

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

MAY 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

Monday, May 1

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Saturday, May 6

9:00am - Saturday Yard Sales

Sunday, May 7

11:00 am - Sunday Worship

11:00 am - "Questings" RE Class

11:30 am - "Beginnings" RE Class

2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

Monday, May 8

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, May 11

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves

Meat Loaf dinner

Sunday, May 14

11:00 am - Sunday Worship with Rev.
Inanna Arthen - "Mother's Day". This
will be an intergenerational service.

2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

Monday, May 15

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Saturday, May 20

9:00am - Saturday Yard Sales

Sunday, May 21

11:00 am - Sunday Worship

11:00 am - "Questings" RE Class

11:30 am - "Beginnings" RE Class

2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

Monday, May 22

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, May 25

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves

Spring Chicken dinner

Saturday, May 27

12:00 pm - Church Spring Clean-Up. Pizza
will be involved!

Sunday, May 28

11:00 am - Sunday Worship with Rev.
Inanna Arthen - "Memorial Day"

11:00 am - "Questings" RE Class

11:30 am - "Beginnings" RE Class

2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

Monday, May 29

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Sunday, June 4

11:00 am - Sunday Worship - RE Sunday.
Intergenerational service led by our RE
kids.

2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

From Your Minister

It's been another busy month at UUCW as we welcome spring with a sigh of relief. What a difference a few weeks make here in New England! We started the month with an "April Fool" snowstorm (that forced me to cancel driving to an event for which I was scheduled on program). Now we're back up in our sanctuary on Sundays, doors and windows open to the sun and mild breezes. Daffodils and other flowers planted in past years by UUCW members and RE classes are blooming in our gardens. Maybe you noticed the pool of purple crocuses around our sign by Central Street.

On Sunday, April 2, Dave Faucher led a Chalice Circle service on the theme of Reconciliation. On April 9, I presented a service exploring the concept of "the Holy Fool" in history, and how we can tap into that flow of

innocence and simple faith in our own lives. On April 16, I led the service for Easter Sunday, with a sermon titled “Walking to Calvary and Back.” Our Chalice Circle service on April 23 picked up from the mindfulness meditation we did the month before, with a full guided meditation followed by sharing thoughts. I wrapped up the month on April 30 with a service on the ancient holiday of Beltane and how we can use its message of passion, love and creativity in our modern day lives.

On April 15, we said goodbye to a long-time church member, Pearl S. Beaman, who passed away on March 1. After a lovely memorial service upstairs, friends and family gathered for a reception in our Parish Hall. Pearl will be deeply missed.

Our Neighbor’s Kitchen served its April 13 meal at Immaculate Heart of Mary church (52 Spruce Street), which will be serving dinners on the alternating Thursdays from our dates. Volunteers from UUCW and IHM collaborated on a “Maundy Thursday supper” of clam chowder, corn chowder, salad, bread and butter, and a variety of yummy desserts donated by the CAC. On Thursday, April 27, we served Scalloped Potatoes and Pork Chops, with salad, homemade peanut butter oatmeal chocolate chip cookies, and pies donated by a guest in our Parish Hall.

We hosted a new NA meeting and support group on April 5 and 12. Unfortunately, due to low attendance, Working Wonders in Winchendon has moved their meetings to the Beals Memorial Library. You can contact WWiW for more information. In the meantime, we are talking with Central Massachusetts NA in Worcester about coordinating directly with them. We’ll keep you updated!

The month of May is marked by several holidays. Mother’s Day, on the second Sunday in May, is well-known to the hospitality industry as the biggest day of the year for eating in restaurants. Families everywhere get Mom and Grandma out of the kitchen for brunch, lunch, dinner, or a buffet which they don’t have to cook or wash up after. Funny how the most popular way of showing appreciation to those who nurture and feed us is to return the favor! Hiring a house-cleaning service or sending Mom off for a weekend away from the kids is also much appreciated.

The last Monday in May is a national holiday, Memorial Day. While we observe this with some solemnity as a time to remember and honor persons in the military who gave their lives in service, Memorial Day

weekend has another aspect. It’s the first long weekend of summer. Many families get out the grills, put out the patio furniture, put their boats in the water or just take off for some outdoor adventure for the first time since fall.

May has another holiday which is observed worldwide but is largely unnoticed here. May 1 is International Workers’ Day. While this is a day to recognize all the achievements of activists and unions to win rights for workers, it’s particularly significant as the date when the eight-hour work day became a right.

