

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, September 10

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Pepperoni Pizza Casserole
(Drive-Through/Take-Out)

Sunday, September 13

11:00 am – Water Communion Service,
Church Grounds

Sunday, September 20

7:00 pm – Governing Board Meeting,
Dial-In (RSVP Jill Sackett)

Thursday, September 24

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

Sunday, September 27

10:00 am – Field Trip –
Red Apple Farm

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

From Your Editor

Every fall many Unitarian Universalist congregations around the world celebrate the beginning of the “church year” and the rejoining of members and friends with a Water Communion service. I’ve always liked this tradition and what it represents. Water is essential to all life; it comprises up to 60% of our body composition. I have been particularly drawn to water my whole life, and now in my later years I find myself in the fortunate position of living on a lake. I have never felt more at home. There is something so fundamentally calming about seeing, hearing, feeling, and even *smelling* water. Winchendon has the advantage of being built on and near several bodies of water that have become easier to access and enjoy. Our church was even built on a marsh – rumor has it that a little creek actually ran through our unfinished basement until it was diverted to the culvert that now runs along the Post Office wall. Let’s welcome each other this month with the sharing of water and good wishes. Drink deeply.

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board

Water Communion Service – Welcome Back!

It's been a particularly quiet summer with COVID-19 seclusion overlaying the usual summer vacation absences and time spent lingering outdoors. UUCW has been busy deep-cleaning and executing Our Neighbor's Kitchen and the Lawn Fair the past couple of months, but now we are looking forward to welcoming you back to church with our annual Water Communion service at 11:00 am on Sunday, September 13.

At Water Communion, we celebrate water: the element fundamental to life and common to every one of us. If you wish, please bring a sample of water to church. This could be from a source of special meaning to you (a river, pond, or your rain barrel), or just from your (or the church's) tap or even a drinking bottle. We'll spend some moments celebrating water in poetry, readings and music. We'll all combine our water samples into a single container. At the close of the service, those who wish will walk over to the bridge on Whitney Pond, where we will pour the water into the Miller's River, and in doing so, send collective good tidings downriver and through town.

Weather permitting, we will hold the service outdoors in the back of the church, where we can sit at comfortable intervals and avoid the traffic sounds on

Central Street. In case of rain, we will meet inside the spacious sanctuary where we have plenty of room to spread out. Please plan to wear a mask. We look forward to seeing you again.

Apple Picking Time

When you live in Johnny Appleseed Country, picking apples is a must! We'll be taking a field trip out to the popular Red Apple Farm in Phillipston, MA on Sunday, September 27.



Meet Joe & Jill Sackett at the church at 10:00 am and we'll caravan south on Rt. 202 through Templeton to Red Apple Farm. The Farm has set up easy guidelines for wearing masks and picking apples as well as pumpkins, sunflowers and more. Plan time to stop at their country store, and leave when you wish. For more info, check their website: redapplefarm.com/

This year, due to COVID-19, Red Apple Farm requires reservations. If you plan to attend (and we hope you do), please contact Jill Sackett: jill@sackett.com

UUCW Lawn Fair A Socially-Distanced Success

Glorious summer weather set the stage for a pleasant day of shopping, dining and entertainment at our August 1 Lawn Fair. Over 30 vendors set up on the circle drive displaying everything from handcrafted gift items, jewelry, books, used DVDs, clothing for all ages, fishing gear, fine art, collectibles, and a variety of yard sale and free cycle options.



Any concerns about masks and social distancing were quickly dispelled. The event attracted a steady trickle over the five-hour time frame, with no heavy crowds. Most attendees respectfully wore masks and relaxed in the dedicated dining area to test out the three chili varieties for sale. Both vendors and shoppers offered positive comments about the opportunity to partake in a “normal” summer activity, with one out-of-town pair exclaiming “We were just passing through, saw the fair and just

had to stop because there was actually *something* going on in town!”

DJ Kayden Gordon kept toes tapping with his selections of contemporary country music broadcast live for Spectrum 23.9. Youngsters received colorful glitter tattoos from Krafty Kim and tried their hand at the Little Picasso painting easels. While the unofficial “winner” of the church’s mini chili-cook-off based upon consumption was the classic chili recipe, all three were delicious and offered a welcome variety to the menu.

The day concluded with some happy shoppers and satisfied small business vendors with a little extra income...a win-win for all.

Our Neighbor’s Kitchen Hits High Water Mark

August was a banner month for ONK. On August 13 Joe & Jill cooked up Hawaiian chicken, buttered corn and fresh blueberry muffins and passed out 74 (!) meals to our drive-through crowd. On August 27 the Faucher family served hot grilled chicken skewers, pasta-veggie salad and fresh fruit to another record crowd of 70.

It’s a pleasure to see so many of our ONK “regulars” as well as a number of new “repeat” diners. Anecdotally we are seeing more families with young

children passing through and requests for 4-6 meals per car. It is comforting to know that we are putting a nutritious warm dinner on the table for entire families. We keep increasing our quantities and thus far have kept up with each week's demand. We hope to retain these swelling numbers when we finally return indoors. However, for the foreseeable future, with these hefty numbers, we shall continue our drive-through take-out service, rain or shine.

Went For the Berries, Stayed for the View

The Sackett and Gordon families had our "pick" of the rows of blueberry bushes on Sunday, August 9 as we caravanned up to Monadnock Berries in Troy, NH. Some of the Sackett berries found their way into the blueberry muffins served at Our Neighbor's Kitchen, while the Gordons planned to make blueberry pancakes. Wonderful scenic spot!



It's Gonna Be a Warm Winter

...now that our new boiler is installed! Yes, the old rusted hulk really did look like this! It was no small feat to dismantle these heavy iron panels and haul them, one weighty piece at a time, up a ramp and out the back door to a dumpster truck.



We have a shiny new boiler humming along and we can't wait to put it through its paces when the cold weather sets in.

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