



# THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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WORSHIP SERVICE 5 P.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**



## Calendar of Church Events

- Saturday, Oct. 5, 10 AM. RE Apple Picking at Red Apple Farm, Phillipston**
- Sunday, Oct. 6 2 PM. Auditions for Messiah** (See page 3)
- Sunday, Oct. 6, 4:30 PM. Children's Choir**
- Sunday, Oct. 6, 5 PM. Sunday Worship: Chalice Circle service on Family**
- Sunday, Oct. 6, 6 PM. Light Potluck supper**
- Monday, Oct. 7, 6:30 PM. Governing Board Meeting,**  
John White's. Church members invited
- Monday, Oct. 7, 7 PM. AA meeting
- Tuesday, Oct. 8, 4:30 PM Brownies
- Sunday, Oct. 13 2 PM. Rehearsal for Messiah** (See page 3)
- Sunday, Oct. 13, 4:30 PM. Children's Choir**
- Sunday, Oct. 13, 5 PM. Sunday Worship**
- Sunday, Oct. 13, 6 PM. Light Potluck supper**
- Monday, Oct. 14, 7 PM. AA meeting
- Tuesday, Oct. 15, 4:30 PM Brownies
- Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 AM to noon: Yard Sale combined with RE Food Sale and Church Open House.**  
(Volunteers are needed.)
- Sunday, Oct. 20 2 PM. Rehearsal for Messiah** (See page 3)
- Sunday, Oct. 20, 4:30 PM. Children's Choir**

## FROM YOUR MINISTER

Like the black and orange colors we associate with October, this month has two moods, light and dark. This is when we celebrate the fullness of harvest in New England. Even city dwellers travel to farms to pick pumpkins and apples. We're reaping the last of our gardens, putting up food in canners or the freezer, doing fall cleanup and raking (or blowing) leaves. Fall festivals cluster around Columbus Day weekend: suppers, fairs, kids' sports tournaments, school open houses. It's Thanksgiving in Canada.

At the same time, there's a kind of melancholy in the air. Each day is two or three minutes shorter; each sunset a little earlier, dawn a little later. At the very end of the month, we switch back to standard time from Daylight Savings, and suddenly darkness drops onto the end of the day like a stone. It's growing colder. Our furnaces started kicking on last month and they're running more and more as October progresses. Some of us spent the summer stacking wood and now we're burning it. Winter is coming, and it seems too soon. Where did the summer go?

October is a transitional month, when everything is changing. Winter and summer can seem to go on forever, day after day of bone-numbing cold or blistering heat, punctuated by storms. But at the peak of spring and fall, no day is like the one before. In October we watch the leaves turn, plant life wither and fall to the ground, the trees shed their foliage to reveal wide skies laced with branches, hidden from view since May. In September we saw new beginnings: a new school year, a new year for the church.

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Now we're starting to see how those beginnings will evolve and grow.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon implemented several changes last month. Most dramatic of those changes is the new time for our Sunday service: 5:00 p.m. instead of the morning. On Sunday, September 7, after our Water Communion service, the congregation met and voted to accept this proposed switch. So far, it has seemed to be working out for most members, but we welcome feedback and discussion on the new time! If you haven't yet come to a service this year, we'd love to see you. Our beautiful church building feels different at that time of day. At the end of those long afternoons, a certain loneliness can creep in with the lengthening shadows. It's a good time to spend in fellowship with other people. After services, we meet for a light potluck supper in the parish hall.

The month of October will end with a special intergenerational service, on October 27, focused on the ancient Celtic holiday of Samhain. This holiday, traditionally held on November 1 ("the calends of November"), was when our ancestors bid farewell to summer and braced themselves for the onset of winter. On November 3, the UUCW will host a joint service with other churches in our regional cluster. Our Neighbors Kitchen will continue its monthly dinners, but will be a week earlier each month through December to avoid holidays. The next one will be on Thursday, October 24. More information will be announced on our new website (<http://uucw.ncmuuc.org/>), our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Unitarian-Universalist-Church-of-Winchendon/109227375827780>) and Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/UUWinchendon>). If any of you would like to receive announcements and notifications by text, contact me and I can set up a group to receive text messages.

I am meeting with other UU ministers in our local cluster, and with the Winchendon Clergy Association, and our church will be coordinating events with other congregations through the year. It's a great start to autumn at UUCW!

Inanna Arthen, M. Div.

## RE NEWS

Our RE teacher, Wendy O'Brien, is stepping down, and RE classes will be taught by Susan Faucher (and others as needed). All of us at UUCW would like to recognize and thank Wendy for her many years of contributions to the church. She has served as Secretary of the Governing Board and President of the Putnam Alliance, and has donated her time and energy to many projects and activities. Most recently, she has been a member of the RE Committee and an RE teacher. We all offer her our support and fellowship on her new path and hope to see her enjoying our services and events in the future.

