

THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

Established 1954

Published by the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon



PO Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475

Church Telephone: 978-297-0554

Volume 66 Issue 3

NOVEMBER 2021

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, November 11

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

Sunday, November 14

2:00 pm – UUCW Hosts Winchendon
Winds Concert Band, Sanctuary

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

Monday, November 15

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

Friday, November 26

12:00 – 4:00 pm – Spirit of Christmas
Toy Drive, Front Circle

Friday, November 26

12:00 – 4:00 pm – Holiday Decorating
and Pizza Party, Church Sanctuary

From Your Editor

Being thankful. In our information-overload society, with sensationalist, negative news, it is easy to take on a “glass is half empty” perspective. Such a downturn has a way of discoloring our views on just about *everything*. Don't let it. We have the power to alter our own lens regardless of the world we are viewing. Let's choose to find the good.

Last year, a friend of mine resolved to spend the month of November listing one thing to be thankful for every day. The gritudes were wide-ranging: a lovely sunny morning, meeting an old friend, a successful work project, the last garden bloom. She found that these little contemplations, as simple as they were, improved her outlook on the entire day. The trials were still there, but they were placed in a more balanced context and were easier to bear.

I invite each of you to embark on your own November Gritudes. Let's see how we do. For November 1, I am grateful for this lovely church and community. Your turn.

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

Holiday Decorations and Pizza!

It's an annual tradition: every year as we head into the darkest and shortest days of the calendar year, we brighten our sanctuary with greenery, lights and colorful decorations.

Friday after Thanksgiving, we'll open up our church for a decorating party from noon until 4 p.m. We have more than enough decorations – we just need your cheerful hands to help place them on our tree, pews and windows. We'll have seasonal music playing and hot pizza for the hungry volunteers.

Put on your Christmas sweaters and join us for a jolly good time!

Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive

“This is a church of the Caring Community.” Cash-strapped families feel the pinch ever more with the onset of cold, dark weather and fuel and heating bills. Every little bit helps. On Friday, November 26, from noon to 4 p.m. UUCW is conducting our annual Toy Drive. Stop by with new or unused toys or cash during the afternoon and our waiting “elves” will be outside ready to accept your donations. We take all donations over to the Winchendon Fire Department as part of the town's larger toy drive effort.

Rescuing the Walnut Doors

Old-timers may recall the bright red pine doors that used to grace our entrances. Twenty years ago, UUCW replaced those deteriorated doors with beautiful, solid walnut doors with natural finish. Hand-crafted by local cabinet-maker Michael McRae over a number of months, the doors provide elegant entryways and compliment our American black walnut interiors.

The polite term is “deferred maintenance.” Over the years, the doors have taken the brunt of the harsh New England weather, and in particular ultraviolet wear on our east-facing tower and center entrances. Due to one more pressing need after another, the church was unable to keep up with the required maintenance and the doors have worn to a critical point.

It is time to take action. Thanks to a generous grant from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation, we will embark on refinishing the doors this month. The set of tower doors will be removed in mid-November, with the entryway boarded over. They should be returned before Christmas and the onset of the harshest winter weather. The center set are scheduled for early spring. Remaining work on the south door and transoms will be scheduled as time and budget permits. The work must be scheduled around Set in Stone masonry

repairs which continue over a several-year period. The pictures below show our dire need.



We have occasionally been asked if we would paint those doors the bright red color sported by the old pine doors. After some discussion, the current Governing Board decided to honor the plans of the church members who originally commissioned these walnut doors. One of the selling points of such doors was their beautiful natural grain,

which of course would be lost under a heavy coat of paint.

We can't wait to see the doors returned to their original glory. Going forward, we must resolve to build in a better maintenance plan so we do not find ourselves in this same situation twenty years from now!

Our Neighbor's Kitchen Celebrates Early Thanksgiving

No need to miss a traditional turkey dinner this year. On Thursday, November 11, Dave Faucher will roll out his annual Thanksgiving dinner extravaganza featuring turkey and all the fixin's. Undaunted by the constraints of Styrofoam take-out containers, Dave typically manages to fit turkey, potatoes, stuffing, gravy, and vegetables. Our suppers continue with the drive-through process as we patiently await COVID levels to diminish.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen continues to see a huge uptick in demand. Our most recent baked ziti offering saw over 100 meals go out the door. We are very pleased to be putting hot nutritious meals in the hands of so many people.

At-the-door donations account for about half of the budget we need to sustain this program. With all-volunteer labor we are running as tight a ship as we can.

The Winchendon Community Action Committee recently stepped in to provide grocery donations, which has been a huge economic relief. With additional donations from the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts, the United Parish of Winchendon, and committed individuals, we have been able to make ends meet. Our 1950's era kitchen is truly getting a workout! If you haven't already – stop on by any 2nd or 4th Thursday and try us out!

Harvest of Gratitude

From the harvest of the soil we are given occasion to garner a harvest of the heart and mind:

A harvest of resolve to be careful stewards of all life's gifts and opportunities.

A harvest of reverence for the wondrous power and life at work in things that grow, and in the soul.

A harvest of gratitude for every good which we enjoy, and of fellowship for all who are sustained by earth's beauty.

-Percival Chubb

Contact Information

Governing Board Chair:

Jill Nicholson Sackett

(224) 567-3635

Email: jill@sackett.com

Governing Board Members:

Allan Gordon:

Email: 31Allangordon@gmail.com

Rev. Emerita Inanna Arthen (Clerk)

Weddings Return!

Many of us know more than one betrothed couple caving in to the protracted confinements of COVID, and “tying the knot” in vastly scaled-down ceremonies, back yards, or even at City Hall. It was therefore especially delightful to host a traditional wedding at UUCW this past month. Winchendon residents Gina Whalen and Noah Gauthier exchanged vows on a balmy October 2 complete with bridal party and flower girls.



Our church, with its cathedral ceiling, pipe organ façade, carved woodwork and wide center aisle, makes for a dramatic and lovely setting for any wedding. To book a wedding, contact Jill Sackett at left.

UUCW Online

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

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

Facebook: facebook.com/uuwinchendon