

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights August 29, 2019



Upcoming Worship

Summer Services

Sunday, September 1, 10:30am, Sanctuary

Morality and Politics

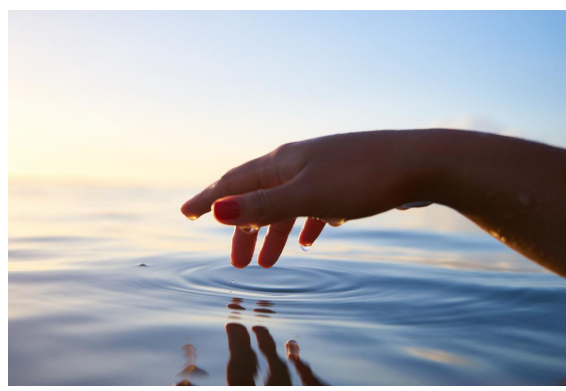
With Martin Newhouse

Worship Associate: Lee Barton

The relation between morality and politics is probably very much on many people's minds these days, given the concerns about our divided national government and the almost daily reports of statements and decisions that seem routinely to provoke moral outrage (often stoked to a fever pitch by our 24/7 news reporting). But we should never forget that reasonable and well-meaning people can differ on what is moral, as well as on other issues. For the health of our democracy as well as for our own moral wellbeing, while we should seek to persuade those with whom we disagree on moral grounds—and seek through the political process to achieve what we believe is right—we should strive never to demonize those who disagree with us. To make this point in my reflection this Sunday I will draw upon the words and example of Abraham Lincoln, who led our nation through perhaps its greatest moral and political crisis. This was the crisis caused by the institution of African-American slavery in this country, and which resulted in the most destructive of all American conflicts, the Civil War. Lincoln's moral understanding of those events, and of how to bind up a nation that had been virtually torn asunder, has much to teach us with regard to the moral and political disagreements we face in our own time.

There will be a discussion with worship leaders in the Parlor after each service. These discussions are always thought-provoking.

All are invited to attend.



Ingathering Service

Sunday, September 8, 10:30am, Sanctuary

(Family Worship in the Chapel begins the following week, September 15th, at 10:00 am)

Water Communion

“From Rain to River to Sea: The Power of Us”

Led by the Winchester Unitarian Society Staff

Worship Associate: Marcy Tompson

As the story goes, attendees of a UU women’s conference were asked to bring a little water from home so they could create a sense of home as they built community together. This is how we often begin our new year **so please bring some water from what you consider home or someplace special**. If you forget, don’t worry – we’ll have extra! This intergenerational service will celebrate the earth’s gifts that sustain all life and remind us of the need to be a powerful partner in its care. It will remind us we are stronger together than we are alone.

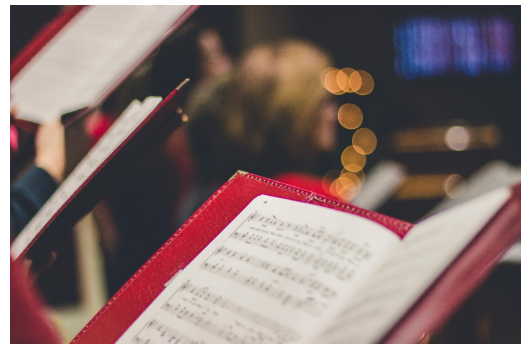
The service will conclude with a **rededication of our flags**, including representatives from community organizations, and the annual opening potluck. This year, the potluck will be a **Diversity Feast: bring a dish that reflects your ethnic heritage, your family’s recipes or your culture**.

Look for a dedicated email this week, detailing the many things beginning soon at the Winchester Unitarian Society!

Music

Choir

With the start of another church year around the corner on September 8, it's time to mark your calendars for the first choir rehearsal of the year. **The first choir rehearsal will be Saturday, September 7th from 9-12**. Please let Music Director John Kramer john.kramer@winchesteruu.org if you are interested in joining.



WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

WUSYG's Opening BBQ will be next Sunday, September 8th from 5-8 pm at the Milt's house, 11 Appalachian Road in Winchester. Youth should bring any interested friends! Parents are invited to join us at 7:30 pm to hear from Sam and Haley about this year's program. Our first regular meeting will be September 15th, 4:30-6:30 pm in the WUSYG Room. Also, save the date now for our Fall Retreat: Oct. 4-6 in Oxford.

Congregational News

Welcome New Pastoral Care Associates

This August, after an application and reference check process, three WUS members went through nine hours of training – led by Vicky Coccoluto, Intern Minister Marianne DiBlasi and Rev. Heather - to become Pastoral Care Associates. They are, from left to right, Kim Foley, Lee Barton and Carol Delaney. The Pastoral Care Associates (or PCAs) are a lay ministry team with the primary task of offering a listening ear and compassionate presence to those living through challenging times and those members of our community who are home bound. A PCA is available for conversation every Sunday during the program year; they sit in the pew closest to the candle table. You may also request a PCA at any time by contacting Rev. Heather.



