

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon



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REV. INANNA ARTHEN, M.DIV, MINISTER

Church Telephone 978-297-0554

APRIL 2017

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 2

- 11:00 am - Sunday Worship
- 11:00 am - "Questings" RE Class
- 11:30 am - "Beginnings" RE Class
- 2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

Monday, April 3

- 7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 5

- 5:15 pm - NA Meeting and Support Group

Sunday, April 9

- 11:00 am - Sunday Worship with Rev. Inanna Arthen - "Sacred Fools"
- 11:00 am - "Questings" RE Class
- 11:30 am - "Beginnings" RE Class
- 2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

Monday, April 10

- 1:00 pm - UUCW Governing Board Meeting
- 7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 12

- 5:15 pm - NA Meeting and Support Group

Thursday, April 13

- 5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen will be at **St. Mary's Catholic Church** this week for special Maundy Thursday Supper (see below for details)

Sunday, April 16

- 11:00 am - Easter Sunday Worship with Rev. Inanna Arthen
- 11:00 am - "Questings" RE Class
- 11:30 am - "Beginnings" RE Class
- 2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

Monday, April 17

- 7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 19

- 5:15 pm - NA Meeting and Support Group

Sunday, April 23

- 11:00 am - Sunday Worship
- 11:00 am - "Questings" RE Class
- 11:30 am - "Beginnings" RE Class
- 2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

Monday, April 24

- 7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 26

- 5:15 pm - NA Meeting and Support Group

Thursday, April 27

- 5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves Scalloped Potatoes and Pork Chops

Sunday, April 30

- 11:00 am - Sunday Worship with Rev. Inanna Arthen - "Beltane"
- 11:00 am - "Questings" RE Class
- 11:30 am - "Beginnings" RE Class
- 2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

From Your Minister

We're getting busier all the time at UUCW—our calendar of events is about to squeeze your minister off the front page! Which is perfectly delightful, as far as I'm concerned.

We didn't have anything snowed out in March, but Mother Nature tried hard. The bitter temperatures the weekend of March 11, plus 15 inches of snow a few days later, froze Lake Monomonac back over. The lake had been completely open; as of this writing, it's still (re)frozen. But we charged right ahead with our full schedule. On Sunday, March 5, Dave Faucher led a Chalice Circle service in which we talked about "Teachers," and how they've influenced our lives. On March 12, I led a service on "The Four Freedoms: Freedom of Speech." This

was the first in a planned series of services exploring the “Four Freedoms” defined by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In March 19’s Chalice Circle service, we shared our thoughts about “Mindfulness.” I wrapped up the month on March 26 with a service about the Spring Equinox, “Roar Like a Lion.”

On Thursday, March 9, I finally cooked and served the meal for Our Neighbor’s Kitchen that I joked was “a month in the making”—deluxe mac ‘n’ cheese with glazed carrots and homemade cookies. Dave Faucher turned out our perennial March favorite, Corned Beef dinner with Irish soda bread, on March 23. We’ve got something different planned for April—see below for details.

We have more going on at the church outside of worship service and dinners. The Indivisible Winchendon support and activism group has been meeting every Sunday afternoon. Our popular AA meeting on Mondays will soon be joined by a weekly NA meeting on Wednesday evenings (see below for more details). We’re looking forward to the start of Saturday yard sales, taking applications for the Summer Solstice vendor fair, and planning summer Sunday worship services.

April has an abundance of holidays, both sacred and secular. Easter and Passover, PanAmerican Day, Patriots Day on April 19, even April Fool’s Day. But one April holiday that, in my view, gets far too little attention is April 22: Earth Day. This year, Earth Day holds even more significance than ever. As I write this, our new President has just signed an executive order rolling back environmental regulations protecting our air, soil and water from industrial toxins, and our atmosphere from chemicals and pollutants contributing to climate change. Globally, 2016 was the hottest year on record. Many people hold that climate change is the most critical emergency now facing humanity. Unchecked, it will lead to the displacement of hundreds of millions of people, widespread famine, epidemics of pests and diseases spreading into temperate latitudes from the tropics, and countless deaths. Yet some of our legislators believe that corporate profits and an unregulated free market are much more important.

