

# THE WINCHENDON UNITARIAN

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon



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**SEPTEMBER 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

### Thursday, September 8

5:30 pm – Our Neighbor’s Kitchen serves  
Cheesy Beef Bake, Parish Hall

### Friday, September 16

9:00 am – 1:00 pm – United Way Day of  
Caring, Sanctuary & Kitchen

### Sunday, September 18

11:00 am – Welcome Back! Water  
Communion Service, Sanctuary

### Sunday, September 18

12:00 pm – Open House & Coffee Hour,  
Sanctuary

### Tuesday, September 20

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

### Thursday, September 22

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor’s Kitchen serves  
Pulled Pork with Mac ‘n Cheese,  
Parish Hall

### Thursday, September 29

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor’s Kitchen serves  
Menu TBD, Parish Hall

### Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

## From Your Editor

It’s easy to stay sequestered. We’re used to looking at people on computer screens. The lethargy of staying at home is firmly entrenched.

There’s plenty of time for that when freezing weather arrives. For now, enjoy the balmy, golden days of late summer. Inhale the fresh fall air, shake a hand and hug a friend. Attend a *live* event. Join us at our Water Communion Service. If you’ve never attended one, it’s a novel way to celebrate nature and share our togetherness over this most fundamental earth element. Meet some new people at our Open House. Stop in for a hot meal and lively conversation at Our Neighbor’s Kitchen. For an hour or so, remind yourself that you are not alone.

See you at church.

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

## **Water Communion Service – Welcome Back!**

Communion: the sharing of thoughts and feelings. At many UU Churches across the country, September is a time to reconvene after summer recess, greet each other once again, and offer a forum for “how are you doing?” We often reopen using water as a symbol of coming back together.

And what better element to revere after the hot, dry summer we’ve had! Join us at 11:00 am on Sunday, September 18. At Water Communion, we celebrate water: fundamental to life and common to every one of us. If you wish, please bring a sample of water to church. This could be from a source of special meaning to you (a river, pond, or your rain barrel), or just from your tap (or the church’s) or even a drinking bottle. We’ll spend some moments celebrating water in poetry, readings and music. We’ll all combine our water samples into a single container along with our hopes, wishes and thoughts for the time ahead. Following the service and coffee hour, those who wish will walk over to the bridge on Whitney Pond, where we will pour the water into the Miller’s River, and in doing so, send collective good tidings downriver and through town.

We look forward to seeing you again.



## **Open House & Coffee Hour - September 18, 12:00 pm**

As vacations wind down and routines resume, we open our doors to greet you again. Join us in the church sanctuary at noon following our Water Communion Service. We welcome returning members as well as the curious.

We are a service-oriented, friendly group open to those who are similarly community-minded, regardless of race, creed, or gender. Would you like to spend some Sunday time with like-minded company? We’d love to see you. We’ll have coffee, tea, treats and warm greetings.

**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://www.facebook.com/uuwinchendon)

## **Strength in Numbers: A Collaboration of UU Churches**

Join us Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 6:30 pm, for an evening of getting acquainted with our fellow UU's in the North Central Massachusetts region! Let's learn about how each of our churches is faring, our strengths and weaknesses, and how collaboratively we may be able to pull each other up in our common goals of tolerance, growth and spiritual exploration.

Where:

First Parish UU Church of Fitchburg,  
923 Main Street

What: Potluck Dinner and Discussion

Who: Representatives from UU  
Churches in North Central  
Massachusetts

RSVP: [fitchburguu@gmail.com](mailto:fitchburguu@gmail.com)

This collaboration is being spear-headed by Jill Sackett of UUCW and Wil Darcangelo, First Parish UU Church, Fitchburg & First Church of Lancaster, UU. More information to follow for those responding. We look forward to meeting you!

## **Change of Address?**

We want to stay in touch! If you change your address, either U.S. Mail or email, let us know: email [jill@sackett.com](mailto:jill@sackett.com) or write to the church at P.O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475.

## **Chillin' With Our Neighbor's Kitchen**

Been by for a meal lately? You have THREE opportunities this month as UUCW cooks on September 8, 22 and 29, with menus shown on the front page of this newsletter. You can also find our menus and updates on our Facebook page and website.

We are hosting a small but growing group indoors, who arrive for early coffee and socializing. We continue to do the bulk of our service as take-out meals, with diners now parking and coming downstairs for packaged dinners.

We were thrilled to receive funding from an anonymous donor to address our increased refrigeration needs. In August we replaced our 20+ year-old residential refrigerator with a commercial grade, free-standing refrigerator with much higher capacity and energy efficient cooling.



We also installed a chest-style freezer that will allow us to purchase and store meat, cheese and butter in bulk, taking advantage of sales and donations we previously could not accommodate.

These appliances represent huge improvements to our program, allowing greater flexibility in shopping, food preparation and storage. We are very grateful to our benefactors who are supporting the work that we do.

## Fall Fest Fundraiser

At long last, the work on Central Street is coming to fruition. All summer we've observed installation of new underground infrastructure, followed by fresh layers of asphalt and completely reconstructed sidewalks and bike lanes. The Town of Winchendon will be showing off our shiny new "main street," at their annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 22.

While UUCW is not hosting a lawn fair that day, we are staffing a booth on the street in front of church. We'll be selling our popular "church chili," which was a sell-out at last year's Fall Fest, along with other comfort foods.

We welcome volunteers to take a shift that day with food prep or food service at our booth. No experience necessary! We have Serv-Safe trained volunteers ready to show you the ropes. Email us at [info@set-in-stone.org](mailto:info@set-in-stone.org) if you'd like to help!.

## United Way Day of Caring...Day of Cleaning

The United Day of Caring is an annual event that mobilizes the power of volunteers from local companies and communities. Last year, over 450 volunteers completed 43 projects at 37 local sites. This year's event takes place on Friday, September 16.

For the first time, UUCW applied to be one of those project sites...and our call has been answered. We are welcoming a group of volunteers to help us clean and organize our kitchen, among other tasks. We can't wait to wash and reline some of those shelves and polish our stainless steel!

For more information about United Way's Day of Caring, visit: [https://uwncm.galaxydigital.com/aem/general/event/24/?doc\\_id=6277](https://uwncm.galaxydigital.com/aem/general/event/24/?doc_id=6277)

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