, drinks and homemade lemonade. In the morning we offered doughnuts, muffins and bagels generously donated by Dunkin Donuts. Two sides of the church lawn were filled with stands and booths set up by vendors, offering jewelry, crafts, food, collectibles and clothes.

On June 26 the first Winchendon Winds band concert played in the church sanctuary, and received a standing ovation from our enthusiastic audience.

Our Neighbors Kitchen served two delicious meals. On June 9, I cooked 15-Bean Soup and cheesy garlic bread. They were a hit—we had no leftovers, we were scraping the bottom of the soup pot! But “no leftovers” is getting to be an ONK routine. On June 23, we served barbequed ribs to a capacity crowd and didn't even have extra barbeque sauce to put away.

Now we're about to bounce into the Fourth of July weekend with a Saturday Yard Sale, a summer Sunday worship service and the second Winchendon Winds band concert. We hope to see you at any or all of them!

July is a month filled with patriotic fervor, as we celebrate Independence Day or the Fourth of July, commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. We all learned about this in school, but for many of us, the saga of the Second Continental Congress and its vote that changed the world has been framed by the 1969 musical *1776*.

For all of its creative license with factual details, *1776* does present a vivid, and lengthy, picture of how a

group of individuals with drastically different agendas, opinions, backgrounds and personal circumstances can succeed in compromising, negotiating, learning, understanding, listening and ultimately reaching a consensus and taking action. It might not have been the perfect action for any one of them, but it was an action in which everyone got some of what they wanted and everyone compromised on something else. They could do this because they were looking ahead toward the future and the greater good. No one had better reason to recoil in fear than the Second Continental Congress; King George III had proclaimed in so many words that if they failed in achieving independence, they were all dead men. They went ahead anyway.

One of the strengths that allowed these men (and as we know from surviving correspondence, there were educated and well-informed women who fully supported them) to persist toward this goal was the type of education they'd received. All of them were rationalists—many were Unitarians. They spoke of their faith in God or Providence, but they relied on their reason. The early Congresses of our Nation were passionate, opinionated, partisan and sometimes moralistic, but they also worked together and got things done.

This reliance on reason, without rejecting faith, is a skill of the Enlightenment which we seem to have lost in 21st Century America. As we watch the behavior of our elected officials and those campaigning for office, and even more so their supporters, it seems that rational debate has been thrown to the winds. Faith and reason are treated as mutually exclusive opposites, and every faction, even every individual is fighting solely for its own agendas and “rights” at any cost. Every issue is life-or-death; any compromise is a “sell out”; every defeat or disappointment is a one-way road to apocalypse.

Of all traditional denominations, Unitarian Universalists most encapsulate that synergy of faith and reason that epitomized the Enlightenment and the mindset which created our nation. Yet even UUs often seem to be abandoning this legacy and losing sight of who we are, and what we've contributed. As we celebrate America's 240th anniversary, and watch the most surreal and ferocious Presidential campaign ever unfold, let's try to remember our history and what we have to offer. Cool heads and passionate hearts...feel with faith, act from reason. Never have we UUs been more needed.

Pastor Inanna Arthen

Our Neighbors Kitchen

Our Neighbors Kitchen continues right through the summer—we have two great meals simmering for July! On Thursday, July 14, Pastor Inanna Arthen will be expanding “soup and sandwich night” into “casseroles and covered dish favorites.” Our first heartier “second Thursday” meal will be Shepherd’s Pie. The Fellowship Hall is cool and comfy in hot summer weather, so join us at 5:30 p.m. to escape the heat and enjoy this soul and tummy-satisfying mashed-potato-topped entree.

On Thursday, July 28, our chef extraordinaire David Faucher and his assistants will pull out all the stops to whip up Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo with veggies, salad and dessert—selected by popular vote when we polled our June diners. Be there at 5:30 p.m., because you don’t want to miss this elegant meal!

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.



Winchendon Winds Concerts at UUCW

Join us on Sunday afternoons in July for the 2016 summer concert series of Winchendon Winds, hosted by UUCW. Our first concert was held on Sunday, June 26 and received a standing ovation from our enthusiastic audience. The next two concerts will be Sunday, July 3 and Sunday, July 10. Concerts are at 1:30 p.m. and will take place rain or shine. If it’s wet or oppressively hot, the band will play inside the church sanctuary. But we hope that the weather will be comfortable enough on one or both July dates for a “lawn party” with the band playing outside, while UUCW offers food and snacks.

