

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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Church Telephone 978-297-0554

OCTOBER 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, October 1

11:00 am - Sunday Worship - Chalice
Circle Service, "Inclusion"

2:00 pm - Winchendon Winds Concert

Monday, October 2

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Tuesday, October 3

6:30 pm - NA Meeting (NEW!)

Saturday, October 7

9:00 am - Saturday Yard Sales (also
Winchendon Fall Festival)

2:00 pm - Winchendon Winds Concert

Sunday, October 8

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

12:30 pm - Indivisible Winchendon
Meeting

Monday, October 9

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Tuesday, October 10

6:30 pm - NA Meeting (NEW!)

Thursday, October 12

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Meat Loaf dinner

Sunday, October 15

11:00 am - Sunday Worship - Chalice
Circle Service

12:30 pm - Indivisible Winchendon
Meeting

Monday, October 16

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Tuesday, October 17

6:30 pm - NA Meeting (NEW!)

Sunday, October 22

11:00 am - Sunday Worship with Rev.
Inanna Arthen - "World Peace"

12:30 pm - Indivisible Winchendon
Meeting

Monday, October 23

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Tuesday, October 24

6:30 pm - NA Meeting (NEW!)

Thursday, October 26

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Roast Pork Dinner

Sunday, October 29

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

12:30 pm - Indivisible Winchendon
Meeting

Monday, October 30

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Tuesday, October 31

6:30 pm - NA Meeting (NEW!)

Sunday, November 5

11:00 am - Sunday Worship - Chalice
Circle Service

12:30 pm - Indivisible Winchendon
Meeting

From Your Minister

September seemed to go by in a flash. It's hard to believe that it's already October, and the beginning of my second autumn in this house on the lake. The mini-splits and woodstove have been checked and serviced, and I have a cord of seasoned firewood waiting to be stacked. I'm finally getting to the garden beds, clearing and digging them so they'll be ready for new seeds and plants in the spring. This year, I won't let the leaves get away from me—no more waiting until they all come down so I only have to clear them once. Like everything else in life,

it's a process...and the snow may come early this year. It's not easy to think about snow shoveling, though, when we've had a full week of the hot, humid summery weather we longed for in rainy, chilly July and August. Never play poker with Mother Nature—She'll outbluff you every time.

We've been busy at UUCW, too. We opened our regular church year on September 10 with our traditional Water Communion service. On September 17, I led a service on the themes of the Autumn Equinox and the concept of "harvest" as both a literal event and a metaphor that informs our lives. On September 24, we did not have a quorum; I suspect people were out swimming and barbequing one last time, it was such a perfect beach day.

We had good attendance for our next event on September 24, though: Winchendon Winds held its second concert of this season in our sanctuary at 2:00 p.m., the first of three we're hosting this fall. An appreciative audience filled the pews to hear "Music We Remember" and gave the players a standing ovation at the conclusion.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen dished up two delicious meals in September. On September 14, Dave Faucher cooked his yummy baked crusted fish and homemade potato chips, with cookies, cupcakes and pie donated by the Winchendon School and the CAC. On September 28, our newest chef, Melissa, presented Tuscan chicken over pasta. Thanks to swapping cooking weeks around over the summer, I took a break from cooking last month, but I'm back at the range on October 12 (see below!)

We were saddened to learn that long-time UUCW member Ronald Gaspard passed away on August 12. Ron and his wife Elaine contributed a tremendous amount of time and energy to the church in their many years of active membership. We offer our deepest condolences to the family.

Speaking of Mother Nature...I can't blame anyone who is wondering how we offended Her and what we can do to fix things. There has been such a pile-on of catastrophic events lately, it's exhausting just to list them. For a long stretch of years we here in the United States dodged many hurricane "bullets," as we had quieter seasons than forecast or watched monster storms stay far out in the Atlantic. Our luck ran out this year. On August 25 Hurricane Harvey swamped Houston, TX with devastating floods. While we were still nattering about how the lack of regulations and

zoning laws left millions of Texans vulnerable to big storms, Hurricane Irma roared through the Caribbean and Florida in early September, rendering entire small islands like Barbuda uninhabitable and putting Florida in a state of emergency for over a week. While we were still decrying what we just learned about the logistical impossibility of evacuating Florida quickly...Hurricane Maria followed in Irma's path on September 20. Now Puerto Rico, whose population are American citizens, is in a state of a crisis, its power grid destroyed so completely, it will take months just to restore electricity, let alone rebuild the rest of the damage.

