



# THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954; Published by the

*Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon*

Volume 56 Issue 5

Rev. Marguerite Sheehan, MINISTER

CHURCH TELEPHONE: 978-297-0554

January 2012

WORSHIP SERVICE 10 A.M.

P. O. 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**

## Church Calendar of Events

**Sunday, January 1, 10 AM Morning Worship: Dave Faucher**

**NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO RE PROGRAM TODAY**

Monday, January 2, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, January 3, 4:30 PM Brownies .

**Wednesday, January 4, 6:30 PM. Church Governing Board**

**Sunday, January 8, 8:30 AM Welcome Table Breakfast**

**Sunday, January 8, 10 AM Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite**

Monday, January 9, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 4:30 PM. Brownies

**Sunday, January 15, 10 AM Morning Worship: Cindy Malley and Dave Faucher**

**Sunday, January 15, 2:30 PM. Martin Luther King Celebration Service**

Monday, January 16, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 4:30 PM .Brownies

**Sunday, January 22, 10 AM Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite**

Monday, January 23, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, January 24, 4:30 PM .Brownies

Tuesday, January 24, January newsletter material due

Thursday, January 26, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen  
(low price meal – everyone invited)

**Sunday, January 29, 10 AM Morning Worship: Wendy O'Brien**

Monday, January 30, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, January 31, 4:30 PM .Brownies

*If it is necessary to cancel a service because of weather, an email notice will be sent. If anyone needs a cancellation phone call in addition, please notify Cindy Malley at 978-297-9562 and she will plan to call you if we have to cancel..*

## Minister's Reflection

I am writing this column on the day after the Winter Solstice, two days before Christmas and just another week before New Year's Day. All day long the weather has been fluctuating between sun and rain, clouds and wind (both warm and chilly.) My day started out with a great surprise; two young deer eating crab apples in my own backyard. Now those of you who live more in the wild than the suburbs of Amherst may see this kind of sight every day, but for me it was astonishing and incredibly lovely. It caught me totally by surprise, almost as if I had glimpsed Santa's reindeer grazing under the trees. Dorrie ran to get the camera and we took a few pictures to remind us that we had been graced by strangers.

I am choosing to take this visitation as an invitation to live my life expecting to be surprised. This seems like a timely meditation as we enter another calendar year and begin to move into the 2nd half of our church year. I read recently about a woman who has a note posted on her refrigerator that says "It's not going to happen that way." What a declaration to look at every day as you open the fridge to get out the orange juice. It is not going to happen that way. No matter how much we prepare and expect and plan and dream about the New Year and the future in general, what is clear is that it is not going to happen that way. I did not expect that deer were going to be browsing under my crab apple trees and there they were. What I think is going to happen tomorrow, is likely to not happen in quite, or at all, the way that I think.

*(Minister's Meditation Continued on page 2)*

## **RE NEWS**

*(Continued from page 1)*

In some ways that is an unstable and nerve wracking way to live your life but in other ways it is truer to reality and more thrilling. We never really know who will walk into or out of our doors (literally and figuratively.) We never really know how we will influence someone who may be just crossing our paths. We never really know how our best laid plans will come out and what opportunities might be around the corner.

What we do know is that we can be ready to be surprised. We can be faithful, not to our preconceptions, but to being willing to be changed in this New Year and every morning. When we are faithful to being open to the Spirit moving in our personal lives and in the life of the church we may not get what we expect but we will be more receptive to the guests that are coming to visit. Maybe that will mean that our church will grow in unexpected ways. Maybe it will mean that we will drop away some of what we hold as precious traditions and instead try something new. Maybe we will find ourselves facing choices that we never even imagined. That is my hope for me and for our church in the New Year; to be faithful and to be surprised. What a combination! How about you? What are you imagining will happen when you turn the page of the calendar in your, and our, life? Happy New Year!

*In Peace and Expectation,  
Reverend Marguerite*

### *COMMITTEE ON THE MINISTRY*

The Committee on the Ministry consists of Elaine Gaspard, Cindy Malley, and Patti Stanko. They have a broad charge to work with the minister on all issues that affect the ministry of the Church. This involves both needs and performance. Anyone with a concern in this area or knows of someone in need of help should speak with one of the members.

### **Change Your Address?**

If you do change your address, either U, S. Mail or email, please let us know. Email [whites573@verizon.net](mailto:whites573@verizon.net) or send a written note to the church at P. O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475. Thank you.

The children did a wonderful job with their performance on Christmas Eve! Julie read an adaptation of "The First Christmas Carol" by Rev Dan Larsen as the others provided sound effects. It seemed to fit perfectly with the children's ages as well as an evening filled with beautiful carols. January is typically a quiet month for RE, especially following the Christmas Eve preparations. Regular classes resume on January 8<sup>th</sup> and there will be a Children's Worship in the Pine Room on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Don't miss **Game Day on Saturday, January 21, at 3pm**. ALL ages are invited and everyone is welcome to bring a favorite game with them. We'll have active games like bowling, limbo, and twister as well as sit-down games like Candyland, Scrabble, and Bingo. We'll also play team building/group games. More information will be included in upcoming announcements and posted on bulletin boards in the parish hall, or you may speak with me.

