

# THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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**NOVEMBER 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, November 5

2:00 am - Daylight Savings Ends! "Fall Back" one hour

11:00 am - Sunday Worship - Chalice Circle Service: "Trigger Words"

12:30 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

### Monday, November 6

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

### Tuesday, November 7

6:30 pm - NA Meeting (NEW!)

### Thursday, November 9

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves Stuffed Manicotti

### Sunday, November 12

11:00 am - Sunday Worship with Rev. Inanna Arthen - "Veteran's Day"

12:30 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting (possible field trip)

### Monday, November 13

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

### Tuesday, November 14

6:30 pm - NA Meeting (NEW!)

### Wednesday, November 15

7:00 pm - UUCW Governing Board Meeting

### Sunday, November 19

11:00 am - Sunday Worship - Chalice Circle Service: Native Americans

12:30 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

### Monday, November 20

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

### Tuesday, November 21

6:30 pm - NA Meeting (NEW!)

### Thursday, November 23

Happy Thanksgiving!

### Friday, November 24

12:00 - 4:00 pm - Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive

### Sunday, November 26

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

12:30 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

### Monday, November 27

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

### Tuesday, November 28

6:30 pm - NA Meeting (NEW!)

### Thursday, November 30

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves Roast Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings

### Sunday, December 3

11:00 am - Sunday Worship - Chalice Circle Service: Health Care

12:30 pm - Indivisible Winchendon Meeting

### Monday, December 4

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

### Tuesday, December 5

6:30 pm - NA Meeting (NEW!)

## From Your Minister

They say that March "comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." This year, October has reversed that pattern. We had unseasonable mild temperatures and lots of sunshine for most of the month. We're wrapping up October with some wild storms that remind us uncomfortably of Halloween surprises in past years, like the "perfect storm" in 1991 or the Halloween snowstorm in 2011. No snow in the forecast this year, at least! I took some extra time

stacking a cord of firewood and getting to a couple of big projects around my house before it started raining, and I'm very glad I did. We've had a busy month at UUCW, too, even with Saturday yard sales done for the year. We're already planning our December events.

On Sunday, October 1, Dave Faucher presented a Chalice Circle Service on the theme of "Inclusion." On Sunday, October 8, for Columbus Day weekend, I presented a service titled "Spirit of Exploration," asking how we can appreciate the courage and curiosity of past explorers and learn not to abuse and exploit what we discover. On Sunday, October 15, Dave Faucher led a Chalice Circle Service on "Microaggressions," looking at the subtle and not so subtle ways we can belittle and oppress others. On Sunday, October 22, I led a service inspired by United Nations Day: "One World," looking at the history of our efforts to cooperate with other nations. On Sunday, October 29, I offered a service which examined the deeper meaning of Halloween, "To the Beloved Dead."

Our Neighbor's Kitchen served two scrumptious meals to almost full halls of hungry diners. On Thursday, October 12, my doughty assistants and I reprised a family dinner table favorite, meatloaf with mashed potatoes, gravy, roasted vegetables and a "potluck" of assorted desserts. On Thursday, October 26, Dave Faucher and assistants turned out our traditional October fall feast of roast pork loin with apples and onions, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, salad, bread, and cake donated by the Winchendon School for dessert. This meal concluded with the debut of our brand new dishwasher, which was installed on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>!

On October 14, UUCW provided refreshments at the second annual Addictions Awareness event organized by Working Wonders in Winchendon at the Clark/YMCA soccer field. We had flyers about UUCW and our NA meeting to hand out and I gave the opening prayer and spoke later about some of my experience and training with addiction issues and our NA meeting on Tuesday nights.

Winchendon Winds played concerts in our sanctuary on Sunday, October 1 and Saturday, October 7. The final concert featured the premiere of "Toy Town March," composed especially for Winchendon Winds by David Maker, retired Associate Head of the University of Connecticut Music Department, who attended the concert. The October 7 concert was a scheduled event for the Winchendon Fall Festival that day, which was a rousing success.

This month, I was helping to plan an event themed on ancient Norse (Scandinavian, or "Viking") religious traditions. I did research, and I talked to friends who are serious historical scholars and re-enactors. I discovered that all these traditions vary a great deal because they were strongly centered on the clan, or family, or tribe. Practices differed not only country to country, but village to village. Our ancestors' sense of identity was most closely bound to the people they lived with and saw every day, even when they shared a sense of belonging to a larger network. At the same time, they didn't put themselves as individuals first. Their primary duty was to their clan or family. The worst crime a person could commit was treachery or disloyalty to one's tribe, and the worst punishment, in many times and places, was to be banished.