Before the Industrial Revolution, people worked long days, but their work day was broken up with many rest periods and breaks, and workers could usually pace their own time and efforts. Factory work turned workers into machines, driven at a constant rate, with almost no breaks. The work day ranged from 10 to 16 hours, six days a week. Child labor was universal. Through the nineteenth century, both reformers and the growing labor movement struggled to win rights for industrial workers and improve their conditions.

In 1884, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions agreed on Saturday, May 1, 1886, as the deadline to make the eight-hour work day a standard. They planned a general strike to mark that date. Hundreds of thousands of workers across the United States held rallies and demonstrations that May 1st. But as demonstrations continued for several more days, things turned ugly.

On May 4, 1886, a peaceful rally in Haymarket Square in Chicago erupted into violence when a bomb was thrown at police who were attempting to disperse the protesters. Gunfire followed, with seven police and four civilians killed. A group of anarchists was rounded up and charged with the bombing, and four of them were convicted and hanged.

In 1894, Cleveland, Ohio was rocked by the May Day Riots, which were triggered by the severe recession following the Panic of 1893.

In 1904, The International Socialist Congress in Amsterdam called on “all Social Democratic Party organisations and trade unions of all countries to demonstrate energetically on the First of May for the legal establishment of the 8-hour day, for the class demands of the proletariat, and for universal peace.”

Work (or labor, or “jobs”) is a strong concern for many of us now, and it was unquestionably a deciding factor in the last Presidential election. Meaningful work, work that has dignity, work that pays well enough to live on and to support a family—Americans of all

ages, and all but the highest income levels, struggle to find employment that meets these needs. Some regions of the country suffer from entrenched unemployment and poverty, with major industries of past eras dead, declining or outsourcing jobs overseas. Many younger people are demanding that the expectations and power of employers be radically changed. “Immigrants,” legal or otherwise, are seen as “stealing jobs,” as though we were all in a zero-sum game of musical chairs. Bernie Sanders, who calls himself a “democratic socialist,” mobilized and excited Americans across every class, racial and income spectrum because he addressed these issues directly and creatively. He is still the most popular politician in America. But the tremendous and growing gap between the extremely wealthy few and the sinking majority sometimes seems irreparable.

We would hate to see riots and bombings break out in our country simply because Americans want fairly compensated work and a just share of this country’s

economic bounty. As we enjoy the spring weather, take our Moms to lunch and observe Memorial Day, let’s not forget the blood and sweat shed in the past to win our benefits and rights as workers which we now take so for granted—rights like weekends, paid sick time and vacations, overtime pay, minimum wage, disability benefits and retirement plans, to name a few. Let’s also stand up against the erosion of those rights by big corporations and the so-called “gig economy.” Power concedes nothing without a demand, wrote former slave Frederick Douglass; eternal vigilance is the price of freedom, and of a lot of things we value. So let’s not forget International Workers’ Day and the activists, some of them your ancestors, who founded it. We wouldn’t be enjoying our Memorial Day cookouts without them.

Rev. Inanna Arthen



Spring has sprung! Gone are piles of snow and the cold breath of wind from the Polar Vortex. Robins flit about the front lawn, accompanied by the glorious Spring songs of so many other birds. The crocus that the RE kids planted two years ago have filled in the space under our sign and bloomed in wild abundance. In the Pine Room, we’ve been able to fling open the back door and let spring wind and warmth blow winter away from our space. Easter Sunday blessed us with incredibly warm weather, making the hiding of Easter eggs a truly glorious task. Our older kids did this during the first half of the service; midway through service, the younger kids went out with great spirits and searched all over the grounds for their treats. Later, the older kids explored the church building, looking for clues to their Easter baskets. It was a delightful morning for all.

As we get into the warmer days of May, we’ll be continuing to work with our curriculum, *Riddle and Mystery*, written by Dick Gilbert. He says, about this curriculum:

“The purpose of *Riddle and Mystery* is to assist young people in their own search for understanding. Each of the 16 sessions introduces and processes a Big Question. The first three echo Paul Gauguin’s famous triptych: Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going? The next ten, including Does God exist? and What happens when you die?, could be found on almost anyone’s list of basic life inquiries. The final three are increasingly Unitarian Universalist: Can we ever solve life’s mystery? How can I know what to believe? What does Unitarian Universalism mean to me?

The course guides us through many situations where we assess what it means to be a UU, how to work on our own personal beliefs, and how we can live spiritual lives. It’s been a great year of personal spiritual exploration for our kids.

During the month of May, we’ll also be planning our annual RE Sunday (save the date: June 4!) where the young people of the church perform the service. That Sunday marks the end of our regular RE Classes, but we hope to continue to hold “RE Light” classes every other week during the summer. Stay tuned for more information on that!

