

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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MAY 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

Thursday, May 14

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Baked Ziti with Sweet Italian Sausage
(Drive-Through/Take-Out)

Sunday, May 17

7:00 pm - UUCW Governing Board
Meeting, Parish Hall

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meetings on hold

Thursday, May 28

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Chef's Surprise
(Drive-Through/Take-Out)

Sunday, May 31

11:00 am – Worship Service
“The Blessing of the Bulbs”
Church Sanctuary & Front Lawn

From Your Editor

It's a cautious month...one that will see us continuing to practice diligent social distancing but with some hopeful shifts in the trajectory of the Covid-19 pandemic. As our siege presses on, many of us are left feeling like we want to do *something*. As individuals, let's consider what contributions we may make, however big or small. Perhaps it's donating to a food pantry, sewing masks, or helping out a neighbor with errands or chores. It all adds up, and even in better times, there is always more need than we can fulfill.

Here at UUCW we are looking to see where we can help. As more and more people become food insecure through shopping challenges or loss of income, we're stepping in by modifying Our Neighbor's Kitchen to *drive-through service*! Our usual 2nd and 4th Thursdays will find us cooking at the church, and delivering hot meals out on our front circle. Diners need not exit their cars! For details, read on inside. We will overcome!

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

“The Blessing of the Bulbs” Worship Service

Better late than never...and just about the right time for planting gladiolus.



Barring any sudden turn for the worse, we will belatedly welcome spring with a non-traditional “blessing of the bulbs” service to be held on Sunday, May 31, 11:00 AM. Attendees will be welcome to spread out on the spacious, airy front lawn, where we’ll share a few readings and thoughts. We’ll have refreshments to enjoy outside. Everyone will be invited to select a flower bulb and have it planted in our front garden in a spot of their choosing, or take it home to their own garden.

Even at six-foot-plus distances, it will be lovely to see everyone’s faces and to look forward to bringing new life out of the earth. We hope to see you there.

UUCW Online

Main Website: uucw.ncmuuc.org

Set in Stone Website: www.set-in-stone.org

Facebook: facebook.com/uuwinchendon

In Memoriam: Charlotte Drury

March 26, 1920 – April 15, 2020

UUCW members were saddened to hear of the passing of Charlotte (Patria) Drury on April 15 at Alliance Health at Baldwinville, where she had been a resident for the past several years.

Charlotte was a life-long Winchendon resident, and a lovely community member and friend to many past and present church members. She joined UUCW in 1955 along with her brother and sister-in-law, Maurice and Eunice Patria. Her husband Richard Drury joined in 1963. May would have marked her 65th anniversary as a UUCW church member! She sang in our choir and served on the Standing Committee.

Date	Name
Apr 2, 1955	Raymond S. Broadhurst
May 15, 1955	Charlotte A. Patria
April 1, 1956	Patricia Elliott
April 1, 1956	John A. Elliott
April 24, 1956	Gertrude B. Brauman
April 29, 1956	May Jean Jones

We last visited Charlotte at Christmastime, when we shared cookies and reminisced about her time at the church. She was pleased to hear of our Set in Stone stonework repair campaign. We were planning to return to celebrate Charlotte’s 100th birthday on March 26,

but the stay-at-home restrictions placed our visit on hold. Unfortunately, we were unable to have that celebration, although Charlotte did pass that most significant milestone.

Charlotte's interment at Riverside Cemetery was private, but we will honor her as part of our Blessing of the Bulbs ceremony on May 31. Her obituary is listed at the Stone-Ladeau funeral home website:

<https://www.stone-ladeau.com/obituary/CharlotteA-Drury>

Condolences may be posted on the Tribute Wall there.

Rest in peace Charlotte. May you be singing in a choir now.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen – “Drive-In”

We've been watching the heightened demand for food, prepared or in bulk, overwhelming our modest local sources. While only a small part of the solution, UUCW is resuming ONK with a “drive-through” take-out model. Our test supper will be held from 5:30 – 6:30 PM on Thursday, May 14, when we reprise one of our more popular meals from the winter: baked ziti with sweet Italian sausage. Diners may take advantage of our front circle, and drive around to a waiting table of “to-go” containers, in the comfort and confinement of their cars. Should this experiment go well, we

plan to repeat the drive-through model at our next scheduled ONK date of May 28. We'll put out our ONK banners on the lawn and post on our website and Facebook page to confirm we're a “go.”



It most certainly isn't the same as sitting at our long banquet tables and visiting with each other, but it does get some nutritious hot meals in the hands of those who really need them, and even for those who are weary of cooking at home. See you on May 14!

Deep-Cleaning the Parish Hall

Our Parish Hall may not be hosting its usual activities, but this offers a perfect time for...the white tornado! For several weeks, church volunteers have been working in small shifts to give the hall a face-lift. We've painted baseboards and trim, washed down walls, scrubbed floors, cleaned and reorganized the church office, added steel security bars over the basement windows, and sanitized the kitchen. When we reopen we're sure you'll notice (and smell) the fresh look!

We also turned our attention to the front gardens: trimming hedges, pulling weeds, raking and laying down mulch.

Many thanks go to our volunteers for this wonderful display of commitment and care for the church:

Anna Bacigalupo

Al Gordon

Ed Murdock

Joe Sackett

Darren Surette

Mother's Day – Minus the Restaurant

According to the National Restaurant Association, nearly two out of five American adults dine out on Mother's Day. Some 90 million people give mom a break in the kitchen, making Mother's Day the busiest day of the year for restaurants, topping Valentine's Day and New Year's Eve!

We're all called on to be more creative this year. What would moms truly want on their special day? Perhaps just genuine, heart-felt appreciation. Everything else is secondary. In these days of instant messaging, and digital-disappearing communications that are deleted with the press of a finger, perhaps an old-school greeting card with hand-written sentiments will strike true.

It really is the thought that counts. Here are some "thoughts" excerpted from an anonymous poem aptly titled:

My Mother

Who fed me from her gentle breast,
And hushed me in her arms to rest,
And on my cheek sweet kisses prest?
My mother.

When sleep forsook my open eye,
Who was it sung sweet lullaby,
And rocked me that I should not cry?
My mother.

Who sat and watched my infant head
When sleeping in my cradle bed,
And tears of sweet affection shed?
My mother.

When pain and sickness made me cry,
Who gazed upon my heavy eye,
And wept, for fear that I should die?
My mother.

Who ran to help me when I fell
And would some pretty story tell,
Or kiss the part to make it well?
My mother.

And can I ever cease to be
Affectionate and kind to thee,
Who wast so very kind to me,
My mother.

When thou art feeble, old and gray,
My healthy arms shall be thy stay,
And I will soothe thy pains away,
My mother.

And when I see thee hang thy head,
'Twill be my turn to watch thy bed,
And tears of sweet affection shed,
My mother.

Contact Information

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