

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights December 5, 2019



*Photo illustrating this month's theme of "Awe"
- A photo from Christmas Eve worship at WUS, 2018. Reprinted with permission.*

Upcoming Worship

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

For young children, their adult friends and those with an inner child...

About Family Worship

This Sunday, The Rev. Heather Janules leads the service with
"A Tree Comes to New England"

There is **NO** Family Worship next Sunday, **December 15th**, please join us for our
annual holiday pageant in Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 8
10:30 am All Ages Worship, Sanctuary

Music Sunday

John Kramer, Music Director
Worship Associate: Lee Barton

On this Music Sunday we will hear *The Ballad of the Brown King*, a cantata written by Margaret Bonds with a libretto by Langston Hughes. This piece looks at the Christian nativity story from the perspective of Balthazar, the "brown king", who came from Arabia or



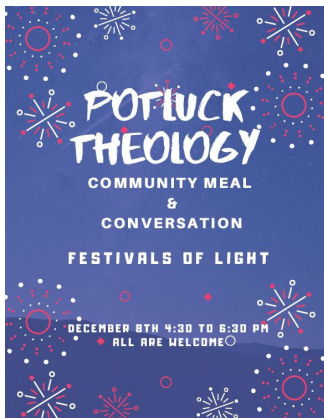
Ethiopia. It is a really rich piece musically, rewarding both in the performance and the listening. Bonds blends the European classical tradition with jazz, calypso, and other musical traditions, there is even a hint of early Motown in the work. The piece is in nine movements and scored for choir, soloists, and arranged for piano, flute, oboe, clarinet, and bass.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU)**. BLUU provides information, resources and support for Black Unitarian Universalists and works to expand the role & visibility of Black UUs within our faith. Financial support of BLUU helps all of us build a “radically inclusive, justice-centered, multiracial religious faith.”

Events This Week

**Indoor Greening Party
Tonight!!
Thursday, December 5th, 6:30 pm**

Anyone who wants to help "green the church" is welcome to join us. Kids are explicitly and warmly invited!
Cookies, eggnog and holiday cheer provided.

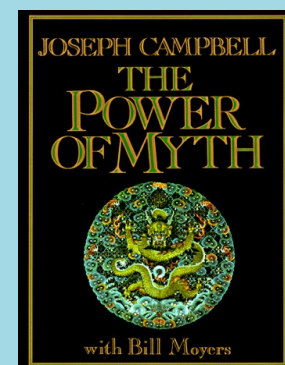


Potluck Theology

Please join us for our **next Potluck Theology on Sunday, December 8 at 4:30-6:30pm**, where we will explore different festivals of lights celebrated during the winter season including Hanukkah, Saint Lucy's Day or Santa Lucia, Winter Solstice, Advent/Christmas and Kwanzaa. Please sign up to help using the link below! Thank you!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4FA8AB2F4-potluck1>

Exploring the Power of Myth

Come discuss the ideas of this Joseph Campbell series/book, *Power of Myth*, one chapter per month. The next meeting will be **Sunday, December 8 at 12:00 pm** in Michelsen. Campbell told us that mythology is not a lie, mythology is poetry; not a literal truth but a metaphorical truth. Myths from different cultures, peoples, and faith traditions are remarkably similar, speaking to the innate condition of the unchanging human psyche. If our dreams are individual myths; then myths are our collective dreams. If interested, please contact Matthew Bronski mbronski@gmail.com or Rebecca Kelly-Morgan rebecca@winchesteruu.org



OH MITTEN TREE: Mitten Tree UN-decorating continues in the Symmes Room. We have just a few mittens left!



This year we will have a free Gift Wrapping Service by members of WUSYG. If your gifts are dropped off unwrapped and clearly labeled (with the mitten) we will take on making them look wonderful on the 15th, before they are distributed to the recipients. This year's recipients are children in Foster Care with DCF and children from families supported by LexRAP. Please return gifts no later than December 15th at 12:00 PM with "mitten" contents and a name label securely attached to the gift upon its return. We will need these when the gifts are wrapped and/or sorted.

Religious Education

This Sunday:

Morning Groups:

PreK-1 World of Wonder: Winter is Here! As Unitarian Universalists we honor teachings from all around the world. Today we think about the oldest celebrations, tied to the sun and the moon, and hear a story of the Winter Solstice, the shortest day. Teacher Caroline leads the group.

