

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights December 13, 2018

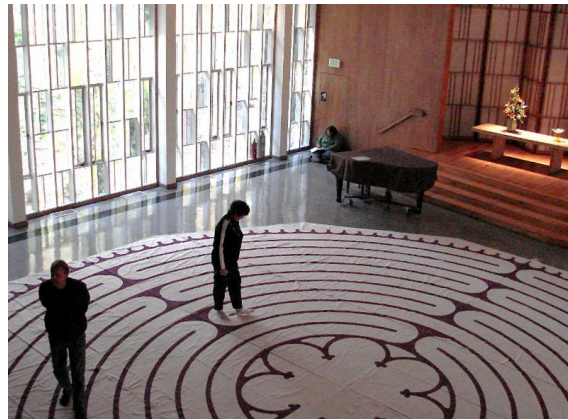


Photo: Members of Cedar Lane UU Church (Bethesda, MD) walk their canvas labyrinth.

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, December 16th

10:30 am Intergenerational Worship, Sanctuary

The Nativity: A Traditional Pageant for All Ages

The Rev. Heather Janules

Worship Associate: Stephen Perepeluk

We will draw from a Unitarian Universalist Nativity Pageant by the Rev. Tim Kutzmark to retell the story of Jesus' birth together. Come prepared to play a role or just behold the mystery of the familiar but inspiring tale!

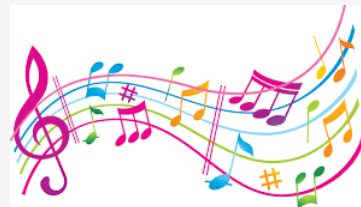
This Sunday we will Share the Plate with the **Islamic Community Center of Medford**, a local Muslim community purchasing a historic building to establish the first mosque in Medford. The ICCM needs to replace the building's heating system very soon to prevent significant damage to the property so they are appealing to the community-at-large for assistance. **Share the Plate contributions will also be matched, up to \$500, by the Minister's Discretionary Fund.**

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. To sign up, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b44aba96-janfest> or if you have any questions, please contact Marsha Durbano at madurbano@verizon.net.

Annual Cookie Baking takes place **Sunday Morning December 23rd** 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 Currier** know if you'd like to join in the fun.

THIS SUNDAY

NO Family Worship

Please join us for our annual holiday pageant in Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Morning Groups

This week our Religious Education program is the worship service. Please join us for our annual all-ages holiday pageant.

Afternoon Groups

Our Whole Lives: Our Whole Lives meets at **4:30** in the Wallace Room this Sunday, December 16th. This week we discuss healthy relationships and relationship skills. Mark Shepherd leads the group.

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group



WUSYG Holiday Giftwrapping Fundraiser This Sunday, Dec 16th

Bring all your holiday presents to Church this 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: \$1 for small stocking stuffers, \$3 for most gifts, \$5 for extra-large, or \$20 for all of your gifts. Donations 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



Holiday Potluck This Sunday, December 16!

Bring your appetite and a dish to share for our annual holiday potluck after church on **Sunday, December 16**. Chat with friends, get to know new people, join in singing carols together! We hope to see you there.

Solstice Ritual and Caroling Friday, December 21st

All are invited to an intergenerational community Solstice Ritual, beginning at 6:30 in Metcalf Hall.

After the Solstice service, we will go caroling through downtown Winchester along a mobility-friendly route, beginning at 7:30. **Join Us!**





Your photo needed!

We want a photo of you for the WUS directory! If you have a head shot that you like, email it to office@winchesteruu.org, or bring it to the office to scan. OR have your photo taken at this Sunday's potluck! Look for signs in Metcalf Hall.

Circle Dinner sign-up time!

(deadline December 30 - easy date to remember!)

Once again it's time to widen your circle of friendships with fellowship and good eating! Circle dinners consist of small groups of singles and couples from the church dining together in each other's homes throughout the winter and spring. Everyone contributes to the meal and it is hosted by a member of the group, on a rotating basis. Newcomers are especially welcome. This is a great way to get to know the people you see on Sunday in a relaxed, convivial setting. Sign up at Coffee Hour beginning now through Sunday, December 30. You will be notified in early January of your group members. This is one of the most popular social events at the church and many people participate. Don't miss out!



Sign up at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/22W55ZM>

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 current year pledgers with open balances coming from your co-treasurers [Sue Kiewra](#) and [Judy Murray](#) soon. Giving statements for the full 2018 tax year will be sent out at the end of January 2019.



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 calendar for our Jazz in the Sanctuary concert which will take place on **Friday, January 25th at 8:00**. This year's theme is Fairy Tales: Think Alice in Wonderful, Someday My Prince will Come, Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum, and much more. And, please consider sponsoring this year's concert series at one of the following levels: \$125, \$200 (Forte Sponsor), or \$300 (Fortissimo Sponsor). Contact Kathryn Maffei at KLMINC@aol.com for more sponsorship info.

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

NOW IS THE TIME: 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 or place it in the envelope on table.

We have a limited amount of coffee and chocolate bars to sell before the service on Sunday December 16. See Claire McNeill.

Give the Gift of Freedom this Holiday Season! Help pay the bail for people in Boston jails. For too many people in our community, it's another day in jail because they can't afford the bail that would bring them home. This December, the Massachusetts Bail Fund is joining with neighborhood activists* in Boston to post bail at Suffolk County jails and at Dorchester District Court. <https://www.massbailfund.org/>

Have you heard of "Faithify?" FAITHIFY is a crowdfunding site where passionate people fund a great variety of Unitarian Universalist ministries. Even small amounts can help fix a leaky roof, discover hidden UU history, create a living classroom, etc. See <https://faithify.org/projects>

Engage in local and statewide advocacy with UU Mass Action! For upcoming events, go to: <https://www.uumassaction.org/new-events> or visit WUS' [Social Action & Outreach page](#). Read UU Mass Action's [2018 Annual Report](#).

Engage in national-level actions with UU's for Social Justice
Check out [UU's for Social Justice](#).

Guatemala Fair Trade Crafts Sale This Sunday Dec. 16, after services at First Parish Bedford (11 am until 1 pm)

A Thread of Hope Guatemalan Fair Trade offers items to meet every holiday gift need: cotton, bamboo and bamboo chenille scarves; jackets; ponchos; shirts; handbags; belts; beaded jewelry and ornaments; worry dolls; placemats; accessories and much

more! They accept cash, checks, credit cards.

10% of sales will go to the Sanctuary Fund for our sanctuary guest. An additional 10% of sales will go to Panajachel Colegio Internacional scholarship fund.

Please call **617-308-7026** with any questions, or to pre-order anything on our website at <http://www.athreadofhope.coop/>

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 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

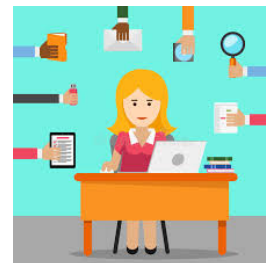
Sign up to be a Sunday Secretary for Sundays. Please contact the office at 781-729-0949 or office@winchesteruu.org if you're willing to consider it!



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. 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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