

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954

Published by the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon



Volume 59 Issue 10

PASTOR INANNA ARTHEN, M.DIV, MINISTER

Church Telephone 978-297-0554

JUNE 2015

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

Sunday, May 31

5:00 pm - short Sunday Worship service
followed by CHURCH ANNUAL
MEETING and potluck!

Saturday, June 6

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

Sunday, June 7

5:00 pm - Sunday Worship - RE Sunday
6:00 pm - Ice Cream Social!

Monday, June 8

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Sunday, June 14

5:00 pm - Sunday Worship - Flower
Communion with Pastor Arthen
6:00 pm - Post-Service Light Potluck Supper

Monday, June 15

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Saturday, June 20

9:00 am - 3:00 pm SUMMER SOLSTICE FAIR
AND FLEA MARKET

Monday, June 22

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, June 25

5:30 pm - Our Neighbors Kitchen Community
Supper serves Summer Ribs and corn on the
cob!

Monday, June 29

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

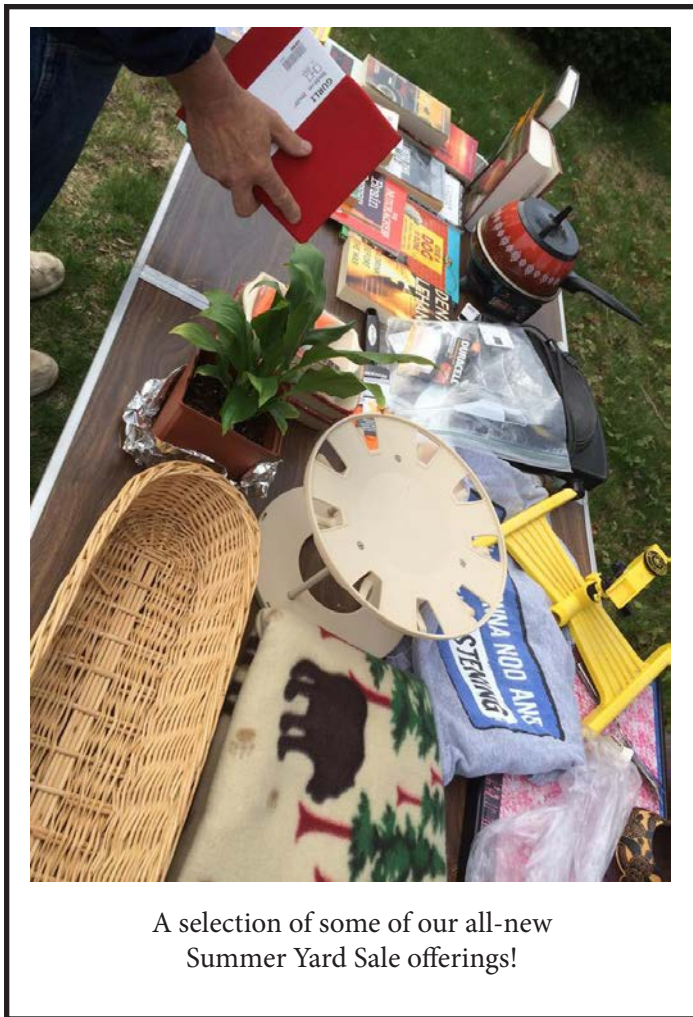


From Your Minister

It's nearly June—month of graduations, school summer breaks starting, Flag Day, Father's Day, and Winchendon's Summer Solstice Fair. The sun reaches its highest point in the noon sky on June 21, the Summer Solstice. After that the days are actually growing *shorter* for the rest of the summer, as counter-intuitive as that seems with the season's hottest weather cooking us in mid-July. Modern Pagans celebrate the Solstice as the midpoint of the solar year, when the young Sun God is at his mightiest and the natural world is as vigorous as it ever will be. You know how often you have to mow the lawn in June! Everything, from garden plants to baby animals, is growing as fast as it can.

