

# 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, January 9

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves  
Swedish Meatballs

### Sunday, January 12

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

### Thursday, January 26

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves  
Baked Ziti with Sweet Italian Sausage

### Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

## From Your Editor

Happy New Year! It seems we're all breathing a sigh of relief to usher out 2019 and usher in 2020: a new decade with hopefully new resolve to practice tolerance, civility and compassion towards each other. Whether or not you make formal "New Year's resolutions," the turning over of a new year, not to mention a new decade, is a great time to reflect, and then look forward.

We're doing that here at UUCW. In this newsletter we take a look back over a very momentous 2019, which was full of change for our church. Now that our action-packed holiday season is coming to a close, we are boxing up our holiday decorations and taking a "breather" for the month of January. We are also resuming our deliberations as to our future direction. There is no better time than now to weigh in on what you want to see happening at our church. Do you want to attend Sunday services? Would you like to join us for our community service activities? You can email or call one of us on the Governing Board, or attend our next Governing Board meeting in person to share your thoughts. This is *your* church, and we look forward to *your* input.

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

## UUCW Year in Review

2019 – what a year! The final year of this decade is closing out with arguably more change than the prior nine years put together! We take a look at the major changes that have transpired this year...

Set in Stone Campaign: After years of “deferred maintenance” UUCW could no longer delay. The extreme wet season in late 2018 accelerated water damage to our compromised building and we had to take action. We raised starter funds from vendor booth rentals and a gourmet dinner raffle. Thanks to a generous grant from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation, we were able to tackle the worst areas around the front entryway and halt further water ingress. Work began in October and finished in early December.

Pathway to Healthier Eating Program: UUCW expanded the Our Neighbor’s Kitchen community suppers to coordinate the inclusion of locally donated produce with educational placemats at each meal.

We received a grant from the Unitarian Universalist Association to train more kitchen chefs and to replace our *ancient*, half-working stove with a new commercial size double oven, 10-burner beauty. The new stove got its first major workout baking ten quiches simultaneously for the September ONK!

ONK continues to grow in popularity. We are on track this fiscal year to serve over 1400 meals to community members.

Leadership: 2019 saw the departure of our minister, Rev. Inanna Arthen in September. Rev. Arthen wore many hats at UUCW: preparing and leading worship services, counseling, managing our website and Facebook pages, producing our newsletter, and even cooking once monthly for Our Neighbor’s Kitchen. While we’ve backfilled the administrative and cooking roles, we are grateful to have retained Rev. Arthen as Minister Emerita, available for weddings, funerals, and other special services, and as Clerk on our Governing Board.



At our June Annual Meeting Dave Faucher stepped down as Chair of the Governing Board, and Jill Sackett was elected to take his place. Dave has worked tirelessly over his years here and holds a treasure trove of knowledge on the eccentricities of this old building. He is taking a well-deserved rest from the daily “management” of the church,

much of which was taken on with the passing of our revered John White. Fortunately he has remained very involved in knowledge sharing and continuing to cook for Our Neighbor's Kitchen and our church fairs.

Focus Panel – New Directions: With our dwindling attendance at worship services, it was time to take stock of how we can best serve our congregation and community. We held phone interviews, followed by a Focus Panel in September with both active and inactive members to seek input on our future direction. The main interests focused on community service, and that is what our Governing Board is currently evaluating. We expect to be at this for a few more months and welcome additional input at any time.

Community Engagement: UUCW had a very busy year connecting with the community. We hosted the professional concert band Winchendon Winds for a three-concert summer series as well as a concert during Winchendon's Fall Festival. In a new collaboration, we hosted the Murdock Middle High School student choirs for a special holiday concert in December.

We held our usual Summer Fair, concurrent with the Clark Memorial YMCA Summer Solstice, and added a second full-blown lawn fair this year concurrent with the town's Fall Festival held over Columbus Day weekend. The latter brought in a number of vendors

new to the Winchendon community, who plan to return.



The Gordon family donned Christmas costumes and braved the chill during our annual Black Friday Toy Drive to collect eight bags of toys for Winchendon's toy drive.



UUCW was thrilled to be included in the Winchendon History and Cultural Center Historic Home Tour in December. We welcomed over 100 visitors to our decorated sanctuary, many of whom lingered to ask questions and take in some of our rich history. We even had a “knowledge check” trivia quiz for the overachievers ☺. We also welcomed about 40 visitors on Christmas Eve for our lay-led Candlelight and Pipe Organ service following the theme of “Generosity.”

We got a lot done – but we are a tiny crew looking to expand! Might this be the year you return...or join us anew?

## Our Neighbor’s Kitchen

Our Neighbor’s Kitchen (ONK) served up two hearty meals in December. On December 12 Jill and Joe Sackett tried out a new recipe for ONK: chicken tetrazzini, with fresh fruit cocktail and a roasted vegetable medley. Christmas cookies rounded out the meal. Judging from the number of take-out orders, it was deemed a hit! *Our Pathway to Healthier Eating* placemats provided tips on how to roast vegetables at home. Dave Faucher returned December 26 to unveil his annual Beef Burgundy holiday dinner: tender chunks of beef, mushrooms and carrots braised in a red wine gravy, over mashed potatoes, with salad and steamed broccoli. Long-standing volunteers Elaine St.Pierre and

Arline Tenney contributed an array of holiday dessert treats. Our placemats contemplated “Realistic Resolutions,” encouraging us to set smaller, stepwise, achievable goals to stay on track for 2020.

We say this often but it deserves repeating...these are delicious “restaurant-quality” meals and we make plenty of food in anticipation of newcomers. Our goal is to fill every seat at the tables! We’d love to have you check them out.

## 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](mailto:jill@sackett.com) or send a written note to the church at P.O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475.

## Contact Information

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Rev. Inanna Arthen (Clerk)

## UUCW Online

**Website:** [uucw.ncmuuc.org](http://uucw.ncmuuc.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/uuwinchendon](https://facebook.com/uuwinchendon)