

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954

Published by the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon



PO Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475

Church Telephone: 978-297-0554

Volume 65 Issue 2

OCTOBER 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, October 8

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Potatoes Au Gratin w/ Ham
(Drive-Through/Take-Out)

Sunday, October 18

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

Thursday, October 22

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Roast Pork w/ Apples & Onions
(Drive-Through/Take-Out)

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

From Your Editor

October is a wonderful month in New England. We are reaping the very last of the local garden produce, and every frost-free evening buys us perhaps another few sugar peas, root vegetables or squash. My experiment with a pumpkin patch yielded a number of lessons learned in staving off powdery mildew, squash borers and just *how far* a pumpkin vine can travel. I emerged victorious with a modest four “carvable” pumpkins. UUCW has hosted two harvest-related social outings: blueberries in August and apples in September. These activities, as well as our Water Communion service this month, remind us of Mother Earth’s generosity. Let us never take her gifts for granted.

“Spirit of the West, spirit of water, of evening and autumn:
Be with us as the sun sets and help us enjoy a rich harvest.
Flow through us with a cooling, healing quietness and bring us peace.”

-Joan Goodwin

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board

Set in Stone Phase 2 Bidding Underway

It's full steam ahead on our contract with the Massachusetts Historical Commission. We have detailed engineering plans and scope of work defined for this next very important phase of stonework repair. Phase 2 will focus on the east face of the bell tower, including some work on the buttresses (the large stones stacked up at the corners of the bell tower). We hosted a pre-bid meeting on September 22 which was attended by eight masonry firms. Senior Engineer John Wathne of Structures North Consulting Engineers led the group through the proposed work. Final bids are to be delivered by September 30. We hope to select the mason in October, and then schedule out the repair work.



UUCW Online

Main Website: uucw.ncmuuc.org

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

Facebook: facebook.com/uuwinchendon

Water Communion in Retrospect

On Sunday September 13 we held our annual Water Communion service, signaling the start of the "church year." We collected water samples whose sources included a lake, bottled product, and even a health club water fountain. After our service, we strolled over to the Whitney Dam bridge and poured our water into the rushing Miller's River.

In our current climate of strife and divisiveness it was comforting to take some time to reflect on how this precious resource is essential to all of us, and how much we really have in common. May the following reading shared at the service allow you to contemplate:

Our Common Bonds

Know the bonds by which we are bound to one another, for we are not alone.

We are a road where our brothers and sisters may walk.

Our bodies are the bed of a stream through which flow the many waters of this world and its races.

Our hearts are a city where others may build their dwellings.

We are many wires strung in the wind, and we must sing the song of the air that flows over us.

Tears awaken tears, and laughter awakens laughter; another's sorrow takes up lodging within us.

When the stranger weeps at the death of a loved one, we too must weep.

For the death of one is the symbol of death of all, and no one can escape its meaning.

When one baby is born, it is a symbol of all birth and life.

And all must rejoice, and lose their hearts to a child.

One enveloping air gives breath to people of all continents, and one sun shines on us all.

From the same river of time has come all the water of life.

We all smile with our lips and weep with our eyes. A smile disregards the color of the face, and the moaning of grief is alike in all tongues.

Pity and compassion are the deep workings of us; they speak forth the completeness of our being.

-Kenneth L. Patton

Our Neighbor's Kitchen Expands Menu

Packing a delicious, relatively spill-proof hot meal into a three-compartment Styrofoam takeout container is not without its challenges. Accordingly, ONK featured two new menus this past month. On September 10, Joe and Jill Sackett prepared a family favorite – pepperoni pizza casserole, with steamed broccoli, rolls and fresh fruit salad. An afternoon of rain showers “dampened” our turnout to 48, so lucky diners took home some very generous servings. On September 24 Dave Faucher designed an autumn-inspired menu of hand-made

squash ravioli, salad with cranberries, roasted green beans, rolls and brownies. We handed out 64 hot meals and will continue to plan for those numbers.

Prime Time at Red Apple Farm

Our social outing to Red Apple Farm on Sunday, September 27 was a wonderful time. The Gordon and Sackett families met in Phillipston for our “reserved” time slot at 11:00 AM. We had a balmy stroll through orchards laden with ripe fruit. McIntosh, Macoun and Cortland varieties were available for picking this week, and several of us including Yours Truly (pictured) ended up among the branches for the top-most apples. Our Neighbors Kitchen diners can look forward to apples in their upcoming menus.



The Story of the Putnam Silverware

The COVID-19 restrictions have given us much time to undertake some oft-deferred projects. One of these was conducting a thorough cleaning, polishing and inventory of the church's collection of silver plate utensils, which are among the assets of our now-disbanded ladies' Putnam Alliance.

UUCW has over 200 pieces of silver plate in the popular "Fiddle" pattern, bearing a variety of manufacturer stamps, most of which are "Rogers Bro" or varieties thereof.

Rogers Brothers silver goes back to the early 19th century when, in 1847, the company became a household name after perfecting a process for electroplating. A lot of companies used "Rogers" in their name. For over 100 years the name was applied to silverware by a bewildering churn of companies which formed, merged, and separated.

Rogers silver plate was common in many households and remains in wide circulation. Hence it does not hold much value as a collectible.

What does make our collection distinctive, however, is its unique origin. Many of our pieces bear the monogram "IMM" which stands for Issac M. Murdock.



Issac was the only son of Ephraim Murdock Jr. Both were founding members of The Church of the Unity (a.k.a. UUCW) and primary financiers of the construction of our building in 1866. We believe the entire collection was originally Issac's, assembled over a period of years in the mid-19th century.

Issac passed away in 1875 at the age of 44, and Ephraim built the I.M. Murdock building on Front Street in his memory. For years the building was used by the Church of the Unity. It eventually came into our possession and we maintained it as a Parish Hall. We sold the building in 1943 to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Contact Information

Governing Board Chair:

Jill Nicholson Sackett

Email: jill@sackett.com

Governing Board Members:

Allan Gordon:

Email: 31Allangordon@gmail.com

Rev. Emerita Inanna Arthen (Clerk)