America is a nation of immigrants, people who all left their ancestral homes, families and clans to travel a vast distance and basically start from scratch. They left for different reasons. Some fled war or starvation or persecution. Some had been banished or were "transported" as criminals. Some were adventurers or fortune-seekers. Some, like African slaves, were abducted and brought here by force. Once they were here, immigrant groups tended to cluster and form a new tribal identity. Those regional tribes are just as strong today, in our supposedly "mobile society" as they ever were, and they're impacting our current political situation to a profound degree.

In his 2012 book *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*, Maine native Colin Woodard identifies social or cultural "tribes" in America which he sees as far more significant than states in defining how people in the United States identify with a regional group. He ties these regions to the people who settled in each one in large enough numbers to control its values and local governance. For example, we live in "Yankeedom," comprising the northeast (but not urban New York) and northern Midwest (Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Chicago). This region, he says, was settled mostly by "radical Calvinists"—that is, the Puritans, and other radical Protestants who fled or were kicked out of the U.K., Germany and other northern European countries. "Yankeedom values education, intellectual achievement, communal empowerment, and citizen participation in government as a shield against tyranny. Yankees are comfortable with government regulation. Woodard notes that Yankees have a 'Utopian streak,'"

## ***This Month in UU History***

November 28, 1909: Lotta Hitchmanova, CC, was born in Prague, Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) to a comfortably well-off family. A brilliant student, she was fluent in five languages and studied journalism and political science at the Sorbonne in Paris. She completed her Ph.D at Prague University. She worked as a journalist in Prague and wrote for newspapers in Romania and Yugoslavia, criticizing the Nazi regime. When Germany seized a third of Czechoslovakia in 1938, Lotta left for Paris and then Brussels, Belgium.

She encountered the Unitarian Service Committee (USC) in Marseilles, France when she visited their medical clinic after fainting from fatigue while working for a refugee aid service. In 1942, Lotta escaped to Boston on a freighter, gave a report to the USC in Boston and then went to Montréal, Canada. She wrote, “I came with \$60 in my pocket. I had an unpronounceable name. I weighed less than 100 lbs, and I was completely lost.” In four days she found a job, and in June, 1945 she helped found the Canadian branch of the USC, for which she served as their first chairperson until 1949. She learned that her parents died en route to Auschwitz and her younger sister had escaped to Israel.

Lotta dedicated her life to assisting refugees and war victims in European and Asian countries through the Canadian USC. She traveled and fundraised constantly, always wearing a trademark uniform of her own design based on an army nurse’s uniform. Through her efforts, the USC raised \$128,855,000 between 1945 and 1984. She was given many awards and was made an Officer and then a Companion of the Order of Canada. In 1970 she published *The USC Story: A Quarter Century of Loving Service by the Unitarian Service Committee*, about her work.

says an article summarizing the book.

The other regions value authority, individualism and tradition to varying degrees depending on who settled them, and trust or mistrust government accordingly. These profound regional differences outline what we’re currently calling “red” and “blue” areas. But few of the inhabitants of these regions think deeply about where their values and views come from and whether they help America as a nation find common ground. As a nation, we’re fond of cultural myths and very weak on history. We can’t see the forest for our family trees. We’re proud of our “heritage” but we don’t put it into a greater context.

A character in one of C.S. Lewis’ novels, when challenged on his “loyalty” to another character, retorts, “as you get older, you will learn that [loyalty] is a virtue too important to be lavished on individual personalities.” But loyalty is also misplaced when we feel more allegiance to our own state, region, race or religion—to our own “tribe”—than we do to our nation. How do we recover when individualism has become me-first Narcissism? How do we stop identifying as hyphen-Americans and see ourselves as all in this together? How do we learn to compromise for the good of all?

Our ancestors were keenly aware that humans needed each other to survive. The social contract is embedded in our DNA. When times are tough, that’s when we most need to work together. If we’re ever

going to solve the dilemmas facing us now, we must remember that.

Rev. Inanna Arthen

### **Our Neighbor’s Kitchen**

We have two delicious meals planned in November!

On Thursday, November 9, Rev. Inanna Arthen and assistants will present stuffed manicotti with meat sauce, along with salad or a vegetable and dessert.

On Thursday, November 30, we’ll pull out all the stops, all the dishes and all the oven racks to cook our annual Roast Turkey extravaganza—roast turkey with mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, homemade cranberry sauce, vegetables and dessert.

As in the past, in accordance with a vote of our diners, we won’t be serving dinner on November 23, Thanksgiving Day. We wish you and yours a most happy and harmonious family holiday.

