

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

JUNE 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

Saturday, June 3

9:00 am - Saturday Yard Sales

Sunday, June 4

11:00 am - Sunday Worship - RE Sunday.
Intergenerational service led by our RE
kids, followed by our annual Ice Cream
Social.

2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

Monday, June 5

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, June 8

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Sloppy Joes

Sunday, June 11

11:00 am - Sunday Worship with Rev.
Inanna Arthen - "Flower Communion".
This will be an intergenerational service
and our last regular church year service.
Join us for Summer Sunday Worship!
12:00 pm - UUCW Annual Meeting. All
are welcome! All UUCW members,
please attend!

2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

Monday, June 12

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Saturday, June 17

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

Sunday, June 18

2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

Monday, June 19

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, June 22

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Barbeque Summer Ribs

Sunday, June 25

2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

Monday, June 26

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, June 29

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Hamburgers and Hot Dogs

Saturday, July 1

9:00 am - Saturday Yard Sales

Sunday, July 2

11:00 am - Summer Sunday Worship

2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

From Your Minister

It's been a wildly inconsistent month of May. We had a bona fide heat wave (at least three consecutive days over 90 degrees), so much rain that our state's years-long severe drought is completely over, and temperatures so chilly I lit the woodstove a couple of nights. I'm still desperately behind on my yard work, but I did get out and mow the lawn...well, kinda-sorta. Good enough for gov'mint work, as a former coworker used to say!

We've been busy at UUCW, planning, thinking, cooking and cleaning. On Sunday, May 7, Dave Faucher led a Chalice Circle service on the theme of "The Interdependent Web of Existence." We tossed a ball of yarn to each other as we named different ways in which we were connected, forming a bright colored web of strands. On Sunday, May 14, I offered a service titled "Mothering Sunday," exploring the history and meaning of "mother's day" holidays. On Sunday, May 21, we shared a Chalice Circle Service on the theme of "Stewardship in Our Communities," talking about stewardship and what it means to nurture and support things that are greater than ourselves, like the Earth, a community or a church. On Sunday, May 28, I led a Memorial Day service, "We Remember Them."

Our Neighbor's Kitchen served two satisfying meals this month. On May 11, I cooked up another homage to my mom's (and dad's!) favorite dinners, Meat Loaf with mashed potatoes and gravy, with homemade soft ginger cookies for dessert. On May 25, Dave Faucher got fancy with our annual "spring chicken" meal and turned out Greek Lemon Chicken with roasted potatoes, salad and bread, topped off with fresh watermelon.

Our first planned Saturday Yard Sale on May 6 was rained out—and maybe we should have known better because the same thing happened to our first yard sale date last year! But it couldn't rain *all* the time—we kept telling ourselves, all this long wet month—and we launched on May 20. We can still use donated stuff to sell (see below for details). Our next Yard Sale date is June 3.

I was honored to conduct a wedding service in our church on May 18. We wish the happy couple a long and joyful life together!

On Saturday, May 27, we spent several hours giving the parish hall some extra spiffing and cleaning. We had plenty of pizza to keep up our strength. We held two Governing Board meetings this month, as we prepare for our Annual Meeting, RE Sunday and our big Solstice Fair on June 17.

June is a happy month, full of graduations, weddings, real summer weather at last, the longest days of the entire year, vacations and a couple of lightweight holidays. Father's Day on the third Sunday in June is often sniffed at as an invention of retailers, but it can be a day to do something fun with dad and make some memories. June's other less regarded holiday falls on the 14th: Flag Day.

I bought a new flag this year. I had an "inherited" flag, of unknown provenance and age, and it had gotten rather grimy. Last fall, on November 7, the day before the election, I tried to wash it. The flag completely disintegrated. (Only as I type this has it occurred to me that this minor mishap could be seen as either heavily symbolic or a portent of what was about to happen at the polls!) So I bought a brand-new flag just in time for Memorial Day. It looks bright and crisp and festive flying from the corner of my high front porch.

Some people would be surprised that I like to fly the American flag. But I consider myself to be a patriotic person. I love my country. In particular, I love what my country could be if it truly lived up to its ideals, and what it sometimes has been at its finest hours. I don't

believe that "patriotism" means unconditional and unquestioning acceptance of everything my government does. On the contrary: to me, "patriotism" means holding my country, my government and our leaders to the highest possible standards—the same standards I set for myself as a citizen. No one and nothing is immune to constructive criticism—without that, how can any of us improve and grow?

