

# THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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Church Telephone 978-297-0554

**JULY 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

*Sacred Circle Meeting will not be convening on Sundays during July and August. See the September newsletter for updates on Sunday services in the fall.*

**Monday, July 1**

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

**Sunday, July 7**

2:00 pm - Winchendon Winds Concert -  
"Summer Day Themes"

**Monday, July 8**

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

**Thursday, June 11**

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

**Sunday, July 14**

2:00 pm - Winchendon Winds Concert -  
"Veterans' Tribute"

**Monday, July 15**

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

**Monday, July 22**

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

**Thursday, July 25**

5:30pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves  
Chili and Fixin's

**Monday, July 29**

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

**Monday, August 5**

7:45 pm - AA Meeting

## From Your Minister

It's taken a long time to get here, this stretch of hot, mostly rain-free summery days. I've been catching up, at last, with long-delayed yard work—*how* long delayed? I never finished the raking last fall! Bit by bit, and with some significant and much appreciated help from my sister and brother-in-law, my little homestead is shaping up. I've planted tomatoes, sweet peppers and basil in two beds by the driveway—the driveway, of course, being the sunniest part of my entire property—and some gladiolus bulbs in the back yard. It's been a very busy year, with Sacred Circle Meeting every Sunday along with many other obligations, and I'm glad to have some time to focus on my home.

On Sunday, June 2, Sacred Circle Meeting observed New Moon in Gemini, looking at where we need clear thinking and communications, and how careful we need to be not to get creative or glib about the truth. On Sunday, June 9, we marked the anniversary of Sacred Circle Meeting's first beginning, releasing its energy to grow and transform into something bigger and better. On Sunday, June 16, we celebrated the Full Moon in Sagittarius, focusing on the transformation of thought into higher principles like justice and spiritual evolution. On Sunday, June 23, Sacred Circle Meeting centered on celebrating Midsummer's Day, the Summer Solstice, and the peaking of the solar year. On Sunday, June 30, we met for the last Sacred Circle Meeting of this year, observing the New Moon and total solar eclipse in Cancer, focusing on issues of nurturing, caring, safety and security both in our personal lives and as a nation. We also did a blessing of the church building as UUCW launches on its capital campaign to restore and renovate the stonework.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen served two meals during June, both of them well-attended. On Thursday, June 9, I and my dauntless assistants made a favorite from mom's kitchen—Scalloped Potatoes with ham, fresh salad, and homemade chocolate-chocolate chip cookies for dessert. On Thursday, June 23, Dave Faucher brought in

## ***This Month in UU History***

July 19, 1860: Educator and Unitarian minister Florence Buck was born in Kalamazoo City, MI. She was raised Methodist and attended Baptist College, becoming a science teacher. She quickly became head of the science department at Kalamazoo High School and then principal of the school. In 1890, Florence attended a service at the Kalamazoo Unitarian Church, where she met Rev. Marion Murdoch, who was one of the church's two women ministers. Florence and Marion developed a deep bond and became lifelong partners. They attended the Sunday School Institute and traveled together.

Florence became a Unitarian and pursued ministerial credentials, attending Meadville Theological School. She and Marion studied for a year at Oxford University. She was ordained at the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago. She and Marion served as co-pastors of the Unity Church in Cleveland, OH for six years, the first joint ministry shared by two women in the U.S.

Florence demonstrated a passion and a gift for religious education. She held that science was no threat to God's revelation in Nature. She was strongly influenced by the Social Gospel movement, and with Marion founded two kindergartens in Cleveland, one at the church and one in a poor section of the city. She wrote papers and gave presentations on how to make religious education more accessible and engaging for children. In 1912, the American Unitarian Association had an open position as Associate Secretary of the Department of Religious Education; Florence was recommended as the only candidate. She held this position until her death in 1925. She edited a newsletter for children, *The Beacon*, the Beacon Course of textbooks and the Beacon Hymnal.

Florence was a strong advocate for women's suffrage. She used *The Beacon* newsletter to encourage girls to rise to their full potential. She also raised funds for many international relief efforts. She promoted the use of hand-work and pageantry in Sunday School classes and pioneered in the use of dramatics in education. She was innovative in creating age-level-appropriate curricula that included information about the developmental stages of children. She organized and led several teacher training institutes, visited and spoke at many Unitarian congregations, and in 1917 was elected to the Religious Education Association Council.

In 1920, Florence became the first woman to be awarded an honorary D.Div degree by Meadville Theological School. In 1923, she was the first woman to preach at King's Chapel in Boston. In 1925, she was the first woman to be named Executive Secretary of the AUA Department of Religious Education.

When the AUA built a new building in 1927, one of the rooms was named the Florence Buck Memorial Room.

his smoker and with his assistants turned out one of ONK's most popular meals: smoked Summer Ribs with homemade barbeque sauce, pasta salad, bread and butter, and fresh watermelon for dessert. As always, a thousand thank-yous to all our hard-working volunteers who come early to help cook, set up the tables, serve plates before you eat yourselves, and assist with clean-up. You're the people who make it a *community* dinner!