2-4th Grades Moral Tales: Where did Christmas Come From? We hear the story as we know it now, of the child who was born to poor parents and became a teacher whose words and example still are relevant. Next week we will tell the story again in our pageant. Teachers Charlotte and Elizabeth lead the group.

5th Grade and beyond, Faith Finders: Problem Solving. Chalica part 2: On this last day of Chalica, when we honor our 7th principle, we think about the upcoming season of giving and getting and how our holiday consumption can acknowledge the needs of a changing climate. Rebecca leads the group this morning.

Afternoon Programs:

Our Whole Lives meets **4:30-6:00 pm in the Wallace Room**. This week, Sexuality, Disability, Bullying. Sioux and Jenny lead the group.

8th graders are invited to join WUSYG for their meeting this week, Sunday at 4:30-6:30. And to be part of next Sunday morning's festivities!
Details will be provided on Sunday.

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

- Tomorrow we have a Sleepover (multi-UU-youth group, at the UU church in Needham) and this Sunday we have a regular meeting at 4:30 (joined by our 8th graders!) Please click [here for the flyer](#) with more sleepover details and please email Wusyouth@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

- Please also mark your calendars for youth to be at WUS during the morning and early afternoon of Dec. 15th: there will be roles for youth in the Holiday Pageant upstairs at 10:30 then we'll be holding our services auction fundraiser downstairs afterward alongside the all-church potluck. Youth and 8th graders will also do gift-wrapping

together for the WUS Mitten Tree and sell holiday confections alongside the services that they'll be auctioning off silently. Families are welcome and encouraged to join us for everything that day!

To see all of our upcoming events, **click here to see a PDF of our calendar** for the year, or view and subscribe to our google calendar by going to our website: **www.winchesteruu.org/youth** where you can also find more information about our programs and ways to stay in touch. Email **wusyouth@gmail.com** with any questions, concerns or compliments!

Music

Choirs

Adult Choir rehearsal begins at 8:45 on Sunday.

Children's Chorale and Youth Choir rehearsals are 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

Congregational News

Sanctuary News About Maria

January 5, 2020 will mark the second anniversary of when Maria choose to enter sanctuary in the hope of remaining legally in this country with her children. We have talked with her about how she would like to acknowledge this date. As you might imagine, at times she is disheartened that she is still here after 2 years. So this year, she has chosen to have a small dinner with her family and the sanctuary committee.

We also know that many of the volunteers were at the recommitment service last January and will be wondering how to be supportive this year. So we have a couple of suggestions of things that folks can do in her name:

Do a Jericho Walk – Tuesday, December 17 @ 1PM – carry a sign that says “I Walk for Maria” or something like that! (no last name please)

Donate to a college fund for Maria's son, Isidro, who was deported two years ago. He is currently enrolled in college and studying to become an English teacher.

- Send checks made out to Manuel A. Rodriguez with “Isidro's Fund” on the memo line and send to First Parish in Bedford, c/o Diana Finer, 75 The Great Rd, Bedford, MA 01730

Donate to BIJAN, a Boston immigrant rights organization that arranges bond for detained, undocumented individuals so that they can return to their families and actively pursue their cases. (Note that BIJAN will be the Share the Plate recipient for 12/15.)

- www.beyondbondboston.org

Donate to Bedford Sanctuary fund

- Checks can be made out to First Parish Bedford with “Sanctuary Fund” on memo line and sent to First Parish in Bedford, 75 The Great Rd, Bedford, MA 01730

Send a handwritten note of encouragement to her and address it to First Parish in

Bedford, c/o Sanctuary Committee, 75 The Great Road, Bedford, MA 01730

We ask that if you do anything at all in her name, that you send us an email telling us what you did. We plan to give her a small book with the names of all who did any action and what they did. We ask that you get an email to either Judi Curcio (judi.gez84@gmail.com) or Maureen Richichi (maureen.richichi@gmail.com) before January 3rd so we have time to put this together.

We hope that this is the last year that we have to rededicate ourselves to the work that supports this amazing woman!

With Gratitude

Maureen, Judi, Diana, Tony, John and Annie
Strategic Team



Save the Date: Silent Retreat January 10-11

*Begin the New Year with 24 hours of centering
heart, mind and spirit*

Participants gather at WUS at 7 pm on Friday, Jan 10th 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 collage 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 January 6th.**

Shop local! But if you're one of the 75% of Americans who shop online at Amazon, please help support WUS by naming the Winchester Unitarian Society as your designated charity on Amazon Smile.

