

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon



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REV. INANNA ARTHEN, M.DIV, MINISTER

Church Telephone 978-297-0554

JUNE 2019

SUNDAY CIRCLE MEETING 1:00 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, June 2

1:00 pm - Sacred Circle Meeting - New
Moon in Gemini

Monday, June 3

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Sunday, June 9

1:00 pm - Sacred Circle Meeting -
Releasing the Web

Monday, June 10

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, June 13

5:30pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Scalloped Potatoes

Saturday, June 15

All Day! Summer Solstice Fair

Sunday, June 16

1:00 pm - Sacred Circle Meeting - Full
Moon in Sagittarius

Monday, June 17

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Sunday, June 23

11:00 am - UUCW Annual Meeting

1:00 pm - Sacred Circle Meeting - Summer

Solstice Celebration

Monday, June 24

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

Thursday, June 27

5:30pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Barbeque Summer Ribs

Sunday, June 30

1:00 pm - Sacred Circle Meeting - New
Moon in Cancer

2:00 pm - Winchendon Winds Concert -
"America!"

Monday, July 1

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

From Your Minister

What with all the rain, a very annoying cold and the demands of work and responsibilities, I'm seriously behind on my yard work. The good news is that the yard is thriving on neglect. I have a white azalea bush by my front steps which is a delirious mass of solid blossoms. Fat bumblebees move from flower to flower, dusty with pollen. The new lilac didn't bloom this spring, but both the little apple trees did, and there are swelling buds on the rhododendrons. I'm going to *have* to get the lawn mower out eventually, if only it stops raining long enough!

We had a busy month of May at UUCW, with three Our Neighbor's Kitchen dinners, grant letters coming in, preparations for the launch of our capital campaign, and planning for Summer Solstice and Annual Meeting. It may have rained buckets but we didn't slow down for a moment.

On Sunday, May 5, Sacred Circle Meeting observed the New Moon in Taurus, looking at how we can strengthen the foundations of our home lives and attract more beauty and comfort. On Sunday, May 12, Sacred Circle Meeting honored the spirit of Mothering, both in those who have mothered us and in ourselves. On Sunday, May 19, Sacred Circle Meeting celebrated the Full Moon in Scorpio, learning how we can transform our deepest passions and darker feelings into higher energies. On Sunday, May 26, Sacred Circle Meeting honored our Ancestors, especially those who fought battles and sacrificed their lives to protect what they most treasured, and pass on their legacy to us, their descendants. We welcomed more new people to our circle this month.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen served three delicious meals to a full Parish Hall during May. On Thursday, May 9, I and my dauntless assistants cooked up a favorite "comfort food" dinner of Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy,

This Month in UU History

June 17, 1766: Unitarian John Pounds was born in Portsmouth, England. At age 12 he entered into an apprenticeship in the Royal dockyards to become a shipwright, but three years later he fell into a deep drydock and was left permanently disabled. He trained as a shoemaker, and by 1803 he had his own successful shop.

At that time, there was no free education; all schools charged fees. In 1818, John began taking poor children into his shop, feeding them, and teaching them. He would walk the streets looking for homeless and hungry children, carrying baked potatoes and other simple food in his pockets to gain their trust and encourage them to come for schooling. He began by teaching the children to read; his reputation as a teacher spread and he eventually had 40 children at a time crammed into his shop taking lessons in reading, arithmetic, cooking, carpentry, and shoemaking.

John Pounds is credited with originating what became known as the Ragged Schools: free schools for the working class and poor, which had never existed before. The Ragged School Union was established five years after John Pounds' death in 1839. Within eight years there were over 200 Ragged Schools in Britain. These schools taught the most destitute and desperate children, meeting wherever they could find a space with volunteer teachers.

The John Pounds Memorial Unitarian Church (<http://www.johnpounds.org.uk/church/>) is still active in Portsmouth today. It has a replica of John Pounds' workshop which visitors can see. In 1999 readers polled by a local newspaper named John Pounds "Man of the Millennium," beating out such famous locals as Admiral Lord Nelson and Charles Dickens.

salad, bread and butter, buttered peas, and desserts donated by the Winchendon CAC. On Thursday, May 23, Dave Faucher and assistants served our annual "Spring Chicken" feast, with Chicken Teriyaki, rice, steamed carrots and broccoli, salad and donated cookies for dessert. On Thursday, May 30, we planned a reprise of the very successful outside cookout that we tried last summer. But the weather was unsettled, and rather than risk our guests and volunteers getting wet, we moved dinner inside. Dave and crew whipped up American Chop Suey with rotini pasta, beef and mozzarella cheese, along with bread and butter, salad, fresh watermelon and cupcakes. As always, we can't thank all our volunteer helpers enough—we couldn't do it without you!

The Toy Town Outdoor Market started setting up on our front lawns on May 18 and will continue selling delicious fresh vegetables and hand-crafted goods on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings as long as weather allows (usually until October).

It's graduation time, and many of us are dealing with changes. Students who are finishing school are now looking ahead to starting college, or graduate school, or new jobs. They may be moving away from home and into their own apartments. Some of them may be moving back home, getting their bearings or hunting for a place they can afford or a job that pays enough for them to live independently. Both of those

are much harder to find these days than when I graduated from high school and college.