We had a busy month of May at UUCW. On Sunday, May 3, we had a Garden Meditation service, which concluded with everyone going outside to help prepare the children's vegetable garden for the new season. On Sunday, May 10, I planned two Sunday worship services for Mother's Day—one at our usual time of 5:00 p.m., and one at 10:00 a.m. However, no one came to the morning service, so it seems that our members prefer the afternoon service time. We'll be talking more about this at our Annual Meeting on May 31. May 17 was a musical service, dedicated to singing our favorite hymns. On May 24, I led our annual Blessing of the Animals service. We had several animal friends attending in person, and a number that were blessed by name or through their photos. Following the service, two- and four-footed attendees alike enjoyed a picnic potluck on the church front lawn.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen was a week earlier than usual, on May 21. Chef Dave Faucher cooked pork kebobs, but without the skewers, served on a bed of seasoned couscous with salad and bread. As a vegetarian alternate, we made falafel patties, and they proved so popular, we completely ran out! Everyone wanted to try them, and they were indeed delicious.



A selection of some of our all-new Summer Yard Sale offerings!

Our Summer Yard Sales kicked off on Saturday, May 9. Although the weather was quite chilly, we had a good number of shoppers browse the new inventory. The Yard Sales will be every other week, so we set up again on May 23, and will be out on the lawn for the next sale on June 6.

Poet James Russell Lowell wrote,
 “And what is so rare as a day in June
 Then, if ever, come perfect days...”

June is an odd month. The word “Solstice” means “sun stands still,” which the sun does appear to do when it reaches the apex of its yearly journey. You do feel this sort of hovering sense during the month of June. On the one hand, things are wrapping up and concluding. Schools go on summer break, and students graduate and get their diplomas. At the same time, June is a month of new beginnings. It’s the favorite month for weddings. New graduates frequently are heading for new jobs and new homes. We’re often just opening up our summer cottages and still putting out plants in our gardens (our last frost day, after all, is only May 15).

It is perhaps a reflection of this ambiguity that June features two of the less observed American holidays: Flag Day and Father’s Day.

Flag Day is observed on June 14. I remember doing projects for Flag Day when I was in grade school;



This Month in UU History

- June 3, 1870: Norbert Capek was born in Bohemia (now Czechoslovakia). He converted to Unitarianism from Baptist ministry and became a Unitarian leader in Europe. He created the Flower Communion service which many UU congregations now hold as the final service of their church year. Capek was imprisoned by the Germans in 1942 for denouncing the Nazis and died at Dachau.
- June 22, 1854: Dissenters were admitted to Oxford University. This included Unitarians, who up to this point were denied degrees from Oxford, which required graduates and faculty to sign the Thirty Nine Articles of the Church of England.
- June 23, 1977: The UUA passed the Women and Religion Resolution at General Assembly in Ithaca, NY. This resolution called on UUs to recognize the devaluation of women in traditional religious beliefs and in the larger society, and for leaders to “put traditional assumptions and language in perspective and to avoid sexist assumptions and language in the future.” This led to the adoption of gender-inclusive language in UU hymns and liturgy.
- June 25, 1922: Jamaica-born Egbert Ethelred Brown became one of the earliest African-American Unitarian ministers when he was ordained at Mead Theological School. He founded a Unitarian church in Harlem. Always in tight financial straits, he was censured by the American Unitarian Association for soliciting funds from colleagues and other congregations. He was reinstated by the AUA when the ACLU threatened a lawsuit.
- June 27, 1984: The UUA passed the Gay and Lesbian Services of Union Resolution at General Assembly in Columbus, OH. This resolution affirmed the conducting of services of union by UU ministers for gay and lesbian couples.

it doesn't get much attention now. It's intended to commemorate the adoption of the flag's design by the Second Continental Congress in 1777. Various campaigns to launch a Flag Day started in the 1880s, but it never became a national holiday. In some locations, such as Quincy, MA, parades are held, and Americans everywhere are encouraged to display the flag on their homes.

Father's Day is one of those holidays that suffers from a lack of respect. It was first celebrated on June 19, 1910 at the YMCA in Spokane, WA. Inspired by Anna Jarvis' crusade to establish Mother's Day, Sonora Smart Dodd urged her pastors to preach sermons honoring her own father and fathers in general. William Jackson Smart was a widowed Civil War veteran who raised six children as a single parent. Sonora wanted to observe her father's birthday, June 5, but the date was postponed because the pastors needed more time to prepare their sermons.

