

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, October 10

5:30 p.m. – Our Neighbor’s Kitchen
serves Baked Chicken in Creamy
Rice, Parish Hall

Saturday, October 12

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. – Winchendon
Fall Festival, Church Booth and
Concessions, Front Curb

Mondays

7:30 p.m. - AA Meeting,
Parish Hall

Monday, October 21

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

Thursday, October 24

5:30 p.m. – Our Neighbor’s Kitchen
serves Roast Pork with Apples
and Onions, Parish Hall

Thursday, October 31

5:30 p.m. – Our Neighbor’s Kitchen
serves Halloween Themed Meal,
Parish Hall

From Your Editor

It began in 1996 as an agreement to loan out our church kitchen for the preparation of a once-monthly community dinner. Responsibilities and management transferred solely to UUCW shortly thereafter. Now, 28 years later, UUCW runs Our Neighbors Kitchen community suppers 2-3 times a month, providing hot meals to a wide variety of diners.

We’re proud of sustaining this community service and are grateful that we reach so many of our friends and neighbors. Have you tried us out? If not, let us dispel one assumption you may have: Our dinners are for *everyone*, independent of economic need. We are truly a community supper, regardless of financial means, age, address, or any other demographic. We’d love to welcome you to our friendly table. See you at church.

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

Church Chili Returns to Fall Festival

The 8th Annual Winchendon Fall Festival kicks off at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 12 this year with over 200 vendors, entertainment and food. Once again, UUCW will be stationed out on our front curb with a well-stocked concession stand.

Our mild, meaty “church chili” now has a loyal following with diners returning from prior years. We’ll also sell a vegetarian chili option and our usual hot dogs with toppings. There just seems to be something special about strolling down main street while enjoying a hot dog slathered in your favorite condiments...we are always amazed at the demand! We’ll be ready when the Festival opens and sell until supplies run out...usually late afternoon.

This is our only fall fundraiser and we love greeting people who stop by for a bite to eat, a beverage, or just to say “hi.” Come on out and enjoy what has become the biggest town event of the year.



Set in Stone Phase 4: Invitation to Bid

Our funding is in place for the fourth phase of our Set in Stone building repairs, thanks to generous donations from The Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund, the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation and our own dedicated Set in Stone church account. We will soon be placing a call for bids for Phase 4 repairs as follows:

“The Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, a.k.a. The Church of the Unity, 126 Central Street, Winchendon, MA, requests bids for masonry repairs to the bell tower of their 1866 granite building which is listed in the State Register of Historic Places, and in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Winchendon Village Historic District.

The project is being partially funded with a grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund through the Massachusetts Historical Commission. All work must be performed in accordance with the documents prepared by Structures North Consulting Engineers, Inc., 60 Washington Street, Salem, MA (Telephone 978-745-6817) and meet the Secretary of Interior’s *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. State law prohibits discrimination. Awarding of this contract is subject to Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity guidelines. A copy of

bidding documents may be obtained by writing or telephoning the architect at the above address.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at the church on October 22 at 11:00 a.m.

Bids shall be evaluated on the basis of price, previous experience with similar types of construction projects, ability to perform the work in a timely manner, and references. All bids must be delivered to the architect's office at the above address prior to 12:00 noon on Friday, November 8 to be eligible for consideration and all of the grant-funded work must be completed by June 30, 2025."

Visit our website and blog for running updates and pictures of our Set in Stone journey: www.set-in-stone.org

Our Neighbors Kitchen Open to All

Seeking a hot meal? Want a night off in the kitchen? Looking for a fresh, cooked-from-scratch affordable option? Seeking some variety in your diet? Seeking some companionship?

For these and many other reasons, we greet a steady group of 20-25 indoor diners at Our Neighbors Kitchen (ONK) every 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursday of the month. We send another 30+ meals out the door with those taking food back home. Meals are free with a suggested donation of \$2 per person or \$5 per

family. Our Serv-Safe qualified chefs buy fresh ingredients and plan creative and delicious meals around our inventory. For example, a recent windfall donation of Alaskan Pollock allowed us, over time, to prepare and serve fish 'n chips, parmesan-crusting filets, cioppino (seafood stew) and Indian-spiced filets.

We'd love to have our stay-in diner ranks swell back up to their pre-COVID numbers. We welcome all ages. Our Parish Hall is ADA accessible with parking in our front circle and an indoor lift. If you see our ONK banners displayed out front you know we are serving that Thursday. Come check us out!



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)

SEF Leads Ancient Egyptian Ancestor Ritual

On Saturday, November 2, UUCW will host the Society of Elder Faiths (SEF) as they lead an open Samhain ritual honoring our ancestors, based on traditional ancient Egyptian religion.

SEF ritual leader Shawn Berry explains, "The origins of ancestor worship lie in the ambivalence of the living towards the dead. Beyond the affection one held for the more recently deceased, one's forebears could intercede on one's behalf in this world and the next. Funeral and offering rites were performed, in part, to maintain good relations with the deceased generations. The ceremony we will perform dates to the early dynasties of ancient Egypt. Participants will align and strengthen their ties to their ancestors and share in the oldest recorded funereal offering rites. While unmistakably ancient Egyptian, this ritual has parallels with ancestor rites of other cultures."

All adults are welcome! We will gather in the Parish Hall downstairs. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. with the ritual starting around 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$15 for SEF members, \$20 for non-members. If you have any questions, contact Inanna Arthen at iarthen@inannaarthen.com. For more information about SEF or to preregister for this event, visit <https://elderfaiths.org/>.

Autumn Leaves

In the hush and the lonely silence
Of the chill October night,
Some wizard has worked his magic,
With fairy fingers light.

The leaves of the sturdy oak trees
Are splendid with crimson and red,
And the golden flags of the maple
Are fluttering overhead.

Through the tangle of faded grasses
There are trailing vines ablaze,
And the glory of warmth and color
Gleams through the autumn haze.

Like banners of marching armies
That farther and farther go;
Down the winding roads and valleys
The boughs of sumacs glow.

So open your eyes little children,
And open your hearts as well,
'Til the charm of the bright October
Shall fold you in its spell.

-Angelina Wray



UUCW Online

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

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

Facebook: facebook.com/uuwinchendon