The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970. It was one of those grass-roots ideas that simply took off and, as its founder, Senator Gaylord Nelson, said, “it organized itself.”

In 1970, our economy, driven partly by the Vietnam war, was booming, and industry functioned

with very few constraints. I remember driving out Route 2 to visit family in the Albany area, and passing the paper mill in Erving. I could smell the mill long before it came in sight, and the river downstream was always opaque with pink and orange paper pulp and dyes. City streets, rural roads and public beaches were a mess of trash and litter, and most cities were shrouded in dense smog much of the time. Lake Erie was considered a dead body of water, and the Cuyahoga River in Ohio was so polluted with volatile industrial waste that it literally caught fire in 1969. Many other rivers in America were almost as dirty. It wasn’t possible to swim or fish in filthy Boston Harbor.

As the media highlighted these problems, public urgency for solutions increased. President Richard Nixon prioritized air and water pollution. The Environmental Protection Agency was established in 1970. In 1972, Nixon vetoed a bill passed by Congress to clean up polluted waterways because it was so expensive, but Congress overrode his veto and the Clean Water Act became law. Thanks to this Act, Lake Erie, Boston Harbor, the Cuyahoga River, Miller’s River in Erving, Penobscot Bay in Maine and thousands of other horribly polluted lakes, rivers and harbors are now rejuvenated. In many of them species of animals, fish, birds and plants have returned that were never expected to be seen there again.

Like the first protest movements of the 1960s, the 1970 Earth Day activities were concentrated on thousands of college and university campuses, public schools, and parks, with rallies, “teach-ins,” speakers and musicians. In 1990, several groups organized a twentieth anniversary world-wide Earth Day observance, which drew hundreds of thousands of participants to concerts, rallies and environmental fairs in dozens of cities. I attended the 1990 Earth Day on the Boston Esplanade, along with 250,000 other people. Despite the number of people and over a hundred booths passing out literature and selling food, at 7:30 p.m. that day, the Esplanade was pristine. The MDC said they’d never seen anything like it—we’d left the area cleaner than we found it.

We’d all learned to think green, and that impulse has evolved from a trend to a habit. Buildings of all sizes are built with “green technologies” and clean energy now; even tiny towns have curbside recycling. We’ve done so well, the most visible environmental problems of decades past are gone, and herein lies a dilemma.

Climate change is much harder to grasp on a local and individual level. Every winter cold snap evokes

snide jokes about “must be ‘global warming,’ haha.” Pointing out that another region of the country is experiencing record warmth means nothing to those who care only about their own back yards. In 1970, scientists made dire predictions that didn’t materialize precisely because action was taken to prevent them. But climate change skeptics now point to those predictions as proof that scientists are doom-sayers who shouldn’t be believed.

As UUs, we know that everyone on this planet is connected. We all breathe the same air; the water our lives depend on is shared with every spot on earth in the endless cycle of evaporation, condensation and precipitation. We know that many nations are far less able to adapt to a rise in sea level or a drastic change in rainfall or temperatures than highly technological countries like ours. We know how important it is for us to take action to protect not only our own interests, but the best interests of humanity, and of all living things that share our world.

As Nature reawakens around us in the warmth of spring, and April’s holy days make us reflect on miracles, let’s remember the lesson of Earth Day. Our planet is a small boat adrift in an infinite universe, and it’s the only home we’ve got. Hold it close, and keep it safe.

Rev. Inanna Arthen

Our Neighbors Kitchen Collaborates with St. Mary’s Church in April

This month, we’re doing something unusual. Our Neighbor’s Kitchen on April 13 will be served in a different location: St. Mary’s Catholic Church just a couple of blocks from UUCW, at 52 Spruce Street. It’s the big red brick church on the way to Old Murdock, if you’re not familiar with it.