As you shop this upcoming holiday season, we urge you to shop local. But if you're doing your shopping online and you're buying from Amazon, we hope you'll make [Amazon Smile](#) your starting point and support WUS through your purchases. Why? Because Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. It's easy. You start your shopping experience at smile.amazon.com instead of the plain old amazon.com – it's the same Amazon you know, same products, same prices. You name the Winchester Unitarian Society as your designated charity and start shopping! Got questions about the program? Read more [here](#) or just get started at smile.amazon.com.

Thanks and Happy Holidays!

Thank you for your generosity. Two days before Thanksgiving eight WUS members delivered the 33 large boxes of food, and gift cards for over \$450, to the Council of Social Concern in Woburn. Sharing a box enabled a total of thirty-eight family units to participate in this more personal way of sharing our



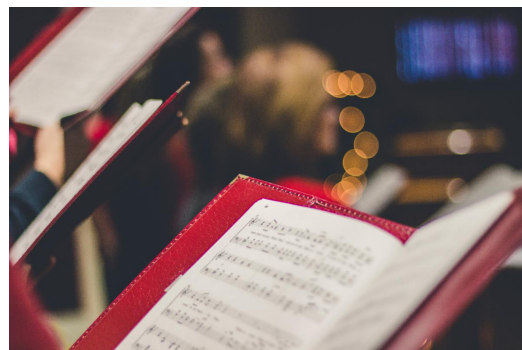
bounty with families in our area.

Parent's Night Out
Saturday, December 14th
5:00 to 8:00 pm

An early holiday gift for busy parents and guardians. Here's a chance to shop for or wrap some special gifts or have a dinner out eaten on plates that can break. We are looking for folks who would like to be part of the adult oversight of our children. We'll have kid friendly dinner, games and fun. Please let Rebecca or any member of the RE committee know if you're interested.

Carol Singing
Saturday, December 21st
4:00 pm

Before we jump the wreath into the new solar year, we're off to share some holiday spirit with our neighbors in Winchester. Bundle up and join us as we walk through the center of town beguiling all with our rousing renditions of winter classics. We hope to see families of all ages there. Questions? Contact John Kramer.



Winter Solstice Celebration
Saturday, December 21st
5:00 pm, Metcalf Hall

Join our extended community as we welcome the darkness and celebrate the returning light on this longest night and shortest day of Winter Solstice. The celebration takes place in Metcalf Hall, with the exception of the wreath burning which takes place in the parking lot! And then...stay and eat! We will provide a hearty soup and invite you to bring along finger foods or something sweet. Please bring along a contribution of a non-perishable food item to be distributed by the Council for Social Concern.

Kids & Cookies
Sunday, December 22nd

Our Annual cookie baking and decorating happens Sunday morning, December 22nd in Metcalf Kitchen during the worship service and usual Religious Education program time. We hope you can join us! We gift these to the

congregation for Christmas Eve worship services.



Jan Fest is coming!

Sometimes you just have to do something different. In January, our religious education leaders take a break, and community members offer workshops for and with our young people.



Adopt New Recycling Habits at WUS

There have been a lot of changes in the recycling industry. Recycling facilities can't take the volume of material they used to process and now some items even hamper that processing. These changes affect what can be put in the recycling bin.

The Green Sanctuary Committee is updating the church's recycle lists with information from Recycle Smart, the MA Department of Environmental Protection's statewide program (www.recyclesmartma.org) which promotes recycling that meets the new standards. The Town of Winchester, like many other cities and towns, has adopted this program.

New blue containers with the approved list of recyclable items will be in place around our church building beginning December 1. Companion containers will have list of items that are trash. We hope you'll look for them - and use them.

With thanks to Fritzie Nace for her expert advice and to Georgia Hoffmann for designing the signs,

Lindy Brown and Maggie Russell for the Green Sanctuary Committee

Contact us with any questions -

Lindy, lindybrown7@yahoo.com; Maggie, maggierussell@comcast.net

Supporting Local Refugee Families

WUS is beginning a supportive relationship with **Lexington Refugee Assistance Program** (www.LexRAP.org) whose mission is to provide refugee families with a network of community support.



