

# Winchester Unitarian Society

## Highlights November 29, 2018



## Upcoming Worship

**Sunday, December 2nd**

**10:00 am Family Worship, Meyer Chapel**

"Waiting for Hope"

**10:30 am All Ages Worship, Sanctuary**

**Let Us Pray**

Marianne DiBlasi

Worship Associate: Marcy Tompson

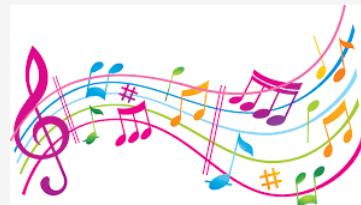
On the first Sunday of Advent and first night of Hanukkah, this service will offer reflections on the mystery of prayer. What is prayer? Why and how do we pray? What do we pray for? Does anything happen when we pray? As this is the first Sunday of the month, there will be a conversation after worship in the parlor.

This morning, we share our gifts with **Side with Love**, an interfaith public advocacy campaign promoting respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Side with Love confronts issues of exclusion, oppression, and violence based on identity. With the goal of creating beloved community, the campaign pursues social change through advocacy, public witness, and speaking out in solidarity with those whose lives are publicly demeaned.

## 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](mailto:john.kramer@winchesteruu.org)

## Religious Education

**Mark Your Calendars!** JanFEST begins on January 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:madurbano@verizon.net) to sign up to share your skills and passions with our youngsters.

**Annual Cookie Baking** takes place **Sunday Morning December 23<sup>rd</sup>** during the worship service. We decorate and bake sugar cookies to take home and to provide hospitality between our Christmas Eve services. Since Rebecca is out on Sabbatical, we'd love a kitchen savvy adult to support us that morning. Please let Terry Carrier know if you'd like to join in the fun.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> of December. This year we are gifting children and youth receiving Foster Care services in the state of Massachusetts. Since many children arrive in care with very little, we hope that the gifts of warm outdoor wear and a couple of toys will brighten their holidays. Giving is coordinated through the Department of Children and Families via the non-profit Wonderfund. Patty Cameron will be coordinating collection and WUSYG members will be wrapping returned gifts on the afternoon of the 16<sup>th</sup> 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).

### THIS SUNDAY Morning Groups

**World of Wonder:** Habitats. What's a habitat? What's your habitat look like? As Unitarian Universalists we understand that "our" habitat impacts everything else. Teachers Beatrice and Caroline lead the group.

**Moral Tales:** Empathy: We're going to try putting our selves in someone else's shoes. We hear a Moral Tale about how one might learn to empathize and practice with some role playing in the group. Teachers Charlotte and Elizabeth lead the group.

**Neighboring Faiths: Festivals of Light: Part 1** There are many celebrations of light this time of year, secular and religious. We explore the lights and the meaning behind them. Teachers Terry and Christian lead the group.

### Afternoon Groups:

**Our Whole Lives:** Our Whole Lives meets at **4:30** in the Wallace Room, this Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. This week the changes of Puberty. Bodies change at different rates and in different ways and you'll have a chance to ask about what concerns you. Mark Shepherd and Sarah Milt lead the group.

### 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, excepting 12/16 and 12/30.

### S-2 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 1<sup>st</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup>, returning to the congregation on May 1<sup>st</sup>. I will miss you all and while I look forward to time away, I also look forward to my return. In the meantime, I leave you with my wishes for a wonderful holiday season, a vibrant winter in the life of the congregation and your own winter of personal and collective restoration and renewal.



If you'd like to have a peek at what's up during my sabbatical, I just found out that I will be accompanied by Sophie Bear. In a delightful confluence of our calendars, she is also taking sabbatical at the same time and has agreed to co-author the book on family worship and join me in my travels. Sophie will be documenting these five months on Instagram if you want to stop by. <https://www.instagram.com/sophiesojourns/>

## WUSYG

### Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group



### WUSYG Holiday Giftwrapping Fundraiser 12/16

Bring all your holiday presents to Church on Sunday, December 16th and let WUSYG take care of the rest! Find our station of happy helpers in Metcalf before the pageant service and we'll have them ready for you when you come down for the potluck! Or, bring them anytime from 11:30-4:30 and we'll have them ready to pick up from 6:30-7:00 or anytime during business hours in the office that week.

Suggested donations of \$1 for small stocking stuffers, \$3 for most gifts, \$5 for extra-large or \$20 for all of them will subsidize costs for youth to go on our climate justice-focused service trip to Ferry Beach, Maine this April. Thanks for your support!

