

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon



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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

Sunday, April 4

1:00 pm – Family Easter Service and Egg Hunt

Thursday, April 8

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen Serves Easter Ham Dinner (Drive-Through/Take-Out)

Thursday, April 22

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen Serves TBD (Drive-Through/Take-Out)

Sunday, April 25

7:30 pm – Governing Board Meeting, Dial-In (RSVP Jill Sackett)

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

From Your Editor

What could more encouraging than spotting that first courageous spring shoot pushing through barely-thawed ground? I stroll around my yard, marveling at the first signs of the crocus and daffodils I planted last fall.

Fall bulbs tell us: have faith - we will emerge. This Easter we celebrate rebirth in all its forms. Come join us for song, verse and fellowship as we welcome the arrival of Spring.

Your church is coming alive with activity: Phase 2 masonry repairs are underway; Our Neighbor's Kitchen continues drive-through service with record numbers; we have a lovely family Easter service around the corner; and we are planning our annual June Lawn Fair with over half our lawn already booked with vendors. See you at church!

- Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board

Easter Sunday – Celebration of Spring

Our first quarter of 2021 was relatively quiet for our church. While our outer face remained shuttered aside from community supper days and building rentals, we remained very industrious inside with our various redecorating, cleaning and repair projects.

With the onset of Spring and some encouraging progress with vaccinations and “reopenings,” we too shall reopen with our first service of the year on Easter Sunday. Our lay-led program will share music, short readings and verse in celebration of Spring. We’ll learn a bit about the tradition of coloring eggs, and conclude with an Easter egg hunt for all ages.

Our spacious sanctuary will assure comfortable seating, and we’ll conduct the egg hunt outdoors, weather permitting. Pay us a visit – we’d love to usher in Spring with you.



June 19 - Lawn Fair!

Lawn fairs have been a tradition at UUCW since 1867, when the first lawn fair was held to raise funds for our newly constructed granite church. We often hold our fair in June, concurrent with the Clark Memorial YMCA Summer Solstice festival held across the street. While the Clark has not yet announced their plans for this year, UUCW will be proceeding with our annual lawn fair on Saturday, June 19, from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Our vendors are eager: we already have half of our lawn reserved and live DJ music to be supplied by church member Kayden Gordon. We’re looking for a nice variety of crafts, retail items, second-hand items, and food. Anyone interested in renting a spot may apply and pay online at our website: uucw.ncmuuc.org/summer-fair/

Lawn fairs remain one of our most important fundraisers. This year, we have much ground to make up from the gathering restrictions imposed by COVID-19, and our ongoing Set in Stone masonry repairs. We have checked with the Winchendon Board of Health and will be following any COVID-19 guidelines still in place in June.

We are looking forward to a safe and pleasant event for all.

Set in Stone Launches Phase 2 Repairs

There is no missing the fact that church repairs are underway. On Monday, March 22, Joseph Gnazzo Company Inc. of Union, CT arrived to install extensive scaffolding across the entire East face of the bell tower.



As required by the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund grant, we have a new sign gracing our front garden. Designed by Inanna Arthen and built by Joe Sackett, it declares “Preservation Works!” We acknowledge the generous funding by the Massachusetts Historic Commission and the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation.



Thus we embark on Phase 2 of our multi-year, multi-phase effort to save this beautiful building. To make a donation or read our running blog on our progress, visit our dedicated site: www.set-in-stone.org/

Our Neighbor's Kitchen: Diners Speak

ONK's drive-through take-out process is coming up on its ONE YEAR anniversary, and our chefs have adjusted well to the logistics of serving hearty multi-course meals in take-out containers to a steady stream of hungry diners. On March 11 the Sacketts served bacon-wrapped meatloaf, potato-onion casserole, sweet peas and fresh fruit, and on March 25 the Fauchers prepared their annual Irish dinner: corned beef and cabbage, roast potatoes, carrots and soda bread. On both occasions we crested 80 meals served. Word is definitely spreading and we are happy to meet the need.

We are collecting diners' input from the survey we initiated last month. One comment particularly struck home: "I can't express how appreciative of the effort and kindness expressed and how welcome I feel sharing time and meals with such people as you. Bless you all!"

That is why we are here.

The Coming of Spring



Soon shall the winter's foil be here,
Soon shall these icy ligatures unbind
and melt.

A little while, and air, soil, wave,
suffused shall be in softness, bloom and
growth.

A thousand forms shall rise from these
dead clods and chills,
as from low burial graves.

Thine eyes, ears – all thy best attributes,
all that takes cognizance of natural
beauty,
shall wake and fill.

Thou shalt perceive the simple shows,
the delicate miracles of earth.
Dandelions, clover, the emerald grass,
the early scents and flowers;

The arbutus underfoot, the willow's
yellow-green,
the blossoming plum and cherry;

With these the robin, lark and thrush,
singing their songs –
the flitting bluebird:
such are the scenes the annual play
brings on.

- Walt Whitman

Change of Address?

We want to stay in touch! If you change your address, either U.S. Mail or email, please let us know. Email jill@sackett.com or send a written note to the church at P.O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475.

UUCW Online

Main Website: uucw.ncmuuc.org

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

Facebook: facebook.com/uuwinchendon

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