

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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This is the Church of the Open Mind
This is the Church of the Loving Heart

This is the Church of the Helping Hands
This is the Church of the Caring Community

Calendar of Church Events

Sunday, February 9

7:00 pm – UUCW Governing Board
Meeting, Minister's Study

Thursday, February 13

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

Thursday, February 27

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

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

From Your Editor

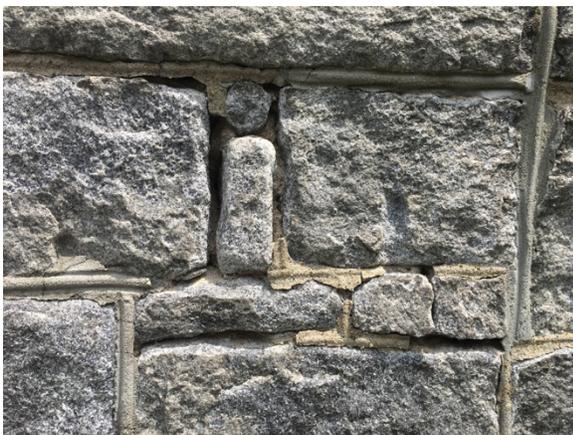
It's the "dead" of winter, but here at UUCW we are in a major planning and preparatory mode. We are compiling a variety of events for 2020: worship services, lawn fairs, music concerts, and a couple new major events to develop a better awareness and appreciation of the rich legacy our building and institution has held in this community. Our activities will be well publicized in this newsletter, our website, Facebook page, and the online Winchendon Courier. Stay tuned for details!

The prominent holiday this month is Valentine's Day; a day which brings mixed emotions to many. Some dwell on the loss of a loved one, others look forward to that "romantic" evening in or out, while others feel isolated. We all need human connections...and there are more opportunities for those than we perhaps realize or appreciate. Make this a Valentine's *month*. Call that old school friend, visit a parent or extended relative that isn't expecting you, step over to your neighbor's house with coffee or a snow shovel. It doesn't take much to foster a more affectionate world. Don't wait for someone else to act. Take that first step. *Happy Valentine's month.*

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

Set in Stone Pauses for Winter

The scaffolding is down and the craftsmanship of Joseph Gnazzo Construction is fully revealed! Shown below are “before” and “after” pictures of the stonework that required repair. We started out with many areas of gaping holes and broken mortar:

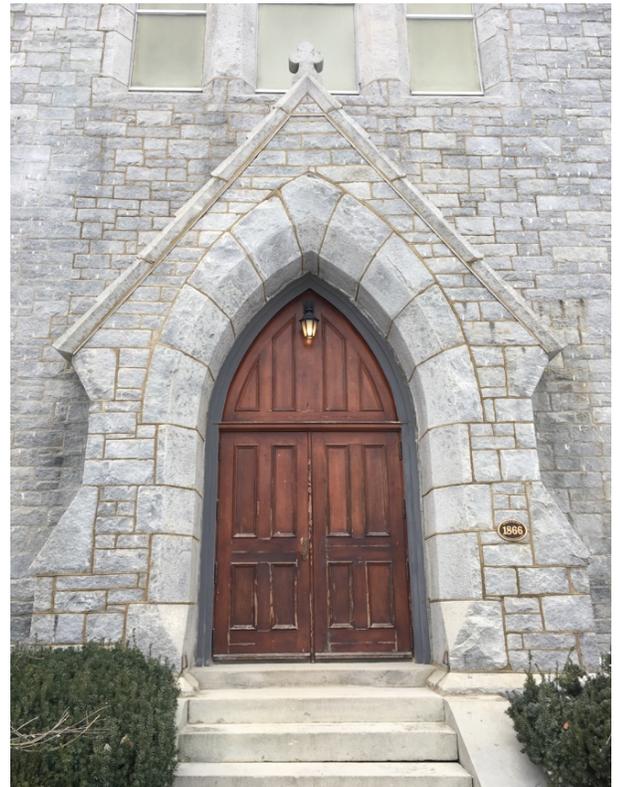


We ended up with fresh mortar filling in the entire depth of each granite block:



The finished area surrounding the front entry is easy to distinguish. Over time

the slightly darker brown new mortar will lighten to match the old mortar.



