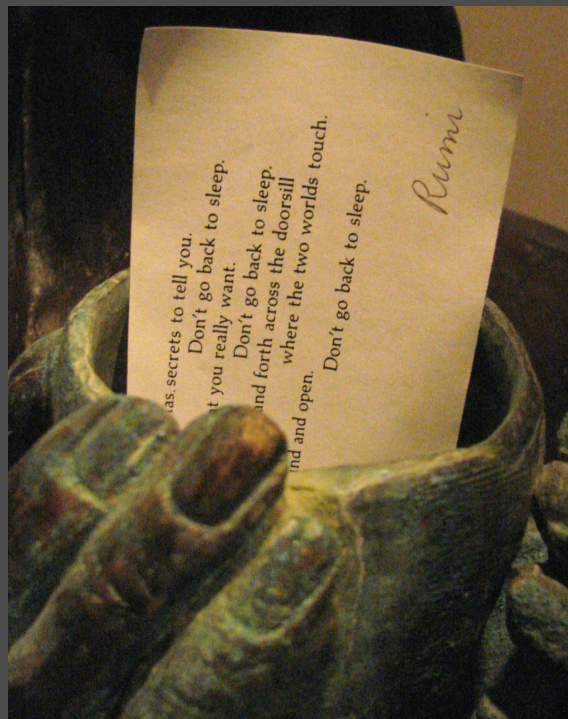


# Winchester Unitarian Society

*Highlights September 12, 2019*



## Upcoming Worship

**Sunday, September 15, 10:30am, Sanctuary**

(Family Worship in the Chapel begins September 22, at 10:00 am)

### **"Grace Does Not Agree to Your Terms and Conditions:" Spirituality**

The Rev. Heather Janules

Worship Associate: Martin Newhouse

There is a well-known saying: "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings having a human experience." But what makes us "spiritual beings?" What does "spirituality" mean to you?

This service will explore how some having a human experience understand spirituality. In this season of summers end and back to school and work, we will also have a **Blessing of the Backpacks** so be sure to **bring your backpack/diaper bag/purse/briefcase to worship so you can carry the community's care with you all year long, wherever you go!**

## Music

**Choir**

Adult Choir rehearsal at 8:45 on Sunday.

Children's Chorale and Youth Choirs rehearsals begin this Tuesday evening from 6:15-7pm. Do you know a young person who loves to sing? Both these groups are wonderful opportunities to learn about music and enjoy community, and have a great time.



Please contact Music Director John Kramer for more information at [john.kramer@winchesteruu.org](mailto:john.kramer@winchesteruu.org)

## Religious Education

**RE program Registration** is open for the 2019-2020 program year! Details of the program are here – (link to program brochure on web) To keep our contact information current, we ask that all returning and new families complete a registration form (linked here) Please return your family's registration information by October 1st.

### **This Sunday September 15th In Religious Education**

**9:45 AM;** Come meet and greet the teachers. Please come join program staff and members of the Religious Education committee for a chance to meet and greet our Sunday morning teaching teams, hear about content and guiding principles for this year's children's program offerings. We meet in the parlor.

**10:30 AM** Backpack blessing (and diaper bags, computer bags, purses, briefcases etc. . .) in the sanctuary

**10:45ish** Orientation to Religious Education classrooms, introductions and covenants. Today's theme for all ages "How Do We Say Hello?"

**4:30 PM Parent Meetings and Q&A - F8th in Action** program for eighth graders. We will introduce you to the program values and the draft calendar for the year, as well as answer any questions you might have about this social service and justice based program.

Afternoon groups; F8th in Action begins on **September 22nd**, and Our Whole Lives begins meeting on **October 20th**.

**September 29th from 4:30-6:00 PM Community Dance:**How often do you get to have fun dancing as families, in a community of all ages? Ready to try? Marcie Van Cleve, director of the Folklife Center of New England, guides you and other dancers in multicultural, circle and contra dances as our group of live musicians play the tunes. We invite people of all ages, experience and abilities to bring your happy feet to Metcalf Hall and DANCE! Many thanks to the Cerny Thomases fund for making this event possible.

**September 29th, 4:00-5:45 PM** Our Whole Lives Parent Orientation, mandatory meeting. Come and have your questions answered and learn about the program values and content of this vital program for 7th graders.