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



# Spiritual Calendar

**November 1: Samhain (Pagan).** A ancient Celtic festival observed on the first of November (or “calends of November”). Samhain is the name of the month of November, or the first month of winter. In ancient Ireland, kings held court and adjudicated disputes. Samhain marked the end of summer, the last day of harvest, and the time when cattle and sheep were brought into winter shelter and culled, with meat being cured for the winter. Feasts were held, and large bonfires burned all night, often on hilltops where they were visible to each other. The ancient Celts believed that at transitional times, such as the turning of the seasons, the barriers between the everyday world and the otherworld became permeable, and supernatural beings could pass through (or humans might end up in the faery realm or underworld). The rule that strangers must be given hospitality and treated courteously was especially important at Samhain. Samhain customs such as costumed revelry, going door to door begging for treats, and fortune telling survived into modern times in Ireland, Scotland and other Celtic regions and were brought to the United States by immigrants from those countries. Modern Pagans observe Samhain as a solemn holiday to remember the ancestors and deceased loved ones, and reflect on mortality.

**All Saints’ Day (Christian).** A Christian feast day for commemorating all of the saints. It was originally observed in the spring but was moved to November 1, possibly to absorb the related celebrations in memory of the dead at the Celtic Samhain. All Saints celebrates the spiritual connection between the living and all saints “known and unknown, famous and obscure.” Protestant denominations do not recognize saints but observe All Saints (or All Hallows) as a time to honor all deceased Christians in Heaven. In many Catholic countries, All Saints is a national holiday.

**November 2: All Souls’ Day (Christian).** A day to remember and pray for the souls of the dead. Along with prayers, Christians place flowers on graves and hold services of remembrance. All Souls’ Day may originate with the almost universal tradition of ancestor veneration, particularly the ancient Roman observance of Lemuria. All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day together are known as All Hallows or AllHallowtide. In Mexico, these two days comprise *El Día de los Muertos*, the Day of the Dead, with November 1 focused on deceased children and November 2 on adults.

**November 4: Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib (Sikh).** Celebrates the birth of the founder of Sikhism. Sikhism originated in the state of Punjab, India, around the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, and is one of the youngest of the major world religions. It is based on the teachings of ten Gurus, and has more than 25 million adherents world-wide. Its beliefs include the unity or oneness of God, the interconnection of spiritual and secular life, reverence for the Divine Name of God, use of singing and music in devotions, and defense of justice and equality. Sikhism was founded at a time of persecution, when many Sikhs were attacked for refusing to convert to Islam. Ironically, Sikhs in western countries today are often persecuted as Muslims because they habitually wear a turban. The two religions are unrelated; Sikhism evolved from Hinduism and most Sikh immigrants are Indian.

protocols for the night’s menu. Clean-up starts around 5:45 p.m. and usually takes about forty-five minutes—and will be faster now that we’ve installed our brand new **dishwasher** (thank you, Robinson-Broadhurst!). Volunteers have a chance to sit down together to socialize and enjoy the meal.

On November 2 and 16, 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.

## Friday, November 24 Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive

It’s that most wonderful time of the year again—the time when UUCW opens its doors on “Black Friday” to accept your generous donations for the Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive! From noon to 4:00 p.m., we welcome new or gently used toys, unwrapped, which will be delivered to the Winchendon fire station at the end of day for distribution to families in need.

We'll have hot drinks and food and the church will be open to visitors, so stop by, get a free candy cane and say hello! If you'd like to volunteer to help out, please just come on down! (You may find yourself wearing a funny hat.)

## Saturday, December 9 Holiday House Tour and Open House

On Saturday, December 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., UUCW will participate in the Winchendon Historical Society's bi-annual Holiday House Tour. We'll have our church decorated for the holidays, with holiday treats available. Rev. Arthen and church members will be there offering a tour of our beautiful historic building. We'll be ready to answer your questions about our church, its history, and what Unitarian Universalism is all about. Don't miss this fun opportunity to tour Winchendon's most beautiful historic buildings and homes in their holiday finery. It doesn't happen every year! Contact the Winchendon Historical Society (<http://www.winchendonhistory.com/>) for more information.

After the House Tour finishes at 4:00 p.m., we'll host carol singing and light up our Christmas tree on the front lawn. Stay to enjoy this annual holiday tradition!

## 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

### 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).

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](http://www.nerna.org).

## 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](mailto:dfaucher@on24seven.com) or send a written note to the church at P. O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475.

## November Birthdays

Tim Elkins

November 3

Elaine Gaspard

November 27



(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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