Not since the 1960s and 70s and the antiwar protests of those years has the definition of "patriotism" been so strongly, even violently, contested as it is now. Everyone seems to have their own standards now, and everyone's standards demand absolute purity. No one says "my country, right or wrong" anymore because that message has been so internalized it doesn't need to be stated. Nowadays, many Americans have interpreted it as "my President, right or wrong," a sentiment which would make the famously humble George Washington break into a cold sweat.

Flag Day evolved in the late 1800s when manufactured flags made the Stars and Stripes affordable to everyone (when flags had to be hand-sewn, they weren't cheap). It was manufacturers and retailers who urged Americans to display the flag in every public space and on their homes, and even churches almost always have a big American flag or two in their sanctuary. People in other countries find Americans' fondness for flag-waving to be both exaggerated and a bit strange.

This Flag Day, I have a lot to think about regarding patriotism, civic participation, and my responsibilities as a citizen. Many of us are having to deal more with political issues this year than we ever have before, or really wanted to. In May, the "Indivisible Winchendon" group I co-founded placed a referendum on the Warrant for Town Meeting, invested time and out-of-pocket funds distributing information, were profiled in the *Winchendon Courier*...and then were not allowed to present our referendum. This led to several of us having face-to-face talks with town officials and addressing the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen. We expected some guff at Town Meeting from the voters—we didn't expect to be improperly passed over and not even allowed to speak.

What is patriotism? What does it mean to participate fully as a citizen, far beyond voting in major elections? What are our responsibilities as free people in a democratic republic? These questions don't have easy answers. But they've never been more important.

Rev. Inanna Arthen

RE Sunday and Ice Cream Social on June 4

Join us on Sunday, June 4 at 11:00 a.m. for our intergenerational “RE Sunday” service. The RE kids and Lead Teacher Kirsty Johnson-Erikson will lead the service in the sanctuary. Immediately following we’ll hold our “make your own sundae Sunday” Ice Cream Social in the parish hall (and eat outside if it’s nice enough!). Rev. Arthen promises to bring her homemade hot fudge sauce and we’ll have lots of other yummy toppings. Don’t miss it!

Flower Communion Service and UUCW Annual Meeting on June 11

Join us on Sunday, June 11 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 together in a large vase and blessed. 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!

We will hold our Annual Meeting at noon (12:00 p.m.) after the 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!

Our Neighbor’s Kitchen

We’ll be serving *three* hearty and delicious meals at UUCW in June.

On Thursday, June 8, come channel your inner kid with a meal of made-from-scratch Sloppy Joes, with fresh salad and homemade cookies for dessert, cooked by Rev. Inanna Arthen and assistants.

On Thursday, June 22, chef extraordinaire Dave Faucher and assistants will baste and bake our all-time favorite summer tradition, Barbeque Summer Ribs, with sides, salad and dessert.

On Thursday, June 29, we’ll be rustling up an early Fourth of July cookout spread of hot dogs, hamburgers, and fun food to go with them.

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 June 1 and 15, Immaculate Heart of Mary church (52 Spruce Street) will be serving “first and third Thursday” Our Neighbor’s Kitchen dinners in their hall. Contact IHM for menus and details on volunteering.



Things are wrapping up downstairs in the Religious Education Class! We’re putting the final touches on our annual RE Sunday service where the kids and I lead the service for the adults. We’ve been talking since January about what being a Unitarian Universalist means--from the people of the past, to the people of today, and our role in the future. Our service will be a culmination of those thoughts. Please join us in celebrating with us on Sunday June 4!

And while the official RE calendar draws to a close for this church year, there are plans afoot for several class times during the summer. Look for new of this in our July newsletter!

Thank you for sharing your children with me for all these Sunday mornings. We learn from one another; and since one of the most celebrated parts of being a UU is being in tune with all sources, this includes the young people of our congregations. We’ve had laughter and shared worries. We’ve talked political situations and family dynamics. We’ve shared stories from UU’s of the past, and expressed our hopes as UU’s of the future. It’s been a marvelous year!