Let us know how to reach you! We often have information and/or scheduling changes to share with families. If you have a child aged infant through 8th grades, please give

us your current email address so that we may communicate more effectively with you. Send to [rebecca@winchesteruu.org](mailto:rebecca@winchesteruu.org)

## Family Worship at Winchester Unitarian Society

*Family Worship happens in the chapel at 478 Main Street from 10:00-10:20, all Sundays this fall excepting 9/8, 9/15 10/20, 11/24, 12/15 and 12/29.*

Designed to be inclusive of families with younger children, Winchester Unitarian's Family Worship service is place where you and your family are just fine the way you are. Rustlings and comings and goings are held lightly, there's room to wiggle as well as to experience rituals of caring and connection in this short (20 minutes) and evocative worship service. If you are looking for a welcoming and meaningful experience to share with the children in your life, please join us. If you are looking for a message to inspire and inform, please join us. If you are looking for a place where you are known and welcomed, join us.

## WUSYG

### *Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group*

WUSYG has our first regular meeting this Sunday, 4:30-6:30 pm in the WUSYG Room. Thanks to everyone who came out to our awesome BBQ last Sunday (and special thanks to the Milts for hosting!) In case you couldn't make it to the BBQ, here's a link to our calendar for the year: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NEFqZr1-Aed6CLg2DWt9VyDAI53Bom-UrZek7Yyz\\_Xs/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NEFqZr1-Aed6CLg2DWt9VyDAI53Bom-UrZek7Yyz_Xs/edit?usp=sharing)

And here's a copy of our latest WUSYG Handbook for Families: [\[link to attachment\]](#)

Click here for our latest registration and medical form (required for everyone participating in WUSYG this year. Please fill this out as soon as possible!): <https://forms.gle/CvwJbhPTaPyw7MEQA>

We look forward to an awesome new year with everyone!

## Congregational News



### **Fall Sanctuary training at First Parish Bedford**

Now that summer is over, First Parish is offering training in September and October. Most Level 2 congregations have exhibited some burn out. This has not been a problem for us. Instead, a dedicated group of thirteen to nineteen WUS volunteers, out of forty-two WUS volunteers signed up for sanctuary, have been carrying the load. So, it is imperative to replenish volunteers and give those that have been doing more than their share a break.

Dates for training are as follows:

**Monday, September 23, 7-9pm:** First Parish Bedford, room 202

**Tuesday, September 24, 1-3pm:** First Parish Bedford, room 202

**Tuesday, October 29, 1-3pm:** First Parish Bedford, room 202

**Wednesday, October 30, 7-9pm:** First Parish Bedford, room 202

Per First Parish, *“you are so crucial in this mission to keep our guest safe. She is so grateful for all you do! It’s wonderful that we keep getting new volunteers every month, as we continue our commitment for the long haul.”*

Please e-mail [marilynmullane@me.com](mailto:marilynmullane@me.com) if you plan on attending. Provide your name, e-mail address and phone number. Note that drop-ins are no longer invited.



## Next ICE Detention Vigil in Boston, September 29th, 2:00 PM

The Parish of the Epiphany is organizing the monthly Interfaith Prayer Vigil at the ICE Detention Center in Boston, sponsored by MCAN (Mass Communities Action Network). Their hope is that many other Winchester organizations, faith and civic, be involved as possible. If they have the numbers to fill

it, they will have a bus to transport everyone as they did last year.

Per Phil Coonley, *“of all the ICE related vigils, I’ve found these at the detention Center in Boston the most moving and reinforcing. About half way on the 1/4 mile walk around the facility one mounts an elevated pedestrian walk which is visible to the prisoners in the facility. and since the second floor windows are not opaque like the first floor’s, many inmates are against the windows expressing their thanks for our presence. Apparently it means a lot for them to know they are not forgotten, and that many folks are sympathetic to their plight.”*

Please e-mail [heather.janules@winchesteruu.org](mailto:heather.janules@winchesteruu.org) if you are planning on attending so that she can alert the Parish of the Epiphany.

## Covenant Group Opening

WUS has a number of small groups that meet regularly for personal sharing and reflection on a meaningful topic. Last year, Rev. Heather created a new group using the Soul Matters curriculum. The Soul Matters materials correlate with the monthly theme and include spiritual practices, thoughtful questions plus many quotes, videos and songs



The group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 7:15-9:00 PM. As we have some openings, **we encourage those who may wish to join us to contact Rev. Heather by October 1st to learn more.** Please join us!

**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](mailto:heather.janules@winchesteruu.org)) who will coordinate with the WMCN.



**Save the Date!  
We Believe in Dog  
Walks Again on  
October 19th**

## Updates for Highlights and Order of Service

Our new Office Administrator, Thomas Slack, will be responsible for organizing and updating Highlights and the Order of Service. Jenny will be helping him out until Thomas gets the hang of things. All deadlines remain the same (information below).

