

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, November 9

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

Tuesday, November 14

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

Friday, November 24

10:00 am – 1:00 pm – Annual Spirit of
Christmas Toy Drive and Decorating
Party, Circle Drive and Sanctuary

Thursday, November 30

5:30 pm – Our Neighbor’s Kitchen serves
Loaded Mac ‘n Cheese, Parish Hall

Saturday, December 9

10:00 am – 4:00 pm – WHCC Holiday
Home Tour, Sanctuary

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

Sunday, December 10

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Yule Log-Making
Workshop, Parish Hall

Thursday, December 14

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

Saturday, December 16

10:00 am – 2:00 pm – Holiday Bazaar &
Cookie Sale, Sanctuary & Parish Hall

Saturday, December 16

4:00 pm – Harrisville Brass Quintet,
Sanctuary

Sunday, December 24

7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service, Sanctuary

Thursday, December 28

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

From Your Editor

I’ll keep this short (because the calendar didn’t leave me much room!). November at UUCW is “the calm before the storm” of December activity. We trust you will be thankfully celebrating over turkey this month, whether at Our Neighbor’s Kitchen and/or the home of family or friends. Mark your calendars for a parade of events at UUCW ranging from a charitable toy drive, Yule log-making, Hanukkah and Christmas dinners, indoor Holiday Bazaar, a brass concert, cookie sales, and our enduring candlelight Christmas Eve service. Share your goodwill...your traditions...and *you*.

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive & Decorating Party

As we move into a season steeped in tradition, thankfulness and giving, we take pause to acknowledge that there are many in our community who are still struggling. One of UUCW's long-standing traditions is our annual toy drive held on the Friday following Thanksgiving. This year our "elves" will be standing out front on November 24 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Look for the brightly colored hats and holiday music provided by DJ Kayden Gordon. You can stay in the warm comfort of your car, drive right through our circle, and deposit new (or like-new) gifts, cash and gift cards into waiting hands. We'll deliver all of the collected gifts to the Winchendon Fire Department as part of their town-wide toy drive. Your contribution will make a difference for a needy family this season.

During the same time, we'll be decorating for the holidays in our sanctuary. Stop on in and help us turn our sanctuary into a festive, welcoming place. We'll have music and warm drinks...and all of the supplies awaiting you.

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)

Our Neighbor's Kitchen Turkey Extravaganza

Dave Faucher returns to the church kitchen on Thursday November 9, 5:30 pm to treat us all to a no-holds-barred turkey dinner. Sit among friends and enjoy a heaping plate of roast turkey, gravy, potatoes, stuffing, veggies and scrumptious dessert. This is likely the most eagerly anticipated ONK meal of the year.

Following Thanksgiving, Rev. Inanna Arthen will make a much-appreciated return to the kitchen on November 30 to serve up loaded mac 'n cheese.

“Church Chili” a Sell- Out at Fall Festival

When the weather zigs, the community zags. Event planners in 2023 have unfortunately gotten used to torrential weekend rains. So when the Winchendon Fall Festival's original date of Saturday, October 7 was threatened with yet another deluge, the town ran a quick poll of over 200 festival participants, and nimbly pivoted the entire event to Sunday, October 8.

UUCW was happy to tag along. Our marvelous volunteers cleared their Sunday calendars and we set up our curbside concession stand bright and early. Festival-goers came out in droves, and were they ever hungry!

This year we offered both our meaty “church chili” and multi-bean vegetarian chili prepared by chefs Inanna Arthen, Jean LaDuke and Jill Sackett.

Booth volunteers Kathy Fugatt and Jean LaDuke ably managed a steady stream of food orders. By late afternoon, they had sold several *gallons* of chili and over 100 hot dogs! We closed up concessions with only bagged chips and some stray cans of soda remaining.

We enjoyed seeing so many of you stopping to say hello, and grabbing a bite to eat. It was a wonderful day for a street fair and a great fundraiser for our church.

4th Annual Holiday Cookie Sale

We’re watching for the butter sales and stocking up...hoping for record orders for this year’s Holiday Cookie Sale. Once again, we’ll be offering classic iced, triple chocolate chip, peppermint plunge, snickerdoodles, or a “variety” sampler.

At only \$7 – \$8 per dozen it’s easy to stock up. Those who pre-pay will receive complimentary gift-wrapping. We encourage pre-orders to help us plan quantities, which can be made now through December 8 at our website:

<https://uucw.ncmuuc.org/order-your-cookies-here/>



Pick up your cookie order at our Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 16, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Can’t make that date? We’ll work something out with you. Those attending our Holiday Bazaar and/or Harrisville Brass Quintet that day can also purchase at our “cookie counter” downstairs while supplies last.

This is a great, affordable way to acquire a tasty selection of home-made treats to have ready for family, friends, or that last-minute gift. This year our proceeds will go towards our continued Set in Stone building preservation work.

“Shop Local” at UUCW’s Holiday Bazaar

Keep it simple this year...and support your neighbors. We are pleased to report that our December 16 Holiday Bazaar is already bursting with vendors! Our local crafters will be selling hand-sewn or crocheted clothing, home décor and toys; pet treats; wood-burned art; tumblers; bookmarks and cards bearing original art; custom wreaths; and honey-based soaps and lotions. We’ll also have popular lines such as Scentsy, Pampered Chef, 31 Bags and Color Street. Favorite nibbles include Flynn’s chocolates and UUCW’s own home-made holiday cookies. Stocking stuffers abound!

Mark your calendars to stroll both floors of the decorated church, enjoy a hot beverage and treat, and pick up some lovely one-of-a-kind gifts for your friends and family.



Saturday, December 16

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

126 Central Street

Shop Local! Two Floors of Vendors!
Crafts Gift Items Bake Sale

The Corn Song

Heap high the farmer’s wintry hoard!
Heap high the golden corn!
No richer gift has Autumn poured
From out her lavish horn!

Let other lands, exulting, glean
The apple from the pine,
The orange from its glossy green,
The cluster from the vine;

We better love the hardy gift
Our rugged vales bestow,
To cheer us when the storm shall drift
Our harvest-fields with snow.

Through vales of grass and meads of flowers,
Our plows their furrows made,
While on the hills the sun and showers
Of changeful April played.

We dropped the seed o’er hill and plain,
Beneath the sun of May,
And frightened from our sprouting grain
The robber crows away.

All through the long, bright days of June
Its leaves grew green and fair,
And waved in hot midsummer’s noon
Its soft and yellow hair.

And now, with Autumn’s moonlit eves,
Its harvest time has come,
We pluck away the frosted leaves
And bear the treasure home.

John G. Whittier

Contact Information

Governing Board Chair:

Jill Nicholson Sackett (Treasurer)

Governing Board Members:

Allan Gordon: (Member)

Rev. Emerita Inanna Arthen (Clerk)

Dave Faucher (Auditor)