



THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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April 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**

Notice of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon will be held on Sunday, April 22, 2012 at about 11:15 AM. In the parish hall of the Church. Business will include hearing reports, electing officers and governing board and adopting a budget for the fiscal year 2012.

Church Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 1, 10 AM Morning Worship: Ann McGrath

Monday, April 2, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, April 3, 4:30 PM Brownies .

Friday, April 6, 6 PM. Movie Night

Sunday, April 8, 8:30 AM Welcome Table Breakfast

Sunday, April 8, 10 AM Easter Morning Worship:

Wendy O'Brien (CLF Service)

Monday, April 9, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, April 10, 4:30 PM. Brownies

Sunday, April 11, 6:30 PM. Governing Board Meeting

Sunday, April 15, 10 AM Association Sunday Worship at First Parish, Leominster.

Monday, April 16, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, April 17, 4:30 PM. Brownies

Saturday, April 21, 2 PM. Memorial Service for Bertha Bryant in the sanctuary

Sunday, April 22, 10 AM Morning Worship: Rev. Marguerite

Sunday, April 22, 11 AM Annual Meeting and Pot Luck

Monday, April 23, 7 PM. AA meeting

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

Sunday, April 29, 10 AM Morning Worship: Margaret Hawthorne

Monday, April 30, May newsletter material due

Monday, April 30, 7 PM. AA meeting

MINISTER'S REFLECTION

April is upon us, and this year the blooms are coming in fast and furiously. What a treat to see grass rather than snow on Easter Sunday! This year I will not be in Winchendon on Easter but will be in Northfield, including preaching at the Easter Sunrise service in Bernardston, so think of me, driving in the dark to greet the dawn. Maybe you too will be up that early, and if so, enjoy the sunrise.

Speaking of “waking up”, thanks to everyone who participated in any way in our Waking Up service and the congregational celebration at church on March 25th. We were treated to music and congregational singing from the AWAKEN band from 1st Congregational Church in Gardner and they offered many tributes to our beautiful building and the great acoustics for live music. Having the lyrics projected on the wall was fun and made singing easier for many of us. On that Sunday we were also graced with a few visitors and at least one of our church friends who has been absent for a while. The joys and concerns were particularly heartfelt and showed clearly how caring our church community is for those of us within our membership and for those in the local and world community. And all that was confirmed again in our church celebration conversation circle hosted by Dave Faucher and the Governing Board members. There is no question in my mind that our congregation is awake and listening, both to the realities of the present and to the dreams of the future.

This month we will be continuing community

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(Minister's Reflection Continued from page 1)

connections as we travel en masse to Leominster to 1st Church Unitarian Universalist for the 10AM Association Sunday service. This is our 3rd gathering and each one gets better. We learn more about our commonalities as discrete churches and more about our connections in the Association. Again this year, all the churches are asked to bring food for the potluck. Tracy will be working again with the RE director of First Church to provide Religious Education for the children and an inter-church choir is forming with a 9AM rehearsal on that day if you want to join in. Bring a friend who might be wondering what Unitarian Universalism as a movement is all about. It is great fun to worship in a large group!

Also this month we are having an inter-generational service celebrating Earth Day. April 22nd we will be talking about our love for the earth, our calling to be stewards and caretakers of the planet and particularly about the importance of trees in our world. On that same day we are also gathering for our Annual Meeting, following the service. So come to church on April 22nd with passion for the Earth, commitment for our congregation and our ministries in the community and an appetite (What kind of Annual Meeting does not include food?!)

Finally, everyone is also invited to come to church on Saturday April 21st to remember Bertha Bryant who died this year. The memorial service is at 2PM with a reception to follow.

*Peace and Happy Spring to all,
Reverend Marguerite*

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.

RE NEWS

Movie Night is Friday, April 6, at 6pm in the parish hall. This is a documentary style show great for any age, entitled *Ocean Giants*. The description says: "Why size matters in the world of whales; similarities between whales and dolphins and humans; the songs of humpbacks and sperm whales". Join us to learn about a piece of our interdependent web.

Our first Easter Egg Hunt will happen during RE time on Easter morning! If weather cooperates, the hunt will take place outside and each child will search for an assigned egg color so everyone can collect the same amount. Everyone will receive the same small prizes rather than candy. Please be sure children are dressed appropriately.



Join us in Leominster for Association Sunday on April 15. A nursery will be available and a Religious Education program is ready for children and youth from UU churches in the area. The children always seem to enjoy their time together at these yearly gatherings.

In honor of Earth Day, April 22 will be an intergenerational service. Families will worship together upstairs (though the nursery is available for small children and their parents). Be sure to join us for a few unique surprises.



Looking ahead to May, children will be preparing for RE Sunday (happening June 3) so it is important for all to be here each week if possible.

Peace, Tracy

Fitchburg Drum Circle will be held Thursday, April 5th. in First Parish Church 923 Main St, at the top of the Upper Common, in historic downtown Fitchburg 5:30 – 7:30PM. Some drums and other percussion instruments are available. Come early and enjoy some of the studios, galleries, and vendors on Main St. Check us out on Facebook @“Fitchburg Drum Circle”

Sunday Flowers

Real flowers at the front of the sanctuary add a lot to our Sunday worship services. More donors are needed for this extra touch. If anyone can bring flowers on a Sunday, please call Cindy Malley, 978-297-9562, so she can get you on the list.

