

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, March 11

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

Sunday, March 21

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

Thursday, March 25

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen Serves
Irish Corned Beef Dinner
(Drive-Through/Take-Out)

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

From Your Editor

Everyone loves a catchy phrase. “In like a lion, out like a lamb” is the seasonal phrase on which most of us are hanging right now. With strong visualization and cadence, and usual accuracy, it’s easy to understand its endurance. But have you heard these?

“When March blows its horn, your barn will be filled with hay and corn.”

“A peck of March-dust and a shower in May, makes the corn green and the fields gay.”

“Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn.”

All of these speak of anticipation, and I can’t think of a more anticipatory time than Spring 2021. We are emerging from two seasons: Winter and COVID. Winter emergence will occur first, and we all must trust that the latter will follow. Here at UUCW we’re forging ahead, hopefully planning worship and summer/fall activities.

Stretch. Yawn. Join us for our reawakening.

- Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board

Set in Stone Launches Phase 2 Repairs

This Spring, the construction trucks and scaffolding will return as we enter into Phase 2 of our stonework repairs. Our Set in Stone capital campaign, launched in June 2019, is committed to restoring the integrity of our beautiful granite masonry stone by stone, wall by wall, over a multi-year period.

We conducted Phase 1 repairs around the front entryway in Fall 2019 and Spring 2020. For Phase 2 UUCW secured a grant from the State of Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund, which was matched by the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation.

We received bids from three masonry firms for our proposed Phase 2 repairs. After careful consultation with Structures North Consulting Engineers and the Massachusetts Historical Commission, we awarded the contract to Joseph Gnazzo Company Inc. of Union, CT. We are well acquainted with Gnazzo as they had ably performed our Phase 1 repairs.

Phase 2 repairs will complete the remainder of the East elevation face and then begin earnest work on the church tower, which is in the greatest need of repair. We'll be working on the East tower face, including the clock spire, and cracked Northeast buttress (shown below). The buttress work will require

dismantling and resetting some of the very large support stones.



UUCW will continue to chip away at our building repairs as funding allows. We're chronicling this project at our dedicated website www.set-in-stone.org. We hope 2021 brings the opportunity to conduct several fundraisers to support this vital project.



Survey: Our Neighbor's Kitchen Seeks Diners' Input

On February 11 the Sacketts served up sweet 'n sour chicken drumsticks over rice, with chopped salad and devil's food cherry cake, while on February 25 the Fauchers prepared a meaty lasagna with green beans, garlic bread and bar cookies.

We have continued to be surprised at the number of diners driving through for pick-up. Regardless of weather, we are serving about 30% more meals than what we have historically served indoors. A number of these visitors are new to ONK. Word is spreading, especially through social media, and the need is certainly there.

We fully intend to return to indoor dining when COVID restrictions allow. Until then, we are conducting a survey, targeted at anyone who has dined at ONK. We're asking diners what town they hail from, what meals they favor, and whether they would prefer to partake of take-out (drive-through or walk-in) versus indoor dining. This information is critical to helping us shape the program going forward and continue to serve as many residents as we can.

If you'd like to take the survey, we've included a copy with this newsletter.

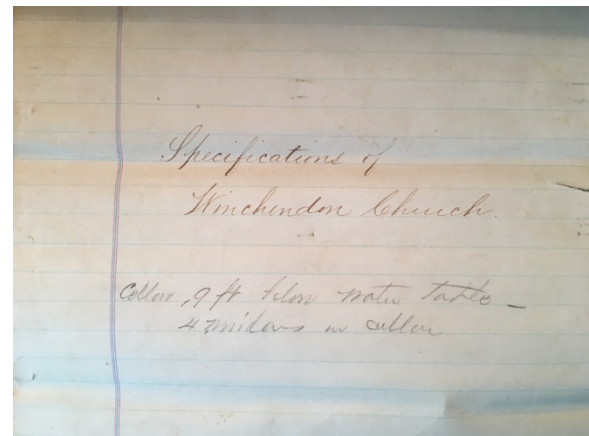
You can email the survey back to info@set-in-stone.org. You may also drop it off at a future ONK or mail it to UUCW, P.O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475.

We look forward to your input.

A Glance Back: Construction Meant to Last

We have unearthed some fascinating documents as the Set in Stone campaign progresses. One such document, beautifully hand-written on unassuming lined paper, contains the original specifications for the building of this church in 1866. We're sharing a portion of that document here.

Reading the building requirements, one is impressed with the engineering and thought that went into the construction of such a heavy building on relatively "soft" marshy ground. This is truly a building that is "set in stone."



“Specifications of Winchendon Church”

“Specifications of materials and labor to be provided, and performed, in the erection of a stone church edifice in the town of Winchendon, Massachusetts for the Unitarian Society, in accordance with plans made for the same by S.S. Woodcock, architect, and accompanying these specifications.

Excavation

The earth rubbish and other materials of every kind are to be removed cleared and dug out to the depth required for the cellar and to secure a permanent foundation. The materials from the cellar are to be graded about the lot as may be required. The cellar is to finish eight feet high.”

Foundations and Stone Work

All foundations below the grade are to be of good granite cellar stone, well laid in good lime mortar, with a good even face on the inside. The cellar walls for the main building and chancel are to be twenty inches thick, and twenty-seven inches under the tower. The walls above the base course of the main building and the chancel are to be sixteen inches thick, and twenty inches above the base courses of the tower, to the bell section, which is to be sixteen inches. The base courses, buttress weatherings, window dressings, copings, door dressings and steps, and all other external dressings, and ornaments, are to be of well selected granite, pointed to an even

uniform surface of such patterns as represented on the detail drawings. All of the above named dressings are to be well and securely clamped to the work wherever necessary to insure permanence and durability. All of the above named work above the grade is to be well laid and set in good lime and sand mortar, and pointed with dark cement mortar with raised points. The chimnies are to be built as represented on the plans with an eighth inch cast-iron smoke pipe in the centre well secured with iron bearings.

The space outside the cast-iron smoke pipe is to be used for ventilation. The pieces in the cellar are to be of split granite 8 x 8 inches, and as long as may be required to extend from the leaders to the girders.”

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