

# 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

### Now Through Saturday, December 11

UUCW Cookie Fundraiser

### Thursday, December 9

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves  
Cincinnati 3-Way Chili  
(Drive-Through/Take-Out)

### Saturday, December 11

9:00 am - 2:00 pm –Holiday Vendor Fair,  
Winchendon Town Hall

### Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

### Monday, December 13

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

### Thursday, December 23

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

### Friday, December 24

7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Service w/ Rev. Inanna Arthen

## From Your Editor

As I write this editorial, the barrage of Black Friday sales is well underway. We hear excited reports of supply chain interruptions, urging us to “order even earlier” this year.

Well, what if we *didn't*? When we reminisce with one another about past Christmases, how often do you hear someone remark on what gifts they received? More often than not, it was a fantastic meal they shared, a visit from a friend or family member that was especially treasured, annual news and pictures received from afar, children's amusing antics, or a musical or spiritual moment.

It is not costly to offer some of the most treasured gifts. In this newsletter we reflect on Ksenija Pavlovic's "*Twelve Acts of Generous Giving*." Perhaps the simplest and most impactful gift you can give is that of yourself and your time. We all know this; it just bears repeating now and again.

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

On Christmas Eve, December 24, at 7:00 pm the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon will hold our annual Candlelight Service. We welcome Rev. Inanna Arthen to lead the service. Rev. Arthen will share the traditional Christmas story, carols and a homily.

UUCW has been following the candlelight tradition for decades. The ritual of sharing candlelight amongst those gathered has multiple meanings. For some, it symbolizes the Star of Bethlehem, or the light of Jesus. For others, it represents the reassurance of illumination during one of the shortest and darkest days of the year. And yet others see the passing of light as a way of sharing a common bond of fellowship. For all, it is a magical moment of contemplation and peace.

Join us on Christmas Eve. Pass the light, and pass your friendship.



## Cookies! 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fundraiser

Encouraged by last year's success and rave reviews for our home-baked cookies, UUCW is back for a second consecutive holiday bake sale. Our Neighbor's Kitchen chefs Jill Sackett and Inanna Arthen are baking four very different cookie selections for purchase. They will reprise the three top-selling cookies from last year, plus a new fourth choice. Customers may choose from classic iced, triple chocolate chip, peppermint plunge, snickerdoodles, or a "variety" sampler.



At only \$7 – 8 per dozen it's easy to stock up. Those who pre-pay will receive complimentary gift-wrapping. Order now through December 10 at our website:

[uucw.ncmuuc.org/holiday-cookie-fundraiser/](https://uucw.ncmuuc.org/holiday-cookie-fundraiser/)

Pick up your cookie order at our booth during the Holiday Craft Fair on December 11 (see next article) or we'll work out an alternate exchange.

Leave the baking to us – and come away with a lovely selection of freshly baked cookies to satisfy anyone's sweet tooth. All proceeds will go towards our impressive utility and maintenance bills.

## Holiday Vendor Fair

Downtown Winchendon will be abuzz with activity on Saturday, December 11, as the town will be launching a coordinated "Festival of Lights." The day begins with a Holiday Craft Fair from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm in the Town Hall auditorium, followed by a tree display at Beals Library, and events at both Winchendon Community Park and GAR Park.

UUCW is joining the fun and will be selling their holiday cookies at the Holiday Craft Fair. Customers can pick up pre-orders at our table, and/or purchase cookies right on the spot. We are preparing an ample supply and will sell until we run out! Stop in and say hello.

## Walnut Doors in Treatment

Last month we reported on our lovely walnut doors finally getting the attention they deserve. On November 6 the two most damaged doors in the tower entry were removed for meticulous sanding, staining and varnishing in the comfort of a warm workshop. We expect them to return in mid-December for us all to admire on Christmas Eve.



Eventually we will refinish all of our doors. We can't wait to see them come back to life.

## UUCW Online

Main Website: <https://uucw.ncmuuc.org/>

Set in Stone Website: [www.set-in-stone.org](http://www.set-in-stone.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/uuwinchendon](https://facebook.com/uuwinchendon)

# Twelve Acts of Generous Giving

With temptation to idolatry, celebrity culture and all things material, one may wonder: how are we to live? What is it we could teach both ourselves and our beautiful children and grandchildren for the next twelve months to come? With the holiday season upon us and friends and families gathering around the sparkling Christmas tree, how are we to increase altruistic motivations in children? What are the acts of generous behavior we can encourage in our families, neighborhoods, communities?

I would like to invite you all to look at the ways we can ignite small acts of kindness for the twelve months that will generate energy powerful enough to enhance a common good in our community. The theory of generous giving is a theory of human solidarity and you can contribute to it too by setting up the example and encouraging your friends, colleagues and neighbors to do good deeds.

In the context of human behavior, altruism, from the Latin root *alter* or *the other*, concerns the place of the other in moral experience, especially when *the other* is in need. An altruist acts for the benefit of others as an end in itself. The act of altruism has to be free of expectations and never a means for public recognition and self-promoting behaviors.

How can we rethink philanthropy and creative ways to give to others? It all starts with posing a good question: How can I help? How can I be of service? What can I do today to put a smile on someone's face? How can I contribute to setting a child on the road of success? The biggest problem in making a difference-and this particularly applies to overachievers- is that we think we have to do something really grand in order to change the world. But every small step counts as it generates the life-affirming energy that ignites good, positive feelings in the lives of others. Sometimes, someone who is struggling only needs a word of encouragement.

What can come to our list of Twelve Acts of Generous Giving for 2022: A smile. A praise. An inspiring story. A home cooked meal. A card. A warm blanket. A notebook and a pen. A walk together. A picture with a childhood hero. You can donate your time or an idea. You can create a music mix for someone who is in the hospital. You can donate a book and read a story to a child. You can offer a pleasant tone of voice, a hand on the shoulder in time of grief. Let's create this generous open space that unites the ideas of gift, grace, and blessing.

*-Ksenija Pavlovic, Novak Djokovic Foundation., adaptation*

*May you have a warm and caring  
holiday season, connecting with  
family and friends.*