If you would like to teach some RE classes, please contact me or the Governing Board at any time to talk about it. We are blessed to have a lively group of children in our congregation (some small churches have no kids at all!). We are considering making more of our regular services intergenerational, so the kids would be upstairs on more Sundays. This takes some careful planning to be successful for everyone, and we welcome your input.

The RE kids will be apple-picking at Red Apple Farm on Saturday, October 5, and we'll have a tag sale, bake sale and mitten drive on Saturday, October 19. If you'd like to contribute to the bake sale or help out with the tag sale (staffing our section or contributing great stuff to sell), please get in touch!

Our musician, Lucinda Ellert, is acquiring music for our evolving Children's Choir. Do you have a child who doesn't attend RE or church but loves to sing? He or she might enjoy participating in the choir! Please contact us for more information—the children's choir will certainly be singing for Christmas Eve, and possibly for other services, as well.

I'd like to invite your input or suggestions for Adult Religious Education on a monthly basis. We could talk about basics of Unitarian Universalist principles, history or philosophy, have a reading discussion group or have information sessions about world religions (especially those that impact current news). We could become familiar with the gray hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition*, and learn more of the hymns. I'd love to hear what would most interest you.

## FROM THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

September 2013 was time of change for the Governing Board and the congregation. Some change was big and some was small.

We all started our new church year with a wonderful Water Communion lead by Inanna Arthen and followed the service with a Congregational Meeting. Our meeting was to discuss and vote on changing the time of Sunday services. This wasn't the first discussion on the topic. The Governing Board and members of the congregation had been discussing and sharing their thoughts on this change for the prior month. When it came time to vote it was agreed that moving the services to Sunday at 5 PM fit better with the lives we live today. Society has changed quite a bit since 1970s when services were set at 10AM. Our change in time makes our services more accessible to individuals and families with busy lives and opens up our church to serve better serve the community of Winchendon.

Moving the service to late afternoon also afforded us some distance to give a good long look at our monthly Welcome Table Breakfast. This month the Governing Board voted to discontinue it. The Breakfast was originally to help our community by providing another meal opposite in the month from Our Neighbor's Kitchen. After just over two years of service, and over 2,000 eggs later, the change in time made the Breakfast unfeasible to continue. Unlike Our Neighbor's Kitchen which is self-sufficient, and growing, the Breakfast attendance ebbed and flowed. We haven't retired the Breakfast aprons entirely though. It may come back in future as a fundraiser occasionally.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen has continued to build its attendance as we come out of summer. Volunteers from Winchendon, Rindge, Ashby, Ashburnham, Gardner, and The Winchendon School keep the food coming and the plates washed. The September meal brought chicken thighs, au gratin potatoes, broccoli, and Caesar salad. There were lots of smiling faces and no empty stomachs in the in the Parish Hall last Thursday evening. October's meal will be a Harvest Dinner featuring apple and onion roast pork and seasonal squashes. It will be held on October

*(Chairman's Message Continued on page 4)*

## SING HANDEL'S MESSIAH WITH UUCW!



The Winchendon Unitarian Universalist Church, the Winchendon Historical Society and the Winchendon Courier are collaborating to sponsor a concert of highlights from Handel's Messiah on Saturday, December 7, after the Winchendon Tree Lighting Festival. The concert will be conducted by our Music Director, Lucinda Ellert. Ruth DeAmicis of the Winchendon Courier will be reading some stories.

We need singers! Auditions for placing singers in the right sections will be held on Sunday, October 6 at 2:00 p.m. at the church. Rehearsals will begin Sunday, October 13 at 2:00 p.m., again at the church. (The first few rehearsals are for people new to the Messiah; if you are an experienced singer who is familiar with the Messiah and/or reads music well, rehearsals start in November.)

Contact Lucinda Ellert, 781-944-7254, [lucinda-jellert@gmail.com](mailto:lucinda-jellert@gmail.com) for audition and rehearsal information.

### 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 Inanna 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.**

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24th at 5:30 PM. The meal will be the 2nd from the last Thursday of the month through December to make room for the holidays (Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas).

Since July we've held a successful Flea Market / Yard Sale on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Spaces are available on the church lawn for anyone to have their yard sales or sell their wares. In exchange for using the lawn space we encourage people to donate a portion of their proceeds to the church. With limited amount of labor and a couple of Saturday morning's worth of time we've raised

several hundred dollars. This event also benefits the larger community as well. The presence of the Flea Market increases the people stopping and benefiting from the Winchendon Farmer's Market which has taken up residence on our front lawn Thursday afternoons and Saturdays.