We held our annual Summer Flea Market and Fair in conjunction with Winchendon's Summer Solstice Fair on Saturday, June 15. Our front and side lawns were filled with colorful vendor tables. Our popular concession stand completely sold out of hot dogs, baked potatoes and chili. Set In Stone had its own table with informational displays, brochures, a trivia test and a raffle for two hand-cooked gourmet dinners prepared

by Our Neighbor's Kitchen chefs Dave Faucher and Inanna Arthen. Congratulations to raffle winners Sandy Dellasanta and Bob O'Keefe!

We hosted the first of three Winchendon Winds band concerts on Sunday, June 30. We sold strawberry shortcake before the concert and during intermission, and it was so popular, we sold out! See below for information about the rest of the Winchendon Winds concert season at UUCW.

I've been thinking about a recent incident down in Florida—which reflects well on us UUs, but has other less cheerful implications.

The Willowbranch Library in Jacksonville, Florida organized and promoted a "Storybook Pride Prom," inviting LGBTQ young persons, aged 14-18, to attend dressed as a favorite fictional character, "casual, formal,

# Spiritual Calendar

**July 11: St. Benedict of Nursia Day (Christian).** St. Benedict of Nursia was born in Umbria, in central Italy, around 480 C.E. He was sent to Rome to study but disliked the irresponsible attitudes of his fellow students, and went to Enfide to live in contemplative solitude for three years. He reluctantly accepted the offer of a nearby monastery to become their abbot, but reportedly, the monks attempted to poison him, a fate he escaped when the tainted dishes and cups shattered at his touch. Benedict left that abbey and founded twelve monasteries of his own (he did not, however, found what is known as “the Benedictine Order”). He composed *The Rule of Saint Benedict*, a 72-chapter book on how to manage a monastery and live a spiritual communal life. Filled with practical and spiritual advice, *The Rule of Saint Benedict* was (and is) used as a guide by hundreds of monasteries and convents, and helped to define Christian life in the early Middle Ages. Saint Benedict is considered to be “the father of Christian monasticism.”

**July 13-15: Obon Festival (Buddhist/Shinto).** This Japanese festival is a time to commemorate the ancestors and acknowledge the sacrifices they made to benefit future generations. Families gather together in their ancestral homes to decorate their ancestors’ graves. Spirits of the ancestors are believed to visit family and household shrines. A special feature of this festival is the Bon Odori, a community dance. This has many regional variations, but usually takes place around a high platform or scaffold, called the yagura, which the musicians sit on. Obon is celebrated in numerous countries with large Japanese populations, including Canada and the United States.

**July 16: Asalha Puja Day (Theravada Buddhist).** One of the most important festivals in Theravada Buddhism, Asalha Puja commemorates the Buddha’s first sermon after attaining enlightenment. In this sermon, the Buddha laid out the essential principles of his teachings, encapsulating the Four Noble Truths. At the conclusion of the sermon, a listener asked to become a formal disciple and was accepted, thereby becoming the first Buddhist monk. Asalha Puja is observed by going to temple to make offerings and listen to sermons.

**July 25: Saint James the Great Day (Christian).** Saint James the Great was one of the original twelve Apostles; his appellation “the great(er)” simply means he was older or taller than the other Apostle James, known as James the Less. Saint James is believed to be the very first Apostle to be martyred for his faith, when he was executed by King Herod Agrippa. Some scholars suggest he may have invited his fate through his fiery temperament and outspoken speech, as he and his brother John were nicknamed “the sons of Thunder.” He is the patron saint of Spain.

or in drag — whatever makes you feel great. Be you!” Over a hundred teens planned to attend. But shortly before the event, homophobic conservative “Activist Mommy,” a self-proclaimed “Christian” Facebook personality whose real name is Elizabeth Johnson, posted the library’s phone number and urged her 700,000+ followers to flood the library with protests. This call was taken up by self-proclaimed “Christian” Biblical Concepts Ministries who leveled up the mob action against Willowbranch Library. In just three days of concerted persecution by persons who, for the most part, had never set foot in Jacksonville, the right-wingers scared the library into canceling the Storybook Pride Prom out of concerns for the safety of attendees.

Into the fray stepped the Buckland Bridge UU Church of Jacksonville, which, with less than a week’s notice, hosted the Storybook Pride Prom on its originally scheduled date of June 30. They were concerned for the safety of attendees, too—but that didn’t stop

them. According to the *Washington Post*, “About 50 volunteers, LGBT veterans, private security and the Jacksonville sheriff’s office were on hand to protect the kids.” There’s no report that any of them were needed. I hope they had a good time being chaperones. The teens and their families had a very enjoyable time, indeed.

So, three cheers for the Buckland Bridge UU Church! It takes a lot of courage to step into a situation that has already drawn a firestorm of bigotry, hatred and threats, and tell the bullies to come pick on someone their own size.

But this story has me thinking—about protests that are listened to and protests that aren’t.