**\*\* Remember, there are no RE classes on New Year's Day. \*\***

Happy New Year!

*Tracy*

## **A Fellowship Ministry**

*Adapted from the Open Door newsletter of First Parish UU, Fitchburg, MA*

The primary purpose of Greeters is to present a first welcoming face to visitors and members alike when they come to Church. We want everyone to feel at home. In addition, Greeters perform a few practical tasks, such as taking a count of the number of people present at the service. Please arrive by 9:40 AM. at the latest.

Coffee Hour is a time for members and friends to gather in fellowship. The basic duties of Coffee Hour Host(esse)s are to set up for coffee, provide a few simple snacks and clean up afterward. It is recommended that you set up before morning worship.

Thank you for your service, the congregation appreciates your effort!

Martin Luther King Day Celebration  
January 15, 2:30PM

On January 15th at 2:30 PM we will be hosting the local community as our town celebrates the birthday and life of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. It will again be an ecumenical worship service, this time in the afternoon with the hopes of reaching some more children and youth. We will be treated to a "human video" from a youth group in the area and the wonderful community choir singing songs from the civil rights era. Our local Quaker Friend, Margaret Hawthorne will be delivering a message about the legacy of Martin Luther King. Following the service we will be hosting a reception in our social room. Please come to this program and bring a friend of any age. It is a great opportunity to spend time with our neighbors, to reflect on the eternal messages of hope, peace, equality and non-violent action, and to teach our children that history is still alive and relevant. For those who would like to join the community choir, the practices are at our church on Thursday evenings January 5th and 12th from 7-8:30 PM. All are welcome to sing!

**Summary Meeting Notes**  
**December Governing Board Meeting**

Birthday cards will now be sent out by Tracy Gambill, and Cindy Malley will now handle sympathy and illness cards in coordination with Rev. Marguerite. Cindy Malley was appointed as a third member of the Committee on Ministry. The Board gave its thanks to the children and adults who decorated the sanctuary this year. Heather Mahoney agreed to start coordinating the Church's Facebook page. A community service for Martin Luther King will be celebrated at the church on January 16<sup>th</sup>, and it was noted that ushers will be needed for the service, as well as a coordinator for a reception afterward. The Animal Blessing Service will be held on May 13<sup>th</sup>, and June 10<sup>th</sup> will be the last service of the year with Rev. Marguerite leading a Flower Communion. Repair work has started on the Tower. The Welcome Table Breakfast will be continued through June as it has been a success.

The January meeting was set for the 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., and the February meeting for the 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. In January, there will be discussion of the distribution of current family contact information, quorum rules for the Governing Board, and changes to the Director of Religious Education's job description.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy O'Brien, Secretary

**Contact Information**

Minister: **Rev. Marguerite Sheehan**  
Phone: 413-253-9938  
Email: msheehan222@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: **Tracy Gambill**  
Phone 978-297-0023  
Email: [tgambill@uuwinchendon.org](mailto:tgambill@uuwinchendon.org)

Board chair: **David Faucher**  
Phone 978-632-5588  
Email: dfaucher@on24seven.com

Building & Grounds chair, treasurer, interim newsletter editor: **John White**  
Phone 978-297-0716  
Email: whites573@verizon.net

Putnam Alliance president: **Pauline Michalewicz**  
Phone: 978-297-9983  
Email: pmichalewicz@comcast.net

Sexton (Custodian): **Sue Faucher**  
Phone 978-632-5588  
Email: sfaucher@on24seven.com

*BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY*

Jacob Nathaniel Elkins	01/03
Carol Bramblett	01/14
Durrand Michalewicz	01/26

*COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES*

*GREETERS*

*CHALICE LIGHTERS*

*We need volunteers for all three of these jobs for every Sunday in January and most Sundays for the remainder of the year. Please sign up.*

**CARING CONNECTIONS**

**UUCW is a caring congregation. Along with our Putnam Alliance, we reach out to each other to offer caring and we remember each others' joys and concerns. Please let Reverend Marguerite know if you would like to visit other members and friends, deliver flowers or an occasional meal, act as a greeter on Sunday services, offer a ride to church or any number of "caring connections" or if you are in need of a "caring connection" yourself at this time.**

*Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon*

126 Central Street P. O. Box 218

Winchendon, MA 01475

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



For more information, service times, and past topics, please visit our website at

**[www.uuwinchendon.org](http://www.uuwinchendon.org)**

Please watch for updates, new sermons, and Photos of good times



*The Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon*

is a member of the

**Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations**

<http://uua.org>