And that was just Atlantic storms. As we reeled from all this, several massive earthquakes struck around the world, the biggest killing hundreds of people in Mexico City. At the same time, Americans in Montana, the Pacific Northwest and California complained truthfully that huge wildfires were burning hundreds of square miles of forests and homes to bare ground and no one was even reporting on it outside of their local area. The news media hang on every word from Kim Jong Un and President Trump's bombast toward North Korea, while tens of millions of people's lives and property could not have been more utterly devastated if a hydrogen bomb *had* gone off over their heads.

But football players kneeling during the national anthem...now *that's* important.

Here in New England, we've escaped direct effects from all of these events. Many of us worried about friends, family and colleagues who were directly impacted by storms, earthquakes and fires. Many of us have donated money and tangible goods to relief efforts, and some people have traveled in person to help with recovery work.

But most of us are feeling somewhat numbed out by the endless stream of disasters since late August. I noticed the drastic drop-off in news coverage with each successive hurricane. When Harvey hit Houston, the news seemed to be all Harvey, all the time. As Irma wiped the Virgin Islands off the map and bore down on Florida, the coverage wasn't as all-pervasive, although it still predominated the news. When Maria came through, most of the stories about her impact were below the fold. The disparity of coverage for the three storms was pronounced. As for the earthquakes and fires—they were almost sidebars. And I get my news from online newspapers and other in-depth sources, not shallow 2-minute TV spots.

It's been fairly pointed out that the destruction on some Caribbean islands has been so complete, not even

This Month in UU History

October 2, 1755: Unitarian Hannah Adams, the first woman in America who earned her living as a professional writer, was born in Medfield, MA. She was largely self-educated, reading whatever she could get hold of and learning Greek and Latin from divinity school students her father boarded; she learned well enough to teach those languages. Her family was poor and she earned money through needlework and tutoring. She began writing and publishing a series of works on history and religion, including *A View of Religions*, *A Summary History of New England* and *History of the Jews*. Her careful research and scholarship attracted prominent sponsors including the Abbé Grégoire, William Smith Shaw and Joseph Stevens Buckminster. Hannah was the first professional author to become a member of the Boston Athenaeum. The second edition of *A View of Religions* was dedicated to then-Vice President John Adams (a “distant cousin” who welcomed her to use his private home library to research *History of the Jews*). Hannah’s father proudly hand-sold the book, traveling the countryside on horseback with saddlebags full of volumes. Hannah’s writings were incorporated into standard Unitarian Sunday School texts used for two generations. She never married and circulated as a guest among the homes of numerous prominent Boston families. She was the ninth person to be interred at Mount Auburn Cemetery.

news can get out. Reporters can’t get to the islands, there is no phone or internet service, and most of the people are being evacuated in small boats. But the magnitude of what we do see is overwhelming. How can we help so many people faced with such total devastation of their lives and homes?

In the early 1990s, the term “compassion fatigue” got some attention in the media. Clinically, this refers to a type of trauma affecting caregivers and first responders who become overwhelmed. But “compassion fatigue” started to be used to describe ordinary people who felt so barraged by demands for help from every direction they became cynical, apathetic and callous.

It’s hard to cope with so much distress and be unable to help. Each fresh crisis tends to push the existing ones aside. Houston is still dealing with floods and their health effects, damaged property and loss. The Caribbean islands hit by Irma are still in desperate straits, no less so because Puerto Rico has now joined them. Life will never be what it was for these places, and will take a long time to return to a semblance of normality, if it ever does. All of the places dealing with catastrophes need help now and will need it for a long time to come.

We need to pace ourselves in our response. We need to take a moment to feel gratitude that we haven’t been directly affected, and to acknowledge that we who have been spared by the storms vastly outnumber those who are suffering. If we all step up and help in whatever ways we can, we’ll have the power of numbers behind us. We don’t have to cope with these events alone, as individuals. If we forget that, if we allow ourselves to feel too much personal responsibility, we will collapse under the weight. Then we won’t be able to help anyone.

To help, you can start with the UUA’s hurricane help network at www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/funds/disaster-response.

Rev. Inanna Arthen

Our Neighbor’s Kitchen

We have two hearty meals planned in October to help warm your tummies against fall’s chilly nights!

On Thursday, October 12, Rev. Inanna Arthen and assistants will reprise everyone’s favorite comfort food: meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy with salad or vegetable and dessert.

