

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights November 21, 2018



Upcoming Worship

Sunday, November 25th

10:00 am Family Worship, Meyer Chapel

"Thanksgiving Everyday"

10:30 am All Ages Worship, Sanctuary

**Coming Out, Coming Home:
Celebrating the Transgender Spirit**

The Rev. Heather Janules

Worship Associate: Stephen Perepeluk

As communities gather in recognition of the Transgender Day of Remembrance, this service will acknowledge the 22 transgender people who lost their lives in the United States this past year by homicide while also honoring and bearing witness to the contemporary lives of local transgender people. This service will include reflections by volunteers from SpeakOut Boston, an LGBTQ speakers bureau.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **SpeakOut Boston**, the organization through which we welcome our guest speakers. SpeakOut is committed to "sharing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer & questioning, intersex, and asexual lives and experiences publicly in order to support those struggling with sexuality and gender identity and educating within the communities we represent about [divisive] issues."

Music

There are so many great opportunities for singing at the Winchester Unitarian Society.

Hymn Sing: First Tuesday of the month at 7:15 p.m. in

the Meyer Chapel.

Adult Choir rehearses 8:45 am on Sunday mornings.

Children's Chorale every Tuesday @ 6:15 pm in the Sunshine (Spirit Play) Room.
All children grades 2-6 are most welcome.

Our Youth Choir every Tuesday @ 6:15 pm in the Meyer Chapel. All singers in grades 7-12 are most welcome.

The more the merrier, so don't be shy about getting involved.
Questions? Contact John Kramer at john.kramer@winchesteruu.org



Religious Education

Mark Your Calendars! JanFEST begins on January 6th 2019. As we have for many years we take this opportunity to connect our younger friends and members during our intercession weeks away from curriculum based programs. Religious Education member Marsha Durbano coordinates – please contact her via madurbano@verizon.net to sign up to share your skills and passions with our youngsters.

Our Annual Mitten Tree undecorating begins next weekend in the Symmes Room: Take a mitten, buy a gift, and return them to church no later than the 16th of December. Patty Cameron will be coordinating distribution and WUSYG members will be wrapping returned gifts on the afternoon of the 16th as a fundraiser for their trip to Maine in April. (In addition they will also be offering concierge gift wrapping for your family and friends gifting on that day). Please watch for more details.

THIS SUNDAY

Morning Groups

World of Wonder: Balance. This week we hear a tale of “Why the Sky is Far Away” We imagine a forest, and how all the plants and animals work together. And we work together to decorate our Mitten Tree. Teachers Beatrice and Caroline lead the group.

Moral Tales: Welcome. This week we hear a story about a man who was judged and treated unfairly because of what he was wearing. We think about how we can be welcoming and why people might feel unwelcome. We share our own stories about being welcomed and decorate mittens for our tree. Teachers Charlotte and Elizabeth lead the group.

Neighboring Faiths: Buddhism. We are continuing our study of Buddhism this week. We review the four noble truths and the eightfold path of Buddhism. We also explore another practice of mindfulness. Teachers Rebecca and Christian lead the group.

Afternoon Groups:

Our Whole Lives: Our Whole Lives meets NEXT Sunday, December 2nd. Enjoy the long holiday weekend and we'll see you on the 2nd!

Family Worship at Winchester Unitarian Society 10:00 a.m. Sundays

Family Worship happens in the chapel at 478 Main Street from 10:00-10:20, except 12/16 and 12/30.

S-9 and Counting, Rebecca's Sabbatical Approaches

As many of you know, I am entering my tenth year of service at Winchester Unitarian Society and after many transitions and challenges I am taking five months of my accrued Sabbatical leave from Dec 1st – April 30th, returning to the congregation on May 1st. To step away is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on my work here and explore some other possibilities for programming upon my return.

And now it is almost upon us. I am beginning to say temporary farewells, since this coming Sunday will be my last among you until May. At Potluck Theology on Sunday night, I told the gathering of children and adults that although I am leaving for a time, like a migratory bird, I am returning in the spring. And to know this, wherever I go, whatever I do, I carry you with me, written upon my heart. In many ways you will also ride along in Gulliver the van, walk the edges of the ocean, and find ways to connect to the ministries of care and transformation – whether they are at soup kitchens and houses of worship. I'll see you when the snow melts and the wheel of the year turns once again from winter to summer.

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

No WUSYG this Sunday. Enjoy the break with your family ♥🌱!!

To check out more about what is happening in WUSYG, [click here to see the WUSYG Newsletter](#).

Other dates and info about following us on social media (please join our Facebook group and follow us on Instagram!) can be found on our recently-updated website:

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/youth>

WUSYG Service Trip 2019:

Climate Justice-focused program in Ferry Beach!