It's a cliché to say that change is hard. The world, and everything in it, changes all the time; as the Greek philosopher Heraclitus said, it's impossible to step into the same river twice. But we crave a balance of change and constancy. We like to have a comfortable routine, that varies enough to keep things fresh but isn't disrupted drastically and unexpectedly. Few of us would enjoy day after day of stultifying sameness, but we don't enjoy chaos and unpredictability, either.

In a recent sermon, I compared graduation commencement ceremonies to initiation rituals. Life is constant change, of course, but only certain forms of change have the pattern of a classic initiation, in which you end up with a completely different sense of self or identity. For example, changing jobs in the same field is an adjustment, but changing to a completely different career or field, especially when both require extensive training and investment, is like an initiation. You leave your old self behind—your identity as a teacher or an attorney or a librarian or whatever—and you adopt a completely new self. You become a new person, with new routines, disciplines, daily habits and responsibilities. You may even have a new name, if your preparation includes getting a degree or certification which you now append to your name ("Lee Smith, R.N." or "Dr. Pat Jones."). No matter how much we might welcome this kind of self-transformation, it is

Spiritual Calendar

June 5-7: Eid al-Fitr (Islam). A festival celebrating the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting, prayer and charitable work for Muslims. Eid al-Fitr is observed with special prayers which must be made publically and in congregations of worshipers, not alone. Muslims are required to make a charitable contribution called the Zakat al-Fitr before offering the prayers. Celebration customs vary by region, but in Muslim-majority countries, Eid al-Fitr is a significant holiday lasting several days. Traditions include buying new clothing, sumptuous family meals, preparing special foods to share with visitors, neighbors and friends, and gift-giving, especially to children. Fancy pastries and sweets, and fine chocolates are popular for gifts and hospitality.

June 9: Pentacost (Christian). Observed on the seventh Sunday after Easter, Pentacost celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit into the Apostles and other disciples of Jesus (Acts 2:1-31), signifying the beginning of the early Christian Church. In Acts, the disciples are observing the older Jewish festival of Pentacost, which celebrates the harvest of first fruits. In Christian churches, Pentacost is signified by the color red, which symbolizes the joy and fire of the Holy Spirit, and the “tongues of fire” that cascaded down from Heaven. Hangings, banners, and vestments may all be red, and in some churches the congregation dresses in red on Pentacost Sunday. Red roses may be used for decoration, and red rose petals, again symbolizing flames, may be scattered in the church. Less commonly, an image of a dove, representing the Holy Spirit, may be suspended over the congregation.

Pentacost is a traditional time for baptism and confirmation ceremonies. It is also known as Trinity Sunday, and in Britain it was called White Sunday, shortened to Whitsun. Whitsun weekend, similar to Memorial Day weekend in the United States, is the unofficial beginning of summer in Britain.

June 21: Litha / Summer Solstice / Midsummer (Pagan). The peak of the Solar year, Litha or Midsummer marks the time when the sun reaches its highest point in the noonday sky and the days are the longest. From this point on, the days begin to shorten and the sun’s noon elevation to decrease, even though summer’s hottest weather is several weeks away. The psychological and physical power of this moment in the sun’s cycle is such that Midsummer celebrations are as universal as Winter Solstice holidays, all around the world. In Christian countries, these sometimes center on Saint John’s Day, which is June 25. Common traditions include bonfires, staying up all night to greet the rising sun, processions and holding dances and parties. In Scandinavian countries, the “May Pole” is decorated and danced around at Midsummer, not May Day. Modern Pagans celebrate Litha in various ways, but the common theme is the shifting of the Solar tides from “waxing” to “waning.” This is sometimes represented as a continual back-and-forth struggle between the solar Oak King and the wintry Holly King, who defeats the Oak King at Midsummer and grows in power until he is defeated at Winter Solstice by the reborn sun god. But many Pagans simply celebrate the longest day of the year and the full manifestation of summer and the renewal of life.

still highly stressful (psychologists note that even very “positive” and joyful changes, like a new baby, rate near the top of the scale of lifetime stressors). Changing our sense of self, our definition of who we basically are as persons, shakes us down to our very foundations. It is not something undertaken lightly.

Almost all of us cycle through a number of roles or identities in the course of our lives. We may be students, spouses, parents, business owners, teachers, professional authorities, leaders, and many other things in their turn. Everyone’s life journey is unique, and we aggregate these identities; they aren’t necessarily mutually exclusive.

But it’s good for us to acknowledge the impact of profound life changes that really remake our sense of self. Many of those new graduates, proudly holding diplomas and looking forward to new jobs, are shaky new initiates on the inside, re-constructing their self-identities from student to something else, and trying to find their footing on an uncertain and unknown path. We older folks know this is only the first time they’ll be experiencing these feelings. I’d like to wish all of them the best of luck—and the same to all of you who are going through your own transitions right now.

