

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954 Published by the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon



Volume 59 Issue 1
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SEPTEMBER 2014
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 5:00 P.M.
PO 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

Monday, September 1

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Saturday, September 6

9:00 am - 1:00 pm - Yard Sale at UUCW

Sunday, September 7

5:00 pm - Sunday Worshop - Water Communion Service. Welcome back! Inanna Arthen, M.Div, worship leader.

6:00 pm - Post-Service Light Potluck Supper

Monday, September 8

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Saturday, Sept 13

Trip to Historic Deerfield

Sunday, September 14

5:00 pm - Sunday Worshop

6:00 pm - Post-Service Light Potluck Supper

Monday, September 15

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Saturday, September 20

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Yard Sale at UUCW

9:00 am - 1:00 pm UUCW OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, September 21

5:00 pm - Sunday Worshop

6:00 pm - Post-Service Light Potluck Supper

Monday, September 22

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Wednesday, September 24

Deadline for October Newsletter

Thursday, September 25

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen community supper. All are welcome!

Sunday, September 28

10:00 am - UUCW joins First Parish UU of Ashby for a joint Sunday worship service in Ashby

Monday, September 29

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Cybercafe opens at UUCW

Saturday, October 5, 2014

9:00 am - 1:00 pm - Yard Sale at UUCW

Sunday, October 5, 2014

5:00 pm - Sunday Worshop - Inanna Arthen, M.Div, worship leader.

6:00 pm - Post-Service Light Potluck Supper

From Your Minister

Welcome back to a new church year at UUCW! It's been a busy summer for many of us. Each month, UUCW has hosted two yard sales and served a delicious meal at Our Neighbor's Kitchen. We've opened the church to organizing and activist events in the fight against the natural gas pipeline project that threatens Winchendon and many of our neighbor towns. Our beautiful organ was put into brief service as part of a "scavenger hunt" challenge, as American Guild of Organists member John Dunn generously agreed to be videorecorded playing a song—while wearing a funny hat. The Monday AA group has continued to meet at the church each week.

Along with these activities, we've been working on some new changes and additions to our church for the coming year.

We're welcoming a new RE teacher, Kirsty Johnson Erikson. Kirsty is organizing our Sunday church school into a creative and engaging program. She'll be teaching the classes for the older children in our congregation and



John Dunn, American Guild of Organists member, retired director of music for the Church of St. Paul in Harvard Square, and former headmaster of St. Paul's Choir School, plays UUCW's historic E. & G. G. Hook pipe organ for a good cause on August 6. UUCW was praised for how well we've maintained our pipe organ and grand piano.

coordinating all the sessions along the themes of our Sunday worship each week.

We're adapting our Order of Service for Sunday worship in order to allow our children the most amount of time in their sessions downstairs. We'll begin each Sunday with those elements of the service in which our children take part: ringing the bell, sharing Joys and Concerns, accepting the offering and the Time for All Ages. Then the children will go downstairs for their church school sessions, while the adults continue their worship time in the sanctuary. At 6:00 p.m. we'll all gather in the Fellowship Hall for a family and community pot luck supper.

We're creating new literature and flyers about our church and Unitarian Universalism. Many people see our beautiful church and the name of our denomination but have no idea what we're really all about. It's easy to forget how different we UUs are and how much we have to offer progressive people in the 21st century. We can't just rest on our historical laurels when the times are shifting so rapidly.

This Labor Day weekend marks the resurgence of a kind of unity in action and spirit that has been lacking for a while in the United States. Many of us in

the lower economic levels of this country have stood by helplessly as income inequality and corporate abuses increased by the day. But this summer we've watched and participated in massive movements for change that refuse to slack off or be stopped.

Resistance to the Kinder-Morgan Northeast natural gas pipeline expansion is growing stronger and beginning to see some results. Local legislators and businesses in the affected towns have formally joined the protest. Towns have held special town meetings and voted on moratoriums. State Representative Sheila Harrington (R-Groton) reported to the Pepperell Free Press that "the entire legislature is aware of the issue." Governor Patrick certainly is—I made a volunteer phone call to his office the day that local activists were organizing mass on-the-spot calls on their own cell phones. I got a live person in the Governor's office on the phone and he was writing my comments down for several minutes.

Precedents are being set in other states as courts rule that land can't be taken by eminent domain by a for-profit company, and cases are won against fracked gas and its high environmental and health costs. Pipeline protest signs are now more ubiquitous than campaign signs in any election I can remember. The fight is far from won, but it's only getting started.