In peace and light,

Kirsty Erikson
Lead RE Teacher

Spiritual Calendar

- June 4: Pentacost (Christian).** Commemorates the event related in Acts 2:1-31, in which the Holy Spirit fills the Apostles and other followers of Christ and gives them “the gift of tongues.” Each follower begins speaking in unknown languages, and those who are listening hear the words in their own native tongue. This event was said to have occurred during the Jewish observance of Shavuot, which commemorates God giving Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. Pentacost therefore could refer to both the event in Acts and the Old Testament Shavuot. Pentacost falls 50 days after Easter Sunday and is known as Whitsunday (“White Sunday”) in the U.K., where this long weekend marks the beginning of summer, like Memorial Day weekend in the U.S. Because of its association with fire and the Holy Spirit, the color red figures heavily in Pentacostal church services and celebrations. Red flowering plants symbolize the renewal of life, the return of summer, and the beginning of the Christian church’s growth as a universal religion.
- June 9: Feast of St. Columba of Iona (Celtic Christian).** St. Columba (521-597 CE) was an Irish abbott who founded an important monastery on Iona and several other monasteries, and is credited with bringing Christianity to Scotland. His life is unusually well documented and some poems of his own have survived. The Clan Malcolm/Clan McCallum claim to have taken their names from “Columba” and to be directly descended from him. St. Columba is important to Canadians of Scots ancestry.
- June 21: Litha / Summer Solstice (Pagan).** The peak of the solar year, when the Sun reaches its greatest height in the noon sky and the day is the longest. After Solstice, the days begin to grow shorter. Modern Pagans celebrate Litha as the time when the young Holly King of Winter defeats the solar Oak King, at the height of his power, and forces him into slow retreat. The continuous reversal of power between Oak King and Holly King remind us that all power waxes and wanes; only Mother Earth is constant. Litha is celebrated with games, picnics, ritual theatre and ceremonies to honor the Sun. It’s an ideal time for weddings and child blessings.
- June 24: Feast of St. John the Baptist (Christian).** St. John appears in all four of the New Testament Gospels and is said to have baptized Jesus to prepare him for his mission. His feast day commemorates his birth, six months before the birth of Jesus. The proximity of his feast to Summer Solstice suggests that echoes of the Oak King/Holly King myths can be found in the stories of St. John and Jesus. St. John’s Day celebrations in Europe and Britain share many features of Midsummer folk customs. St. John is the patron saint of Freemasons, as well as Puerto Rico, Quebec, Newfoundland and Jordan.
- June 26-28: Eid al-Fitr (Islam).** This holiday concludes the month-long fast of Ramadan. Fasting is forbidden during Eid al-Fitr. Muslims traditionally get up before dawn, wash and dress in fresh clothing, and eat something sweet. The days are spent in prayer, and in expressing happiness as a way of showing gratitude and blessings. Muslims are encouraged to give as much charitable assistance to the needy as they possibly can during this holiday. Charity and good works are an important part of Islam at all times.

UUCW and IHM will be alternating serving dinner on the fifth Thursday, in months that have five Thursdays (silly calendar...!).

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.

Saturday Yard Sales Have Begun

After being rained out on May 6, Saturday Yard Sales started on May 20. They’ll be held every other week

from now on as long as weather permits (we’ve gone almost into October in past years). 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, 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.

This Month in UU History

June 19, 1829: Charles Carroll Everett was born in Brunswick, Maine. Everett studied medicine at Bowdoin College, then continued his training in Europe for a year. Bowdoin invited him to teach modern languages, but refused to grant him a professorship as long as he was a Unitarian. As a result, Everett attended Harvard Divinity School and became the pastor of a congregation in Bangor. He later was appointed Bussey Professor of Theology at Harvard, where his writings and work helped shape the Divinity School into a strong non-denominational theological school. He suggested that HDS put out a non-denominational journal of theology. After his death, his daughter left a bequest in her will that funded the launch of the *Harvard Theological Review* in 1908.

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

Be sure you join us for our Summer Solstice Flea Market and Fair on Saturday, June 17! From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., our lawns will be crammed with local vendors offering food, crafts, services and more. UUCW will be running our popular concession stand with hot dogs, chili, cold drinks and other delectable goodies at flea market prices. The UUCW RE kids will be participating in the parade. We're keeping our fingers and toes crossed for good weather and hoping to see you all there!

This is your last chance for a vendor space! 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. Contact Sue Faucher 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).

June Birthdays

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

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

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