

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon



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Church Telephone 978-297-0554

JULY 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, July 1

9:00 am - Saturday Yard Sales

Sunday, July 2

11:00 am - Summer Sunday Worship -
"Born in the USA"

Monday, July 3

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Tuesday, July 4

6:30 pm - NA Meeting (NEW!)

Sunday, July 9

2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

Monday, July 10

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Tuesday, July 11

6:30 pm - NA Meeting (NEW!)

Thursday, July 13

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Homemade Chili

Saturday, July 15

9:00 am - Saturday Yard Sales

Sunday, July 16

11:00 am - Summer Sunday Worship

Monday, July 17

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Tuesday, July 18

6:30 pm - NA Meeting (NEW!)

Sunday, July 23

2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

Monday, July 24

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Tuesday, July 25

6:30 pm - NA Meeting (NEW!)

Thursday, July 27

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Chicken Alfredo Lasagna

Saturday, July 29

9:00 am - Saturday Yard Sales

Sunday, July 30

11:00 am - Summer Sunday Worship
2:00 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

Monday, July 31

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Tuesday, August 1

6:30 pm - NA Meeting (NEW!)

From Your Minister

June is finally here, but what a difference from last year's drought and scorching heat waves! It's cool and wet, with a hot day or two followed by a week of showers and storms. British Isles, you can come take your summer back now!

We've wrapped up another regular church year at UUCW, but we have a busy summer planned, and there are some changes ahead. On June 4, the RE kids and Lead Teacher Kirsty Johnson Erikson led the "RE Sunday" worship service. Afterwards, we enjoyed our traditional make-your-own-sundae ice cream social in the parish hall, with ice cream, sherbet, add-ins and homemade chocolate sauce. On June 11, I led our traditional Flower Communion service.

We served three delicious meals for Our Neighbor's Kitchen in June, because June has five Thursdays. In August, Immaculate Heart of Mary church will cover the fifth Thursday. On June 8, we cooked up a nostalgic blast from all our pasts: Sloppy Joes, with oven-roasted potatoes, salad and mini-ice cream sandwiches for dessert. On June 22, Dave Faucher and assistants turned out one of our most popular meals (and the only one that makes me wish I wasn't vegetarian), Barbeque Summer Ribs with roasted sweet potatoes and pasta salad, chased by homemade

cookies and watermelon for dessert. We had a surprise dessert, too: birthday cake for me, which I definitely did not expect. I even got a chorus of “Happy Birthday.” On June 29 we grilled up a casual Summer Cookout dinner with hamburgers, hotdogs, and side dishes.

On Saturday, June 17 we were at church bright and early setting up for our annual Summer Flea Market and Fair. Our yards were crammed with vendors’ tents and tables, selling crafts, services and food, or fundraising for local groups such as the Garden Club and Friends of the Library. UUCW’s food tent offered coffee and pastries generously donated by Dunkin’ Donuts (this year we had muffins, bagels *and* croissants along with doughnuts), then sold chili, hot dogs, baked potatoes, sodas, water and lemonade. Although it was overcast most of the day, only a few drops of rain fell once or twice, and all events went on as planned. The RE kids rode on a float in the Solstice parade, with several of us walking behind holding our new rainbow flag.

Following the Flower Communion service on June 11, we met for church Annual Meeting. The church voted to hire me as your minister for another year. It’s hard to believe that I’m starting my fifth year as UUCW’s pastor! But we’re all sad that RE Lead Teacher Kirsty Johnson Erikson has tendered her resignation. For the time being, we will not have an RE program, as there are not enough kids attending to support it. We all wish Kirsty the best; she has been an exemplary teacher and has given us her all for the last three years.

Now we’re preparing for Summer Yard Sales, Summer Sunday Worship, some weddings and events, and maybe a fun family outing or two together. The new church year will start on September 10 with Water Communion service, and it will be here before we know it. Don’t forget to save some water if you go someplace special this summer!

As I write this, I’m having distinct feelings of *déjà vu*. Senate Republicans spent a couple of weeks crafting a replacement for the ACA, their version of the plan passed by the House which President Trump accurately characterized as “mean.” The Senate worked in such complete secrecy that not even some members of the committee that was supposed to be helping with the bill knew what it said. The Senate bill was finally made public this week. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell wanted to vote on it before the Fourth of July break (our members of Congress sure do take a lot of breaks). But there has been such a public outcry over the bill that too many Republican Senators refuse

to support it. McConnell has now postponed the vote.