We’ll be working with volunteers at St. Mary’s to make a delicious traditional Maundy Thursday chowder supper for Holy Week. Following the supper, you’re welcome to attend the service upstairs in the church. If you’d like to volunteer, get in touch with us for details, or just ask when you arrive for the supper.

On Thursday, April 27, we’ll be back at UUCW for a hearty dinner of scalloped potatoes and pork chops, with peas and dessert, cooked by Rev. Inanna Arthen and assistants.

Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. We can always use more volunteers! If you’d like to help with set-up, come to the church around 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 to socialize and enjoy the meal.



RE News



What a fickle month March has been! Rather than the warm, sunny days that we’d hoped for, and that February teased us with, we’ve been forced to huddle once more in the warmth of our homes. At UUCW, the Pine Room has been warm and inviting! Despite the cold windy Sundays, we have made beautiful pinwheels, created beaded hangings to represent our inner selves, and finished out the month crafting weavings. Throughout all the handiworks we wove stories of our Unitarian Universalist ideals, and shared how one life can intersect with another, and how those ripples can be carried out into the world. We spoke of doing good even when the going seems fearful or maddening, and of staying true to ourselves. It was a terrific month for conversations and growing.

As we head into (hopefully!) warmer times in April, we’ll start to spend some class time outside. Mid-month, Easter Sunday will feature an egg hunt for the younger class, and a “clue hunt” for the older class after our regular class time. We’ll talk about the holiday and what it means to others, and how it has a place in Unitarian Universalism.

From Easter and on into May, we’ll start to brainstorm ideas for our annual RE Sunday event. Because we’ve spent time this year talking about our beliefs as UUs, I feel that all voices should be heard in the planning of our Service to you! (Mark the date! This year RE Sunday will be June 4.)

We hope you’ll come by to visit, to see what we’ve been doing in our class time, and consider joining us!
Peace and light,

Kirsty Erikson
Lead RE Teacher

Spiritual Calendar

April 9: Palm Sunday (Christian). Commemorates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-9), when the people heralded his arrival and placed palm leaves in his path. This corresponded with prophecies in the Old Testament. Modern churches may distribute blessed palm leaves to their congregations on Palm Sunday. These may be gathered and burned to make the ashes for the following year's Ash Wednesday service. In some regions, where palm leaves were difficult to get, native foliage like pussy willows or olive branches are traditional. Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week.

April 11-18: Passover (Jewish). An important Jewish holiday that commemorates the exodus of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. It lasts 7 or 8 days, and concludes with a ritual meal, the *seder*, which comprises specific foods related to the story in the Book of Exodus and ritual readings. Children are actively involved in the *seder*, and are given a series of questions to ask about the proceedings and their meaning. Passover is tightly connected to Christian belief because the "last supper" that Jesus shared with his disciples was a Passover *seder*.

April 14: Good Friday (Christian). Part of Holy Week, Good Friday is a solemn observance in remembrance of the crucifixion of Christ. Some churches veil crosses, the altar, or other parts of the church with black or purple cloth.

April 16: Easter (Christian). The defining holiday of the Christian faith, Easter celebrates the resurrection of Christ after his crucifixion. For Christians, Easter is an affirmation of their faith and a renewal of God's Grace. Churches celebrate with sunrise services, to symbolize the rebirth of the light and the Son of God. Easter marks the ending of Lent and traditionally included feasts of foods banned during Lent, such as fresh meat, eggs and dairy foods. Lamb is a traditional Easter dinner because it symbolizes Jesus' title of "the lamb of God" as well as being part of the Passover supper.

