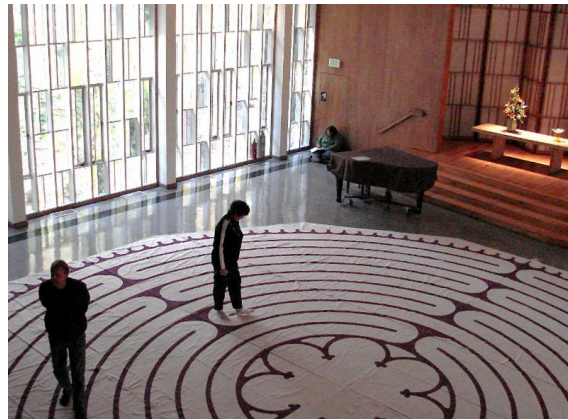


# Winchester Unitarian Society

## Highlights December 6, 2018



## Upcoming Worship

**Sunday, December 9th**

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

"Waiting for Peace"

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

**Music Sunday**

John Kramer

Worship Associate: Lee Barton

This **Music Sunday** we explore and celebrate mystery. We celebrate the mystery and miracle of Hanukkah and Christmas, the mysterious power of music, and the mysterious wonder that is life. We explore this mystery through music of all kinds: celebratory music, beautiful music, joyful music and mysterious music. The adult and youth choir will sing along with instrumentalists from the congregation.

This morning, we share our gifts with the **Anti-Defamation League**, whose mission is to "stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all."



## **Special Congregational Meeting This Sunday**

Deborah Morgan Bennett served the Winchester Unitarian Society as Intern Minister and Summer Minister, and now she has asked that we ordain her as a Unitarian Universalist minister.

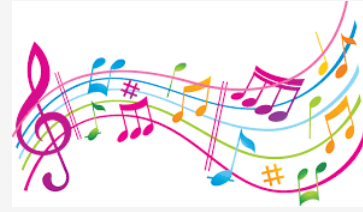
Following worship on Dec. 9 there will be a congregational meeting to decide whether we accept her request. **All Society members are requested to**

return to the Sanctuary ten minutes after the service for what is expected to be a brief meeting. Assuming a favorable vote, the ordination service would be in the spring.

## 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 Durban 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 Currier know if you'd like to join in the fun.

**Our Annual Mitten Tree undecorating begins 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).

**SUNDAY  
Morning Groups**

**World of Wonder: Habitats, Part 1** We continue our study of habitats by learning about different animal habitats in our backyards and neighborhoods. As Unitarian Universalist we believe that everybody, animals and people, deserve to have what they need to live - water, food and shelter. Teachers Beatrice and Caroline lead the group.

**Moral Tales: Faith, Hope and Prayer:** There are many types of prayer, and many reasons for praying. As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that prayer can bring us comfort, hope and an open heart. Teachers Charlotte and Elizabeth lead the group.

**Neighboring Faiths: Festivals of Light: Part 2** We continue to learn about the many celebrations of light this time of year, secular and religious. As Unitarian Universalists we understand that many religions seek light in the darkness as symbols of hope and joy. 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 9th. This week we discuss, sexuality, disability and bullying. Liz leads the group.

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

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

## **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: \$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

### Indoor Greening Party

**Tonight! Dec 6th, 6:30 pm**

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



### Holiday Potluck Dec. 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 many of you there.



### Mitten Tree UNdecorating is underway in the Symmes Room: We have 16 gifts left for the grabbing!

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. Our happy helpers will wrap gifts for a suggested donation of \$3 each. WUSYG will send invoices to those who return unwrapped gifts, or you can drop a check off (made out to WUS, with WUSYG in the memo) to the office anytime.

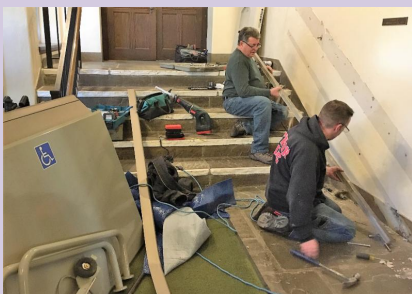
This year's recipients are drawn from children in the foster care system in Massachusetts. Please return gifts to the tree in Symmes by Sunday morning, December 16th with "mitten" number and recipient name securely attached to the gift upon its return. We will need them when the gifts are wrapped and sorted. If you can't be at church on the 16th, please call Patty Cameron at 781-720-5963 for gift pick-up.

## 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>



## Chair Lift Progress!

Many thanks to **Chuck Kuen, Patty Cameron and Marianne DiBlasi** for helping us move forward towards full accessibility throughout the building! Through their efforts, the previous, non-functioning lift was removed this week; a new chair lift will be installed soon.

## 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.

## 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)



## 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

Our love is with WUS's most elder member, **Ellie DuToit**, who has entered the compassionate care of hospice. Short visits are welcome at Ellie's residence, the Aberjona Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.



We celebrate with **Joan Baldwin**, whose paintings are part of a new show at the Kingston Gallery. The opening reception will be tomorrow, December 7th from 5:30-8 pm. (Image - "Gatekeeper," oil on canvas)

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

**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.

***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/>

Support Youth and purchase used books at half-price **Saturday, December 8 from 10:00 to 4:00 pm** in Waltham at 56 Felton Street. To find out more, go to <https://mtwyouth.org/>

For more information on **UU Mass events**, please go to:

## Guatemala Fair Trade Crafts Sale

**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/>

## 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

## 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

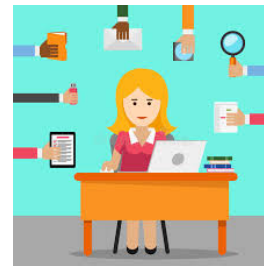
**Sign up** to be a Sunday Secretary for Sundays. Please contact the office at 781-729-0949 or [office@winchesteruu.org](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org) if you're willing to consider it!



### 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)

Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main St. Winchester MA 01890  
(781) 729-0949 | [office@winchesteruu.org](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org) | [www.winchesteruu.org](http://www.winchesteruu.org)