

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon



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Church Telephone 978-297-0554

MAY 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**

Calendar of Church Events

Sunday, May 1

11:00 am - Sunday Worship followed by a
Maypole Dance with the RE kids!
12:00 pm - Family Potluck lunch—all are
welcome!

Monday, May 2

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Sunday, May 8

11:00 am - Sunday Worship with Pastor
Inanna Arthen - Mother's Day
11:00 am - RE "Beginnings" Class
11:30 am - RE "Questings" Class
12:00 pm - Family Potluck lunch—all are
welcome!

Monday, May 9

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, May 12

5:30 pm - Our Neighbors Kitchen Soup
and Sandwich Night: Corn Chowder &
English Muffin Pizzas!

Sunday, May 15

11:00 am - Sunday Worship
11:00 am - RE "Beginnings" Class
11:30 am - RE "Questings" Class
12:00 pm - Family Potluck lunch—all are
welcome!

**Don't Forget—Sunday worship at 11:00 a.m., Our
Neighbor's Kitchen Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.!**

Monday, May 16

6:30 pm UUCW Governing Board Meeting
at J McCrohon's home
7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Sunday, May 22

11:00 am - Intergenerational Sunday
Worship with Pastor Inanna Arthen -
Blessing of the Animals
12:00 pm - Family Potluck lunch—all are
welcome!

Monday, May 23

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, May 26

5:30 pm - Our Neighbors Kitchen - "Veggie
Delights"

Sunday, May 29

11:00 am - Sunday Worship
11:00 am - RE "Beginnings" Class
11:30 am - RE "Questings" Class
12:00 pm - Family Potluck lunch—all are
welcome!

Monday, May 30

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

Sunday, June 5

11:00 am - Intergenerational Sunday
Worship - "RE Sunday"
12:00 pm - Ice Cream Social - make your
own sundaes day!

From Your Minister

It's been a slow and bumpy April this year. Back in March, it appeared that spring might be the earliest I could ever remember—certainly the peepers started a week sooner than I'd ever noted them before. But Mother Nature was just playing games with our heads, because it got colder again, snowed a little, and right now we're still having frost warnings at night. Spring wasn't early, it's just been very very long. I finally have a daffodil in my back yard, and I'll need to use my brand new lawn mower very soon. The lilac bush I've been coaxing along for seven years is going to bloom for the first time in another week or two.

We've been doing well at UUCW this month, with new people coming to Sunday worship, new kids in RE, and some special events. On April 3, Dave Faucher led a Chalice Circle service focused on the short film, "The Island of Altogether" in which refugees talk about their experiences. On April 10, I led a service on the theme of "A Humanist Look at Worship," which included part of a sermon by longtime UUCW member John White for the reading. On April 17, everyone joined in an Intergenerational service outside, "Time to Grow." RE Head Teacher Kirsty led a workshop in making terrariums, and everyone planted seeds in the church garden patch in the side yard. I led an Earth Day service on April 24, "The Ground on Which We Walk."

On April 14, I created a full bulletin board display of photos and information about the Titanic and the two Winchendon natives who perished with the doomed ship, to accompany the menu of "Titanic" vegetable soup and egg salad sandwiches for Our Neighbors Kitchen. On April 28, Our Neighbors Kitchen served a delicious meal of baked chicken, asparagus and cheesy orzo, parsley carrots and trimmings.

Along with all the flurry about the Presidential campaigns and elections, another issue is getting plenty of press at the moment: equal rights for transgendered persons. At least two states have passed laws restricting the ability of transgendered persons to use public restrooms, while other states debate the issue furiously. The topic has aroused considerable fear and hyperbole in social media and comments sections. The main issue seems to be a belief that transwomen are just men pretending to be transgender so they can prey on girls in the ladies' room. Never mind that never has a transwoman been accused of bothering anybody in a restroom—and never mind that no one appears the least bit concerned about a transman molesting little boys in a men's room. Even the prospect of President Trump is less alarming than the notion that someone might use a ladies' room without being...what? Properly qualified?

The Boomers started it all, with the women's movement and the gay rights movements, blowing rules and gender roles out of the water and demanding unreasonable things like accepting people for who they are, not making assumptions and not judging people for "being where they're at." Now the younger generations, the children and grandchildren of the Boomers, are growing up and growing into their personal power, having been raised with these notions as basic premises. They're taking things a step further. They're challenging

one of our most fundamental concepts: gender. What does gender mean? Is it fixed? Is it the same as biology? What if one's anatomy is ambiguous? What if biology doesn't have the rules that Victorian naturalists made up for it? What if gender roles really are nothing but conventions? Who gets to decide?

The first question most parents ask the obstetrician or ultrasound technician is "what sex is the baby?" There are still parents who are disappointed by the answer. By why should gender be so important in a world where we insist that it doesn't, or shouldn't, matter? Even the armed forces are finding that women soldiers can handle weapons and carry their injured platoon members to safety as well as the men.