But we’ve been through all this before. The House did the same thing. They released their “health care” bill to a firestorm of protests and criticism, withdrew the bill, waited a while, put out an even worse version and rammed it through in a hasty vote, taking advantage of the fact that voters had let their guard down in the belief that they’d “won.” One wonders if House Republicans planned that entire strategy right from the start. Now it looks like the Senate will try to pull off the same stunt. We’ll see.

On June 26, Kayla Chadwick wrote in *The Huffington Post*, “I Don’t Know How To Explain To You That You Should Care About Other People.” She despairs at the conservatives who don’t want to help pay for health care, education and fair wages for anybody but themselves. “The ‘I’ve got mine, so screw you,’ attitude has been oozing from the American right wing for decades, but this gleeful exuberance in pushing legislation that will immediately hurt the most vulnerable among us is chilling,” she writes. I couldn’t have said it better. It’s not simply that conservatives these days are passing stringent laws that hurt everyone but the rich. The really disturbing thing is that they’re so *happy* about it. After the House passed its bill, lawmakers threw a literal party in the White House Rose Garden. Even the NFL would have given them a penalty for that.

On June 20, Winchendon voted down an override to support the school budget by a 5 percent margin, after the override proposal passed at Annual Town Meeting with a 2:1 majority. What do the anti-override voters who mobbed the polls really think they’ve accomplished?

Far too many conservatives live by the rule that everyone is out to cheat them. This flavor of paranoia—“everyone is out to get my money!”—is leading all of America into some very scary places. As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day this year, let’s ask ourselves: is this what the Founders intended? What can we do about it?

Rev. Inanna Arthen

Our Neighbor’s Kitchen

Your hard-working chefs have swapped weeks for July’s Our Neighbor’s Kitchen, but have no fear—we’ll be serving two delicious meals in our naturally cooled Parish Hall.

On Thursday, July 13, try out our homemade

chili with bread and side dishes, whipped up by chef extraordinaire Dave Faucher and assistants. Compare our recipe to the annual Chili Cookoff entries later on this month!

On Thursday, July 27, Rev. Inanna Arthen and assistants will make Chicken Alfredo Lasagna—lasagna with cheesy alfredo sauce and tender chicken, with salad and dessert.

We can always use more volunteers. If you can help with food prep, contact the chefs for details on their work flow for the night's meal and when help will be most needed, as this varies with the menu. 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 July 6 and 20, 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. 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.

NA Meeting at UUCW

UUCW is hosting a new Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meeting on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in our Parish Hall. This is an open meeting, with free discussion, information, support and sharing. If you're in recovery or would like to be, you're welcome to join us. If you know anyone who would benefit from an NA meeting or is looking for a local one, please pass this information on to them.

Winchendon NA Meeting (we will be giving it a more official name of its own) is led by Winchendon residents, in collaboration with the Central MA Area and New England Region of Narcotics Anonymous. For more information about NA and its principles, see www.nerna.org.

Saturday Yard Sales

Saturday Yard Sales are continuing, every other weekend, as long as the weather permits. Come on down and find a treasure or a bargain! Dates in July will be:

July 1
July 15
July 29

We're still delighted to accept donations of goods to sell, so as you work on your summer cleaning, reorganizing, decluttering, and downsizing, please think of us! Household goods, books, collectibles, *small* furniture (things we can easily carry around and store between



RE News



What a fun culmination to our year! Religious Education Sunday was a fine blending of the topics we've covered this year. I believe our young people have a good grounding in what it means being a Unitarian Universalist, and a confidence about how to approach questions from people who ask them about "that strange sounding religion" we belong to.

Since our class numbers have declined over the last two years, I have made the hard decision to tender my resignation as the RE teacher. Unfortunately, this is the direction of many UU churches in New England, a troubling trend that we have tried hard to reverse. We can blame it on sports, or on the increasing demands on parents' and kids' time and energies, but the bottom line remains the same—numbers in RE programs are dwindling. As young people "age out" of RE and move on to "big church," there isn't the influx of a younger generation to replace them. As someone who has spent a large portion of my UU years teaching and working in RE, this saddens me. I hope that someday we'll see the turn around back to where families return to regular church and RE attendance. I remain optimistic that our youth will grow steadily in their RE roots, and someday their children will have the chance for the same RE experiences.

Until that day, I remain faithfully yours,

Kirsty Johnson Erikson
Lead RE Teacher, Retired

This Month in UU History

July 11, 1875: African-Caribbean Unitarian Egbert Ethelred Brown was born in Falmouth, Jamaica. After he was dismissed from his job as a civil servant in 1907, with a wife and four children to support, Brown considered it a sign and began pursuing a career in ministry. Theologically he was Unitarian, and had absorbed William Ellery Channings's sermon, "Unitarian Christianity." Despite numerous hurdles in his path, including being deported back to Jamaica, Brown was awarded a degree from Meadville Theological School and was ordained a Unitarian minister in 1912. After attempting to start a black Unitarian congregation in Jamaica, Brown founded a church in Harlem, New York. Through a career filled with financial troubles, family tragedy and menial jobs to put food on the table, Brown also worked for social justice and improved conditions for African Americans. His papers are archived at the New York Public Library.

