

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights January 3rd, 2019



Photo: A Christmas Cactus Blossom Anticipates the Future

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, January 6th

10:00 am Family Worship, Meyer Chapel
The Wonder Box

10:30 am All Ages Worship, Sanctuary
Wild and Precious

The Rev. Heather Janules
Worship Associate: Marcy Tompson

We have an annual tradition of inviting people from three generations to answer Mary Oliver's question "What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" Celebrate the new year by hearing their thoughtful reflections.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with the **Beyond Bond and Legal Defense Fund**, whose mission is to release detainees from the South Bay Immigration Detention Center in Boston, to provide for legal services and to support immigrant-led justice organizations. (Beyond Bond will be our Share the Plate recipient for all of January, as part of a campaign to raise \$5K. Community contributions will be matched, up to \$2K, by the Social Action and Outreach Committee, through their funds for grants.)

As this is the first Sunday of the month, there will be a conversation after worship about the service. Noon in the parlor.

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

JanFEST begins this Sunday, 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 Durbanio at madurbano@verizon.net.

THIS SUNDAY

Morning Groups

This Sunday, January 6: Welcome to the first Sunday of **JanFest!**

The children can choose from these engaging activities:

- *Gleeful Glaciers* with **Phil Coonley & Erin Graham**
- *Message Rocks/Rock Painting* with **Sarah Milt**
- *Cooking* with **Griffin Correia**

Afternoon Groups

Our Whole Lives meets at **4:30** in the Wallace Room. This week we discuss redefining abstinence. Sarah Milt leads the group.

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

Family Worship happens in the Meyer Chapel from 10:00-10:20.

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

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>

Congregational News

Join in the Campaign to Support the Beyond Bond and Legal Defense Fund

Readers of *Highlights* received a letter right before Christmas, asking for donations to the Beyond Bond and Legal Defense Fund. If you missed it, you can read the letter here: <https://www.winchesteruu.org/the-beyond-bond-legal-defense-fund/>

As we near the one-year anniversary of the congregational vote that made us a Level 2 congregation and the one-year anniversary of "Maria's" stay with First Parish Bedford, let's keep our commitment to immigrants alive through participating in reaching this important goal.

[Donate through PayPal](#)



Grief, Loss and Transitions Group Meets Wednesday, January 9th

7:30 - 9:00 PM, Parlor

Those living through times of bereavement, uncertainty and transition are warmly invited to this peer-led support group. Meetings are confidential and facilitated by a group leader. No RSVP is required.

Results of Racial Justice Survey

In Fall 2018, members of the Racial Justice Team conducted a congregation-wide online survey aimed at gathering opinions and suggestions about possible next steps in fulfilling our commitment to racial justice.

Twenty-six of you commented on programs and activities underway and noted other approaches that might further the cause of racial justice. Thank you for participating! You can access the survey results on [the Racial Justice page](#) of the WUS website:

[Summary of Comments with Suggestions](#)

[Results of Structured Questions](#)

Within that group of respondents, several expressed interest in helping plan future activities and were able to meet twice in December. The group discussed the results of the online survey and then created a "thought shower," organized around current activities and future possibilities.

This "shower" of ideas will be displayed on charts in the Symmes Room. Join us after the next two Sunday services in informal conversations about these rain drops, meant to nourish a more just and compassionate world. Add your comments (written on post-its) and support (voting with dots). What can we do? What might your role be? Let's get on with this commitment together.

The principles of Unitarian Universalism recognize the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

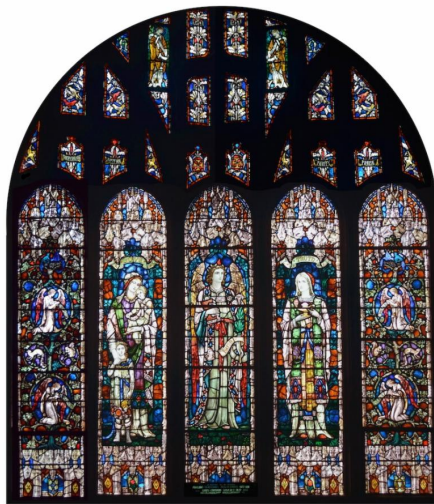
May it be so.

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 or to indicate your intention to participate. **Deadline is TOMORROW, 1/4/19.**



Let's Talk Worship!

Sunday, January 13th

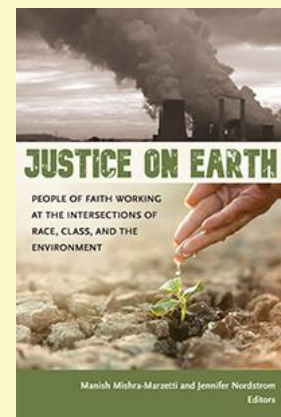
This Fall, we have been experimenting with new elements in our worship services (such as "Kindling of the Light") and the order of the elements. Come to hear how these changes came to be and to share your experience of them!

Our conversation will be facilitated by Worship Associate and Congregational Moderator Martin Newhouse.

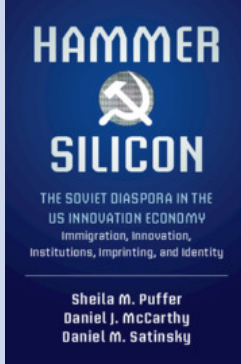
Contact Rev. Heather if you would like childcare provided so you can attend.

