

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

Sunday, April 3

11:00 am – Meet ‘n Greet,
Church Sanctuary

Sunday, April 3

12:30 pm – Governing Board Meeting,
Church Sanctuary

Thursday, April 14

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor’s Kitchen serves
Easter Ham Dinner , Parish Hall

Sunday, April 17

11:00 am – Family Easter Service
and Egg Hunt, Church Sanctuary

Thursday, April 28

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor’s Kitchen serves
Dish To-Be-Announced,
Parish Hall

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

From Your Editor

Two years of “social distancing” has accomplished just that: social distancing. We’ve all become so used to spending time on our own or in tight-knit units, we have perhaps forgotten about the joys and nourishment of being *with* people.

The weather is warming, our masks are coming off, and it’s time to venture out. UUCW offers several opportunities to meet new and old friends this month. Whether it’s returning to indoor dining at our community Our Neighbor’s Kitchen suppers, an open-house social hour, or a traditional Easter service and egg hunt, our doors are fully open.

“How rare it is, how lovely, this fellowship of those who meet together.”

-from Psalms 133

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

Easter Sunday Service and Egg Hunt

It's officially Spring and we are gathering to celebrate it. Join us on Sunday, April 17 at 11:00 AM for a family-friendly Easter service led by Rev. Inanna Arthen. We'll have stories, live pipe organ music, and a thoughtful sermon delivered by Rev. Arthen. At the close, we invite children and adults alike to partake in our egg hunt. We'll have over 100 eggs planted around the grounds and building. Linger for a coffee hour and to soak up the Spring weather (which we trust will have arrived by then!).



Come on out and reconnect with your church community, and perhaps meet some new friendly faces.

Welcome, welcome Spring!

Meet 'n Greet April 3, 11:00 am

The ground is opening back up and so are we. Join us in the church sanctuary for a special open house on Sunday, April 3, at 11:00 AM. We're hoping to welcome a number of folks who have expressed interest in our church but have not recently attended a service. We would love to hear what you're looking for in a church community.

We are at a point of reinvention and await the input of those, new and old, who would like to join a friendly, community-minded, non-judgemental congregation. We'd love to see you. We'll have coffee, tea, treats and warm greetings.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen Returns Indoors

For two COVID-riddled years we've braved the elements and the stairs to continue hot meal service with our drive-through, take-out process. Starting this month, we are returning to sit-down dining in our refurbished Parish Hall. We encourage EVERYONE to join us inside at our spacious tables for friendly conversation and a plated meal (no more Styrofoam!).

Benefits of dining inside include:
Neighborly company

Early “coffee hour”

Real dishes

Opportunity for “seconds”

Opportunity to bring take-out meals home to others unable to attend

Families welcome

For those wishing to continue take-out service *only*, note there will be no drive-through. Please park in the Post Office parking lot or on Central or Summer Streets and walk inside and downstairs for your meal. We’ll have a table set up at the foot of the stairs to pick up your meals. Take-out service will begin after the indoor diners are served, approximately 6:00 PM. To avoid congestion, please wait until this time to enter the church. We’ll serve until 6:30 PM as quantities allow.

Set in Stone Submits “Round 28” Grant Application

We’re in! On March 17, UUCW submitted its second-ever application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission. We’re seeking a Round 28 Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund grant to continue our extensive masonry repairs. For this phase, we must tackle an age-old problem area: the “valley” between the church tower and main building. This low point collects ice build-up, snow and rain. It deteriorates earlier than any other part of our roof, which is otherwise in very

good condition. The valley has now “sprung a leak” and water enters the sanctuary during particularly heavy rains. Time is of the essence. We await word from the State, which we expect in June 2022. With luck, we will have these urgent repairs underway yet this year.

As always, follow our progress at:
www.set-in-stone.org/

Central Street Renovation Begins

We were warned...and that day is finally here. The town has finally embarked upon its 2-3 year project to completely reconstruct Central Street. When finished, Central Street will have new sidewalks, curbs, asphalt and even a two-way bike lane.

But first up are the underground improvements. All sewer and water supply lines will be dug up and replaced. To prepare, temporary water supply lines have been installed along the length of Central Street. Portions crossing business entryways or driveways have been buried, but the remainder of the rather unsightly piping sits above-ground. UUCW will be host to this exterior water line now sitting on the edge of our front lawn for up to three months. We’re in the “ugly duckling” stage of what will ultimately be a completely new facelift for downtown Winchendon.

Walnut Doors Restored to Full Glory

Last November, thanks to a grant from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation, we sent our pair of solid walnut tower doors out for much-overdue refinishing. Gerry Brodeur and his staff at Furniture Plus Stripping Workshop in Worcester had their work cut out for them. Over the next three months, they removed the old, peeling finish and sanded the doors down to bare wood. Certain sun-damaged areas required special bleaching. They coaxed the beautiful natural grain back to life; no extra stain was used.

The doors were reinstalled last month and we couldn't be happier. They have a slightly redder glow, that is probably closer to what they looked like when they were initially installed in 2001.



We turned right around and sent out the center entry doors for the same careful

attention. We hope to see them back in place by the end of May. Still to come, budget permitting, are the overhead transoms and the small south-facing door. All in good time.

In Memoriam: Gregory Cardinal

UUCW is sad to report the passing of Gregory Cardinal, beloved husband of church member Julia White Cardinal. Greg led a full and varied life. As a retiree he volunteered with a variety of Winchendon organizations and his contributions here will be missed. He and Julia wintered in Florida, where he was a member of the Spirit of Life Unitarian-Universalists of Odessa, FL.

For more information please visit:
www.stone-ladeau.com/obituary/GregoryL-Cardinal

Rest in peace.

UUCW Online

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

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

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