

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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**This is the Church of the Open Mind
This is the Church of the Loving Heart**

**This is the Church of the Helping Hands
This is the Church of the Caring Community**

Calendar of Church Events

Thursday, December 12

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Turkey Tetrazzini

Saturday, December 14

10:00 am – 4:00 pm – “Open House”
Winchendon History and Cultural
Center Holiday Home Tour

Saturday, December 14

4:00 pm – Holiday Concert, Murdock
Middle High School Choirs

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

Sunday, December 15

7:00 pm – UUCW Governing Board
Meeting, Minister's Study

Tuesday, December 24

7:00 pm – Annual Christmas Eve
Candlelight & Pipe Organ Service

Thursday, December 26

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Beef Burgundy Holiday Dinner

From Your Editor

December is a time of year where I am especially grateful to be active in a church, particularly one as beautiful as ours. We all have deep, fond memories of this holiday season. This month UUCW celebrates Christmas and all of its broader meanings. Regardless of your own personal religious beliefs, Christmas represents things we hold dear: family, birth, light overcoming dark, and generosity amongst ourselves as well as towards strangers. We invite you to step away from the hustle and bustle of the season and step in on one or more of our events: a warm meal with welcoming neighbors, a tour of our lovely sanctuary, holiday cheer sung by youth choirs, or passing candlelight on Christmas Eve while our pipe organ plays. Take a little time to remind yourself what makes this season so meaningful. See you at church!

-Jill Nicholson Sackett, Chair, Governing Board.

UUCW Featured in Holiday Home Tour

Every other year, the Winchendon History and Cultural Center (WHCC) organizes a tour of noteworthy homes and historic buildings all decked out for the holidays. UUCW is thrilled to be on the roster with ten other sites this year. We've got our sanctuary festooned with greenery, poinsettias, mini-lights and ornaments. On Saturday, December 14, during the 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM tour hours, we'll have church members available to showcase our stained-glass memorial windows, rich black walnut woodwork, and perhaps even ring the tower bell! It is one of the few tour stops where you will actually be able to *sit...and rest*.

"Admission" to our sanctuary is always free, but for more information about the tour and to purchase a ticket to access all locations, visit the WHCC website at: winchendonhistory.com/events.



Murdock Middle High School Choirs – Holiday Concert

At the close of the Winchendon History and Cultural Center Holiday Home Tour on Saturday, December 14, 4:00 PM, UUCW will host three Murdock Middle High School student choirs in a free holiday concert. Music teacher Aly Galipeau will conduct the middle school, high school and chamber choirs while accompanying from our Chickering grand piano. The program will include the songs "White Christmas," "Carol of the Bells," "Frozen" choral suite, and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

The students have been hard at work rehearsing and look forward to an opportunity to perform in a "downtown" venue.

This concert is independent of the Winchendon History and Cultural Center Holiday Home Tour (in which UUCW is taking part) and commences at the close of the tour hours. Stop on in for a little holiday cheer!

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Pipe Organ Concert

Our annual candlelight and pipe organ service is a strong tradition that we embrace each year. We will gather this year on Tuesday, December 24, at 7:00 PM. This year's lay-led service will

center around the theme of “Generosity.” We’ll play familiar carols and songs, and share the Christmas story, a children’s skit and other short pieces on the giving spirit. Beth Bumbarger will perform on our pipe organ. We’ll close the service with the traditional passing of candlelight among the congregation to “Silent Night.”

Bring your friends and family over for this hour-long sharing of the Christmas spirit and what it means today to be “generous.”

Our Neighbor’s Kitchen

Our Neighbor’s Kitchen scheduled only one meal for the month of November, but it was a doozy...Dave Faucher’s annual Thanksgiving turkey meal with all the trimmings – rivaling anyone’s home holiday spread! Our “Pathway to Healthy Eating” placemats extolled the history and virtues of succotash - one of our many side dishes. We had a near-record turnout and no one could claim going away hungry.

In this darkest of winter months we have two great “comfort food” meals planned for December. On December 12, Joe and Jill Sackett return to the kitchen to prepare turkey tetrazzini: a creamy baked concoction of turkey, cheesy garlic sauce, mushrooms and pasta. Roasted vegetables and a Christmas cookie selection will round out the

meal. On December 26, Dave Faucher will roll out his annual Beef Burgundy Holiday Dinner, serving tender-cooked beef chunks over noodles with a variety of sides. These December meals are always particularly festive.

We have a great group of reliable volunteers who help us with everything from chopping vegetables and setting up coffee to serving and clearing dishes. Here is a year-end shout-out of *sincere thanks* to those who have donated so generously of their time and skills:

Mary Bulger	Katherine Faucher
Maddy Faucher	Kathy Fugatt
Doreen Hodgen	Michele Kaddy
Jeanne Laduke	Stephen Lafrennie
Tess Michaud	Tracy Monette
Elaine St.Pierre	Arlene Tenney

Set in Stone Finishes Front Entrance

Neither cold, rain nor sleet deterred our hearty masons from Joseph Gnazzo Construction. They have pressed on unabated and have completed the stonework repairs around the front entry door. Their comprehensive work included adding new flashing (large sheets of metal) over the entry gable to further guard against water ingress. A number of large granite stones had to be completely removed and repositioned. Shown below are two such stones being guided back into place with the aid of a lull. Gnazzo has some additional work to do before the holidays, including

sealing the stained glass windows over the front gable. Here's to a water-tight front door! Follow our progress at www.set-in-stone.org.



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 jill@sackett.com or send a written note to the church at P.O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475.

Contact Information

Governing Board Chair: Jill Nicholson Sackett

Email: jill@sackett.com

Governing Board Members:

Allan Gordon: 31Allangordon@gmail.com

Rev. Inanna Arthen (Clerk)

Pipe Organ Primed for Playing

UUCW is very fortunate to have an 1868 E. & G.G., Hook pipe organ in excellent working order. We recently had it serviced and had a chance to see the pipes “behind the scenes.” Our intrepid pipe organ specialist climbed up this narrow ladder to individually tune the pipes behind the console. We are ready for concertizing! Working pipe organs of this age and sound are a rare treat to hear in their full glory. It will be sounding out during the December 14 Holiday House Tour and Christmas Eve.



UUCW Online

Website: uucw.ncmuuc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/uuwinchendon