

# THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954

Published by the

*Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon*



Volume 60 Issue 1

PASTOR INANNA ARTHEN, M.DIV, MINISTER

Church Telephone 978-297-0554

**FEBRUARY 2016**

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 A.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**

## “It’s Déjà Vu All Over Again”

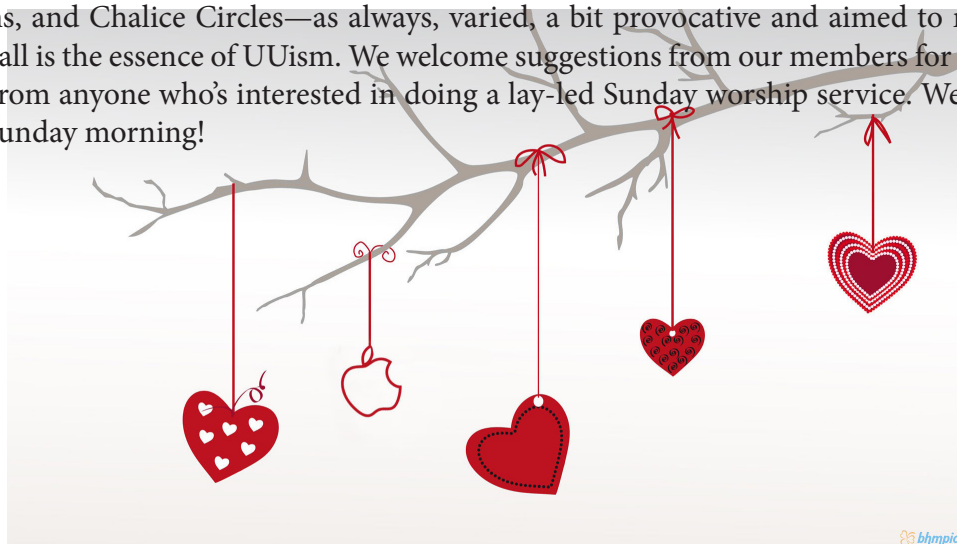
### **UUCW Sunday Worship Changes to 11:00 a.m.**

We heard you—that is, we didn’t hear you, in church on Sundays. We’re changing the time of Sunday worship back to 11:00 a.m., starting Sunday, February 7. At the same time, we’re changing Our Neighbor’s Kitchen back to its popular day and time of Thursday night at 5:30 p.m. (see below for more on that).

Back in September, 2013, we changed our Sunday worship time to 5:00 p.m. for several reasons. Most of the congregation wanted to try evening services, and our musician had a time conflict with Sunday mornings. Other churches, including UU churches, had evening or “vesper” services, including UUCW in the past. In September, 2015, for a number of reasons, we decided to try moving Our Neighbor’s Kitchen to Sundays and scheduling it before Sunday worship. Our Neighbor’s Kitchen meals were served at 3:00 p.m. and Sunday worship began at 4:30 p.m.

Change is always good, not the least because it tells you what doesn’t work. It has become clear to us that “vespers” worship services do not meet the needs of our congregation. We’re changing to 11:00 a.m. rather than earlier in the morning because we have families who travel a distance to get to church, and because we want to allow time for clearing the driveway and entrance in case of snow. Religious Education classes (see “RE News,” below) will also start at 11:00 a.m., concurrent with the service, and we’ll share a family potluck lunch at 12:00 noon. Then we have the rest of the day for all those beloved Sunday activities like family get-togethers, shopping, recreation and football games. We can also trade services and visits with our sister UU congregations who have Sunday worship in the morning. And no one will have to drive (or walk, or bicycle) in the dark to make it to church!

This year, we experimented with a simpler and shorter worship service format. We’ll be returning to the more traditional order of service. We’ll be offering a combination of original sermons, thought-provoking essays, TED talks, presentations, and Chalice Circles—as always, varied, a bit provocative and aimed to make us reflect and think, which after all is the essence of UUism. We welcome suggestions from our members for service themes, and we’d love to hear from anyone who’s interested in doing a lay-led Sunday worship service. We’re looking forward to seeing you on Sunday morning!