The April 15 *Winchendon Courier* profiled a Murdock HS student named Jay who identifies as "genderfluid" and asks to be referred to by gender-neutral pronouns. But imagine if all pronouns were neutral. In the 1970s, businesses and institutions quietly began replacing old "sexist" terminology with dignified alternatives. Without even realizing it, we all started saying "flight attendant," "fire fighter," "police officer," or "server" so naturally that it was the old words, like "stewardess" or "waitress," that sounded strange.

Change can be difficult, but let's all remember an important lesson from the past. The fears and resistance that were inflamed by opponents of social change in the last few decades all proved to be groundless. If we react to a new idea with fear, we need to stop and take a step back. We need to ask ourselves, "what am I afraid of? How likely is my fear to happen, really? Did the things I feared happen in the past?" As UUs, we believe in equal rights for all. It's up to us to model what true tolerance and acceptance of diversity look like.

Pastor Inanna Arthen, M.Div

Our Neighbor's Kitchen Offers Two Great Meals in May

Join us on Thursday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m. for Soup and Sandwich night cooked by Pastor Inanna Arthen. We'll be having a thick and hearty version of Corn Chowder with English Muffin Mini-Pizzas for the "sandwich."

On Thursday, May 26, as gardening season and farmers' markets get underway, chef extraordinaire David Faucher is planning "Veggie Delights"—some great dishes that celebrate fresh fruits and vegetables.

You won't even know you're eating vegetarian when Dave does the cooking, so don't miss it!

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.

2016 Pledge Letters

You should have received our 2016 Pledge letter either in email or through the post. We now can take donations electronically via Stripe on our website. Some people find that easier or preferable these days—I know that I rarely write a check anymore! Go to <http://uucw.ncmuuc.org> and click on "Support UUCW" in the menu bar.

We welcome pledges of volunteer help as well as funds. If you'd like to help out on a regular basis, there are many areas where you could pitch in. Please get in touch with us, or indicate on your pledge form what you'd like to do.

We depend on your generosity, and we fully appreciate how tough the times are. Thanks to all of you for giving us the ability to help so many people.

Summer Yard Sales Begin on May 7

We're still on track to launch the new season of Summer Yard Sales on Saturday, May 7. We're looking

for plenty of good-quality stuff to sell this year. If you're going to be spring-cleaning your attics, down-sizing, de-cluttering, moving, or just want to pay it forward, bring it to us! Small furniture, small working appliances, toys, games and puzzles, books, all sorts of gift type items in good enough condition to be good gifts—these have all done well. Clothing, outdated electronics, and toys that are worn or shabby tend not to sell (and please, no stuffed animals). Goods must be clean and in good repair, and portable enough to be stored between sales if they don't sell the first day. If you'd like to have your own table, we just ask that you make a donation to the church in return. All donations are tax-deductible; we can provide you with a letter to document your donation on request.

On May 21 and June 5, we'll be joined by the Winchendon Garden Club. They'll be selling live plants and other things for your garden and home.

Yard Sales will be held twice a month through the summer and into the fall, as late as the temperature remains clement (unless we completely run out of merchandize).

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).

Musical Celebration of Life for Jon S. Nicholson on Sunday, May 15

On Sunday, May 15, a musical Celebration of Life will be held for Dr. Jon S. Nicholson (April 19, 1930 - October 8, 2015) at the Montachusets Regional Vocational Technical School Auditorium, 1050



RE News

Another month has slipped past and we're heading into the last full month of Religious Education. We've talked about some of the Big Questions that arise in our lives, and will continue in that vein through May. We've worked with glue and paint and mandalas and tissue paper, planted seeds and had a great April. During May we will also begin to work on our "RE Sunday" presentation. RE Sunday happens on the first Sunday in June at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. The kids and I will be taking over the service, with a variety of experiences for all.

New friends have discovered our RE program, and we hope you and your children will, 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.

