

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 14

5:50 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen Serves
Cincinnati 3-Way Chili
(Drive-Through/Take-Out)

Sunday, January 24

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

Thursday, January 28

5:50 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen Serves
To-Be-Announced
(Drive-Through/Take-Out)

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

From Your Editor

We welcome the home stretch. It may span longer than our patience can tolerate, but we will get there. I am reminded of the phrase popularized by Dale Carnegie: “When fate hands us a lemon, let’s try to make lemonade.” He devotes an entire chapter to this theme in his 1948 book *How to Stop Worrying and Start Living*. Much of that book is inspirational for these times. As we turn the page on a new year, let’s strive to reap the very best we can from our protracted home vigils. The forced cancellations of so many events and pastimes free us to undertake something completely new. We can explore from the comfort of home. Choose a topic you’ve never studied and check out a library book or two. Branch out from the repeating meals and make something completely different. The internet is full of online tutorials to do almost anything from learning a new craft to home maintenance and repairs. Make a list and check off one thing each day to maintain that sense of purpose and accomplishment. Rest assured – busier times will return and we will be grateful for this time of reflection and redirection.

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board

Holiday Bazaar

UUCW's Holiday Bazaar was an exercise in persistence. Our original December 5 date was greeted by That Big Snow Storm. We welcomed some intrepid early shoppers but the weather served as a deterrent for our later hours. Undaunted, our vendors readily repeated the event with us on December 12. We enjoyed better weather and more masked shoppers.



Vendor fairs are important fundraisers for UUCW due to revenue from both vendor rentals and our food sales. Our holiday cookie sales were quite encouraging: we sold out of our Triple Chocolate Chip and Classic cookies with the "variety pack" being the biggest overall seller.

With our decorated sanctuary and background music it was a pleasant visit for all. We hope to make this an annual event.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

UUCW opened its doors on Christmas Eve for our annual Candlelight and Pipe Organ Service, led by Rev Inanna Arthen. At 6 pm we joined the informal town-wide bell-ringing effort advertised through social media, and rang our tower bell again at 7 pm to herald the beginning of our service. Rev Arthen gave a thought-provoking sermon, weaving in themes of the recent Jupiter-Saturn conjunction, Roman empire in Biblical times, and how customs in Jesus' day relate to today's pandemic. In case you're wondering, Jesus would encourage us all to wear masks and volunteer at our local COVID clinics!

Guest organist Robert Couchon serenaded us with several familiar Christmas carols as well as some lovely classical holiday works for organ by J.S. Bach, Daquin and Balbastre. We closed the service by lighting individual

candles and passing the flame throughout the sanctuary.

Our large sanctuary allowed for a socially distanced event, with face coverings, alternate pews in use, hand sanitizer and touchless candle-lighting. Nonetheless, as we head into the post-holiday stretch we will be suspending all church service activity as we await the distribution of the COVID vaccine and eventual quelling of this persistent and capricious virus.



UUCW Online

Main Website: uucw.ncmuuc.org

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

Facebook: facebook.com/uuwinchendon

Contact Information

Governing Board Chair:

Jill Nicholson Sackett

Email: jill@sackett.com

Governing Board Members:

Allan Gordon:

Email: 31Allangordon@gmail.com

Rev. Inanna Arthen (Clerk)

A Journey Through the Minister's Library

Many churches maintain some type of library, and UUCW is no exception. This past fall Julie White Cardinal and Jill Sackett undertook a complete inventory, cataloguing and re-shelving of UUCW's book collection.

We have over 350 books including a bible collection and three sets of hymnals. As with the silverware collection described in last October's newsletter, we did not uncover anything of high monetary value, but did realize an eclectic collection with local historical value.

Most of the books were acquired during the late 19th and mid-20th centuries. Topical categories span religious education, bible study, Christian and biblical history, world religions, and miscellaneous non-fiction. Sermon collections include thought-leaders such as William Ellery Channing, William Eliot, James Freeman Clarke, and Dana McLean Greeley. Some are stamped "Murdock Parsonage" or signed by founding families such as Murdock and Whitney.

It is fascinating to see how Unitarianism evolved from a liberal Christian religion to the broader and more inclusive Unitarian Universalist platform of today.

The library is available to church members to peruse by appointment, and many titles are available for loan. Interested members can email info@set-in-stone.org.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen Maintains Drive-Through Model

When UUCW converted our friendly indoor dining gathering to a drive-through take-out model last May, we did not predict we would be continuing to serve patrons on our circle drive in the dead of winter.

But here we are! With word continuing to spread and numbers mounting, we are running up hot boxed meals from our kitchen to a waiting line of cars every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.

The Faucher and Sackett families take turns preparing meals for 80-100 and are joined by some great volunteer help. Special thanks go to the following tireless workers who washed, chopped, mixed, packaged, and climbed stairs to keep the meal service running smoothly:

Kathy Fugatt
Jean Laduke
Bob O'Keefe
Arline Tenney
Elaine St. Pierre

Your help is deeply appreciated.

Ring Out, Wild Bells

Ring out wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night
Ring out wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

- *Alfred, Lord Tennyson (excerpt)*

Change of Address?

We want to stay in touch! If you change your U.S. mail or email address, please email jill@sackett.com, leave a message on our voicemail at 978-297-0554, or send a written note to the church at P.O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475.