July 31, 1921: African American Unitarian Whitney Moore Young Jr. was born in Lincoln Ridge, KY. A brilliant student, Young became one of the most effective civil rights leaders of the 1950s and 60s. His father was President of the Lincoln Institute, an all-black private high school; his mother was appointed the first woman Postmaster in Kentucky and the second in the U.S. overall. Young graduated valedictorian of his class at the Lincoln Institute and was trained in electrical engineering at MIT through his enlistment in the army during WWII. He was inspired to a career in race relations after he successfully mediated tensions between fellow black soldiers and white officers.

As the Executive Director of the National Urban League, Young expanded an organization with 38 employees to one with a staff of more than 1,600 and a budget of more than \$6 million. He advised Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon, and influenced corporations to hire more African Americans. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Honor by President Johnson. Young died of a heart attack while attending a conference in Lagos, Nigeria in 1971. He was 50 years old. President Nixon gave the eulogy at his funeral. In the eulogy, Nixon said of Young, "he knew how to accomplish what other people were merely for."

Young and his wife Margaret were the first African American members of the United Liberal Church (now the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta).

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.

Summer Sunday Worship

This summer we'll be holding Summer Sunday Worship services on alternate weekends—the same weekends that Saturday Yard Sales are scheduled. If the yard sale is rained out, we'll still have church! Dress will be casual, and we'll meet in the sanctuary unless it gets

too hot upstairs, in which case we'll move to the parish hall. Watch our website and Facebook page for service titles and topics. Dates in July:

July 2

July 16

July 30

July Birthdays

Patti Stanko July 13

Madeline Faucher July 18

Dana Malley July 29



(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.

Spiritual Calendar

- July 3: Festival of Cerridwen (Celtic Pagan).** Cerridwen was a pre-Christian Welsh goddess. She ruled the underworld and owned a miraculous cauldron of rebirth, in which dead souls were rejuvenated for their next lifetime. Pigs were sacred to her, and eating roast pork is traditional for her feast. Modern Pagans observe this day with meals of pork and locally grown foods, reflections on gratitude for earth's bounty, and acknowledgment of how fleeting our lives are on earth.
- July 12-15: Obon (Shinto, Japanese Buddhist).** A festival for honoring deceased relatives and ancestors. It originated in beliefs that the dead suffered in the afterlife but their suffering could be alleviated by the actions (and the love) of the living. Families clean and decorate their loved ones' graves, and the spirits of the ancestors are thought to visit household shrines. The festival includes a special ritual folk dance called the *Bon Odori*.
- July 15: Feast of St. Vladimir the Great (Eastern Orthodox Christian).** Vladimir the Great (958-1015) united several regions of what is now Russia. Originally Pagan, he converted to Christianity in 988, and then, as rulers in that time generally did, converted everyone else under his rule. He existed peacefully with neighboring nations in his later years, and practiced Christianity chiefly through charity and good works. He is also honored by the Roman Catholic church.
- July 24: Pioneer Day (Mormon).** Commemorates the arrival of Brigham Young and other Mormon settlers at Salt Lake Valley in 1847. The Mormons had been forced out of Illinois and other parts of the United States by persecution, some of it violent. Pioneer Day is a state holiday in Utah and is celebrated in several Western states in memory of the pioneers who settled them, regardless of their faith. The "pioneer era" is considered to have ended in 1869 with the completion of the transcontinental railroad.
- July 25: Feast of St. James the Great (Christian).** James was one of Jesus' disciples and the brother of the Apostle John. He was the first of the Apostles to be martyred when King Herod Agrippa had him executed, and the only one whose martyrdom is recorded in the New Testament. James and his brother John were nicknamed "Sons of Thunder" because of their fiery temperaments. St. James the Great is the patron saint of Spain.

Winchendon Winds

Many of you are wondering whether Winchendon Winds will be back this summer. Winchendon Winds is definitely returning to UUCW for the 2017 season—but in the early fall, rather than the summer. They'll be playing three concerts at UUCW, one of them on October 7 as part of the Ingleside Fall Festival at the Clark/YMCA across the street. There will be a lot more information soon! Watch winchendonwinds.org for the latest updates.



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).

UUCW Online

<http://uucw.ncmuuc.org>

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

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