

# THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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**MARCH 2020**

**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

### **Sunday, March 8**

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

### **Thursday, March 12**

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves  
Bacon-Topped Meatloaf

### **Sunday, March 15**

11:30 am – "Spring Has Spring" Potluck  
Social, Parish Hall

### **Thursday, March 26**

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves  
Corned Beef & Cabbage

### **Tuesday, March 31**

6:30 pm – Planning Meeting, UUCW  
Hidden Treasures Program, Parish Hall

### **Mondays**

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

## From Your Editor

We've been spared a harsh winter, but nonetheless it's nice to see the snow starting to melt, and smell that earthy freshness emerging from the thawing soil. I'm impatiently waiting for clear ground so I can go out and putter in my yard and attend to the many outdoor tasks I didn't get finished last fall. Early spring brings great feelings: anticipation of long balmy days, bumping into your friends and neighbors as we linger out in our yards or on sidewalks, and making new plans. A fresh start. Hope.

UUCW is looking for a fresh start. This is a year of rebuilding and change. In this culture of "indispensable" cell phones, stay-at-home big screen TVs, and retreat from the divisive news each day, what draws people out from the comfort and refuge of their homes? What will bring together kindred spirits? Perhaps today more than ever, a reaffirmation of values can bring a sense of belonging, community, new or renewed friendships....and hope. Join us.

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

## **“Spring Has Sprung” Potluck Social**



Come on over for our first social event of the year on Sunday, March 15, 11:30 AM. We'll have a big pot of steaming hearty soup on the stove, and will share UUCW's upcoming plans for the year, which include returning and new events, fundraisers, concerts, lawn fairs, special services and more.

Don't let the "pot luck" portion of this event hold you back. Food contributions are optional and most welcome, but your contributions of friendship and ideas are most highly valued.

We'll chat over the lunch hour, and if interest and good weather are expressed, we'll head out for a short stroll to GAR Park to welcome spring.

Come for the soup, the plans, the people, and/or the stroll. We'd love to see you! RSVPs appreciated but not necessary. Contact Jill Sackett with any questions at (224) 567-3635.

## **UUCW to be Featured in Hidden Treasures Program**

"I go by your church all the time but I've never set foot inside." We can't tell you how often we've heard that refrain as we launched our Set in Stone capital campaign, and started talking to non-church members at our lawn fairs and last December's historic homes tour.

Winchendon is on the western border of the "Freedom's Way National Heritage Area" and the non-profit group "Freedom's Way Heritage Association," in partnership with the National Park Service, supports free events in the Area that showcase local historical and cultural landmarks. Check them out at [DiscoverHiddenTreasures.org](http://DiscoverHiddenTreasures.org)

As part of our awareness building on the church and its legacy, UUCW will be featured in Freedom's Way month-long highlights program. We'll be putting on a free presentation at the church on Saturday, May 3, 11:00 AM. Our program entry reads:

### **Winchendon's Big Gray Church - A Dream Set in Stone**

**Program Description:** Murdock. Whitney. Goodspeed. Clark. White. Hear the story of how these local business leaders combined their resources to erect this magnificent 1866 landmark in downtown Winchendon, told through testimonials, music and pictures. Granite, cut from Fitzwilliam's quarry, carried on the

Cheshire Railroad, and hand-chiseled on a marshy work yard, created a church that "surpassed in elegance any edifice of the kind, between Boston and Berkshire," and stands as a testament to Winchendon's motto: "Working Together." Lawn reception and refreshments follow the program.

UUCW will be partnering with the Winchendon History and Cultural Center to pull this off, and we couldn't be more excited. We wish to tell this story through testimonials, readings, visuals and music. We've never done anything like this before; it's a major opportunity to showcase our church to a much broader audience.

We would love your help! We'll be needing everything from speakers, ushers, contributions for the reception, prepping the church...you name it. Learn more at the March 15 Potluck Social, and planning specifics begin with a meeting on March 31. Help us involve and educate the greater Winchendon community.

## **UUCW Approves Preservation Restriction**

This month, UUCW will be submitting an application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) for a state-funded grant from their Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF). This is a reimbursement, matching grant program that supports

properties such as ours that are listed in the State Register of Historic Places. UUCW has already received a commitment from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation to match up to \$50,000 funding from MHC, and we are hopeful that we will receive consideration by the state's very competitive program.

If UUCW qualifies for MPPF funding, we are required to place a "Preservation Restriction" on our property deed *in perpetuity*. This will limit the amount and type of future changes that can be made to the property without prior permission from MHC.

The Governing Board deliberated carefully about this requirement at their meeting on February 9, and concluded that in the foreseeable future, UUCW is unlikely to make changes drastic enough to be limited by a Preservation Restriction.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the Preservation Restriction commitment. At present this is *only a commitment*, contingent upon successful MPPF funding. UUCW will be notified of MHC's funding decision by late June.

### **Contact Information**

**Governing Board Chair:** Jill Nicholson Sackett

Email: [jill@sackett.com](mailto:jill@sackett.com)

**Governing Board Members:**

Allan Gordon: [31Allangordon@gmail.com](mailto:31Allangordon@gmail.com)

Rev. Emerita Inanna Arthen (Clerk)

## UUCW Toured by HEAL Winchendon & Growing Places

We've been reporting here about our town's new initiative, "Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Winchendon." HEAL Winchendon is being led by the Leominster-based non-profit group Growing Places, and aims to bring affordable, locally-sourced, fresh food to our town.

Chief among Growing Places' multi-pronged approach to improving food security in our town is a meal kit distribution program that would meet food supply needs across the economic spectrum. On February 20, representatives from HEAL Winchendon and Growing Places toured UUCW to evaluate whether or not we could serve as a "hub" for meal kit preparation and/or distribution.

We learned that UUCW is one of few commercial-sized kitchens in town that has the space, access, and schedule to serve as a food hub. There is much to be considered, but UUCW remains "in the running" for selection for this program.

The next public meeting for HEAL Winchendon will be held on Wednesday, March 4, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at Beals Memorial Library. Dinner and childcare will be provided.

## Our Neighbor's Kitchen

Our Neighbor's Kitchen (ONK) served up two mouth-watering meals in February. On February 13 we celebrated Valentine's Day with chicken broccoli alfredo, buttered carrots and warm rolls. Heart-shaped, pink oatcake cookies and Hershey's kisses rounded out the meal, while Frank Sinatra crooned in the background.



On February 27 Dave Faucher prepared six full pans of meaty lasagna with Caesar salad and garlic bread. Three flavors of ice cream with sauce were offered for dessert. Our *Pathway to Healthier Eating* placemats called attention to the "hidden" sugar content of pasta sauce and suggestions for savvy sauce selection from our grocery shelves.

Come see what you're missing!

### UUCW Online

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

Set in Stone Website: [www.set-in-stone.org](http://www.set-in-stone.org)

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