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**



### **OH MITTEN TREE: Mitten Tree UNdecorating has begun in the Symmes Room**

You may pick up a mitten from the tree in the Symmes Room at anytime. As you take your mitten, please sign out your mitten(s) on the clipboard. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE make sure to do this, in case you lose your mitten.

This year we are including Gift Wrapping Concierge Service by members of WUSYG (Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group) as part of their fundraising efforts for this year's climate justice-focused service trip to Ferry Beach, Maine. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please indicate so on the clipboard in the relevant column and we will invoice you later. Our happy helpers will wrap gifts for a suggested donation of \$3 each.

This year's recipients are drawn from children in the foster care system in Massachusetts. Often children enter foster care on very short notice, or are placed in settings where there are no gifts available. We wish to make sure that every child has a package to open Christmas. Please return gifts no later than December 16th with "mitten" number and recipient name securely attached to the gift upon its return. We will need them when the gifts are wrapped and sorted.

## **Charitable Contributions and Year-End Statements**

As the calendar year ends, church members sometimes have questions about how their contributions to the Winchester Unitarian Society are treated for tax



purposes. Click [here](#) for answers from church tax and law consultant Richard Hammar with **"7 Things Every Church Member Needs to Know About Charitable Contributions"**. Individual giving statements for calendar year 2018 to-date will be coming from your co-treasurers [Sue Kiewra](#) and [Judy Murray](#) soon.



### **Indoor Greening Party Thursday, Dec 6th, 6:30 pm**

Anyone who wants to help "green the church" is welcome to join us.  
Kids included! Cookies and eggnog provided.

### **Grief, Loss and Transitions Group**

Wednesday, December 12th

7:30 - 9 PM, Parlor

All are welcome to this safe and confidential space to share our challenges of living with grief and personal transitions. No RSVP required. Those with questions should contact this month's facilitator Lee Barton: [lee.barton2009@gmail.com](mailto:lee.barton2009@gmail.com)



### **Green Sanctuary Meeting**

**Tonight, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!

### **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](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org).

## **Social & Environmental Action**

These social justice opportunities are detailed on the [Social Action & Outreach page](#) of the WUS website. Or click below for more information.

- [Buy UU Service Committee holiday cards at WUS](#)
- [Send a holiday card to a person in prison](#)
- [Help with someone's bail](#)
- [Join the Economic Equity in Politics Working Group](#)
- [Volunteer to help asylum seekers in El Paso, Texas](#)
- [Fight against "public charge" and the latest attack on immigrant families](#)

### **Note from Bedford Sanctuary**

Dear Volunteers/Friends,

It's hard to imagine that December is fast upon us. Our Guest has been safely with us for almost 11 months thanks to your commitment and generosity of spirit and body. Some folks have asked how they might celebrate the upcoming holidays with our Guest, particularly wondering if presents were welcome or if there was anything specific she might need or want. The Sanctuary Strategic Team asked her these questions when we met with her recently. She expressed her profound and deep gratitude for all that volunteers have done, are doing, and will do to keep her safe. She doesn't want any presents for herself; in fact, she said that receiving gifts would make her uncomfortable. She did say that there are things her sons need for which she would appreciate help. Additionally, it's good for you to know that our Guest does not like sweets or baked goods.

So, if you feel so inclined, the Sanctuary Committee will gratefully accept funds toward gifts for her sons and toward the Sanctuary Fund that supports her needs and legal representation. Checks should be made out to *First Parish Bedford, citing Sanctuary Fund on the item line*, and mailed to First Parish Bedford, 75 The Great Road, Bedford, MA 01730.

We wish you and your loved ones abundant blessings and good health as we bring 2018 to a close and welcome the new year. You make this work of love, resistance and hope possible.

With gratitude,  
Judi and Maureen - for the Sanctuary Committee

**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](mailto: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.

## Woburn Food Pantry

Next time you go shopping, please consider buying extra **jelly, cookies** and **tuna fish** 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](mailto: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!

### Sunday Secretaries

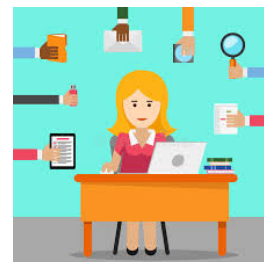
**Sign up** to be a Sunday Secretary for Sundays. Please contact the office at 781-729-0949 or [office@winchesteruu.org](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org) if you're willing to consider it!



### 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.



## 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](mailto: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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