The Market Basket grocery chain has always been unique, with low prices and a wide selection of ethnic and cultural foods that recognized the diversity of the communities the stores served. I sometimes shopped there, my dad shopped there, and when I worked at the shelter, we had an account with Market Basket. I knew that every time I went to any Market Basket, it seemed to be jammed with shoppers. I'd noticed their recent 4 percent discount on everything. I was less conscious of the company's progressive and compassionate policies toward its employees under the leadership of Arthur T. Demoulas.

We all know about those policies now. When the board fired Arthur T. amid rumors that the company was going to be either sold or changed to maximize profits for the greedy few at the expense of shoppers and employees, Market Basket staff rebelled by the thousand. Sales associates, managers and warehouse workers went on strike, rallies at company headquarters were attended by as many as 14,000 employees, customers and supporters, and customers refused to cross picket lines. With stores open but empty of all but dry goods, sales were down 90% and the company was losing millions of dollars. All this was done in

support of a CEO whose liberal management policies are shamefully out of fashion among big corporations these days. The strikers' one demand has been, "bring back Arthur T." As I finished writing this column, Arthur T.'s buyout offer was accepted and he is back in charge. I hope all those exploitative mega-corporations outsourcing their jobs, customer service and profits to Asia are taking a good look at what customer and employee loyalty is really worth. The Market Basket strike has shown all of us that we "little folks" really do have power—if we work together.

Meanwhile, citizens in Ferguson, Missouri have been protesting an all-too-common occurrence: the shooting of an African-American teenager by a police officer in circumstances that remain unclear. Ferguson is showing us some uncomfortable truths about the persistence of blatant racism in our cities and towns. Here in Massachusetts, where we elected and re-elected an African-American Governor and twice carried the vote for our African-American President, we may be somewhat complacent about our own violently racist past. It's been more than forty years since school busing for integration led to riots in Boston. We look at places like Ferguson, 67% African-American with an all-white government and only three black police officers on a force of over fifty, and we think of it as a different world. But it's not.

Change isn't always fun or exciting; it can be scary and upsetting. But stability can easily become stagnation. Situations of change are full of potential. It's

good to shake things up, not just in the outer world but in our minds and attitudes and beliefs as well. As UUs, we're dedicated to confronting power and to challenging ourselves. As our small community of UUCW grows and changes during the coming year, we'll be part of even more important and far reaching change around us. But we're UUs. That's what we do.

Inanna Arthen, M.Div

Water Communion Worship Service on September 7

Like many UU congregations, we'll open our new church year with a "Water Communion" service. You are invited to bring a small container of water with you that has some special meaning. You may have collected it somewhere that you visited this summer, or it may be from your new home or from some place that you especially love and treasure. During the service, we'll pour all of our individual containers into a larger one, and bless the water by calling on the four quarters. The water will be kept until spring when we'll pour it onto the garden next to the church.

This Sunday will also be the first RE class with our new RE Lead Teacher, Kirsty Johnson Erikson. We have many exciting things planned for the UUCW children this year! We're looking forward to seeing you on Sunday.

RE News

Hi everyone!

My name is Kirsty (Kirsty Johnson Erikson), and I've been hired by the board to be the Head Teacher for the Religious Education program. I've had a long history of working in the RE Programs of several UU churches, and I've been a UU since I was a teenager (which was a really long time ago!).

I have 4 kids, two are now adults, and the other two are 10 and 7; three boys and girl. I also have a sweet Brittany Spaniel, two cats, and a fish. My wife has been a lifelong UU, she is the third generation in her family of being a Unitarian Universalist. In fact, her mom was the DRE who taught me gently about the special and sacred in each of us. It was such a far different outlook than I'd been raised with as a Methodist/Lutheran! It was this—this beautiful understanding of the human condition—that ultimately guided me into working in the RE program in the UU Church of Leominster, and led to my becoming a Director of Religious Education. I served the Leominster church for 12 years, before retiring. First Church will always hold a special piece of my spirit.

Ultimately my growing family began attending UUCWorcester, and all of us are still active participants in the church and RE program. I've been a teacher, a classroom coordinator, the OWL coordinator, a chaperone for the youth group, and helping hands whenever needed. Our teen bridged out of the youth group this past June and is about to embark on his college career.

I am looking forward to exploring UUCW, learning about your stories, meeting and playing and learning with your kids, and having an enthusiastic, fulfilling, FUN year together!

Trip to Historic Deerfield

On Saturday, September 13, we'll carpool to Historic Deerfield for an educational and fun outing. Tour an authentically restored 18th century New England village with demonstrations of traditional Yankee crafts and many exhibits. For more information, see <http://www.historic-deerfield.org/>.

We'll be meeting at 9:00 a.m. in Orange, at the Shell station at Rte 2 and 202, and traveling to Deerfield in a convoy. If you need to carpool, you can arrange to be picked up at the church at 8:30 a.m.