Rev. Inanna Arthen

Annual Meeting

UUCW will convene its 2019 Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 23 at 11:00 a.m. At Annual Meeting, we vote on the budget, church officers and minister's contract for the coming church year. All church members are strongly urged to attend, as we have some very important decisions to make this year. If you have any questions, contact Rev. Arthen at iarthen@inannaarthen.com.

Set in Stone Capital Campaign

UUCW is excited to launch the first step of a major capital campaign: "Set in Stone." We're raising funds to completely restore our beautiful, historic granite building. We're receiving help from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation and other generous donors, but we need your help, too!

There will be a "Set in Stone" information table at the Summer Solstice Fair on June 15, and we'll have one at Winchendon's Fall Festival on October 12, as well. We'll be selling chances to win two gourmet dinners at Summer Solstice, and planning many other events and opportunities for you to support this important project. UUCW has been at the heart of Winchendon since 1866, and our building is noticed and remembered by everyone who passes through town. Help us preserve it for generations to come!

Winchendon Winds 2019 Concert Season

UUCW is proud to host the Winchendon Winds concert band for its 2019 summer concert series. The band, under the direction of conductor Jim Chesebrough, will present the following three concerts:

Sunday, June 30, 2:00 p.m. — "America!"

Sunday, July 7, 2:00 p.m. — "Summer Day Themes"

Sunday, July 14, 2:00 p.m. — "Veterans' Tribute"

Concerts will be performed in our sanctuary. UUCW will be selling refreshments on the front lawn before the concerts, so come early and enjoy a treat before you go inside for the music! For updates and details, see winchendonwinds.org or www.facebook.com/WinchendonWinds/.

Summer Solstice Fair 2019

We're taking applications for vendor spaces for the Summer Solstice Fair on Saturday, June 15. If you're a vendor and would like a space, don't delay!

10' x 10' spaces are only \$35 for a space on Central Street, \$35 for the front circle and \$30 for the side and back yards. It's a perfect opportunity to reach hundreds of fair-goers at Winchendon's biggest party and UUCW's most popular event of the year! If you'd like an application, send an email to Rev. Arthen at iarthen@inannaarthen.com, or contact the church at PO Box 218, Winchendon, MA, 01475.

Toy Town Outdoor Market

The Toy Town Outdoor Market has started its 2019 season. They will be setting up on the UUCW front lawn each Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., weather permitting. You'll find fresh eggs, fruits and vegetables, plants for your garden, crafts and yarn from Spinning Ginny, and more—every week something different as the growing season evolves. Stop by and support our hard-working local farmers and craftspersons!

Our Neighbor's Kitchen

School is letting out and summer is starting for real this month—and we have two great meals planned for Our Neighbor's Kitchen!

On Thursday, June 13, Rev. Inanna Arthen and assistants will dish up a homey favorite from mom's kitchen: Scalloped Potatoes with pork or sausage, along with veggies or salad and dessert.

On Thursday, June 27, chef extraordinaire Dave Faucher and his dauntless crew will cook our annual ONK hit, Barbeque Summer Ribs with sides and dessert.

We can always use more volunteers. If you can help with food prep, contact the chefs for details on their work flow for the night's meal and when help will be most needed, as this varies with the menu. If you'd like to help with set-up, come to the church between 3:30 and 4:30 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 5:45 p.m. and usually takes about forty-five minutes. Volunteers have a chance to sit down together to socialize and enjoy the meal.

On June 6 and 20, Immaculate Heart of Mary church (52 Spruce Street) will be serving “first and third Thursday” Our Neighbor’s Kitchen dinners in their hall. Contact IHM for menus and details on volunteering.

This meal is sustained by gifts from the people who attend, the religious communities of Winchendon, the Winchendon Community Action Committee, The Winchendon School, and many volunteers.

Sacred Circle Meetings

Sacred Circle Meetings are held at 1:00 p.m. every Sunday. These are quite different from traditional church services. We meet in a circle, so that everyone is equal. We begin by creating a sacred space, and we light our UU Chalice to honor Unitarian Universalism and our UUCW congregation. From there, we do a variety of things depending on the needs of the group. We’ll be doing meditations, we’ll be doing healing work, we’ll be honoring and celebrating the cycles of the seasons, the lunar cycles and the greater powers that give us life, love and all the myriad blessings we so often take for granted. Sacred Circle Meetings are highly participatory; everyone shares in the readings and ceremony. We may use drumming, chanting and movement as part of our circles. Circles are intergenerational: young people are welcomed as equal participants. It is a time to spiritually renew and energize ourselves for the coming week.

Many Unitarian Universalist congregations are experimenting with new kinds of spiritual experiences. UUism overlaps broadly with earth-centered and other faith traditions (such as Buddhism). “Circle worship” is being adopted by numerous UU congregations (see www.uua.org/worship/circleworship on the UUA website).

If you’re looking for something like this, you’re invited to join us. If you have a friend, relative or co-worker who might enjoy this type of meeting, please

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 978-297-1730 (home) or 508-572-1624 (cell).

pass this information on to them! We hope this change will mark a new stage in UUCW’s long history as a vital part of Winchendon.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Rev. Inanna Arthen at iarthen@inannaarthen.com.

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.

UUCW Online

<http://uucw.ncmuuc.org>

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

Contact Information

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