The final Flea Market / Yard Sale of the season is coming up on October 19th between 9AM and noon. We're ending on a high note. By coupling it with the Fall Bake Sale for Religious Education and the Church Open House we're planning a great day. There is need for some people to work the church tables and help with baking yummy items to sell. If you would like to help out at with the tables or bake something please contact Sue Faucher.

And, if you're wondering what you could bake for the Fall Bake Sale it just so happens that we will be Apple Picking at the Red Apple Farm on October 5th at 10 AM. The annual event is always a fun time with hayrides, pumpkins, animals to feed, and apples...lots of apples and lots of fun.

The Governing Board has also been supporting other change as well. With the departure of our Director of Religious Education, Tracy Gambill, at the end of the last year we began re-evaluating our Religious Program. After a search for a new DRE was conducted and unsuccessful, the Board agreed to take the salary of the DRE put those monies toward additional Ministerial Support. Our Minister, Inanna, will assist the RE class teachers in their goal of providing a quality Sunday School program to our UU children. During the year the Governing Board will

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## Contact Information

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## BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

Tracy Gambill	October 5
Hannah Gordon	October 10
Katherine Faucher	October 11
John White	October 16
Ron Gaspard	October 20

## Governing Board

The biggest challenge for the church governing board in recent months has been staffing. Those issues seem to be pretty well resolved for now. Lucinda continues as music director and is undertaking an ambitious project with the Messiah presentation. Ms. Inanna is minister and is taking a larger role in the religious education program. Sue Faucher is sexton and RE chair. She is taking on more duties with the RE program.

Dave Faucher, who is governing board chair, leader of the North Central Mass. UU Cluster, and chief cook for Our Neighbors Kitchen, assumed the role as worship coordinator when Rev. Marguerite

*(Governing Board, Continued on page 5)*

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### If you 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.

# In Memory Mardis Priest

Nov. 27, 1923 - Sept. 21, 2013

*(Calendar, Continued from page 1)*

**Sunday, Oct. 20, 5 PM. Sunday Worship**

**Sunday, Oct. 20, 6 PM. Light Potluck supper**

Monday, Oct. 21, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 4:30 PM Brownies

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 5 PM. October newsletter material

Thursday, Oct. 24, 5:30 PM. Our Neighbors Kitchen. (low price meal – everyone invited)

**Sunday, Oct. 27 2 PM. Rehearsal for Messiah** (See page 3)

**Sunday, Oct. 27, 4:30 PM. Children's Choir**

**Sunday, Oct. 27, 5 PM. Sunday Worship, Inanna**  
Arthen preaching: Samhain

**Sunday, Oct. 27, 6 PM. Light Potluck supper**

Monday, Oct. 28, 7 PM. AA meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 4:30 PM Brownies

*(Governing Board, Continued from page 4)*

left and leads our services when no one else is available. The congregation owes him a very big THANK YOU for his seemingly tireless efforts.

John White has temporarily taken over the duties of financial secretary and treasurer of Our Neighbors Kitchen in addition to his duties as church treasurer and newsletter editor. After many years of service, he will willingly retire from most of those positions if someone else ever steps forward to take over any of them.

The board also realizes the continuing challenge of maintaining and improving our building and grounds. It may not have been much noticed but J. McCrohon and Allen Gordon have developed a garden on the northeast side of our lot. The RE kids have helped and it has produced some goodies.

There is ongoing concern about our building. Even stonework needs occasional maintenance. There are many places around the building where the mortar between the stones has deteriorated and needs replacing. In at least one spot over the middle door it is so bad that one large stone has dropped a little. It cannot fall because of the way the gothic

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revisit this to make sure the situation is working out for everyone and make changes as necessary. Also to encourage more family participation we will have some interactive multi-generational services over the coming year.

Lucinda Ellert, our Music Director, has begun this year's Children's Choir. They will be practicing before services on most Sundays starting around 4:30 PM. We can all look forward to a coming performance of new music from them in the weeks ahead.

There have also been some digital changes. Inanna and I have begun working on a new congregational website to be released soon. Our Facebook page is being updated again and soon we'll be on Twitter so you will have a choice on how you stay in touch with what's happening electronically.

All this and we've just started year. In the coming months there is plenty to look forward to as the leaves change. We now get to settle into our new service time. Guest speakers and worship leaders will be joining us as the leaves continue to change. We're set to host the North Central Massachusetts Unitarian Universalist Congregations fall event on November 3rd. And December will be brining with it soaring music and artistic performances in the church. Stay tuned.



Thanks and Peace  
Dave

arch is built. But it, and many other spots need work. So far they have a couple quotes. Hopefully, we will be able to develop a grant proposal to submit to the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation or possibly some other funding group.

There are other, less major, issues as well. Our doors need refinishing. We need better outside lighting with many of our services coming during the hours of darkness. There are others but no more room in this newsletter.