# Calendar of Church Events

## Sunday, February 7

*New Time!*

11:00 am - Sunday Worship led by David Faucher

11:00 am - RE “Beginnings” Class

11:30 am - RE “Questings” Class

12:00 pm - Family Potluck lunch—all are welcome!

*and...* Super Bowl Appetizer Swap! Bring your favorite appetizers to trade!

## Monday, February 8

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

## Thursday, February 11

5:30 p.m. - Our Neighbors Kitchen “Soup and Sandwich” Night!

## Sunday, February 14

11:00 am - Sunday Worship led by Pastor Inanna Arthen

11:00 am - RE “Beginnings” Class

11:30 am - RE “Questings” Class

12:00 pm - Family Potluck lunch—all are welcome!

## Monday, February 15

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

## Sunday, February 21

11:00 am - Sunday Worship led by David Faucher - multigenerational service

12:00 pm - Family Potluck lunch—all are welcome!

## Monday, February 22

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

## Thursday, February 25

5:30 p.m. - Our Neighbors Kitchen serves Swedish Meatballs!

## Sunday, February 28

11:00 am - Sunday Worship led by Pastor Inanna Arthen

11:00 am - RE “Beginnings” Class

11:30 am - RE “Questings” Class

12:00 pm - Family Potluck lunch—all are welcome!

## Monday, February 29

7:00 pm - AA Meeting



## From Your Minister

It's been quite a church year so far, as we've tried out new times and new formats, evaluated the responses and considered solutions. I've been planning more Sunday worship services and consequently had less time to produce this newsletter. We've begun hosting two Our Neighbor's Kitchen dinners each month. We participated in the Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive, held our second annual carol singing and tree lighting at the church, and for the first time, were included in the Winchendon Historical Society's Holiday House Tour in December. We said goodbye to two more long-time church members: Jon Nicholson and Roger Bryant.

Winter has been kind to us so far. Let's hope that February continues to wield a light hand, since there's an extra day of February to love—it's Leap Year. Which means that it's also a (Presidential) Election Year.

UUs have always been deeply entwined in politics. It's almost impossible for us not to be. Our denomination is too deeply concerned with issues of social justice, progressive change, human rights, discrimination, and the environment to stand apart from the secular processes that impact these concerns. One of the reasons

that “liberal religion” was so mistrusted, and often persecuted, in past centuries is because it so often was associated with causes seen as seditious and threatening by the Powers That Were. That's still true in modern times. UUs have fund-raised, campaigned, marched and voted for issues like gay marriage, women's rights and the rights of black Americans. We've opposed military actions, criticized our government, and opened our churches to those whose denominations rejected them. Most recently, we've stood up for the rights of transgendered persons and aligned with Black Lives Matter.

It hasn't always been easy. During the 1960s and 70s, some UU congregations split apart in violent disagreement over the Vietnam War. In the past decade, congregations have grappled on how to respond to 9/11, the Patriot Act, our military actions in the Middle East and Afghanistan, domestic gun violence, economic inequality and immigration—to name a few. UU churches have been vandalized when they displayed Welcoming Congregation rainbow flags or Black Lives Matter signs.

A few months ago, I was speaking to the pastor of an evangelical congregation that was seeking a space to rent for their worship services. I said that we only asked

that anyone renting our space be in general agreement with our values: basic respect for all human beings. I said, “suppose that we welcomed a Muslim into our congregation, you’d need to be respectful of that.” The pastor’s face went blank. “I don’t know why you’d do that,” he mumbled. The congregation did not rent our church.

We have no Muslim member at this time, but if one wished to attend our services, they would be absolutely welcome (in fact, I’d be delighted). I’m sure almost all UU congregations would say the same. And there we go, being all scary and seditious again. It’s frighteningly easy these days to find the intolerance point for Americans. Most are getting used to the idea of gay marriage, most are distressed by violence against black Americans...but ask them to accept Muslims, and they’ll run screaming from the room.

But that’s exactly the kind of thing we UUs do ask, of ourselves and of everyone else.

As I write this, we here on the New Hampshire border can already feel the gentle tremble in the ground as the Presidential hopefuls stampede toward the next primary campaign state. Innocent television sets everywhere are bracing themselves against the inevitable thrown objects and hurled invectives. Somehow, we’ll all make it through.

