

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 67 Issue 9

MAY 2023

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, May 7

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

Thursday, May 11

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor’s Kitchen serves
Baked Ziti w/ Meat Sauce, Parish Hall

Tuesday, May 16

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

Friday, May 19

12:30 – 2:00 pm – North Garden
Cleanup, Church Grounds

Thursday, May 25

5:30 pm - Our Neighbor’s Kitchen serves
Alaskan Pollock, Parish Hall

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

From Your Editor

Spring has sprung – and so have we. May and June bring constant activity to UUCW. May is our month of preparation: extra cleaning, decluttering and airing out. Even our yard is abuzz with Set in Stone construction, turf repair and gardening. The hedges are trimmed, the daffodils are blooming, and the grass is finally greening.

Join us at our Blessing of the Bulbs service on Sunday, May 7, to welcome each other and our warming weather. This is our fourth annual bulb tribute. Attendees can look forward to taking home a promise of color in the form of gladiolis bulbs. Bring a friend, enjoy some music, readings and fellowship. And remember...“The Earth laughs in flowers” (Ralph Waldo Emerson).

See you at church.

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

“Blessing of the Bulbs” Sunday Service

Many UU congregations perform a “Flower Communion” ceremony this time of year, trading samples of lovely cut flowers to take home and enjoy. The “Blessing of the Bulbs” is UUCW’s version of this uniquely UU ritual. Instead of cut flowers, we share gladiola bulbs. They take a little more work, and a little more patience, but we are all rewarded with a glorious spray of color come August.

Join us for this celebration of the life cycle on Sunday, May 7 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 (recently tidied up for the season) for all on Central Street to admire.

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



Pipes and Platter Gala Showcases UUCW

A combination concert and elegant dinner are a rare combination in Winchendon, but UUCW delivered the goods on Sunday, April 16 with our first ever “Pipes and Platter” event.



About 60 music-lovers, many from chapters of the American Guild of Organists, assembled to hear classical recording artist George Bozeman perform a series of Bach chorales on our 1868 E. & G.G. Hook organ. Following the standing-ovation concert, attendees proceeded downstairs for a four-course meal delivered in seamless fashion by the chefs and wait-staff from Our Neighbor’s Kitchen.



We shared our celebratory remarks and a “looping” slide show with our diners about our Set in Stone campaign. We were honored to have a number of special guests in attendance who have supported our campaign through letters, donations, and grant awards. It was an evening full of positivity and hope for our future.

Calhess Kicks off Set in Stone Phase 3

The tell-tale equipment is once again stationed in front of our church, signaling the start of Phase 3 masonry repairs. Thus far, the work has all been accomplished from a lift which carries masons up to the valley area between the bell tower and main building. Thus far the north face of the tower has been freed of old grout and prepped for new tuck-pointing. Additional workers will be in to rebuild the cricket which shunts water out of the valley and off of the roof. This work will continue into June but have minimal impact on any of our outdoor activities.

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)

UUCW’s Annual Fundraising Drive

Throughout May and June we earnestly review our finances and prepare for our Annual Meeting. At this time, 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.

UUCW operates three separate budgets. We maintain a dedicated budget for our Set in Stone capital campaign. Building repairs of this scale are major expenses that we fund primarily through grants, fundraising and donations. Our Phase 3 Set in Stone budget crests \$115,000.

We also maintain a dedicated budget for Our Neighbor’s Kitchen community suppers. UUCW has provided a welcoming environment and hot meal to Winchendon residents for over 27 years of continuous operation. At-the-door donations from our diners cover about half of our expenses. We also receive financial donations from individuals and in-kind donations from the Community Action Committee (food pantry surplus). This year, we received a special grant to upgrade portions of our 1950’s-era kitchen, and we expect extra expenditures once that project launches.

The least glamorous, but arguably most important budget covers all of our Operational expenses. We have all seen our household electric, fuel and water

bills skyrocket and the same has happened for our church. 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.

We accomplish a tremendous amount with our limited funds thanks to the extraordinary dedication and effort from our volunteers. Jobs normally performed by paid professionals are managed by our amazing volunteers: grant-writing, project management, newsletter production and printing, meal preparation, serving, custodial work, small repairs and gardening. We are eternally grateful.

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.

June 17 Summer Solstice Lawn Fair

Calling all vendors! Our annual Summer Solstice Lawn Fair will be on Saturday, June 17, 9 AM - 2 PM. We're looking for crafters, retail vendors, yard salers, and food vendors...the more the merrier! All vendors will receive a full 12' by 12' display space and our advertising help through social media and flyers.

The Clark Memorial YMCA is running their Summer Solstice Fair across the street at the same time, featuring children's attractions and vendors down on their athletic field, a morning road race, AND a parade along Central Street mid-morning. We expect a good draw downtown.

For more information and an application form, please visit our website: <https://uucw.ncmuuc.org/summer-fair/>

UUCW Online

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

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

Facebook: facebook.com/uuwinchendon