The annual celebration died out in the 1920s, but Sonora campaigned to revive Father's Day in the 1930s. The idea was supported and promoted heavily by retailers who sold goods typically given as gifts to dads, such as pipes, ties, men's wear, and so on. This led to the holiday being ridiculed in the press as a blatant attempt to replicate what had then become the very profitable commercialization of Mother's Day (which its founder Anna Jarvis protested against so furiously).

The retailers were undaunted, and in 1966 President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. In 1972, President Nixon made the day an official national holiday.

Both Flag Day and Father's Day are now observed in most countries in the world, although not on the same dates, and in the case of Flag Day, not always with the same rationale or underlying theme.

At UUCW, we're entering June in this same spirit: we're looking at both endings and beginnings. The traditional church year in most UU congregations concludes with the Flower Communion service. Our Flower Communion Service will be on June 14. In past years, like most UU churches, we've more-or-less taken a break during the summer months, until our Water Communion service in September. But this year, we're making different plans.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen doesn't take a summer break—we'll serve meals on June 25, July 30 and August 27. Our Summer Yard Sales will be held on alternate Saturdays, weather permitting (i.e. it's not pouring rain or thunderstorming) all summer long. The Winchendon Farmer's Market will set up on the church front lawn every week. It only seems to make sense, with all this activity bringing people to our church, to offer some kind of Sunday worship through the summer.



RE News



We're standing at the threshold of a new month—and the ending of our church year. The children and I are hard at work preparing for the RE service on June 7 (you'll be there, right?!) which will be fun for everyone. The service will be "About Joy" and filled with music and readings and a skit that the kids are looking forward to presenting to the congregation. The children are wonderfully excited about taking a leadership role for the service. They are amazing to work with, these young, active Unitarian Universalists.

In addition to working on our service, we've also spent these last weeks talking about the Golden Rule (and how this "rule" shows up in other faiths, including ours), as well as talking about our own Purposes and Principles in depth.

RE Sunday marks the end of our RE year, but there will still be two events that we hope you'll come and be a part of—the annual Flower Communion Sunday on the 14th, and our Community participation in the Winchendon Parade on the 20th.

Mark your calendars for these important dates, and we'll be looking forward to seeing you there! We sincerely hope that you will be with us on June 7.

In joy...

Kirsty Erikson
Lead RE Teacher



Spiritual Calendar

- June 2: **Juno Regina Day (Roman)**. Honors the Queen of Heaven, Juno Regina. This is a day to celebrate our women leaders and politicians.
- June 3: **Second Festival of Pax (Roman)**. One of three festivals for Peace celebrated by the Romans. Strange for a people with such a bellicose reputation, isn't it? Light a white candle and meditate or pray for peace and harmony today.
- June 13: **Feast of Epona (Celtic)**. Throughout Celtic regions of Europe, the horse goddess of Epona was honored as the matron of mobility, agricultural abundance and warriors. Sometimes she was seen as a beautiful white horse, or a warrior goddess on a magical steed.
- June 18: **Ramadan (Islam)**. Beginning of a lunar month during which Muslims rigorously fast during daylight hours and increase their acts of religious devotion and good works. Its observance is considered one of the Five Pillars of Islam.
- June 17: **Marriage of Orpheus and Eurydice (Greek)**. A day to commemorate love so powerful it defies death itself. Orpheus journeyed to the underworld to reclaim the soul of his love Eurydice. He played the lyre with such power and beauty that Queen of the Underworld released Eurydice's soul—but failed because he could not prevent himself from looking back. Listen to music that revives your soul today.
- June 21: **Litha/Summer Solstice (Pagan)**. The peak of the solar year, when the Sun reaches its highest point in the noon sky and begins its descent downwards to its nadir at the Winter Solstice. In modern Pagan myth, this time represents the birth of the new Holly King, who will overpower the Oak King who was reborn at Yule and is now at his strongest time. Traditionally, the Solstice was a time for divination and fortune-telling, especially for questions about marriage, childbirth and mortality. It was also one of the great fire festivals.
- June 24: Saint John's Day (Christian)**. This feast day honoring, supposedly, the birth of John the Baptist is one of the most obvious of the Christianized Pagan holidays—in this case, Summer Solstice. In northern countries, the peak of the solar year was a highly significant time spiritually and psychologically. It was marked with bonfires and celebrations. In Scandinavian countries the “Maypole” is decorated and danced at Solstice, not in May (that's how you can tell what time of year it is in the movie *Frozen!*). Sweden has considered making Summer Solstice its National Day.