And as we do, only we UUs will probably remember that the first four American Presidents were Unitarian, either philosophically, or through formal membership in a Unitarian church. The United States of America is Unitarian-born.

It’s rather appropriate that the insanity of primary campaign season would kick off in February. It’s a month when all of us go a little stir-crazy. We’ve had quite enough of winter and it’s far too long until spring (even if the groundhog doesn’t see his shadow). The holidays of this month range from silly (Groundhog Day) to sentimental (Valentine’s Day) to self-indulgent (Presidents Day—whee, let’s go shopping!). Down in New Orleans, Mardi Gras launches for the week leading up to Lent—early this year because Easter is early, March 27. If you’d like to enjoy some pralines and a King Cake, “Fat Tuesday” is February 9 this year. Pancakes—rich with butter and eggs—are a traditional dish for this day, too. In old times, everyone feasted on all the perishable luxuries forbidden during the six weeks of Lent, which had to be used up.

To the ancient Romans, February was a month of purification and a time to celebrate and encourage fertility. Its key holiday was Lupercalia, held on the 15th of the month. Young couples courted with gifts and love notes, while young married women hoped to be blessed with a new pregnancy.

The ancient Celts celebrated Brigid’s Day or Imbolg on February 2. February was lambing time, despite the harsh weather, and our ancestors were in their pastures guarding the young from the elements and predators. The goddess Brigid was invoked to nurture and protect the newborn and bless families and the natural world with fertility and healthy young life. Small animals emerge from their winter dens in February to court and find mates, so the babies will be born in April.

## RE News

So many exciting changes happening at UUCW! We’ve moved!

Yes, UUCW has moved its service time back to the morning, which means that RE will be meeting at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday. But wait...there’s more...!

We’ve also broken into two class groupings, the Beginnings class for our younger members, and the Questings, which is the class for our older children. Both classes will meet for 30 minutes. Beginnings starts at 11:00, with Questings starting at 11:30.

Each class will start and end with a Chalice circle, setting the tone for our being together, and we’ll have stories to share and an activity to help keep active minds and bodies engaged.

During the month of February, we’ll focus on the theme of love, and how it weaves us into community with one another. How do we show love to friends, to the world, to all the creatures that call the Earth home? How do we show love for ourselves? We’ll have a special Valentine’s Day activity planned for the larger community, too!

If you have any questions regarding the RE Program, please feel free to contact Kirsty Johnson Erikson at 978-534-1946 or email her at [kirstyerikson@gmail.com](mailto:kirstyerikson@gmail.com).

Kirsty Erikson  
Lead RE Teacher

# Spiritual Calendar

**February 2: Imbolg or Oimele (Pagan).** Also celebrated as Brigid's Day. Falls between Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox. A time to reflect on new life and anticipate the end of winter.

**February 8: Chinese New Year.** Start of a 15-day festival honoring the ancestors, family, Heaven and Earth.

**February 9: Shrove Tuesday / "Fat Tuesday" / Mardi Gras (Christian).** Feast day before the beginning of Lent.

**February 10: Ash Wednesday. (Christian)** Beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of repentance, prayer, fasting and self-denial which concludes at Easter.

**February 14: St. Valentine's Day (Christian).** A day honoring romantic love, courtship and marriage.

**February 15: Lupercalia (Roman).** A festival honoring love, marriage and fertility.

**February 15: Nirvana Day (Buddhist).** Observance of the death of the Buddha.



Life is change, as they say, and we're reminded of that more sharply in February than almost any other time. The seasons change, our leadership changes and our churches change—and all change brings with it uncertainty, hope and possibilities. It's up to us to steer our course through these currents as bravely as we can, because we can no more stop or go backwards than a raft on a raging river. Let's always remember that wherever we're headed, we're all in the same boat.

Pastor Inanna Arthen, M.Div

## New (Old) Day and Time for Our Neighbor's Kitchen!

This February, Our Neighbors Kitchen returns to its popular and traditional day and time of Thursday nights at 5:30 p.m. But we'll continue serving Our Neighbor's Kitchen twice a month, on the second and fourth Thursdays.