For endless months, protests large and small have been going on against the internment of undocumented children at the borders of our Southwestern states. There have been, and continue to be, phone calls, letter writing campaigns, rallies, marches, condemnation by legislators, reports in mainstream media and ferocious



diatribes on social media. Children are being kept in cages, denied the comfort of human contact, and made to sleep on the floor under cellophane “space blankets.” Yet all the ongoing outrage and outcry against this—the comparison of the detention centers to concentration camps, the assertion that we should be ashamed as a nation to treat children this way—doesn’t seem to make a dent in the situation.

And I’m wondering...why is it so much easier for bigots to force a library to cancel an event for teens, than for decent people to stop their own elected officials from abusing children? Why are the voices of hatred and fear so much stronger than the voices of love and compassion? If protests don’t work, what can we do that really will?

Rev. Inanna Arthen

## **Set in Stone UUCW Capital Campaign**

Murdock. Whitney. Goodspeed. Clark. White. Forristall. Robinson. Broadhurst. These are just a few of the prominent families who conceived, built and supported our magnificent building over its 150+ year presence as a Winchendon historical landmark. UUCW is rich in legacy.

The ravages of New England weather, time and water have taken their toll on this beautiful structure. Years of “deferred maintenance” have resulted in cracked and missing mortar, allowing water seepage and damage to interior walls and plaster. Major repairs to the stonework are urgently needed.

This epic work has begun. The Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation has provided us with a grant to begin work on a multi-year, phased restoration project. The very first phase will tackle repairs to the East wall, or front entrance of the church, and should begin later this year.

UUCW members Jill and Joe Sackett will be managing the project and interfacing with supporters, contractors, and engineers. But they can’t do it alone. We are seeking support from national and state organizations, and from the Winchendon community as a whole.

How can you help? Follow our story and progress at our newly formed website [set-in-stone.org](http://set-in-stone.org). We’ll be posting pictures, news and a calendar of Set-in-Stone events. Raise awareness. Attend fundraisers and/or donate as your interest, time and finances allow.

Volunteer to help! We have a variety of roles, big and small. You can email us at [info@set-in-stone.org](mailto:info@set-in-stone.org). We’d love to hear from you!

We’re in this for the long haul...to maintain UUCW as a Winchendon treasure for the next 150 years.

## **Winchendon Winds 2019 Concert Season**

Winchendon Winds launched its 2019 season in the UUCW sanctuary on Sunday, June 30 with a concert of patriotic music titled “America!” Over 100 people attended to hear selections including “American Overture,” John Philip Sousa’s “Invincible Eagle March,” the medley “Big Band Spectacular,” Henry Fillmore’s “Americans We” and the piece written especially for Winchendon Winds by David Maker, “Toy Town March.” UUCW served strawberry shortcake with fresh-baked biscuits before the concert and at intermission, and popular demand was so great, we sold out! (Thank you to everyone who attended, enjoyed strawberry shortcake and contributed donations to our Set In Stone capital campaign!)

On Sunday, July 7, at 2:00 p.m., we’ll be hosting the concert titled, “Summer Day Themes.” The program will include selections by Richard Wagner, George Gershwin, Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland, along with “Concerto for Drum Set” showcasing percussionist Jonathan Jena. UUCW will be selling brownie sundaes before the concert and at intermission—all proceeds go to our capital campaign, Set In Stone. Be sure to stop at the Set In Stone table by the front door to pick up an informational brochure and test your knowledge of UUCW’s history with a trivia game!

On Sunday, July 14, at 2:00 p.m., we will host the “Veterans’ Tribute” concert with a presentation of colors, a roll call of veterans present, and a reception hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion.

Concerts will be performed in our sanctuary. Refreshments will be on the front lawn, weather permitting, in the Parish Hall should it be inclement. For updates and details, see [winchendonwinds.org](http://winchendonwinds.org) or [www.facebook.com/WinchendonWinds/](http://www.facebook.com/WinchendonWinds/).

## **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

Booming fireworks and booming thunderstorms—it's summer in New England! We're serving up two summery all-American meals for you at Our Neighbor's Kitchen. Our chefs have swapped weeks this month so that Rev. Arthen can attend a conference.

On Thursday, July 11, Dave Faucher and assistants will grill up a Summer Cookout of hot dogs, hamburgers and picnic sides, with a seasonal dessert. Weather permitting, we'll be dining outside al fresco in front of the church.

On Thursday, July 25, Rev. Inanna Arthen and assistants will simmer Chili Deluxe with side dishes and dessert. Test our recipe against the annual chili cookoff and let us know which you like best!

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 July 18, 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. There will be no dinner on July 4.

### 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).

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.

## UUCW Breaks for the Summer

There will be no Sacred Circle Meeting or other Sunday worship during the summer. See the September newsletter for details about our plans for the coming church year.

### July Birthdays

Patti Stanko	July 13
Madeline Faucher	July 18
Dana Malley	July 29



(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 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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Rev. Inanna Arthen (Clerk)

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