We're still working out the form that will take. But we meet so many people during the summer who ask about UUCW and are disappointed when we tell them we won't have Sunday worship until September. Most other denominations do. We'll be posting more information on our website and Facebook page and sending out “email blasts” to let folks know what the summer schedule will be, so stay tuned!

The Unitarian Universalist Association as a whole is looking at many changes. The steady decrease in attendance at traditional Sunday worship services and the growing number of people who say they don't identify with any religion impacts all denominations. But we UUs have always extended our mission beyond creed and dogma. Now we're asking ourselves a lot of serious questions: what does it mean to be committed to social justice? What does it mean to put community service first? How do we find ways to express spirituality through compassionate service? How do we connect

with transcendence and find a sense of purpose outside of church walls and Sunday mornings?

Here in Winchendon, we don't have to look far for answers. Winchendon is a community with many challenges and many opportunities for mission-based projects to help others. We also have many good people here, including younger people, who are looking for a form of spirituality that aligns with their twenty-first century values. Unitarian Universalism has so much to offer as we move into a world that rejects prejudice, intolerance, xenophobia and nationalism. Our biggest challenge is to reach out and let everyone know what we stand for and who we stand with. It's commencement day for UUs—time for us to graduate into a new role and a new job in our world. Come and join us! And bring your friends.

Pastor Inanna Arthen, M.Div

Yard Sale Season is in Full Swing!

The UUCW Yard Sales began on Saturday, May 9, and will be held every two weeks after that, on Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (about the same time that the post office is open), as long as the weather permits. Come on down to find a bargain! We also welcome donations of gently used items in good condition, so if you're decluttering and wondering what to do with stuff that's too nice to throw out, think of us!

To donate goods and materials for the Yard Sales, or have a table of your own, please contact the church or Sue Faucher (978-632-5588).

Sue is also the person to contact if you'd like to be a vendor at the big Summer Flea Market on June 20. Don't delay, as space fills up early!

Thursday, June 25 Our Neighbor's Kitchen Serves Summer Ribs!

Join us on Thursday, June 25 at 5:30 p.m. for a sumptuous summer dinner of ribs with homemade barbeque sauce, pasta salad, corn on the cob, bread and a yummy dessert prepared by our chef extraordinaire David Faucher and his dauntless crew of helpers. We can always use more volunteers! If you'd like to help with set-up, come to the church between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. If you want to help with serving, come at around 5:15 p.m. so we can go over any special protocols for the night's menu. Clean-up starts around 6:15 p.m. and is usually done shortly after 7:00 p.m. Volunteers have a chance to share the meal and fellowship.



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).

June Birthdays

Heather Mahoney	June 2
Pauline Michalewicz	June 6
Jill Sackett	June 10
Inanna Arthen	June 20
David Faucher	June 28



(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>

Contact Information

Minister: Pastor Inanna Arthen, M.Div

Phone: 978-433-8866

Cell: 508-572-1624

Email: iarthen@inannaarthen.com

RE Lead Teacher: Kirsty Erikson-Johnson

Email: kirstyerikson@gmail.com

Musician: Lucinda Ellert

Phone: 781-944-7254

Email: lucindajellert@gmail.com

Governing Board Chair: David Faucher

Email: dfaucher@on24seven.com

Governing Board Members:

Allan Gordon: lilpun31@mass.rr.com

Secretary, James McCrohan:

jmccrohan@yahoo.com

Sexton (Custodian): Sue Faucher

Phone: 978-632-5588

Email: sfaucher@on24seven.com