

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 68 Issue 4

DECEMBER 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, 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
Roast Chicken 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

Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

From Your Editor

UUCW has been following the Christmas Eve candlelight tradition for decades. The ritual of sharing candlelight amongst those gathered has multiple meanings. For some, it symbolizes the Star of Bethlehem, or the light of Jesus. For others, it represents the reassurance of illumination during one of the shortest and darkest days of the year. And yet others see the passing of light as a way of sharing a common bond of fellowship. For all, it is a magical moment of contemplation and peace.

Please join us this December 24 for a time of contemplation, gratitude and consideration for each other.

Savor and pass the light. Savor and pass your friendship.

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

Yule Log-Making Workshop

Just what is a Yule log anyway? What is the tradition of burning a Yule log and where did it originate? Join us for a fun, new, *free* event on Sunday, December 10 from 1 – 3 pm as Alison Lansing leads us through an educational and creative afternoon. Alison will supply all of the materials including fresh-cut birch logs, candles, greens, berries, pine cones, ribbons, and other décor. We'll have hot tea, coffee, and cocoa at the ready so you may sip while you wrap, glue and staple.



You are welcome to take your newly decorated log home with you to burn during winter solstice or at another time. Alternatively, you may “loan” or donate your log to UUCW for our Yule log display at our Christmas Eve service. Either way, bring your curiosity and creativity on Sunday.

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)

Come on Over! UUCW Holiday Bazaar & 4th Annual Cookie Sale



Expect a full house at our Holiday Bazaar scheduled for Saturday, December 16 from 10 am – 2 pm! We moved furniture, optimized our space, and have a record number of vendors signed up to offer shoppers a wide variety of wares. Stroll two floors of displays against a backdrop of cheerful holiday music and decorations.

Stop at our warm kitchen downstairs to purchase a hot beverage and freshly baked treat from our annual cookie sale. Choose from classic iced, triple chocolate chip, peppermint plunge, snickerdoodles, or a “variety” pack. We’ll even have several types of sugar-free and/or gluten-free cookies available that day to sample and buy. Want to stock up for family and friends? We’re taking pre-orders now through December 10 at our website to help us plan quantities. Those who pre-order

and pre-pay will receive complimentary gift-wrap. Order here:

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

Can't pick up your cookie order on December 16? No problem; we'll work out other options with you.

Your Holiday Bazaar purchases support our local vendors, and all of our vendor rental fees and food sales go towards our operational costs and ongoing Set in Stone building repairs.

Given this year's pattern of uncooperative weather, we have a backup "snow" plan. In the event of poor but navigable weather, we will hold the Holiday Bazaar on Saturday December 16 as planned, providing we have enough vendors interested and able to set up. However, we may continue the Bazaar on the following day - Sunday, December 17, for the same hours to allow ample shopping opportunity. In the case of *severe* weather, we will postpone the Bazaar completely on Saturday and open the following day for the same hours. We will post late-breaking weather updates as needed on our Facebook page: facebook.com/uuwinchendon

and our website: <https://uucw.ncmuuc.org/> ...or you may email the church to inquire on status: info@set-in-stone.org

Your Holiday Bazaar purchases support our local vendors, and all of our vendor rental fees and food sales go towards our operational costs and ongoing Set in Stone building repairs.

Harrisville Brass Quintet Brings Holiday Cheer

UUCW is very pleased to welcome back the New Hampshire-based Harrisville Brass Quintet on Saturday, December 16, at 4 pm for an afternoon concert of seasonal favorites. This fine ensemble (two trumpets, French horn, trombone and tuba) will be performing a delightful mix of classical music in our decorated sanctuary. The concert will take place on the heels of the Holiday Bazaar held earlier that day.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon
presents
A Holiday Concert
featuring
THE
HARRISVILLE BRASS QUINTET
free to the public!
sanctuary is fully accessible



Saturday, December 16 4:00 p.m.
126 Central Street, Winchendon

The Harrisville Brass Quintet, based in Harrisville, NH. From left to right: Rick Anderson, Trumpet - Acute, NH; Chris Goding, Trombone - Springfield, VT; Larry Jones, Tuba - Windsor, VT; Kevin Christian, French Horn - Bennington, NH; Bob Coviello, Trumpet - Harrisville, NH.

Mass Cultural Council Sponsored by: Winchendon Cultural Council

The Harrisville Brass Quintet was organized by trumpeter Bob Coviello in the spring of 2022. Its five seasoned members play in numerous area ensembles.

This performance is made possible through a generous grant from the Winchendon Cultural Council. It is free, family-friendly, and open to the entire community.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



On Christmas Eve, December 24, at 7:00 pm UUCW will hold our annual Candlelight Service. This lay-led service will acknowledge several mid-winter traditions: winter solstice, celebrations of light, and the birth of Jesus. We will close with the passing of fellowship and candlelight. This year we will enjoy “extra” illumination in the form of Yule Logs from our workshop held on December 10.

Steven Lindberg will play our 1868 pipe organ, and you can count on the opportunity to sing a few of your favorite Christmas carols. Join us for a lovely hour of togetherness.

Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive: Winchendon Delivers!

Our sincere thanks to the Gordon family and everyone who stopped by on Saturday, November 24 to donate to UUCW's annual Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive! Al Gordon and his crew braved the chilly weather and greeted donors driving through our front circle. DJ

Kayden Gordon broadcast holiday music with a country flair. We collected a trunk-load of new games, sports equipment, puzzles and even hand-woven winter wear for the drive. Everything was delivered to the Winchendon Community Action Committee who is continuing to receive toy donations for the holidays. Thank you, Winchendon, for your generosity!



Cancelled: Saturday, December 9

10:00 am – 4:00 pm – WHCC

Holiday Home Tour, Sanctuary

Please note that the Winchendon History & Cultural Center (WHCC) has cancelled their Holiday Home Tour in which we were taking part. We hope it resumes next year. Please visit our decorated sanctuary during one of our other December events.

Contact Information

Governing Board Chair:

Jill Nicholson Sackett (Treasurer)

Governing Board Members:

Allan Gordon: (Member)

Rev Inanna Arthen, Minister Emerita (Clerk)

Dave Faucher (Auditor)