

# 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 14

5:30 pm – Our Neighbor’s Kitchen  
serves Turkey Tostadas,  
Parish Hall

### Tuesday, March 26

6:30 pm – Governing Board  
Meeting, Dial-In  
(RSVP Jill Sackett)

### Mondays

7:45 pm - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

### Thursday, March 28

5:30 pm – Our Neighbor’s Kitchen  
serves Cottage Pie & Soda Bread,  
Parish Hall

### Sunday, March 31

11:00 am – Easter Sunday Service  
and Egg Hunt, Sanctuary &  
Church Lawns

## From Your Editor

In last month’s newsletter, we initiated some musings on “love” and how it is a fundamental source of all things good. We continue these musings in this issue. In this month of Easter, when we reflect on sacrifice and selflessness, let us also reflect on how these emerge from...you guessed it...a place of love. Join us on Easter Sunday, March 31 for recognition and celebration of love through sacrifice.

These are difficult and divisive times. But we are not alone, and we are not divided, when we come from a place of love.

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

## Easter Sunday Service and Egg Hunt

Welcome Spring! Join us on Sunday, March 31 at 11:00 am for a family-friendly Easter service. During this lay-led program we will touch on the concept of sacrifice. We all know that Easter is a time to contemplate Jesus' crucifixion and "dying for our sins," but what does sacrifice mean in the broader sense...and in today's world? We'll explore this through readings and music.

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](http://www.set-in-stone.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/uuwinchendon](https://www.facebook.com/uuwinchendon)

## Challenge of Easter

"It has always been said that Jesus saved others, but himself he could not save. On the contrary, I think that by his integrity and his courage and his love he saved himself, but we have to save *ourselves*. We save ourselves and our world partly by embodying his courage and his love, and by conquering defeat and mastering fear. Can we read the Sermon on the Mount and practice it? Can we love our neighbors as ourselves? Can we be offended, even crucified, and forgive?"

A people without vision will surely perish. The celebration of Easter should revive our vision of the beauty and the wonder of life, and of the soul and the civilization that are meant to be. But we must add to that vision love. We need love, for our parents and our children and each other and even for our enemies. We need love more than wealth or happiness or power. We need love in the place of hatred, and love as an alternative to fear.

We must learn more and more to act in accordance with the principles that we profess. We cannot praise justice and act with injustice, or talk about kindness and do that which is unkind, or exalt faithfulness and be disloyal to the people and ideals that we cherish.

Easter betokens integrity and the triumph of unselfishness over selfishness. Easter is a time to commit ourselves."

*-Reverend Dana Mclean Greely  
Easter Sunday, April 11, 1971*

## Set in Stone Gears Up for Phase 4

Launched in 2019, our Set in Stone capital campaign to restore our beautiful granite building continues apace. The schedule of grant writing and execution of repair work alternates on a yearly basis. In 2023, we executed Phase 3 repairs, including a complete rebuild of the “valley” between our tower and main building, and grout repairs on sections of the tower. 2024 is a grant-writing year. Our proposed Phase 4 work will address the next most urgent area of deterioration: the West tower wall.



Tucked around the back, away from Central Street, and facing Pleasant Street, the West tower wall is not readily noticed. But a close look at it (see next picture) reveals major areas of missing mortar, cracks, and shifting of stones. The clover-shaped trefoil window also has open areas around it. We’ve had the window patched from the inside – a temporary and partial fix. All of this leads to water ingress: the biggest enemy of any building.



Once again, we are applying to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) for a Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund grant. This is a matching grant program, and we are eternally grateful to the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation for having promised us the necessary matching funds.

The grant application is rigorous, requiring engineering reports, repair plans, budgets and detailed photographs. The application also asked for letters of community support. We were most grateful to obtain letters from the Winchendon History and Cultural Center, the Town of Winchendon Building Commissioner, the Community Action Committee, Toy Town AA, the Winchendon Courier, Our Neighbor’s Kitchen diners, and the Winchendon Historic Commission. We thank all of these folks for their kind words.

We’ll hear back from MHC in June, and all fingers are crossed until then. We sincerely hope you will see the now-familiar scaffolding gracing our building this time next year.

## Out With the Old... In With the New!

For over 20 years our brick red UUCW sign has been standing vigil on our front lawn. Our steadfast wooden structure finally succumbed to our harsh New England winters and bright morning sun, resulting in the chips and holes you see below. This past season we resorted to duct tape to keep it together (I dare not show you *that*)!

Enter the local artisans of *A Simpler Time Crafts*. We hired woodworkers Pat Sullivan and Stacy Wilson to replicate the deteriorated sign as closely as possible, and they did a marvelous job! Below is our retired old sign (left) and our shiny new sign (right), thicker and sturdier than before, accompanied by repainted posts and cleaned hardware.



We are so pleased to have this fresh greeting out front, and are grateful for Pat and Stacy's expertise.

## Loud Are the Bells of Norwich

Loud are the bells of Norwich  
and the people come and go,  
here by the tower of Julian\*  
I tell them what I know.

Love, like a yellow daffodil,  
is coming through the snow.  
Love, like the yellow daffodil  
is lord of all I know.

Ring for the yellow daffodil,  
the flower in the snow.  
Ring for the yellow daffodil  
and tell them what I know.

All shall be well, I'm telling you,  
let the winter come and go.  
All shall be well again, I know.

*-Sydney Carter 1981*

*\*Words are based on the work  
Revelations of Divine Love, by the 14th  
century English mystic, Julian of  
Norwich*

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