"Justice on Earth" books available for Congregational Read

WUS's Growth & Learning Committee has purchased multiple volumes of this book that are now available for members of the congregation to borrow from the Michelsen room. The subtitle of this book is "**People of faith working at the intersection of race, class, and environment**". It is an anthology that presents a powerful look at environmental justice from some key thinkers and activists in Unitarian Universalism today and is offered as thoughtful background for Heather's sermons on environmental justice. Please complete the sign out sheet if you borrow a copy; we ask that you return it within 2 weeks so that others may also read this fascinating compilation. Thank you.



Sunday, January 13, 3-5 pm



The Growth & Learning Committee invites you to hear **Sheila Puffer (WUS member and Northeastern University Distinguished Professor of International Business and Strategy)** talk about the book she co-wrote about the experiences and contributions to US science and technology made by immigrants from the Soviet Union during the past 40 years.

Meet at Sheila's home (contact the office for the address if need be). Refreshments provided (desserts, cheeses, wine). **RSVP to Rebecca Keller.**

Flag Display Discussion

On January 27th there will be a conversation after worship regarding the displaying of flags outside the church. The conversation will encompass the American, Black Lives Matter and the Rainbow flag. Standing Committee would like to get your thoughts on these topics before developing any policies and practices regarding the flags. Below is link to a short four question survey. Due to the limitations of the "free" survey feature we are limited to the first 100 responses. Thank you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R3FCB7R>

Jericho Walk at the ICE office in Burlington, MA on January 29th at 8 AM

Join us for the monthly Jericho Walk at the ICE office in Burlington, MA. This one is sponsored by the Winchester Unitarian Society and will be co-led by our own Rev. Heather Janules and Cantor Beth Levin of Temple Shir Tikvah.



The Jericho Walk is a silent interfaith prayer and act of solidarity. The walk draws inspiration from the Battle of Jericho, in which the community marched around the city of Jericho seven times, causing the city walls to fall. The Jericho Walk of today is a silent, peaceful, and prayerful walk to bring down the walls of our unjust immigration system and is open to all, regardless of spiritual belief or religious affiliation.

Please bring signs calling for just treatment of those who are caught in our broken immigration system, suggested messages "Keep Families Together", "No Family Separation", "Not One More/Ni Una Mas", "Not In Our Name". Please refrain from signs explicitly endorsing or condemning any political candidate or official.

On January 29th at 8 AM, we will gather in front of the ICE Office, at 1000 District Avenue, Burlington MA. Meet along District Ave. You can park in the parking lot adjacent to the ICE Office.

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.



From the Intern Minister

For most of January, I will be in Chicago attending the in-person classroom portion of my seminary classes at Meadville-Lombard Theological School. Meadville's low-residency model allows me to live and learn locally and travel to Chicago for intensive classroom time once each semester. While in Chicago, I will be available by email, although my response times may be slow. I am already looking

forward to

February and being back at WUS!

Marianne DiBlasi, Intern Minister

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

Change the Massachusetts State Flag and Seal! Learn why on Wed Jan 9, 7-9 pm, the Friends Meeting House, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge. Lead Organizers: North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB), Mass Peace Action In 1675, English colonists beheaded Metacom, the supreme sachem of the Wampanoag people. Four centuries later, our state flag and seal show the sword of Miles Standish hanging above the Native person's head. Read more:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1970338279750578/>

Celebrate Martin Luther King Day in Medford, with the NAACP on January 21, 2019. Doors open at 10:30 AM, program starts 11 AM, with a free lunch provided, and program ending by 1:30 PM. Location in the Parish Building of St. Raphael Church at 512 High Street, Medford, MA. We hope you will join the diverse crowd and learn what actions are being taken to promote racial justice in the nearby area.

Why Is It So Hard For White People to Talk About Racism? Members of the Racial Justice Book Group will present ideas for small group discussion **Sunday January 27, 2019 at 2:00 PM** in Symmes. It's not just about prejudice. It's about the systems in our society. Most white people grew up thinking white was normal - we didn't have a race. All are welcome to continue the discussion of what it means to be white in America and why being "color-blind" is not the solution...We will gather for refreshments at 1:45.

The Social Action and Outreach table has a new look. Every week or two we will feature a new justice or environmental issue. **This week the focus is on climate**

change. For an excellent review of where our state stands compared to its intentions check out: uamassaction.org and subscribe to their newsletter. If you have suggestions for themes please contact Kathy McKool or Claire McNeill.

UU Mass Action is co-sponsoring a **Justice & Renewable Energy For All lobbying day** on Thursday Jan 24, 11:00 - 3:00 PM at The State House embraces that history of genocide through their state.

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

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

Please join the Winchester Multicultural Network (WMCN) and the Family Action Network (FAN) for a family-friendly afternoon honoring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and his commitment to social justice and racial equity.

Monday, January 21, 2019

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Winchester Unitarian Church, Metcalf Hall

(Entered only from the rear of the Church off Mystic Valley Parkway)

Door opens at 3:30 pm.

Performance begins at 4 pm.

This event is family-friendly, as well as free and open to the public.

For more information, please click [HERE](#).



Woburn Food Pantry

Next time you go shopping, please consider buying extra **canned** and **dry soup** 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



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

janetnelson@comcast.net to put yourself on the contact list.

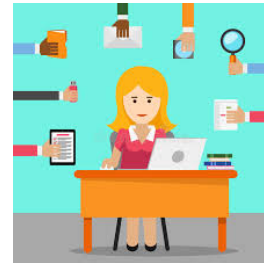
Usually two people sign up to bring finger foods for one Sunday. We truly appreciate your willingness to be asked to help out in this simple way – thank you!

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!

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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