

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 11

JULY 2024

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, July 11

5:30 pm – Our Neighbor’s Kitchen
serves a Hot Dog Bar,
Parish Hall

Mondays

7:30 pm - AA Meeting,
Parish Hall

Thursday, July 25

5:30 pm – Our Neighbor’s Kitchen
serves Chili w/ Toppings,
Parish Hall

From Your Editor

What a whirlwind month of June! I am writing this as we close out four weeks of constant activity at our beloved church. July and August bring a well-deserved respite as we recharge our batteries and plan church activities for the Fall. Even the Governing Board is taking a break after our productive Annual Meeting and forward-looking discussion for the new fiscal year.



Is it just me...or are more people back in public...*doing things*? UUCW saw record numbers at our Summer Lawn Fair, Winchendon Winds band concerts and even an uptick on downtown pedestrian traffic. Is it time for you to attend something different, join a new group, or check out one of the new establishments in town? Would you like to get involved in some of the cheerful work we do here at UUCW? We would love to meet you. Just drop us an email for a meet and chat.

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

Summer Solstice Lawn Fair a Sunny Success

Saturday, June 15 delivered a perfect day of sun, breeze and mild temps as UUCW launched their annual Summer Lawn Fair. Those venturing downtown had a plethora of entertainment: our Summer Lawn Fair, the Clark Memorial YMCA Festival across the street, the Strawberry Festival at the nearby Catholic church, and even the town's street parade, finally returning after a four-year COVID-induced hiatus.

UUCW sold quantities of ever-popular hot dogs, chips, cold drinks, watermelon slices and applesauce cookies. Directly opposite, visitors tried their luck with over 40 raffle baskets assembled by the Garden Club. Our many vendors reported brisk sales of their wares and friendly conversation.



At the close, we raised over \$1000 for our Set in Stone capital campaign as we head into Phase 4 of the multi-year repair plan of our landmark granite building (read ahead). A sincere thanks to all who paid us a visit!

Winchendon Winds Delights with Summer Concert Series



How satisfying it is to see our sanctuary filled “stem to stern” with enthusiastic music-lovers! Winchendon Winds returned in June for their annual concert series under the direction of new conductor Dr. Lindsay Bronnenkant, UMass Amherst music faculty. They played a total of four concerts across consecutive Sundays.

The word certainly got out: each concert boasted audiences cresting 100, including folks bussed in from the senior center and over 75% of attendees visiting from other towns. The church sanctuary offered an attractive and acoustically “live” space allowing the individual instruments of the 40-piece ensemble to shine through.

Missed the series? You can get on Win Winds' list for future concerts and news.

Email: music@winchendonwinds.org.

Kitchen Upgrades Continue

Last May, we reported on the launch of our eagerly-awaited kitchen expansion and upgrade project. We broke through the wall to the adjacent dormant nursery room, thus doubling our kitchen space. We relocated the commercial refrigerator and chest freezer to that new space, considerably opening up our original cramped prep area.

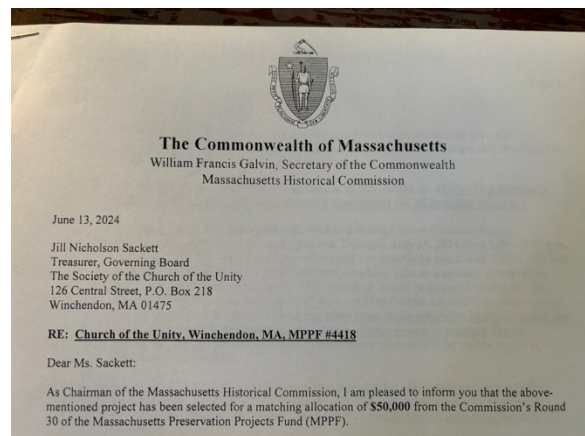
Next, we installed a new three-bay commercial sink and all attendant plumbing. We lost some old counters and overhead cupboards to fit in this goliath, but gained immediate advantages!



The contractor capably finished up their agreed work, and we parishioners will undertake the finishing work. We will eventually install new backsplash and paint the entire place...but we are functional as is and will continue serving Our Neighbor's Kitchen meals unabated as we work around that dinner schedule. Come pay us a visit at an ONK dinner and celebrate our progress!

Set in Stone Phase 4 Receives Full Funding!

Last March, we applied to the Massachusetts Historical Commission for a Round 30 Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) grant...and patiently waited. The wait is over, and we are thrilled to announce that we have received a \$50,000 MPPF grant for Phase 4 repairs.



This is the third MPPF grant we have received for this critical restoration work. We also received \$50,000 during the Round 26 MPPF grant cycle in 2020 and the Round 28 MPPF grant cycle in 2022. This Round 30 grant, coupled with a matching grant received from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation, gives us sufficient funds to proceed apace with Phase 4. As planned, we will be focusing on the West face of the bell tower.

The now-familiar MPPF grant schedule will see us meeting with our architect and prospective masons, collecting bids, and awarding a contract to be executed in Spring 2025.

Annual Meeting Sets Stage for New Fiscal Year

Our Annual Meeting, held on Sunday, June 23, shone light on our new fiscal year beginning July 1.

FY 2024-2025 sees us continuing our community-focused activities with a series of public events ranging from concerts, fundraisers and periodic worship. We do not have the funds to hire a minister, and utilize visiting ministers or lay-led services when we can. The active members of our church indicate keen interest in our community work. We are open to offering more spiritual work if enough interest is expressed.

We are fortunate to have a steady slate of Governing Board Officers willing to carry on with their roles for next year:

Jill Sackett	Treasurer
Inanna Arthen	Clerk
Dave Faucher	Auditor
Allan Gordon	Member

Our building projects, both underway, include Set in Stone Phase 4 masonry repairs and completion of our kitchen upgrades. This work insures a safe, well-maintained and increasingly attractive place to visit and build community.

UUCW Online

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

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

Facebook: facebook.com/uuwinchendon

Summer Warmth

We stand at the edge of summer.

The sun has at last warmed us enough that we begin to trust in its presence.

The last burst of spring blossoms, lavender and white and deep pink beds of rhododendron, are giving way to summer peonies and roses.

O source of the turning seasons...

Of earth, of life, of promise finally becoming fulfillment,

May your people find a lightening of the burdens with the brightening of the sky.

- Helen Cohen

Change of Address?

We want to stay in touch! If you change your address, either U.S. Mail or email, let us know: email jill@sackett.com or write to the church at P.O. Box 218, Winchendon, MA 01475.

Contact Information

Governing Board Chair:

Jill Nicholson Sackett (Treasurer)
(224) 567-3635

Email: jill@sackett.com

Governing Board Members:

Allan Gordon: (Member)

Rev. Inanna Arthen, Minister Emerita
(Clerk)

Dave Faucher (Auditor)