Contributing Cash

For those who contribute cash on a weekly basis, prenumbered offering envelopes are available and will make this easier. John White will be happy to supply them if you ask before or after the morning service.

Change Your Address?

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

The Putnam

What is now known as *The Putnam*, the organization of ladies connected with the Church, has a long history, having been established in 1848, some 18 years before the Church was organized. It was originally *Dorcas*, then become the *Putnam Benevolent Society* and then the *Putnam Alliance*. Except for Civil War times, it has operated ever since. Times have changed and its membership, meetings and programs have dwindled in recent years. It is now to the point it can no longer function at all.

Wendy O'Brien, its one remaining officer, will be trying to gather all ladies still interested to meet and decide whether the organization should continue in some form or be officially disbanded. This is important because the organization does have some property and money in the bank.

Wendy will reach out to former members and invites any woman interested to contact her at 603-585-9106 or wendy@webgurus.com.

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BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Deborah Colburn | April 1 |
| Wendy O'Brien | April 3 |
| Violet Malley | April 23 |

COFFEE HOUR HOSTESSES

| | |
|----------|----------------------|
| April 1 | Wendy, Tracy & Cindy |
| April 8 | None today, Easter |
| April 15 | in Leominster |
| April 22 | Pot Luck Luncheon |
| April 29 | |

GREETERS

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| April 1 | Julie Gambill |
| April 8 | Volunteer needed |
| April 15 | in Leominster |
| April 22 | Volunteer needed |
| April 29 | Volunteer needed |

CHALICE LIGHTERS

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| April 1 | Erika Gambill |
| April 8 | Erika Gambill |
| April 15 | in Leominster |
| April 22 | Volunteer needed |
| April 29 | Volunteer needed |

We need volunteers for all three of these jobs for most Sundays for the remainder of the year. Please sign up



Celebrate the Fifth Annual

Association Sunday

with Unitarian Universalists across the country!

Joining with other area UU Congregations
on
April 15, 2012 at 11 AM.
First Church Unitarian Universalist
15 West Street
Leominster, Mass.

Celebrating Excellence in Ministries

We are better together!

As we begin the next 50 years of our Association, the UUA is joining with our professional organizations and congregations to raise funds for outstanding continuing education and professional development for all our religious professionals.



Visit www.uua.org/associationsunday
or call (617) 948-4661 for more information



ANNUAL SUPPORT DRIVE

This year our annual support drive is being held in April, just ahead of our annual meeting. Most of you have received, or will shortly receive, a request to support our congregation and its work in the next fiscal year which starts on July 1.

We are a small congregation with a very active program and a beautiful building. We serve ourselves with Sunday worship services, pastoral care, religious education for both children and adults. We are active in serving our community through Our Neighbors Kitchen, Welcome Table, our community Christmas Eve service, annual toy drive, and by making our building available to Alcoholics Anonymous, Brownie Scouts and others.

With few of us, each of us has to do our part both in personal service and in financial support. Both are very important and the pledge sheet asks commitments for support of time and interest as well as financial support.

To have our program we need money to pay our small part time staff and operate our building. Using 2012 figures (the 2013 figures are not yet determined but will be similar) the cost for our worship services amounts to \$27,400 which is 45% of our budget. Pastoral care costs \$12,935 which is 21% of the budget. Religious Education costs \$7500 which is 12% of the budget. The total for these programs that primarily serve ourselves is about \$47800. Our very active community service program costs about \$11,000 or about 16% of our budget. We do budget a little, but far less than we should, for denominational support. It amounts to less than 1% of our budget. Building costs of \$17,700 are divided by program and included in these figures.

Fortunately, we do have some endowment funds, money given by long deceased members, which helps support our building and program. The Robinson Broadhurst Foundation, a foundation established by two past members, has been most generous in supporting our program and has supported many building maintenance projects as well. We try to do a little fundraising, but find it takes a lot of our scarce man and woman power for limited returns.

Even with these resources and a little revenue from rentals, the final responsibility for financially supporting our Church falls on us, the members and users. It is a big responsibility and, with our small numbers, requires a big response from each of us.

We all realize that some of our families can give more generously than others. Our incomes vary and our family commitments vary. Some families support our church with gifts of 5% or more of their income. This shows a strong commitment to our program and is very much appreciated. If more of us can reach or even exceed that level, our program will be on a much more secure footing. We have seen some financial support level figures for other U U churches and our average support level is far lower. We hope many families will find it possible to give more generously for 2013.

We urge everyone who received a 2013 pledge sheet to fill it out and return it in the offering plate, by mail or even email (whites573@verizon.net) by Easter Sunday, April 8. If there is someone who didn't get a sheet and can help, send the church a note saying what you will do. Every gift, however small, will be much appreciated.

Our Regional Association Sunday will be on April 15th. at 10 AM., at the First Church Unitarian Universalist of Leominster. The Rev. Harlan Limpert, UUA Vice President for Ministries and Congregational Support, will offer the sermon message "Better Together." A special RE program is also planned. Child care will be available. Those who would like to rideshare or provide rides should meet at our church at 9 AM. **There will be no service or religious education program in Winchendon that day.**

The Church is providing its kitchen facilities for some programs organized by the United Way in cooperation with the Winchendon Community Action Committee. These have been rather loosely organized but involve people serving the needy in our area. One was held in February. Another called *Dart* is scheduled for Saturday, April 14. Dave Faucher is coordinating the church's participation.