Please submit all updates for Highlights and the Orders of Service to [\*\*thomas.slack@winchesteruu.org\*\*](mailto:thomas.slack@winchesteruu.org) and [\*\*jenny@winchesteruu.org\*\*](mailto:jenny@winchesteruu.org).

Thank you!

## Community Joys and Sorrows

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

## Social & Environmental Action

### Climate Strike

Join fellow UUs for the Climate Strike on **September 20**. In **Boston**, thousands will gather at **City Hall Plaza** **RSVP at the special UU Mass Action RSVP forms** so that they can keep you posted on related events.

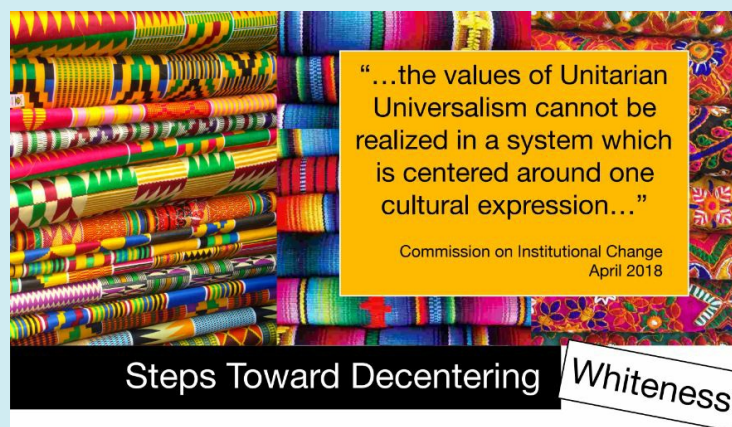


The WUS Racial Justice Book group will meet **Sunday, Sept 22 at 12:00** to decide books for the fall. All are welcome.

UU Mass Action suggests: "There are important actions you can take this fall for *Immigrant Justice, Ending Mass Incarceration – Solitary Confinement Reform and Climate Action*" [Click here to find a one-page summary](#)

## 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.



## 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](http://tinyurl.com/COIC-April2018).

**PLEASE REGISTER NOW** at [tinyurl.com/NER-registration-10-05-2019](http://tinyurl.com/NER-registration-10-05-2019)

Admission is free though registration is required.

**Registration closes 09-27 or at capacity.**



**Lexington Refugee Assistance Program (LexRAP)**, is a non-profit that helps refugees, has a family that needs a 4 bedroom or very large 3 bedroom apartment or house.

The story is heart warming and compelling: The Syrian mom and sons came on a medical visa six years ago when the older son was seriously injured in the war and they were flown to Children's for medical care. The mom was 8 months pregnant at the time and had the baby here. They applied for asylum, which was granted, and they got refugee status. The older son is now fine after several surgeries. The rest of the family escaped to Jordan.

The mom and boys have been living in a 2 bedroom apartment in Arlington for the last two years. We have known this family for many years and have great respect for how the mother has managed a very difficult situation - she has become a leader among the women LexRAP supports. Recently, 4 daughters were able to get permission to come join their mother and they just arrived in early August - after being separated for 6 years. Now their apartment is too small so they need a bigger place in Arlington, preferably, or in the general area.

If you know of anyone who knows of a place, please have them call Lynn who is working on this at 781-738-7859 or email her at [lynn.wolfsfeld@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.wolfsfeld@gmail.com)

### **Council of Social Concern**

Next time you go shopping, please consider buying extra *mac & cheese* and *canned potatoes* 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**



### Coffee Hour Refreshments

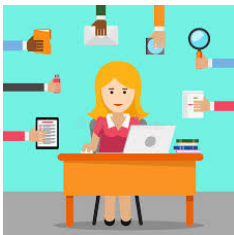
Help make Sunday mornings more welcoming and joyful by bringing refreshments for coffee hour! If you are willing to be contacted when **sign-ups** are needed, please email **Janet Nelson** to put yourself on the list.

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!

### Flower Dedications

Dates are available for flower dedications. You may dedicate flowers in celebrations 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.



### 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!

### Want to Get Involved?

The Religious Education Committee invites those who are interested to lead the message for 10:00 Family Worship for the first Sunday of the month. If you have a favorite child-friendly story to read or tell, or short activity you would like to share, please do! Themes in the past have involved the environment, meditative practices, social justice, and friendship. You will be asked to coordinate with that day's worship leaders and provide any props. The message should be no more than 10 minutes long. Email the RE Committee at [rec@winchesteruu.org](mailto:rec@winchesteruu.org) (link address?) if you are interested. If you would like to lead, but need some suggestions, please let us know!

## 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



## 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)