WUSYGers will be spending their April vacations this year at Ferry Beach, a UU Retreat Center in Saco, Maine. The coastline in Saco is eroding, so April is a great time to assess and repair the natural dune system along the beaches, get rid of any washed-up winter storm debris, and put the beach access walkways back together. They will also help with dune restoration and planting activities. All of their service work will be related to climate change realities that are destroying this important part of the environment and local ecosystem. We will be supplementing our programming by engaging in experiential learning opportunities focused on climate justice. Using the frame of climate justice, we will study how climate change disproportionately affects marginalized communities and intersects with economic and racial justice. Our teens chose climate justice as their #1 justice issue to focus on this year, so we are thrilled to have found somewhere that they can both learn about climate justice and also provide meaningful manual labor in order to serve the environment, too.

Congregational News



Office closed:
Thursday, November 22 &
Friday, November 23



Indoor Greening Party Thursday, Dec 6th

Thursday, December 6th at 6:30 pm works great to invite anyone and everyone who wants to help "green the church". Kids welcome. Cookies and eggnog provided!

SABBATICAL LEAD TEACHER

We are pleased to announce that WUS member Terry Currier has agreed to serve as the Sunday morning Lead Teacher for the Religious Education program during Rebecca Kelley-Morgan's five-month sabbatical (beginning on December 1st.) Terry's primary responsibilities will be training and supporting the teen teaching team.



Here are a few words from Terry:

I'm really excited for the opportunity to serve the Winchester Unitarian church by taking the position of lead teacher while Rebecca is on sabbatical. I raised two children in this church, and I am not exaggerating when I say that their experience in the religious education program was life-altering. It instilled in them qualities of compassion, empathy and inclusiveness. It encouraged thoughtfulness and reflection. It provided encouragement, acceptance and support. And it opened their eyes to a world beyond their personal domain of comfort and privilege. I am honored and proud to play a small part in providing this experience to your children.

Terry will take a leave-of-absence from her position on the Standing Committee during her temporary employment. Thank you, Terry, for serving WUS in this important way!

Green Sanctuary Meeting, Thursday, Nov. 29, 7:00 to 8:30 pm, Michelsen Room

The Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C, issued Oct. 7, 2018, by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change alerted us that mankind's most pressing challenge is to quickly to reverse environmental degradation.

The UU Seventh Principle is: "*Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*" The WUS's mission calls us to be "devoted to environmental responsibility". Please join this church year's kick-off meeting of Green Sanctuary. Together we will find timely ways "to help heal our world".

For the meeting's agenda, e-mail coonley@me.com.



Save the Date: Winter Silent Retreat - Friday, Jan 11-12

Begin the New Year with 24 hours of centering the heart, mind and spirit

Participants gather at WUS at 7 pm on Friday, Jan 11th for an informal worship service. We then enter into shared silence. You may use the quiet to retreat as you wish (bring a journal, a puzzle or a book you have been wanting to read) or take part in organized activities such as Dreamboard creation and a shared meal. Participants are invited to stay overnight. We close at 5 pm on Saturday with another informal worship service to reflect on our experiences together and depart by 6 pm. Cost: \$15 for materials; sliding scale available.

Contact Rev. Heather with any questions at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org.

From the Music Committee:

Please mark your calendars for our **Jazz in the Sanctuary** concert which will take place on **Friday, January 25th at 8:00 pm**. This year's theme is Fairy Tales: Think Alice in Wonderful, Someday My Prince will Come, Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum, and much more. And, a big thank you goes out to so many of you who made our Soloists Concert such a special evening at WUS. Cheryl, Kirsten, Brendan, Andy and John -- you were terrific!



New Staff Covenant

We often say we practice not a creedal faith but a covenantal one, with our promises of how to be together as that which unifies the community. Many groups within the WUS congregation have covenants. It is common practice to revisit covenants from time-to-time as new people join a group.

The staff team has recently revisited our covenant. You may read the new version here: <https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Staff-Covenant-V2-Final.pdf>

Joys, Sorrows & Transitions

If you are facing a time of joy, sorrow or transition in your life, our ministers and the Pastoral Care Associates are available to offer a listening ear, compassionate presence and, if applicable, resources.

Contact the office, 781-729-0949 or office@winchesteruu.org.

Social & Environmental Action

Upcoming Justice Programs

On Tuesday the Social Action and Outreach Committee delivered 35 big boxes (baskets) of holiday foods to the Woburn Council for their Thanksgiving distribution. Thanks to all who donated and drove!