Yard Sales Continue into Fall

The Summer Yard Sales have been doing very well. We've held two yard sales each month this summer, with an extra one added on August 23. We'll keep on holding them as weather permits. The September Yard Sales are scheduled for September 6 and September 20, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

If you'd like to donate materials for a Yard Sale, or have a table of your own, please contact the church or Sue Faucher (978-632-5588 or sfaucher@on24seven.com). Items can be dropped off or we can arrange to pick them up.

We've tentatively floated the idea of having indoor tag sales when it gets colder, but in the past these have not been as successful. If you'd be interested in participating in one or have some ideas to help promote them, please get in touch!

UUCW Open House

On Saturday, September 20, UUCW will have an "Open House" from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (in conjunction with the Yard Sale that day). If you have any friends or family who are curious about our church and would like to see the building, meet the minister and ask questions, bring them along!

UUCW Cyber-Cafe

Starting in October, UUCW will be offering free wifi on Wednesday nights for those who need an Internet connection for work or personal reasons and don't have one at home. We hope to have some laptops to loan, or you can bring your own and connect to our network. More information will be forthcoming as we finalize our plans.



Spiritual Calendar

- September 1: Radha's Day (Hindu). Celebrates the love between couples.
- September 1: Beginning of the ecclesiastical year in Orthodox Christianity.
- September 8: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin (Roman Catholic). Celebrates the birth of Mary to St. Anne.
- September 13: Banquet of Venus (Ancient Rome). Burn a red or pink candle and invoke the divine three blessings—health, wealth and wisdom—into your life.
- September 21: Feast of the Divine Trinity—the Rites of Eleusis (Ancient Greek). Beginning of the celebration of life, beauty, death and rebirth as embodied in Koré the Maiden, Demeter the Mother and Iacchos the Crone. The Eleusinian mysteries continued for seven more days and were open to anyone who spoke Greek, including women, slaves and foreigners. Such all-inclusive mystery traditions were rare in the ancient world and early Christianity probably borrowed this liberalism (and other things) from this feast.
- September 22: Mabon (Modern Pagan). The Autumn Equinox (in the northern hemisphere), a time when the fall harvest is celebrated with ceremonies of gratitude and generosity, and feasts made from the new harvest.
- September 24-26: Rosh Hashana (Jewish). The Jewish New Year. This is a time for introspection, prayer, penitence and abstinence. Traditionally, sweet foods such as apples and honey are eaten in hope

of a sweet year to come, and the *shofar* (ram's horn) is blown in Temple.

September 28: The Holy Night (Ancient Greek).

Conclusion of the Feast of the Divine Trinity.

Observed with solemn processions, ceremonies and feasting. The next day, competitions and games were held.

This Month in UU History

September 4, 1793: The first General Convention of the Universalist Societies was held in Oxford, MA and attended by delegates from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire and New York. This annual meeting was renamed General Assembly in 1942. With the merger of the Universalist Church of America and American Unitarian Association in 1961, it became the UUA General Assembly. In 2014, General Assembly was attended by over 4,700 UUs.

September 4, 1848: Unitarian and inventor Lewis Howard Lattimer was born in Chelsea, MA. Lewis was the only African-American member of Thomas Edison's engineering division, Edison Pioneers. He was one of the founding members of the First Unitarian Church of Flushing, NY.

September 24, 1825: African-American Unitarian Frances Ellen Watkins Harper was born a freewoman in Baltimore, MD. A woman of amazing accomplishments for any era, while living in a time of slavery and Civil War Frances taught school and lectured, worked for women's suffrage, temperance and education and supported the Underground Railroad. She was a feminist, abolitionist, poet and popular novelist. In her later years (she died aged 85) she helped found the National Association of Colored Women and held high offices in several progressive organizations.

September 30, 1755: Unitarian and lawyer John Marshall was born in Germantown (now Midtown), VA.

Caring Connections

UUCW is a caring congregation. We reach out to each other to offer caring and we remember each other's 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 for Sunday services, offer a ride to church, or make any other "caring connection." Please let us know if you or someone close to you is in need of such a "caring connection" from us. You can call Inanna directly at 978-433-8866 (home) or 508-572-1624 (cell).

He refused a seat on the Supreme Court when President John Adams wanted to appoint him, but served as Adams' Secretary of State and was appointed chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1801. He issued many important decisions for the court.

September Birthdays

Willard White September 11

Sue Faucher September 15



(If I'm missing any birthdays, please let me know!)

Change of Address?

We want to stay in touch! If you change your address, either U. S. Mail or email, please let us know. Email dfaucher@on24seven.com or send a written note to the church at P. O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475. Thanks!

UUCW Online

<http://uucw.ncmuuc.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/uuwinchendon>

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