

# 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

### Tuesday, January 10

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

### Thursday, January 12

5:30 pm – Our Neighbor’s Kitchen serves  
“Church Chili”, Parish Hall

### Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

### Thursday, January 12

6:30 pm – UU Collaborative of North  
Central Massachusetts Meeting &  
Potluck, Parish Hall

### Thursday, January 26

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

## From Your Editor

“The first of January is another day dawning, the sun rising as the sun always rises, the earth moving in its rhythms,

With or without our calendars to name a certain day as the day of new beginning, separating the old from new.

So it is: everything is the same, bound into its history as we ourselves are bound.

Yet also we stand at a threshold, the New Year something truly new, still unformed, leaving a stunning power in our hands:

What shall we do with this great gift of Time, this New Year?

Let us begin by remembering that whatever justice, whatever peace and wholeness might bloom in our world this year,

We are the hearts and minds, the hands and feet, the embodiment of all the best visions of our people.

The new year can be new ground for the seeds of our dreams.

Let us take the step forward together, on new ground,

Planting our dreams well, faithfully, and in joy.” - Kathleen McTigue

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

## Fond December Highlights

Your UU colleagues are taking a well-deserved rest after a happy and full December. Our biggest day of the month was certainly Saturday, December 10.

We hosted a trifecta of events on December 10. First, we welcomed a steady stream of history buffs taking part in the Winchendon History and Cultural Center's biannual Tour of Historic Homes. Jill Sackett welcomed visitors clutching their tell-tale tour brochures and regaled them with anecdotes about our colorful past. Jill shared stories about the building of this lovely granite structure (completed in one year!), its founders, and the irreplaceable materials contained inside. For example, all were surprised to hear we used to have a creek running through our basement, which was diverted many years ago over to a culvert running alongside the concrete wall by the post office. We never get tired of people exclaiming how beautiful our church is...and we agree!

Second, our Holiday Bazaar featured both floors of our church packed with vendors. Lucky shoppers chose from foodstuffs (chocolates, gourmet popcorn, jam and cocoa bombs), crafts (wood art, crochet, hand-sewn novelties, wreaths and jewelry) and popular lines such as Pampered Chef, Color Street and Posh. UUCW joined in with our

Cookie Sale...Joe Sackett and Kathy Fugatt were constantly busy and sent over *60 dozen* cookies out the door! The decorations and background music made for a festive and bustling day.



Third, we closed the happy day with a concert by the Harrisville Brass Quintet. Pictured below, this talented ensemble performed a variety of tunes, entertaining the audience with stories about the selections being played. It was a fitting end to the busiest day of the year for UUCW.



The frigid cold does not deter we New Englanders. UUCW held their annual Christmas Eve service on December 24, welcoming folks in for traditional carols, pipe organ and piano duets by Sharon Beaty and Alison Wilder, and a thought-provoking homily by Rev. Inanna Arthen encouraging us all to find the *grace* in Christmas. We closed with the passing of candlelight flame throughout the congregation and holding our flames aloft for a magical moment of contemplation.

All in all, December brought UUCW many visitors, music, good cheer, and much-needed income for our continued maintenance and repairs.

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://facebook.com/uuwinchendon)

## UU Collaborative of North Central Massachusetts: Second Meeting

Our endeavor to network amongst our fellow UU churches now has an “official” name and Facebook page: The UU Collaborative of North Central Massachusetts. Follow our posts at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/832013087933981>

Our first meeting last October at the First Parish Church of Fitchburg (UU) served to introduce ourselves and determine whether we wished to proceed forward with an organized effort. With thumbs firmly up, we have planned a second collaboration meeting for Thursday, January 12, 6:30 pm.

UUCW will be hosting this meeting in our Parish Hall immediately following the Our Neighbors Kitchen (ONK) meal that evening. We’ll be offering the full chili menu served at ONK, and meeting attendees are welcome to bring additional dishes to pass. We’ll continue our discussions on inter-congregational support, best practices, and how to effectively brand ourselves in today’s environment.

The meeting is open to all UU’s (not just officers or board members) and we sincerely hope to see you there.

Strength in numbers!

## Set in Stone Awards Contract for Phase 3

Our pre-bid meeting for Set in Stone Phase 3 “Tower Cricket Repair” was held on a sunny fall morning. The meeting was led by Principal Architect Doug Manley of the Spencer Preservation Group, and attended by two firms from Massachusetts, and two firms from Connecticut, with several others expressing interest. All specialize in historic restoration and present impressive resumes of projects completed on multiple historic properties across New England.

For the curious, a tower cricket is a sloped backing that diverts water away from the tower and down the roof. A roofer builds the cricket out of wood and then adds metal flashing on top. The repair of the tower cricket will be complex. It includes replacing the current failing cricket with a new cricket of steeper pitch. New copper flashing will be installed. The north facing tower will be stripped and repointed, and a leaky window sill on the first dormer window will be replaced. When complete, we should have completely stopped up the water ingress into the sanctuary that we have been experiencing.

UUCW was fortunate to receive five excellent and competitive bids for our Phase 3 Repairs. The Massachusetts Historical Commission reviewed the

contractor bid tabulations and recommendations from Spencer Preservation Group for the best value and qualified bidder. We collectively identified Calhess Restoration & Waterproofing Corporation of Westwood, Massachusetts as the preferred contractor for this phase of work.

Calhess Restoration & Waterproofing Corp. has been in business for over 68 years providing a range of services including Brick and Stone restoration, Commercial Waterproofing, Garage and Concrete Restoration and Waterproofing, Sealants, Caulking, Grouting, and General Contracting and Consulting to the greater New England area. Some of their historic restoration work includes the Marblehead, MA Town Hall; Concord, MA Town Hall; Fort Sewell in Marblehead, MA; and Fort Hill Tower in Boston, MA.

We have contacted Calhess and they have accepted our offer to move forward with them on the contract. We plan to schedule work as soon as feasible in Spring 2023.

### Contact Information

**Governing Board Chair:**

Jill Nicholson Sackett  
(224) 567-3635  
Email: [jill@sackett.com](mailto:jill@sackett.com)

**Governing Board Members:**

Allan Gordon  
Rev. Emerita Inanna Arthen (Clerk)  
Dave Faucher (Auditor)