

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 9

11:00 am – Easter Service & Egg Hunt,
Sanctuary & Church Grounds

Thursday, April 13

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
Cioppino (Italian Seafood Stew),
Parish Hall

Sunday, April 16

4:00 pm – “Pipes & Platter” Organ
Concert & Dinner,
Sanctuary & Parish Hall

Tuesday, April 18

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

Thursday, April 27

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves
“Earth Day” Dinner,
Parish Hall

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

From Your Editor

This column usually contains a snippet of local interest, but this month I diverge. Your April newsletter is unusually long, as we call attention to some major changes proposed by our parent organization, the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The UU faith has long been one of openness and tolerance. We don't ascribe to any specific creed; we only ask that anyone wishing to join our church uphold seven Principles.

Those Principles are now proposed to be eliminated and replaced with a substantially new set of Values. Please see the enclosed overview summarizing this proposal, with links to additional information. This is an important time for UUs to take a look at where we are heading nationally, and to make your voices heard. More to follow...

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

Easter Sunday Service and Egg Hunt

After that last snowy onslaught we are more than ready for a glimpse of bare ground and Spring! Join us on Sunday, April 9 at 11:00 am for a family-friendly Easter service. This lay-led program will feature music, singing, and messages of renewal from Christian and Buddhist faiths.

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. Enjoy this uplifting and nontraditional service. Coffee hour and refreshments to follow.



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)

Pipes and Platter: A Gala Concert!



All systems are “go” for our gala concert and dinner scheduled for Sunday, April 16, 4:00 pm. Our organ is being serviced the week prior. Guest artist George Bozeman has been acquainting himself with our 19th century instrument. A wealth of concert notes will be included in the printed program for the curious. The chorales will include some recognizable tunes, including the favorite “Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring.” The hour-long concert is free, thanks to a grant from the Winchendon Cultural Council.

An optional four-course, sit-down dinner with Mr. Bozeman will follow the concert in our lower level Parish Hall. The full menu is:

- *White wine onion soup*
- *Baby spinach salad with feta, walnuts and cranberries; red wine vinaigrette*
- *Garlic chicken breast in Dijon cream sauce over fluffed rice*
- *Blueberry squares, lemon-yogurt garnish*

Dinner tickets are \$15 per person (\$8 under age 10), available at the door, with all proceeds going to our Set in Stone campaign. Pre-orders are rolling in; to secure a dinner spot we encourage you to pre-pay online at our website:

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

At the dinner we'll be sharing pictures of our Set in Stone building restoration efforts that have been underway since 2019, and acknowledging our generous Set in Stone supporters.

Come for the free concert, and/or purchase tickets for a delicious and elegant dinner. We look forward to celebrating with you.

A Second Bird's Eye View

We bring you another rare view of our church, thanks again to the keen eye and drone work of Winchendon neighbor and photographer Kyle Bradley. The cross atop our building, especially in this month of Easter, reminds us that we have evolved out of Christian roots.



UU Collaborative of North Central Massachusetts Establishes Regional Calendar

Our third collaboration meeting, hosted by the UU Society of Gardner, had a tech-heavy emphasis. Attendees learned how to view our newly-created Central Mass UU regional Google calendar and to publish/share their church's events within it.

The simplest way to subscribe to our regional calendar is to click on this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/NCMASSUU>

This will allow you to view all events posted by us and other UU churches in our Collaborative.

This online calendar allows each of our individual churches to publish our events to a regional audience. It is simple to use and as effective as we make it.

Please watch for and attend regional events of interest. We UU's are remarkably active. A number of events have already been published (including ours)!

For the latest news and updates, follow the Collaborative on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/832013087933981

UUA Overhauls Bylaws, Article II

There is a seismic change underfoot in the Unitarian Universalist world. Our parent organization, the Unitarian Universalist Association, appointed a commission in 2020 to examine the Principles and Purposes listed in Article II of their bylaws, largely unchanged since 1985.

The commission was instructed that “new Principles and Purposes should guide us in the transformation of ourselves, our communities and our faith into active networks of collective care, restoration, and justice. The Principles and Purposes you will prepare should be a living document that challenges Unitarian Universalists to place the liberation, in all its dimensions, of all, at the center of our lives. They should be honest about our past, name what we are facing and our aspirations and where we hope to be not for just today but looking out at the horizons. They should ask us to choose Love in Action as the path forward.”

Following many hours of introspection, interviews and outreach the commission has produced a comprehensive report. It recommends a substantial revision of our Purpose and replacement of all of our Principles with a set of Value statements.

Our current Purpose statement reads:

“The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational and humanitarian purposes. **The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions and implement its principles.**

The proposed new Purpose reads:

“The Unitarian Universalist Association will devote its resources to and use its organizational powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. **Its primary purposes are to assist congregations in their vital ministries, support and train leaders both lay and professional, to foster lifelong faith formation, to heal historic injustices, and to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world. The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association is to actively engage its members in the transformation of the world through liberating Love.**”

The current Principles that UUs covenant to uphold are:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The commission eliminates these Principles and replaces them with a covenant to uphold six *action-oriented* Values centered around a center value of Love:

Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence. We covenant to cherish Earth and all beings by creating and nurturing relationships of care and respect. With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life, and we work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

Pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, experience, and theology. We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

Justice. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions.

Transformation. We adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity. We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

The UUA website offers more information on their front page about these changes: <https://www.uua.org/>

In contrast, a sub-group of UUs has formed in opposition to these changes, creating a website titled “Save the 7 Principles”:

<https://savethe7principles.wordpress.com/>

These changes will come to a preliminary vote at the UUA General Assembly this June. UUCW is allowed to send two voting delegates, and we’d like to know what you think so our vote may reflect our collective views. Please examine this topic and stay tuned for more...