On Thursday, October 26, chef extraordinaire Dave Faucher and assistants will make our traditional fall feast of roast pork, with sides 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 October 5 and 19, 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

Spiritual Calendar

- October 4: Feast of St. Francis (Christian).** Saint Francis of Assisi (born Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone, nicknamed Francesco by his father, 1181-1226) is one of the most universally revered figures in Christian history. He was born to a life of wealth and privilege, and as a young man served as a soldier and engaged in highjinks typical of his age and class. He did have impulses toward generosity and compassion early on, which earned him taunts from friends and anger from his father. He began pursuing a mystical life, ministering to lepers and restoring an old church. In 1209, he adopted a lifestyle of complete poverty and simplicity inspired by Jesus' instructions to His disciples. After he and his followers were recognized by the Pope (protecting them from charges of heresy), Francis went on to found several different religious orders, one for women, all of them focused on service and public work rather than being cloistered and contemplative. He believed in ministering to all of God's creatures and has become associated with animals and the natural world. Traditionally, Blessing of the Animals services are held on St. Francis' Day.
- October 4-11: Sukkot (Jewish).** This ancient Jewish holiday is described in the books of Exodus and Leviticus and (like many ancient holidays), has several different meanings. It originated as a celebration of the harvest (or "ingathering"). Traditionally, a hut called a *sukkah* is built, representing the temporary shelters used by harvesters in the field. It may be made of any material but must be roofed with organic matter such as palm fronds. A secondary significance of Sukkot is to commemorate the Exodus of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. The *sukkah* represents the makeshift shelters built during the 40 years of exile in the desert. During the eight-day period, observant Jews participate in prayer services, eat meals in the *sukkah* and may sleep there as well.
- October 19: Diwali (Hindu).** Also called Deepavali, this extremely popular and joyful "feast of light" celebrates the complete victory of good over evil, light over darkness, hope over despair and knowledge over ignorance. Its signature observance is the kindling of millions of lights which are displayed on rooftops, outside doors and windows, around houses and temples and all around other buildings and dwellings. Observant Hindus clean their houses in preparation, and dress in new clothing or the best clothes they have. They celebrate with prayers to the goddess Lakshmi, a festive family meal with sweet foods, gift-giving and fireworks. Diwali is a major shopping event in Hindu countries. Religious significance for the festival varies by region—as is to be expected in a polytheistic faith—but always has themes of joy, generosity and the triumph of wisdom, love and goodness.
- Late October: Thesmophoria (ancient Greece).** This multi-day festival was a true women's mystery. It was observed only by married women, who were bound to strict secrecy. It focused on the story of Demeter and Persephone, and associated themes of fertility (human and agricultural), motherhood and rebirth. Despite how little is known about it, Thesmophoria was observed throughout ancient Greece and may pre-date the Greek settlement of Ionia in the 11th century BCE.
- October 29: Reformation Day (Protestant Christian).** Commemorates the anniversary of the agreed-upon date that Martin Luther nailed his 95 *Theses* to the door of the All Saints' Church in Wittenburg: October 31, 1517. This event is held to begin the Reformation and the birth of Protestantism. Reformation Day is observed on the Sunday closest to October 31. It is especially significant to Lutherans and Calvinists, but is acknowledged by other denominations, including Roman Catholicism. 2017 is the 500th anniversary of Luther's 95 *Theses*, and October 31 will be a national holiday throughout Germany this year. J.S. Bach composed several cantatas especially for Reformation Day services in Leipzig, including *Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild*, BWV 79, and *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*, BWV 80.

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 will continue at least through October 7, the day of Winchendon's Fall Festival. Come on down and find a treasure or a bargain! After that, we'll be wrapping up our sales for the year. We won't be taking any more donations until next spring. However, 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.

Winchendon Winds

Winchendon Winds continues its 2017 fall season of concerts with two October concerts at UUCW. These are open to the public at no charge and all are welcome.

On Sunday, October 1 at 2:00 p.m., the concert theme will be "A Symphonic Sampling" of classical music arrangements.

On *Saturday*, October 7 at 2:00 p.m., Winchendon Winds will play a concert as part of the Winchendon Fall Festival, which will be held at the Clark Memorial and all up and down Central Street that day. (The concert will be at UUCW.) The concert theme, to harmonize with the Festival, will be "Family Festival of Delights" and will include the debut performance of a piece written especially for Winchendon Winds by composer David Maker, "The Toy Town March."

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).

Please note that Central Street will be closed from CVS to Cumberland Farms for the Festival on October 7, so you will want to plan your route and parking. We encourage you to car-pool!

We know how much you enjoyed the three concerts that UUCW hosted last year, and we hope to see you and your friends at this year's series! Watch winchendonwinds.org or www.facebook.com/WinchendonWinds for the latest updates.

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.

October Birthdays

Tracy Gambill	October 5
Hannah Gordon	October 10
Katherine R. Faucher	October 11



(If I'm missing any birthdays, please let me know!)

UUCW Online

<http://uucw.ncmuuc.org>

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

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