Our work has just begun. We have much more repair ahead of us, particularly to the bell tower. We'll be applying for state grant assistance, which is very competitive, to continue this work in 2020. We'll also be planning some local fundraisers in addition to our summer and fall lawn fairs. We'll need every dollar we can get to insure this historic landmark will last another 150 years!

UUCW Online

Main Website: uucw.ncmuuc.org

Set in Stone Website: www.set-in-stone.org

Facebook: facebook.com/uuwinchendon

UUCW Contemplates Preservation Restriction

For the next phase of stonework repair, UUCW will be seeking financial assistance from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF), administered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MCP). MPPF is a state-funded 50% reimbursable matching grant program established in 1984 to support the preservation of properties, landscapes, and sites listed in the State Register of Historic Places. Our church is listed in the Winchendon Village National Historic District and is thus eligible for this type of grant.

Because the State is investing in historic property preservation, they require grant recipients to place a “Preservation Restriction” on their property deed *in perpetuity*. This will limit the amount and type of future changes that can be made to the property without prior permission from MCP.

We are not entering into this lightly. The Governing Board will be meeting to vote on this measure on February 9 and all interested members are welcome to attend or weigh in ahead of time. The statute covering Preservation Restriction can be found at:

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartII/TitleI/Chapter184/Section31>

UUCW Joins HEAL Winchendon Initiative

Last fall, the Leominster-headquartered non-profit group Growing Places hosted a kick-off meeting for “Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Winchendon.” HEAL Winchendon is a new initiative spearheaded by Growing Places to bring affordable, locally-sourced, fresh food to our town. As UUCW is already in the “affordable meal” business through the Our Neighbor’s Kitchen suppers we host, and we are exploring ways in which we can extend our community ministry efforts, we attended the kick-off and two meetings that were subsequently held.

Chief among Growing Places’ multi-pronged approach to improving food security in our town is a meal kit distribution program that would meet food supply needs across the economic spectrum. Their operating model is a “hub and spoke” design. Fresh produce would be locally sourced where possible. Meal kits would be assembled by trained volunteers in a central “hub” location, and sold to end users at various “spoke” locations. The kits would contain fresh food that has been partially prepared (i.e., washed, peeled, chopped), along with seasonings, nutritional information and instructions for final preparation.

UUCW isn’t sure yet how we may best fit into these endeavors, but we are

participating in the planning process, helping to distribute food surveys, and following all developments. We are supportive of Growing Places' efforts to help pull Winchendon out of its "food desert." For more information, visit <http://growingplaces.org/>.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen

Our Neighbor's Kitchen (ONK) continued its 2nd and 4th Thursday tradition with two delicious meals. On January 9 Dave Faucher prepared hand-rolled Swedish meatballs and green beans, with rich chocolate brownies for dessert. Our *Pathway to Healthier Eating* placemats touted the benefits of popular green bean. On January 23 Joe and Jill gave a nod to Italy with baked ziti and sweet Italian sausage, fresh spinach salad and tangy lemon bars for dessert. Our placemats featured Popeye with his signature spinach and bulging forearms.

ONK is planning a special Valentine's meal on February 13. Expect "hearts and kisses" for dessert and some extra *ambiance* for the evening!



Love Thy Neighbor

When anger smolders in your heart
And threatens to ignite,
And someone wounds you with a word
That festers into spite,
Or if somebody without a cause
Is sporting for a fight,
...To love your neighbor as yourself
Will make you feel all right.

If you're assailed with disrespect
Which devastates your pride,
Or tried to tell the honest truth
While those around you lied,
Or thought you had a loyal friend
But then was cast aside...
...To love thy neighbor as yourself
Will grant you peace inside.

If envy rears its fearsome head
Beyond your self-control,
Or others disappoint or fail
To reach a promised goal,
And when it seems too many men
Have hearts as black as coal...
...To love thy neighbor as yourself
Will pacify your soul.

-Kenn Allan

Contact Information

Governing Board Chair: Jill Nicholson Sackett

Email: jill@sackett.com

Governing Board Members:

Allan Gordon: 31Allangordon@gmail.com

Rev. Emerita Inanna Arthen (Clerk)