April 30: Beltane Eve / Walpurgisnacht (Pagan). The eve of Beltane on May 1. The ancient Celts observed this as a fire festival, when all household fires were extinguished and great bonfires were built on hilltops and in public meeting places. Household fires were rekindled from these public fires. The Celts moved their herds of cattle to summer pasturage around this time, and it was commonly when wealth was accounted, debts paid off and kings held courts to settle disputes. Some of these traditions survived in Celtic regions like Ireland far into the Christian era. Folk customs were similar to those on Halloween, with fortune-telling and "begging" door to door with songs and costumes being common. Like Halloween, spirits, fairies and otherworldly beings were believed to walk abroad on May Eve. In Europe, people imagined that witches gathered on mountaintops for revels on "Walpurgisnacht," a fantasy dramatized in Goethe's *Faust*. Modern Pagans celebrate Beltane Eve with divination and parties to welcome full spring and the renewal of life.

Saturday Yard Sales

We're having a long, slow spring this year, but we're planning ahead for the new season of Saturday Yard Sales, which will commence as soon as weather permits. We're looking for donations of goods to sell, so as you work on your spring cleaning, reorganizing, decluttering, and downsizing, please think of us! Household goods, books, collectibles, *small* furniture (things we can easily carry around and store between sales if it doesn't sell right away), clean toys, games and puzzles in mint to good condition (no stuffed animals, please), small electronics in good working order, CDs and DVDs all are welcome. We prefer not to have too many clothes, as they tend not to sell.

We're happy to provide a receipt for donations

on request. Please write up a list of each item you're donating for our records if you'd like a receipt.

To arrange a donation of goods, or if you have questions, contact Sue Faucher at 978-632-5588 or sfaucher@on24seven.com. If you'd like to set up your own table or display, let us know, or just come on down. We only ask for a modest monetary donation to the church.

We'll announce the first yard sale date as soon as we set it. Yard sales will be held every other Saturday.

NA Meetings Beginning at UUCW

Jennifer Sibley, founder of Working Wonders in Winchendon and member of the new town

This Month in UU History

April 13, 1743: Thomas Jefferson was born in Shadwell, VA. Jefferson was an articulate and convinced Unitarian and wrote extensively defending the concepts of Unitarianism. He famously edited his own version of the Bible in accordance with Unitarian precepts, slicing up a New Testament with a razor and pasting the pieces together under the title, *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*. He carefully excised nearly all mention of miracles or the supernatural and focused on Jesus' moral teachings. The "Jefferson Bible" is still in print in numerous editions, and can be read online (of course) if you're curious. Jefferson also wrote the Statute for Religious Freedom of Virginia. He served as John Adams' Vice President. In their later years he and Adams, also a Unitarian, debated religion in their extensive correspondence.

substance abuse task force, is organizing NA (Narcotics Anonymous) meetings at UUCW on Wednesday evenings, beginning April 5. There will be an NA meeting at 5:15 p.m. followed by a family support group meeting at 6:30 p.m. If you have questions, you can contact Jennifer through Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WorkingWondersInWinchendon/>), or simply come to a meeting. Anyone who is affected by substance abuse issues is welcome.

For general information about Narcotics Anonymous, see <https://www.nerna.org/>.

Summer Solstice Fair 2017

Sue Faucher is taking applications for vendor spaces for the Summer Solstice Fair on Saturday, June 17. 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. It's a perfect 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.

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 978-297-1730 (home) or 508-572-1624 (cell).

April Birthdays

Deborah Colburn	April 1
Wendy O'Brien	April 3
Jeannette Gutteridge	April 4



(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!

Contact Information

Minister: Rev. Inanna Arthen, M.Div

Phone: 978-297-1730

Cell: 508-572-1624

Email: iarthen@inannaarthen.com

RE Lead Teacher: Kirsty Johnson Erikson

Email: kirstyerikson@gmail.com

Musician: Lucinda Ellert

Phone: 781-944-7254

Email: lucindajellert@gmail.com

Governing Board Chair: David Faucher

Email: dfaucher@on24seven.com

Governing Board Members:

Allan Gordon: 31Allangordon@gmail.com

Kirsty Johnson Erikson: kirstyerikson@gmail.com (Clerk)

Sexton (Custodian): Sue Faucher

Phone: 978-632-5588

Email: sfaucher@on24seven.com