There is an immediate need for the following items to support a LexRAP refugee family and their young child. Donations would be welcome and appreciated! If you would like to support this family, please bring items to WUS and place them in the LexRAP donation box in the Symmes room.

Huggies brand pull-ups, size 5T for boys
Vanilla PediaSure Shake, 8 oz. with blue cap

Additionally, there are opportunities to provide direct support to LexRAP refugee families who are living in the local area. There is a need for:

Drivers: to take family members to medical appointments, the grocery store, etc.
Conversational English visits: to help individuals practice speaking a new language

If you are interested in supporting local refugee families, please contact **Marianne DiBlasi** at marianne@winchesteruu.org.



Sunday Secretaries are needed!

The office could really use your assistance on Sundays.

Please contact the office at 781-729-0949 or office@winchesteruu.org if you're willing to consider it!

Social Action and Outreach wants your suggestions for justice and service projects this year. Please talk to any member of the committee: Sue Doubler, Harris Gibson, Gordy McIntosh, Claire McNeill, Patty Shepard, and Martina Warner. We have one vacant spot. Visit a meeting, the first Tuesday every month.

There is a **Facebook group for WUS Members and Friends**, a fun way to connect outside of Sunday morning. If you wish to join, simply find the group on Facebook, ask to join through the page and, recognizing your name, office staff will approve your request. **Join the conversation!**



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

Social Action & Outreach

**Join Boston Climate Strike
Tomorrow!!
Friday, December 6, 2019**

Stand for a Massachusetts Green New Deal. Thousands will gather in Boston to strike from school and work to further a revolution to gain climate justice and reverse global warming. Strike begins in Copley Square (10:30 AM to 11:30 AM) and then

moves to Boston Common. We will carpool to and from Assembly Square T-stop: **leaving rear of WUS at 9:45 am and returning by 1:00 pm.**
(Contact: Phil Coonley, coonley@me.com or 339-293-3568)

Facebook Event Page UUs – Let us know you're coming

Boston Candlelight Vigil
Wednesday, December 11, 2019
6:15 to 7:15 PM

First Church in Boston (map)

Lead Sponsor:

Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, at 66 Marlborough St., Boston

UUs Showing Up for Climate Action & Justice!

Important: [Please RSVP](#)



Join fellow UUs: UU Climate Action Advocacy Day
Tuesday December 17, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

All the materials you'll need will be provided – we just need you!

UU Mass Action has a new mailing address: 40 Mechanic St., Suite 306, Marlborough, MA. 01752 or find it on the web: uumassaction.org

Safe Communities Act. Although the December 2 hearing was cancelled due to the snow, the effort continues. Tell your MA representatives of your support. **Here's a helpful tool to help you do this** Ask them to contact the Joint Committee on Public Safety and request that the hearing be rescheduled as soon as possible.

If you are interested in engaging in [National level actions](#) for economic justice, environmental and climate justice, immigration reform or defending our democracy, [check out this great resource UUSJ](#). UUs for Social Justice.



Did you know that you can donate airline miles to reunify immigrant and refugee families and to allow these families to make their way to their sponsors in the United States? Donating airline miles is a perfect way to make a difference in the lives of immigrant friends, families, and neighbors.

RAICES (Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services - <https://www.raicetexas.org/>) has partnered

with Miles4Migrants and as part of our partnership, we want to ask our supporters to donate in a new way - their airline miles.

For more information, read the [Support RAICES Campaign to Raise Miles FAQ](#) and watch the following [short video \(3:30\)](#) to see how a Miles4Migrants case works.

Council of Social Concern

Next time you go shopping, please consider buying extra *shelf stable milk, apple juice* and *canned soups* 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

Two people/families will be assigned to bring refreshments for one Sunday. We truly appreciate your willingness to be asked to help out in this simple way - thank you!

You can see when your assigned week is by looking [here](#).

Without a doubt, there will be an assigned week that won't work for a given family and we ask then that you barter with your fellow congregants to switch up the assignment to cover your assigned Sunday.

Help make Sunday mornings more welcoming and joyful by bringing refreshments for coffee hour!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tyson (tyson@kamikawa.us) along the way.



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.

Seeking people to organize and lead the message part of Family Worship first Sunday of each month! 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 (link address?) if you are interested. If you would like to lead, but need some suggestions, please let us know!

Ongoing

Yoga, Meditation, 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)

Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main St. Winchester MA 01890
(781) 729-0949 | office@winchesteruu.org | www.winchesteruu.org