This is your last chance this fall to order Fair Trade organic COFFEE and CHOCOLATE. We buy at wholesale prices and support small farmers coops in Latin America. Order forms are available at the Social Action table, or by email from Claire McNeill. **The deadline is NOVEMBER 25.**

UU Mass Action forwarded two ways to help the people who are traveling from Honduras. The Exodus – previously referred to as the “caravan.” This group of people who are walking from Honduras to the US border has asked to be referred to as an exodus. They are fleeing from violence and poverty. A preliminary list of needs has been developed by our partners at UUSC & Love Resists. To learn how you can contribute, [CLICK HERE](#)

Buy your UU SERVICE COMMITTEE Christmas and Holiday cards at WUS. Social Action and Outreach will sell cards on Sundays: \$10 for 10 cards. See the 5 styles at our table. You may pay cash (or *write a check to the UUSC*) and give to a SAOC member

Economic Equity In Politics Lives Matter - Certified Working Group

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for another Conference Call. Please [click here](#) for a pdf of the Proposed Agenda and the calling instructions. For questions or more information, please contact Patty at: shepard.patty@gmail.com It is never too late to add something to the agenda!

Monday, December 3, 2018 conference call, Starting at 7 p.m. Call-in information: Dial-in Number (641) 715-3580 Access Code 891-437-120

For the Full agenda and list of partner organizations, [click here](#)

UU Mass Action’s Mission is State and Local Action. If you are interested in engaging in **national-level actions**, [check out this wonderful resource UUSJ](#) (UUs for Social Justice) You can participate in a *Write Here, Write Now* action and have your letters personally delivered by UUSJ volunteers. You can also learn more about the latest call to action.

Temple Isaiah Hosts Refugee Simulation

Sunday, December 2, 2018

55 Lincoln Street, Lexington

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM in the Social Hall

In this program, we will undertake an initiative known as a “Refugee Simulation,” based on a program that was provided to all Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) staff at a retreat in December, 2017. For more information, please go to:

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/events/temple-isaiah-hosts-refugee-simulation/>

Last Bedford Sanctuary Training until late January - early February

The most recent snowstorm interfered with last week’s sanctuary training at the First Parish of Bedford. If you would like to help with sanctuary support, you first need to be trained. The next training will be **Monday, December 3rd from 7 - 9 PM.** Please e-mail marilynnullane@me.com if you plan to go so that she can alert Bedford. This will be the LAST training opportunity this calendar year.

Thanks for all you do to support this ongoing labor or love.

HELP the CHURCH OF THE LARGER FELLOWSHIP mail cards to incarcerated members!

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), an **online** and **by mail UU congregation**, has thousands of members world-wide, including nearly 900 members currently incarcerated in the US. In December, we will be personally addressing **900 holiday cards and mailing them to our UU incarcerated members.**

The CLF is housed at UUA headquarters in the Seaport District, 24 Farnsworth St, Boston...not far away, and worth the trip!

Volunteers needed

- Tuesday, December 11: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Thursday, December 13: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Free coffee & tea, and gratitude. Bring friends! Bring your favorite pen. **RSVP to Beth Murray, bmurray@clfuu.org.**

Woburn Food Pantry

Next time you go shopping, please consider buying extra **canned soup and cake & bread mixes** for the Council of Social Concern's Food Pantry. These are the items they need this month to stock their shelves. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday Volunteers & Flower Dedications



Sign Up for Coffee Hour Refreshments

Help make Sunday mornings more welcoming and joyful by bringing refreshments for coffee hour! If you are willing to be contacted when **sign-ups** are needed, please email **janetnelson@comcast.net** to put yourself on the contact list.

Usually two people sign up to bring finger foods for one Sunday. We truly appreciate your willingness to be asked to help out in this simple way
– thank you!



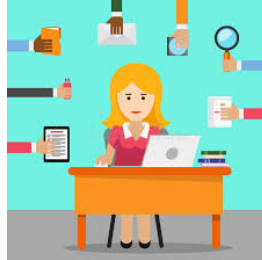
Flower Dedications

Dates are available for flower dedications. You may dedicate flowers in celebration of, in memory of, or in honor of someone and it will appear in the Order of Service.

The cost is \$45.00 (or you can bring your own flowers, but let the office know). Please click to **[sign up](#)** or use the sign up sheets in the foyer.

Sunday Secretaries

Sign up to be a Sunday Secretary for Sundays. Please contact the office at 781-729-0949 or office@winchesteruu.org if you're willing to consider it!



Ongoing

Yoga, Meditation, Qi Gong, Caregiver Support Group and Grief, Loss and Transitions Group

See Ongoing Activities at:

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/news/ongoing-activities-groups/>

Deadlines

Sunday Morning Announcements Guidelines: [Click here](#)

For Highlights submissions: Wednesdays, 9:00 am

For submissions to the OOS: Thursdays, 9:00 am

Email to jenny@winchesteruu.org. No more than 250 words, please.

Staying Connected

Visit the WUS website!

- Read the latest Highlights and Mystic Messenger in **the news section**.
- Want to know if a room is free, or when your meeting is? View **the calendar page**.
- Need the latest directory, or a list of committee chairs? Go to **the members' section** (**contact the office** for the password).
- Want to set up electronic giving? Go to the **How to Give page**.

It's probably on the website!

(And if it's not, let us know)

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