Winchendon Winds was founded last summer by long-time Winchendon resident and past UUCW member Jon Nicholson. The band played four concerts in June and July 2015 at the Clark Memorial YMCA. After Jon passed away last October, his daughters Jill Nicholson Sackett and Inanna Arthen decided to carry on his dream. Winchendon Winds is now incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our 37 instrumentalists have been hand-picked from the finest players in the region. Our new musical director is Winchendon resident and UUCW musician Lucinda Ellert. Lucinda is a graduate of New England Conservatory and has conducted community bands for 14 years.

For updates on concerts and other news, see the Winchendon Winds Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WinchendonWinds/>.

RE News

What a wonderful year we had in Religious Education! A lot of great discussions, creations, and experiences were had by everyone, including me! I discovered that these young people are curious, thoughtful, caring and have a lot to offer.

The children, our minister Inanna Arthen, and I took part in the Winchendon Solstice Parade. What a blast! We handed out lollipops that announced Our Neighbors Kitchen dates and times as part of our mission of community service. The crowds were waving to us and we waved madly back. The sun shone, the skies were beautifully blue, and we all had a terrific time.

During the summer, church will continue to hold services and there will be classes continuing in religious education as well! On July 3, and July 31, I will be leading classes; on other Summer Sunday’s Katherine Faucher will take the lead. Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. RE will run concurrent with upstairs programming. We hope to see your kids there!

Yours in peace,

Kirsty Erikson
Lead RE Teacher



Spiritual Calendar

- July 3: Festival of Cerridwen (Celtic).** Cerridwen is the Welsh name for the Celtic fertility goddess. Pigs are sacred to her, and dishes made of pork are traditional foods to celebrate her holiday. But this is a day to rejoice in locally grown fruits, vegetables and food of every kind. If you don't have your own garden, buy out the local farm stand and invite your friends to a barbeque!
- July 7-9: Eid al Fitr (Islam).** A day of celebration and thanksgiving at the close of the month of Ramadan. Fasting is forbidden on this day. Muslims observe the day by attending congregational prayers in large groups (often in the open air), giving charitable gifts, expressing joy and happiness, offering hospitality, and sharing sumptuous meals and special treats and confections.
- July 13-15: Obon (Buddhist / Japanese / Shinto).** A festival for honoring of the spirits of one's ancestors. Families visit ancestral graves to clean and decorate them and leave offerings. Often, there are community celebrations with games, rides, festive foods and special dances.
- July 19: Asalha Puja Day (Theravada Buddhist).** Also called Dharma Day, this festival commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his disciples, explaining the doctrine that came to him after enlightenment. Referred to as "setting into motion the wheel of dharma," this sermon describes the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism.
- July 27: Hapshepsut's Day (ancient Egypt).** Queen Hapshepsut of the 18th Dynasty was a remarkable Pharaoh who ruled without a male consort and built temples to the Egyptian goddesses. She focused on building, architecture and commerce rather than war and conquest, and yet was highly esteemed in Egyptian history. We can honor her by supporting contemporary women rulers, and urging them to imitate Queen Hapshepsut's mastery of "the peaceful art of government."



Summer Yard Sales

Our new Saturday Yard Sale season continues after the "break" for the Solstice Fair. 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.

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

July 2
July 16
July 30
August 13
August 27

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

- July 1, 1579: The General Synod of Unitarian Churches in Transylvania, then in considerable turmoil and danger, outlined Unitarian beliefs in a published confession of faith.
- July 1, 1858: Unitarian scientist Charles Darwin presented his paper, "The Origin of Species" to the London Linnaean Society. (The Linnaean Society (<https://www.linnaean.org/>), founded in 1788 and named for Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus, is still vigorous and is the world's oldest active biological society.)
- July 4, 1826: Unitarian, Founding Father and President John Adams (age 90) and Unitarian, Founding Father, President and author of the Declaration of Independence Thomas Jefferson (age 83), both died on this same day, 50 years after the first reading of the Declaration of Independence, which both men signed. This must stand as one of our history's spookier coincidences. Jefferson served as Adams' Vice President, and after a bitter falling-out they reconciled in later life. Their long correspondence included discussions of their differing views on Unitarianism.
- July 21, 1683: Unitarian books were burned along with others that Oxford University pronounced dangerous to the Church of England. It was the last official book-burning in England. Unitarian writings had been targeted for many years—on July 24, 1647, Parliament ordered a Unitarian pamphlet by Paul Best to be burned and its printers fined.



July Birthdays

Patti Stanko	July 13
Madeline Faucher	July 18
Dana Malley	July 29



UUCW Online

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

(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).

Contact Information

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