Wishing you all the best that Spring has to offer,

Kirsty Erikson
Lead RE Teacher

Spiritual Calendar

May 1: Beltane (Pagan). Historian Ronald Hutton states that Beltane is one of the few Pagan holidays in the U.K. with customs that can be reliably traced to pre-Christian times. Beltane marked the beginning of summer to the ancient Celts and was observed with bonfires, usually on hilltops or in communal gathering places and commons. Animals and humans alike would jump over the embers or pass between two fires for protection, purification and fertility. As at all transition times, divination was done for the coming season. The Celts moved their herds of cattle to summer pasturage at this time. In the historical era, May 1 was a time of merry-making between the hard work of plowing and sowing crops and the start of haying. Modern Pagans celebrate the courtship of the earth goddess and her consort at Beltane. Maypole dances, games, potluck feasts and of course, bonfires, are popular traditions.

May 10: Visakha Puja - Buddha Day (Buddhist). Also known as *Vesak*. Commemorates the birth, enlightenment and death of Gautama Buddha. Devout Buddhists go to temple early in the morning to offer flowers and joss sticks of incense—because these offerings are short-lived, they remind followers that life itself is brief. Buddhists may wear all white and spend the entire day in temple dedicating themselves to following the eight precepts of Buddhism. This is also a time to seek joy and happiness through charitable works and helping others.

May 27: Beginning of Ramadan (Islam). The ninth month of the Islamic calendar, Ramadan is a full moon cycle spent in fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the *Quran* to the Prophet Mohammed. Its observance is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. Along with fasting from dawn to sunset each day, Muslims may include extra prayers in their daily practice, read the entire *Quran*, and perform acts of charity and good works.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen

We'll be serving two hearty and delicious meals at UUCW in May.

On Thursday, May 11, come on down for a family favorite: homemade Meat Loaf with fresh salad and homemade cookies for dessert, cooked by Rev. Inanna Arthen and assistants.

On Thursday, May 25, chef extraordinaire Dave Faucher and assistants will whip up our annual "Spring Chicken" feast: fresh chicken 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 3:30 and 4:30 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 5:45 p.m. and usually takes about forty-five minutes. Volunteers have a chance to sit down together to socialize and enjoy the meal.

On May 4 and 18, Immaculate Heart of Mary church (52 Spruce Street) will begin serving "first and third Thursday" Our Neighbor's Kitchen dinners in their hall. On May 4, they'll be dishing up Spaghetti Dinner. Contact IHM for details on volunteering.

This meal is sustained by gifts from the people who attend, the religious communities of Winchendon, the Winchendon Community Action Committee, The Winchendon School, and many volunteers.

Church Spring Clean-up on May 27

What do you get when you get a bunch of people, a lot of buckets and a gorgeous day? You get a really spiffed up church building! If you have a bucket, bring it! We'll supply the water and the cleaning supplies, you supply the elbow grease to get the job done. As it's said, the more, the merrier! So come one, come all, on Saturday, May 27, from 12:00 noon to around 3:00 p.m.. We'll have pizza available for everyone for lunch, then you can join us in giving our beautiful historic building an extra clean-up and polish after this long hard winter,

Saturday Yard Sales Starting May 6

Saturday Yard Sales will begin on May 6! They'll be held every other week from then on as long as weather permits. June 17, of course, is our big annual Summer Sale and Winchendon's Summer Solstice Fair (see below).

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,

This Month in UU History

May 25, 1803: Ralph Waldo Emerson was born into a family of ministers in Boston, Massachusetts. Known as Waldo, he was raised Unitarian, attended Harvard College and Harvard Divinity School, and became minister of Second Church (Unitarian) in Boston. A life filled with grief, including losing his father when he was eight years old, and the death of his 20-year-old wife, sent Emerson on a spiritual journey that led him to Transcendentalism. An accomplished essayist and lecturer, his 1838 "Divinity School Address" denying the divinity of Jesus created a scandal and led to Emerson being denounced as an atheist. Harvard Div students pass on a legend that Emerson haunts the room in Divinity Hall where he delivered the address on its anniversary, July 15.

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.

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/uuinchendon>

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).

May Birthdays

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



(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.

Contact Information

Minister: Rev. Inanna Arthen, M.Div

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RE Lead Teacher: Kirsty Johnson Erikson

Email: kirstyerikson@gmail.com

Musician: Lucinda Ellert

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Governing Board Chair: David Faucher

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Allan Gordon: 31Allangordon@gmail.com

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