

# 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

### Thursday, March 9

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves  
Peachy Pork over Rice,  
Parish Hall

### Sunday, March 12

11:00 am – Meet 'n Greet Social Hour,  
Sanctuary

### Sunday, March 19

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

### Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

### Tuesday, March 21

6:30 pm – UU Collaborative of North  
Central Massachusetts Meeting,  
UU Society of Gardner, 66 Elm Street  
*(rescheduled from February 28)*

### Thursday, March 23

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves  
Traditional Irish Dinner,  
Parish Hall

### Thursday, March 30

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor's Kitchen serves  
Traditional Easter Dinner,  
Parish Hall

## From Your Editor

For those of us living in Northern climates, March tests one's faith. The raw weather persists, that late snowfall makes us exclaim "enough already!" My friends in Boston are seeing daffodils emerge and those in Washington DC are already planting their gardens.

I love living in four seasons. There is something so cleansing about winter, something so reaffirming about the greening of the earth. I wouldn't want to miss it.

Our patience will be rewarded. And how much more we relish the warming when it comes. Time for renewal. Time for optimism and planning. Time for Spring.

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

## **Pipes and Platter: A Gala Concert!**



Save the date! The stars have aligned, and we are finally able to schedule a long-awaited and much overdue celebration of the progress we have made on our Set in Stone building restoration. We have a double line-up on Sunday, April 16.

First, we will be showcasing our beautiful 1868 E. & G.G. Hook pipe organ in concert at 4:00 pm. Guest Organist George Bozeman will be at the keyboard. A native of Texas, Mr. Bozeman has had dual careers both playing and building organs. He has performed across the United States and in Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean, France and Germany. He is currently Organist and Director of Music at the First Congregational Church of Pembroke, New Hampshire. Mr. Bozeman will be featuring the Chorales of J.S. Bach in an hour-long program. This concert and Mr. Bozeman's appearance is supported in full by a grant from the Winchendon Cultural Council. Admission to the concert is free.

Second, concert attendees will have the option of enjoying a special 4-course sit-down dinner in our Parish Hall following the concert. Diners will have the opportunity to sit and chat with Mr. Bozeman over a delicious menu prepared by UUCW's Our Neighbor's Kitchen chefs. We will also be acknowledging our supporters of our Set in Stone campaign, without whom we could not have made such significant progress.

Tickets are required for the 4-course dinner at \$15 per person (\$8 for age 10 and under). They will be sold at the entrance to the Parish Hall following the concert. Advance purchase of dinner tickets is highly encouraged and can be made at our web site:

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

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

## **Meet 'n Greet March 12, 11:00 am**

Join us in the church sanctuary for a special open house on Sunday, March 12, at 11:00 am. We're hoping to welcome a number of folks who have expressed interest in our church. We would love to hear what you're looking for in a church community.

We are considering beginning a series of “First Sundays” in which we hold programs and meetings on the first Sunday of the month. We would love the input of those who would like to join a friendly, community-minded, non-judgmental congregation. Please stop in...we’ll have coffee, tea, treats and warm greetings.

## **Spring Project: Reclaiming the North Gardens**

It has been over two years since we overhauled our front gardens and I can safely report that we have them “under control.” We now enjoy a pollinator’s paradise with a profusion of sweet catmint and other delights.

We are turning our attention to our next opportunity: the north side garden beds. Hiding beyond the Equal Access Entrance, many people do not even know they exist. The ferns, hosta and other shade-loving plants have fallen prey to overgrowth and weeds. This area is a favorite for wedding photographers and offers a meditative spot away from the noise of Central Street.

Would you like to help us clean up these beds? With a proper crew we could clear everything in a matter of hours. We have the tools, wheelbarrow and plans; we just need you and a date to execute! Please contact Jill Sackett: [jill@sackett.com](mailto:jill@sackett.com) if you can help.

## **UU Collaborative of North Central Massachusetts (NCM): Meeting Rescheduled**

We had ample weather forecasts to convince us to cancel our third UU Collaborative of NCM meeting planned for February 28. Potential attendees were happy to stay off the roads, and curl up with their heaters, fireplaces and hot drinks and appreciate the lovely snowfall from indoors.

The UU Society of Gardner, 66 Elm Street, still plans to host the next meeting. It has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 6:30 pm. The meeting will include a tutorial on how to use a shared Google calendar and continue other topics of mutual interest. For the latest news and updates, follow the Collaborative on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/groups/832013087933981](http://www.facebook.com/groups/832013087933981)

### **Contact Information**

#### **Governing Board Chair:**

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#### **Governing Board Members:**

Allan Gordon

Rev. Emerita Inanna Arthen (Clerk)

Dave Faucher (Auditor)

## National Women's History Month: UUCW Women

March is National Women's History Month and gives us pause to consider some of the considerable contributions of UUCW women. With our upcoming pipe organ concert, we will focus on the role UUCW women played in the birth of our 1868 E. & G.G. Hook pipe organ.

In short, we have the women of UUCW to thank for having an organ at all. The original plans for the church did not include an organ. Catching wind of this, the church women lobbied successfully for an organ, and accordingly, one was ordered. Delays at the Boston factory prevented the organ from being installed in time for the building's dedication in 1867, but it was installed in February 1868. The organ was purchased largely through funds raised from a three-day long yard sale (the first of continuous yard sales held by UUCW since 1867).

The first church organist was Sophia Murdock Whitney, an accomplished keyboardist, with numerous women organists interspersed throughout its playing history.

### UUCW Online

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)

## A Bird's Eye View

Winchendon neighbor and photographer Kyle Bradley has taken to the skies with his drone and his keen eye. We'll be posting some of his work in upcoming newsletters. The following aerial shot should put to rest any doubts one might have that UUCW is indeed a central focal point in our town. Our thanks to Kyle for sharing his skilled work.



## Awakening

Never yet was a springtime,  
Late though lingered the snow,  
That the sap stirred not at the whisper  
Of south wind, sweet and low;  
Never yet was a springtime  
When buds forgot to blow.

Ever the wings of summer  
Are folded under the mold;  
Life that has known no dying  
Is Love's to have and to hold,  
Til sudden, the burgeoning Easter!  
The song – the green and the gold!

- Margaret E. Sangster