

# 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 69 Issue 3

NOVEMBER 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, November 14

5:30 p.m. – Our Neighbor’s Kitchen  
serves Thanksgiving Dinner,  
Parish Hall

### Monday, November 25

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

### Friday, November 29

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Annual Spirit of  
Christmas Toy Drive and Decorating  
Party, Circle Drive and Sanctuary

### Saturday, December 7

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Holiday Bazaar  
& Cookie Sale, Sanctuary & Parish Hall

### Sunday, December 8

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Santa’s Workshop  
(Family Craft Activities), Parish Hall

### Thursday, December 12

5:30 p.m. – Our Neighbor’s Kitchen  
serves Hanukkah Dinner, Parish Hall

### Sunday, December 15

4:00 p.m. – “Brass & Bistro” Pioneer  
Valley Brass Quintet, Sanctuary;  
Post-Concert Dinner, Parish Hall

### Tuesday, December 24

7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Service, Sanctuary

### Mondays

7:45 p.m. - AA Meeting, Parish Hall

## From Your Editor

As the days get shorter our calendar gets longer! There’s something for everyone as UUCW heads into the holiday season. Choose from a toy drive, decorating, dining with community, shopping for that unique treasure, crafting, listening to live classical music, or observing a traditional Christmas Eve, it’s all here under our roof. Put a few of these on your “to do” list and we’ll see you at church.

-Jill Nicholson Sackett - Chair, Governing Board.

## **Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive & Decorating Party**

They say that the act of giving is as much a gift to the giver as it is to the recipient. How wonderful it feels to help others in need, and it can't be any easier than participating in our annual Spirit of Christmas annual toy drive held on the Friday following Thanksgiving. This year our "elves" will be standing out front on November 29 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. 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 "stays local" and will make a difference for a needy Winchendon family this season.

During the same time, we'll be decorating for the holidays in our sanctuary. We have all the supplies – stop on in and admire our pretty sanctuary and help us turn it into a festive and beckoning place.

### **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)

## **Our Neighbor's Kitchen Turkey Extravaganza**

This is hands-down the most popular ONK meal of the year – and for good reason. Chef Dave Faucher returns to the church kitchen on Thursday November 14, 5:30 p.m. to treat us all to a classic roast turkey dinner. Sit among friends and "gobble up" a heaping plate of roast turkey, gravy, potatoes, stuffing, roasted veggies and scrumptious dessert.

This will be our only community supper meal for the month of November. If you're craving for turkey and all the fixin's without any of the work and mess, this is your chance!

## **Chili & Dogs Reign at Fall Festival**

Perfect fall weather – balmy and perhaps a bit blustery - greeted over 200 vendors and several thousand shoppers at Winchendon's annual Fall Festival held October 7. Once again, we offered our meaty "church chili" and multi-bean vegetarian chili prepared by chefs Inanna Arthen, Jean LaDuke and Jill Sackett. Booth volunteers Kathy Fugatt, Jean LaDuke and Joe Sackett kept the orders rolling, while Jill Sackett took lunch orders from other street vendors and delivered food to their booths. We happily netted several hundred dollars for our continued church operations.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Cookie Sale

UUCW returns for a 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year offering delicious home-baked cookies prepared by our ONK chefs. We're changing it up a bit this year – but still offering four distinct cookies types.

As in prior years we offer the ever-popular classic iced cookies and cinnamon-spiced snickerdoodles. New this year, we offer “blackout” cookies – the ultimate choice for chocolate lovers. These soft drop cookies contain 100% cacao and chocolate extract, with a dusting of powdered sugar. Also new this year are “buy local” themed thumbprint cookies. These buttery wonders contain wells of homemade jam from Shelley's She Shed and other ingredients from local vendors. All sound good? For a sampling of each, order a variety pack. You can pre-order by the dozen and receive complimentary gift-wrapping. We encourage pre-orders now through December 1 to help us plan quantities. Visit our website:

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

Pick up your cookie order at our Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 7, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or our Santa's Workshop family craft event on Sunday, December 8, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Can't make those dates? We'll work something out with you.



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. Your purchase also supports our Set in Stone church repairs *and* several local businesses.

## Jump-Start Your Shopping at UUCW's Holiday Bazaar

Step away from those online orders and step into our festive Holiday Bazaar. Our vendor spots are already filling up for Saturday, December 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Peruse two floors of displays ranging from Christmas retail items, wood crafts, hand-made home décor, wreaths, unique greeting cards, Pampered Chef kitchenware, and much more. Stop by our kitchen and enjoy a hot beverage and a home-made cookie (or dozen). Stocking stuffers abound!

This year we align with the town's annual Festival of Lights activities, so we expect plenty of downtown traffic. Don your

scarf and boots, park in our church front circle just steps away from all the action, and enjoy a unique shopping experience without even leaving town.



## Set in Stone Accepting Bids for Phase 4

Three masonry firms attended our pre-bid meeting on October 22 for a close-up look at the masonry work outlined for our Phase 4 building repairs. Several other firms have expressed interest and plan to submit bids. Overall, we expect a reasonable number of bids to be submitted by the November 8 deadline. This will allow us an opportunity to choose the most qualified mason at the lowest bid price, with work to begin in Spring 2025.

Visit our website and blog for running updates and pictures of our Set in Stone journey: [www.set-in-stone.org](http://www.set-in-stone.org)

### 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://facebook.com/uuwinchendon)

## A “Crafternoon” in Santa’s Workshop

Calling all young...and young at heart. Mark your calendars for a day of creativity! On Sunday, December 8, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. the UUCW Parish hall will be transformed into a bustling place of imagination and invention. Visitors will have the opportunity to self-direct to various stations staffed by “elves” (artists in their own right) who will guide them through a craft project which can be completed and taken home that day. Design a greeting card, decorate a glitter ornament or wooden snowman, fold a German paper bell, paint a picture, and more. Crafts are designed to accommodate a range of ages.

This event is free, thanks to a grant from our local Winchendon Cultural Council. Hot beverages and snacks can be purchased at the church kitchen to help keep minds and fingers busy. Stop on in and make something memorable for this season and beyond.

### Contact Information

Governing Board Chair:

Jill Nicholson Sackett (Treasurer)

(224) 567-3635

Email: [jill@sackett.com](mailto:jill@sackett.com)

Governing Board Members:

Allan Gordon (Member)

Rev. Inanna Arthen, Minister Emerita  
(Clerk)

Dave Faucher (Auditor)