

# 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 13

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves  
Sweet 'n Sour Chicken Drumsticks  
(Drive-Through/Take-Out)

### Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

### Monday, January 24

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

### Thursday, January 27

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

## From Your Editor

Yes. We're weary of the COVID news dominating the airwaves. We're discouraged as this virus continues to persist and thwart our scientific solutions. It seems as though COVID is here to stay.

This is when we must draw on faith. Humans are amazingly resilient. Nature has a way of adjusting to all of its insults. Perhaps we are facing a world where COVID variants wander alongside flus and colds, and we do our best to navigate this invisible mine field. As we move into a new year, let's tell ourselves: have faith. Take reasonable precautions...and reach out to each other.

As we New Englanders head into the coldest and most isolating time of the year, think of those neighbors, family and friends who are most alone. Pay someone a call. *In person*. Those "old-fashioned" gestures of stopping by with a container of soup, a house plant, or just bringing in mail from a long driveway can be the brightest spot in someone's day. Take care, but pay that visit.

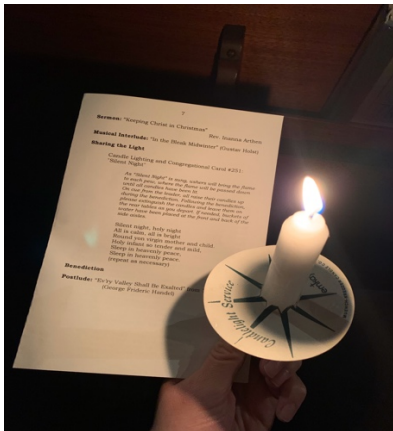
We have the power to make a difference. Make that one of your New Year's Resolutions. 2022, here we come! -Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

It was a chilly, icy night, but UUCW welcomed about 35 stalwart souls into our warm, decorated sanctuary for our annual Candlelight Service. Lisa Utzig serenaded us with some lovely selections from our Chickering grand piano. We sang traditional carols and rang our tower bell.

Rev. Inanna Arthen gave a thought-provoking sermon titled “Keeping Christ in Christmas” asking us all, regardless of our own faith traditions, to consider what “Christian behavior” should look like with today’s society and challenges. We closed with the passing of candlelight and the singing of Silent Night.

It was a lovely, contemplative way to ring in this popular holiday period.



## 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/uwinchendon](https://facebook.com/uwinchendon)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cookie Fundraiser a Sweet Success

Thank you shoppers! Our Neighbor’s Kitchen volunteers Jill Sackett, Kathy Fugatt and Inanna Arthen produced over 45 *dozen* cookies for this year’s fundraiser. About half of those were claimed through pre-orders, while the other half were sold at the Town Hall Craft Fair on Saturday, December 11 (below).



The classic iced cut-outs and the variety packs were the biggest sellers, with some opting for gift-wrap and Christmas mug presentations. We thank everyone for their support as we continue to raise funds to maintain our lovely building and operations.

## Change of Address?

We want to stay in touch! If you change your U.S. mail or email address, please email [jill@sackett.com](mailto: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.

# **Our Neighbor's Kitchen Enters Third Year of Drive-Through Service**

The pressing demand continues, and so do we. Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month the Faucher and Sackett families take turns preparing meals for 80-100 and present them to a long line of patient diners waiting in our front circle drive.

We're shamelessly re-phrasing the US Postal Service motto as an emblem of our dedication:

*"Neither snow nor rain or heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from their appointed <meal delivery>"...*

...and we must say it can get rather chilly handing out those meals in January!

Our repainted, scrubbed and redecorated Parish Hall has yet to be enjoyed by indoor diners and we patiently await that day. It will eventually come. Until that time, we have developed a rotating array of meals that lend themselves well to presentation in a take-out container.

For several months this past year we gratefully received substantial grocery donations from the Community Action Committee. That funding is now depleted and we must once again rely on at-the-door donations as our primary

means of support. We continue to pursue regular sources of funding which have included the Unitarian Universalist Association, special COVID relief grants, and private individuals.

The success of Our Neighbor's Kitchen rests on the shoulders of our volunteers. The Faucher and Sackett families serve as "head chefs" on cooking day. While we have necessarily scaled back this year on the number of people we welcome in the kitchen during COVID, we are very appreciative of the tireless few that wash, chop, mix, package and climb stairs to keep our meal service going:

Kathy Fugatt  
Jean LaDuke  
Bob O'Keefe  
Elaine St.Pierre  
Winchendon School Students

Thank you all.

## **A Meditation for the New Year**

May these words from the great Unitarian minister Dana McLean Greeley provide some resolve for 2022. Here is his essay titled *Present, Past and Future*:

"I am all in favor of acting in the living present. There is no other time when we *can* act. Today is the time for labor, and learning, and laughter, and love. Today is when we help our friend and forgive

our enemy. Yesterday is no longer with us, and tomorrow is too late.

Our uniqueness lies not in being slaves of the present. We should act in the present, but we should be able to transcend the present. We can remember the past and predict the future. We can carry the past with us, and we can plan and look forward to the future.

Have confidence in the future. Let the educators keep trying to discover better methods of education. Let the doctors and scientists find the cures for cancer and heart disease and the common cold. Let professional political scientists and amateur city groups explore better ways for practicing real democracy. Let children look forward to maturity, and let adults relish life.

It is our business to build hope in the human heart until we look forward to every new day as somehow better than the last. The past is but prologue. We must act in the present, but we must believe in the future!”

Greeley, Dana McLean, “Past, Present and Future.” In *Forward Through the Ages*, 117, Concord, MA: First Parish in Concord, 1986.

### Contact Information

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Rev. Inanna Arthen (Clerk)

## Nuggets of Gold

Day after day became monotonous,  
I've slipped into a secure cocoon  
Of each day repeating the day before.  
Active? Yes, but repeating, repeating.  
Same motions, same faces...depression?  
I guess so, mildly.  
I followed my daily routine,  
Did the necessary things,  
Until three very special faces  
Appeared before me,  
Stepped out of the not-too-distant past.  
They came alone,  
Had no connection with each other.  
Within a week, they each met me,  
Smiling, hugging,  
Bringing an inner glow  
I had almost forgotten.  
There were as family to me -  
Very special.  
I became sharply aware  
Of the void I had been in,  
How much I had missed them.  
How stupid of me  
To have neglected dear friends.  
I had thought of them,  
Should call them, should see them.  
But always some excuse  
Was conveniently there.  
Or, I'll do it tomorrow.  
How could I have taken  
My dear friends for granted?  
Where were my priorities?  
I was struggling to pay my dues,  
Meet my obligations,  
And neglecting my most valuable  
possessions:  
My friends – my nuggets of gold.

- J. Patricia Holohan