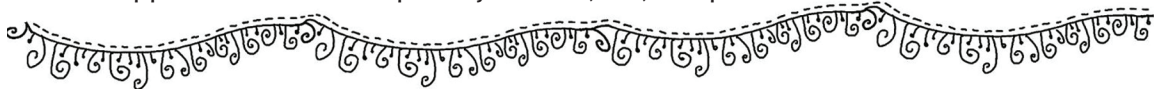
Happy Spring,

Kirsty Erikson
Lead RE Teacher



Spiritual Calendar

- May 1: Beltane / May Day / Calends of May (Pagan).** One of the two great Celtic fire festivals and the beginning of the summer half of the Celtic year. Bonfires were built on hilltops where they'd be visible for miles around. Cattle and other livestock were driven through the embers of the fires or between two fires for luck before they moved into their summer pasturage. This was a traditional time for courtship and arranging marriages. Other traditions included decorating everything in sight with new flowers and fresh greens, and telling fortunes for the coming season. While May Poles stood in many towns and were decorated lavishly with flowers and greenery for May Day, the ribbon dance was invented in the 19th century.
- May 5: National Day of Prayer (Interfaith).** Established on the first Thursday of May in 1952, this day is observed by all faiths in the U.S. including Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs. Participants gather in houses of worship or in public spaces, such as the steps of courthouses, to join in prayer.
- Lailat al Miraj (Islam).** Commemorates Mohammed's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascension to heaven.
- May 9: Lemuria (ancient Rome).** The Lemur were the spirits of a family's ancestors, which the Romans appeased with gifts. This is a day to think of members of your family who have passed on and reflect on mortality.
- May 15: Pentacost (Christian).** Commemorates the day when God the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the forms of tongues of fire and rushing wind. It is a traditional day for baptism and confirmation of new Christians.
- May 18: Feast of Pan (ancient Greek).** Pan was the god of wilderness, wild animals, and all of Nature that had not been tamed and civilized. In Kenneth Graham's *The Wind in the Willows*, Pan appears as the protector of animals. Celebrate him with feasting, laughter and music, and by honoring the natural world.
- May 20-22: Visakha Puja (Buddhist).** Marks the birth, death and attainment of enlightenment of the Buddha. Worshipers assemble in temples for prayer, but a strong emphasis on this date is "bringing happiness to others" especially the sick, old, and poor.



Westminster St., Fitchburg, MA. Jon was a member of UUCW for nearly twenty years. He was musical director of the church choir and served on the Governing Board. His daughters, Jill Nicholson Sackett and Inanna Arthen, are hosting a service in his memory that will include a live band performance with 37 local musicians, recordings of Jon performing or conducting bands over his six-decade professional career, and tributes in words and photographs. A reception will follow. All are welcome! For more information, contact Jill at jill@sackett.com or Inanna at iarthen@inannaarthen.com.

Summer Solstice Fair 2016

Sue Faucher is still accepting applications for vendor spaces for the Summer Solstice Fair on Saturday, June 18. If you're a vendor and would like a space, don't delay! 10' x 10' spaces are only \$30 for the front yard and \$25 for the side and back. Don't miss this great opportunity to reach hundreds of fair-goers at Winchendon's biggest party and UUCW's most

popular event of the year! Contact Sue at sfaucher@on24seven.com or 978-632-5588.

Summer Worship Services

This year, we'll continue to hold Sunday worship services at 11:00 a.m. every other week through the summer. Services will be held the same weekends as the Yard Sales (and we'll have worship service even if the Yard Sale is rained out).

We're still working out the format for our services, as our RE teacher is off for the summer. We welcome volunteers who would be interested in planning children's activities for an hour on Sunday mornings, so their parents can enjoy worship.

Our stone building is comfortably (and naturally) cool on hot summer days, so join us this summer!

Blessing of the Animals Service
Sunday May 22 - 11:00 a.m.
Offering will benefit Ahimsa Haven Animal Rescue

This Month in UU History

- May 1, 1933: The first Humanist Manifesto was published, affirming 14 points of “religious humanism”. It is now in its third version. It was signed by 36 prominent scientists, academics and philosophers, including seven Unitarian ministers and one Universalist minister.
- May 11, 1769: Unitarian John Lowell Jr. was born in Newburyport MA. He trained as a lawyer but also farmed with new scientific methods on his farm in Roxbury. He was active in many cultural and philanthropic areas, and was a benefactor of the Boston Atheneum and Massachusetts General Hospital. His pamphlet protesting the War of 1812, *Mr Madison’s War*, was the best of numerous no-holds-barred anti-war polemics Lowell published.
- May 12, 1902: Unitarian minister Stephen Hole Fritchman was born in Cleveland, OH. Fritchman was an open socialist, which caused him problems with the American Unitarian Association. He edited the *Christian Register* but was fired because of his socialist beliefs. He served as youth director for the AUA, and as minister to Unitarian congregations in Petersham, MA and Bangor, ME. In 1976, he was awarded the UUA’s Award for Distinguished Service for the Cause of Liberal Religion.
- May 19, 1841: Unitarian theologian Theodore Parker preached his sermon, “Discourse on the Transient and Permanent in Christianity” on the occasion of Charles Shackford’s installation in South Boston, MA. Parker stated that Christianity’s “permanent contribution” was its ethical laws, not its story, and denied the miracles of Jesus. The sermon created considerable controversy.



April Birthdays

Cindy Malley	May 9
Katie Sackett	May 9
Sara Michalewicz	May 14
Erika J. Gambill	May 20
Julia F. Cardinal	May 28



UUCW Online

<http://uucw.ncmuuc.org>

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

Contact Information

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Governing Board Members:

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Secretary, James McCrohan:

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Sexton (Custodian): Sue Faucher

Phone: 978-632-5588

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(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!

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).