The second Thursday of each month will be "Soup and Sandwich Night." We'll serve a simpler, but still hearty, supper of homemade soup and a sandwich. The fourth Thursday of the month will feature the solid meal with entree, sides, salad, bread and dessert which you've come to know and love.

Meals are prepared by our chef extraordinaire David Faucher and his dauntless crew of helpers—and by your minister, Pastor Inanna Arthen, who is applying her considerable cooking experience toward whipping up soup and sandwiches on second Thursdays. So far we've had potato-parmesan, Italian Wedding and vegetable beef barley soups, and we welcome suggestions of your favorite soups to try!

Join us on Thursday, February 11 at 5:30 p.m.

for Soup and Sandwich night (menu still being determined, as it tends to be determined by the yummiest ingredients we can find on special that week).

On Thursday, February 25 at 5:30 p.m., join us for a rib-sticking meal of Swedish Meatballs and all the trimmings.

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 sit down and share the meal and fellowship.

## Super Bowl Appetizer Swap!

At our potluck lunch on Sunday, February 7, we'll have an "appetizer swap" of yummy nibbles for Super Bowl Sunday. Bring a plate of your favorite game time munchies to trade!

## Looking Forward to Yard Sale Season!

It's not too soon to start thinking about this summer's Saturday Yard Sales! We cleared out everything at the end of last season, so we'll be starting off with all new stuff this spring. If you're going to be spring-cleaning your attics, down-sizing, de-cluttering, moving, or just want to pay it forward, we want your stuff! Needless to say, it needs to be clean and in good repair, and portable enough to be stored between sales if it doesn't sell the first day. But aside from that, anything goes. If you'd like to have your own table, we just ask that you make a donation to the church in return.

The first Yard Sale date will be announced in a

## This Month in UU History

February 1, 2003: Laurel Salton Clark, a member of the Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church in Racine, Wisconsin, was killed with six other astronauts when the space shuttle *Columbia* disintegrated on reentry to earth's atmosphere above Texas.

February 7, 1812: Charles Dickens was born in Landport, England. He was reared in extreme poverty which was reflected in his work, and which influenced social changes in early 19th century England. He also wrote articles advocating radical reforms. He wrote "A Christmas Carol" while a member of Little Portland Street Chapel (Unitarian) in London.

February 19, 1868: Phebe Ann Coffin Hanaford became the first woman Universalist minister in New England when she was ordained in Hingham, MA.

February 22, 1805: Sarah Flower Adams was born in Harlow, Essex, England. She was a lifelong Unitarian and author of numerous religious works. She also composed hymns, including "Nearer My God to Thee." She worked in prisons, campaigned for civil and religious liberties and established benevolent societies. She died at the age of 43.



month or two, as it will depend on weather. We'll be holding them twice a month through the summer and into the fall.

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).

the church at P. O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475. Thanks!

### UUCW Online

<http://uucw.ncmuuc.org>

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

### February Birthdays

Kayden Gordon

February 3

Kirsty Johnson Erikson

February 9

Joseph Sackett III

February 26



**(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](mailto:dfaucher@on24seven.com) or send a written note to

### 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).

### Contact Information

**Minister: Pastor Inanna Arthen, M.Div**

Phone: 978-433-8866

Cell: 508-572-1624

Email: [iarthen@inannaarthen.com](mailto:iarthen@inannaarthen.com)

**RE Lead Teacher: Kirsty Johnson Erikson**

Email: [kirstyerikson@gmail.com](mailto:kirstyerikson@gmail.com)

**Musician: Lucinda Ellert**

Phone: 781-944-7254

Email: [lucindajellert@gmail.com](mailto:lucindajellert@gmail.com)

**Governing Board Chair: David Faucher**

Email: [dfaucher@on24seven.com](mailto:dfaucher@on24seven.com)

**Governing Board Members:**

Allan Gordon: [lilpun31@mass.rr.com](mailto:lilpun31@mass.rr.com)

Secretary, James McCrohan:

[jmccrohan@yahoo.com](mailto:jmccrohan@yahoo.com)

**Sexton (Custodian): Sue Faucher**

Phone: 978-632-5588

Email: [sfaucher@on24seven.com](mailto:sfaucher@on24seven.com)