

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 9

MAY 2022

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

Monday, May 2

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

Thursday, May 12

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Southwestern Pork, Parish Hall

Sunday, May 22

11:00 am – Worship Service:
“The Blessing of the Bulbs”,
Church Sanctuary & Front Lawn

Thursday, May 26

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

Sunday, May 29

2:00 pm – Winchendon Winds Band
Concert: “Veterans’ Tribute”,
Church Sanctuary & Front Lawn

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

From Your Editor

As summer approaches, some churches wind down and prepare for a well-deserved recess. Here at UUCW we “wind up.” Early summer is one of our most active times of the year. Our commitment to community engagement finds us hosting a number of events. Our annual “Blessing of the Bulbs” worship service celebrates summer and earth’s regeneration. We are serving Our Neighbor’s Kitchen suppers indoors and welcoming back diners. Over Memorial Day weekend we kick off our series of Winchendon Winds band concerts, beginning with a Veterans’ Tribute. These concerts continue every weekend through June. Finally, we are gearing up for our largest fundraiser of the year: our Summer Lawn Fair on June 18.

See you at church...

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

Third Annual “Blessing of the Bulbs”

There may be nothing more magical than planting a rather homely, dry, fibrous piece of plant life in the soil and watching it emerge and evolve into a spectacular display of color...all at your own hand!

Join us for this celebration of the life cycle on Sunday, May 22 at 11:00 AM. Our lay-led program will include music, short readings and verse. We will bless our bulbs and distribute them to everyone present. You may take your bulbs home with you to your own gardens or you may choose to have them planted in the church gardens for all on Central Street to admire. We'll have a shovel and shovelers handy.

We'll follow the service with a social hour and light refreshments...and we'd love to see you.



June 18 Summer Solstice Lawn Fair

UUCW's legacy of holding lawn fair fundraisers dates back to the very first year the church was built. On August 3, 1867 a grand auction was held to dispose of the tools and materials that had accumulated during construction. The following year, a three-day fair was held for the express purpose of raising funds to purchase our E. & G.G. Hook pipe organ. The organ was installed in 1867 and is still playing today.

And so it goes...every summer UUCW has held at least one lawn fair. Our vendor space rentals, food sales, and tag sales go directly to our substantial operational expenses and repairs. Our projected heating oil budget, despite our most austere thermostat measures, has skyrocketed. And with a big, old beautiful building like this, it's "always something."

This year we are thrilled once again to be holding our fair concurrent with the Clark Memorial YMCA Summer Solstice fair across the street. Between the two events, there will be plenty of entertainment for all. Our lawn fair hours will be 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

We are booking vendors for our entire front and south lawns. Interested in a spot? Details and an application form are listed under "Lawn Fairs" on our website: <https://uucw.ncmuuc.org/>

Our Neighbor's Kitchen Welcomes Indoor Diners

Last month we held two indoor dinners and welcomed back both familiar and new faces. On April 14 the Sacketts prepared a traditional Easter ham dinner with creamy shells, roasted veggies, rolls and vanilla cake. On April 28 the Fauchers served up Spring Chicken, with potatoes, fresh salad and cookies.

We are so pleased to see our community members back at the tables. The coffee pot is always percolating early for those wishing to arrive ahead of dinner and visit at the tables. There is plenty of room in the hall to spread out and still enjoy others' company.

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.

UUCW Online

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

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

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

UUCW's Annual Fundraising Drive

It comes only once a year: every spring we reach out to all of our members and other associates of the church to seek financial support for our fiscal year beginning July 1.

We're looking forward to reopening with more activities as COVID restrictions lift. Expect more concerts, more gatherings, continued community suppers, and overall more activity. We patiently await word from our grant applications which will guide our operations and building repairs.

Last year our Set in Stone capital campaign finished the first face of our tower repair. This year we refinished both sets of our beautiful walnut front doors. We hope to resume tower repairs as funding permits.

Most of us have seen our home fuel oil costs increase. Our old building consumes over 2000 gallons of heating fuel despite our most austere heating (or *not* heating) practices. Our Neighbor's Kitchen regularly taxes our propane, electricity and water supplies. We have costs related to Board of Health, building, fire and elevator inspections to keep our kitchen and overall building safe and ADA-accessible.

Our volunteers are tireless: whatever we can capably do ourselves, we do it. We

have saved extraordinary labor costs thanks to our volunteers.

But...we need your help to make ends meet. Please consider a financial gift to UUCW. We welcome *any amount*. You may designate your gift to something specific, such as Set in Stone, Our Neighbor's Kitchen, fuel oil, etc. and we will be happy to channel it appropriately.

You may mail a check to: UUCW, P.O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475, or use our website which is set up for electronic payment:

uucw.ncmuuc.org/support-uucw/

When you drive by our building, or when you visit us for worship, a concert, or other event, you know you have played a role in preserving this beautiful downtown institution in the very heart of Winchendon.

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)

Spring Cleanup

Kudos to Allan Gordon for his landscape work around the front of our church! Allan trimmed back our evergreen hedges, mulched the garden beds and tidied up our front entryway. Thank you Allan for your time and expertise! Our plants are very happy.



An Eye for Miracles

You who have an eye for miracles

Regard the bud now appearing on the
fragile young tree.

It's a mere dot, a nothing.

But already it's a flower,

Already a fruit,

Already its own death and resurrection.

- Diego Valeri