Winchester Celebrates Pride - Join the Initiative!

WUS's recent theft of two rainbow flags helped draw attention to the reality that there are very few obvious signs of LGBTQ welcome in downtown Winchester. The Winchester Multicultural Network and WUS are partnering to soon begin a campaign, inviting local businesses to display a pride decal in their window. We cannot relegate Celebrating Pride to the month of June! The WMCN are looking for volunteers to visit these local businesses and see if they are open to posting the decal. If you are willing and able to volunteer in this way, please let Rev. Heather know (heather.janules@winchesteruu.org) who will coordinate with the WMCN.

\$\$\$\$\$ IMPORTANT \$\$\$\$\$

Thank you to everyone for your generous pledges! August 31st is the end of the fiscal year. It is quickly approaching, and we want to be sure to give those of you who still owe money toward your 2018-2019 pledge the information you need. Remember, every little bit always helps but especially in a year with an expected deficit. Pledge statements for ONLY for those who have an outstanding balance toward their pledge are in now in the mail. Giving statements for all will go out later in the calendar year.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or corrections – and most importantly - know that we understand if your circumstances have changed. If you prefer to contact Rev. Heather with your individual circumstances that is fine. All information will be treated confidentially.

The best email for questions regarding your pledge is treasurer@winchesteruu.org
Thank you very much!

Judy Murray and Sue Kiewra, WUS Co-Treasurers



"We Believe in Dog" Walks Again on September 7

We Believe in Dog is a gathering of WUS members and friends – and their dogs – who walk together in the Fells. You don't need a dog to participate! All participating

dogs must be friendly and vaccinated. We next gather on Saturday, September 7th. We will meet at the second of three entrances to the Middlesex Fells on Hillcrest Parkway at 10:00 am and start walking around 10:05. Let Rev. Heather know if you plan to come: heather.janules@winchesteruu.org Please also send your cell number if this is your first walk so we can reach out to you if you are not at the starting point when we are about to begin.

Community Joys and Sorrows

Our condolences are with **Ivan and Sheila Rudolph Correia**, their sons **Griffin and Alister** and their extended family with the recent death of Sheila's father, Joseph. You may learn more about him and his life here:



<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/southofboston-ledger/obituary.aspx?n=james-e-rudolph&pid=193744843&fhid=20829>

Our love and care go out to all who have joys or sorrows, hopes or prayers on their hearts. 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

SAVE the Date: "Steps Toward Decentering Whiteness" Free Morning Workshop Saturday, October 5, 2019

Please mark your calendars and register for this free morning workshop, coming up in October. [For our colorful FLYER with all the details, please go HERE.](#) For your convenience, all the details are also below with live links.

“...the values of Unitarian
Universalism cannot be
realized in a system which
is centered around one
cultural expression...”

Commission on Institutional Change
April 2018

Steps Toward Decentering Whiteness

October 5, 2019 - 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Co-led by Meck Groot, New England Region UUA; **Patty Shepard**, Winchester Unitarian Society; and **Susan Shepherd**, First Parish Cambridge

Hosted by the **Winchester Unitarian Society**, 478 Main Street, Winchester, MA

Through brief presentation and lots of small group conversation, we will:

- explore the systemic issues that were at play in the search for a Lead for the Southern Region as outlined in the UUA Commission on Institutional Change’s “Findings Related to the Southern Regional Lead Hiring Decision, Spring 2017,”
- apply the Commission’s findings and recommendations to realities at the congregational level, and
- identify possible steps congregations can take to decenter whiteness and to center individuals and communities with marginalized identities and experience.

Please read the Commission’s Report prior to coming. Access at tinyurl.com/COIC-April2018.

PLEASE REGISTER NOW at tinyurl.com/NER-registration-10-05-2019

Admission is free though registration is required.

Registration closes 09-27 or at capacity.

NEED a meaningful BOOK?

Check out the shelf of Racial Justice books in our Library in Michelsen. More books

have been donated, including "Color of Law." Please return books within a month.

Are you curious about the Racial Justice book group? Join us at our next meeting as

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](#).

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

Council of Social Concern

Next time you go shopping, please consider buying extra some high protein food. Canned chicken or tuna, as well as peanut butter are good choices. Thank you for your generosity.



Ongoing

**Yoga, Meditation, Qi Gong, Caregiver Support Group,
and 350 Massachusetts Metro North**

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: Wednesdays, 9:00 am

Email to office@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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