



# THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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**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**

## AN EDITORIAL



### Church Calendar of Events

**Sunday, Feb. 3, 10 AM Morning Worship — Chalice Circle service; coffee hour follows.**

Monday, Feb. 4, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 4:30 PM Brownies

**Wednesday, Feb. 6, 6:30 PM. Governing Board Meeting, John White's home.** All church members are invited.

**Sunday, Feb. 10, 8:30 AM Welcome Table Breakfast**

**Sunday, Feb. 10, 10 AM Morning Worship; coffee hour follows.**

Monday, Feb. 11, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 4:30 PM Brownies

**Sunday, Feb. 17, 10 AM Morning Worship; coffee hour follows.**

Monday, Feb. 18, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 4:30 PM Brownies

**Sunday, Feb. 24, 10 AM Morning Worship; coffee hour follows.**

Monday, Feb. 25, March newsletter material due

Monday, Feb. 25, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 4:30 PM Brownies

Thursday, Feb. 28, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen (low price meal – everyone invited)

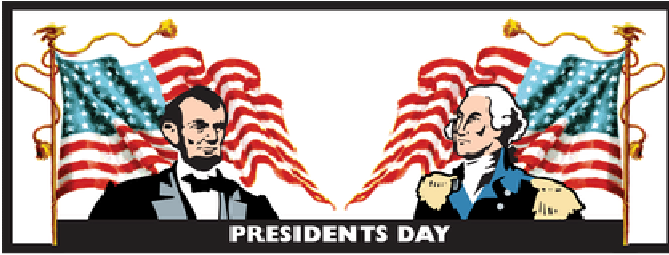
**Sunday, March 3, 10 AM Morning Worship; coffee hour follows.**

In her message in their latest newsletter, the minister of our Fitchburg church, the Rev. Leaf Seligman, quotes Wendell Barry, "We live the given life, not the planned." What is meant is that we cannot always do what we planned to do; we have to respond to those conditions that exist.

This is true for our congregation as well as it is for us as individuals. Our plans (or maybe they are only dreams) would have our Church be a dynamic, growing organization that is serving both our congregation and the community well. We would have a professional leader who preaches strong sermons to a goodly congregation on Sundays and amply serves the congregation's needs for pastoral care. We would have an active program of religious education with several classes for children of various ages and also regular group meetings for adults who want to further explore spirituality, ethics, and the ways we cope with life's vicissitudes. We would have our beautiful building actively used not only by our congregation but also by various community groups. And we would work to promote our principles both locally and through the Unitarian Universalist Association to the world.

Such, however, is not the case. In our given "life", we are a very small congregation struggling to accomplish as many of those lofty aspirations as is possible with very limited resources of money and person power. Since we are few, the burden it imposes on each of us is great. A very few of us are doing most of the work though somehow we are managing. Let me start at the top of our organi-

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zation chart: our governing board is supposed to consist of six members. We currently have only three. A few years back there was only one man (me) on a fully filled governing board; now it is all men. (Shades of 1873 and probably 1913!) We used to have several people who would lead our Sunday services. Most of that load has now fallen on one man, Dave. (Your editor regrets that health problems have kept him from doing nearly as much as he did. Hopefully, these are mostly solved and he will again be able to do much more.) We badly need more people to step up. Yet the essentials are getting done. And we are trying to work with the other area churches toward a long term solution for too many small congregations in our area.

Money has almost always been a problem and is now an acute problem. We have a few members who have pledged generously. Yet more have pledged only modestly or have pledged nothing at all. Yet we manage to maintain Sunday services and have an active RE program staffed by qualified people. Our calendar is active. Our building is in good condition and is used frequently. It may not be all we would hope, but to a substantial extent we are living the “life” we have planned. How long we can do these things on our present income level in uncertain.

If our congregation is to prosper, we must find a way to move from the difficult “life” we are now given to one much closer to the “life” we have planned. To do so, we need more commitment on the part of almost everyone connected with our congregation. This probably means YOU.

John

## RE NEWS

The multigenerational service held last month was the first in quite some time. Children and adults, alike, participated in the New Year’s Fire Communion and it went very well. A recent Children’s Worship in the pine room resulted in collages about Peace, Love, Equality, Freedom, and Justice. Check out the children’s creations on the bulletin board downstairs to see how they represented these concepts.



Our annual Secret Valentine Swap is coming up! At coffee hour on Feb. 3, participants will pick the name of the person for whom they will make a Valentine greeting. Please remember to write the person’s name on the front but do not include *your* name! Materials will be available to make the card at coffee hour or to bring home and make sometime during the week. Our Swap takes place the following week, on Feb. 10. This has always been a fun and creative way to connect with others in our church. Valentines will also be sent to special friends of the church who cannot make it to regular services.

Everyone is invited to Movie Night on Saturday, Feb. 9, at 6pm. It will be held in the parish hall and there has been talk of having a potluck supper beforehand. Please watch for details in the Order of Service, email announcements, or speak with Sue or Tracy.

Please join us for a Teacher Appreciation Brunch at coffee hour on Feb. 24. It is a small way we can say **THANK YOU** to the RE volunteers. If you can help with brunch that day, please let Tracy know.

Peace,  
Tracy



## Contact Information

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### *BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY*

**Kayden Gordon**

**February 3**

**Keegan W. Mahoney**

**February 25**

### *CARING CONNECTIONS*

**UUCW is a caring congregation. We reach out to each other to offer caring and we remember each others' joys and concerns. Please let a member of the Governing Board 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.**

### **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.