

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights January 16, 2020



*Photo illustrating this month's theme of "Integrity"
- A photo from a panel of stained glass at First Parish, Plymouth, MA*

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, January 19

(No Family Worship)

10:30 am Intergenerational Worship, Sanctuary



To Freedom: MLK Sunday

The Rev. Heather Janules and Dr. Harris Gibson

Worship Associate: Lee Barton

This weekend, our nation celebrates the birth of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. This service will include a first-person account of the Montgomery Bus Boycott from WUS member Dr. Harris Gibson and will celebrate the human quest for freedom that preceded King, that propelled many to act during the Civil Rights movement and lives today in our time. This multi-generational service serves as religious education for the morning so there will be no Family Worship or RE activities.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with the **Equal Justice Initiative**, providing “legal representation to indigent defendants and prisoners who have been denied fair and just treatment in the legal system.”

Religious Education

This Sunday:

Morning Programs:

There is NO Family Worship or RE Classes this Sunday, please join us in the Sanctuary for our Intergenerational Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Afternoon Programs:

There will be NO Our Whole Lives class meeting today. Enjoy the long weekend!

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

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

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY



Scams By Text

Some have heard that thieves are impersonating ministers by email, asking members to purchase gift cards to benefit people in need. (Like many congregations, the WUS community was subject to this scam in the past.) In some variations of the scam, the request comes from a board president or treasurer.

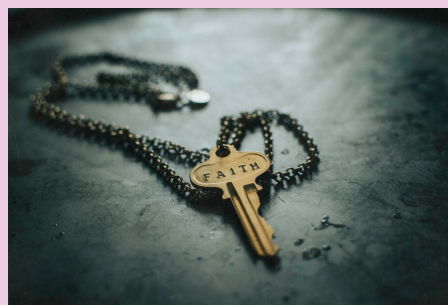


A new scam has developed, whereby thieves contact members by text, pretending to be the minister and asking them to purchase gift cards. It is unclear how they obtain the cell phone numbers. But, if you receive such an email or text, know that **no minister, staff member or leader of the congregation would solicit donations in this method.**

It is unfortunate that unscrupulous people seek to exploit the trust members place in religious leaders. If you receive such an appeal, delete and ignore!

New Year, New Keys

In the coming months for the first time in 20 years the Society will be updating and changing the locks on the church. A new building access policy has been adopted by Standing Committee to enhance building security. Keys will be distributed to staff, SC members, Chairs of Committees, and others as required. We know this is big change and every effort will be made to minimize any disruption to congregational life. We will leap to new locks on February 28, 2020. Please make an appointment with Thomas Slack to get your new key.





From the Music Committee:

Our January jazz concert is right around the corner! Please join us on Friday, January 24th at 8:00 for a concert we call our "Saxophone Summit." This year's Jazz in the Sanctuary concert will feature

three sax players (alto, tenor and soprano sax) as well as John Kramer on piano, Mark Pucci on bass, and Yoron Israel on drums. We'll celebrate jazz greats like John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, Stan Getz, Coleman Hawkins and more. And, there's still time to be a sponsor for this year's concert series. Contact Kathryn Maffei at klminc@aol for more info.

Creating a Spiritual Legacy, Part 1

Sunday, January 26th, 12:15 to 2:15 PM (lunch at Noon) in the Michelsen Room. Please join us for this first of two workshops on constructing a spiritual legacy. In this community devoted to spiritual

growth, each of us has a spiritual legacy worth exploring and sharing. We meet for a simple meal of soup and bread to nourish ourselves as we begin the process of inquiry and reflection on what values we hold sacred. Offered by the Pastoral Care Associates and staff members, this workshop creates a foundation for developing and documenting one's personal spiritual legacy. Please plan to bring a journal or notebook to the first session.



Contact Marianne DiBlasi or Donna Reed for any pre-workshop questions. RSVPs are requested, although not required. Please RSVP to Marianne DiBlasi at Marianne@winchesteruu.org. Save the date for part 2 of Creating a Spiritual Legacy on Sunday, February 23rd.

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday, January 26

The average frequency of a UU church member inviting someone to church is once every thirty-four years. Only once every thirty-four

BRING A FRIEND Sunday

years! This implies most reading this blurb have never invited a friend to this church. Isn't offering to share a good thing, without any undue pressure, a generous act?

Our service on January 26 will be youth run, so guests will see first hand our high-school age kids taking the lead. Most visitors will find this reassuring; the future will be in good hands. And those with young kids may be inspired to

get their kids involved in an activity, like our church, that promotes growth both in character and competence. And after the service and coffee chat, friends who claim only "secular" interests might like the scheduled discussion about Massachusetts's proposed Safe Community Act. Please consider sharing a pew, a service, a coffee, and even a discussion of optimal local police polices. Reach out.

And Bring Your Singing Voice Sunday, January 26

You are invited to come join the choir in our anthem, "There's a River Flowing in my Soul" on Sunday, January 26th. Please plan to attend our rehearsal in the Sanctuary at 9:45am that morning. The music is easy to learn and joyous to sing. We look forward to seeing you there.



Potluck Theology

January 26th, 4:30-6:30 pm in Symmes

All are welcome to join together for a shared meal, a conversation on refugees and our 7 principles, fellowship and fun. **Please use the this link to RSVP: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e4fa8ab2f4-potluck2>**



January Sanctuary Training at First Parish Bedford

If you want to volunteer to be one of the Winchester Unitarian Society volunteers and missed the fall training, now's your time to sign up.

Dates for training are as follows:

Monday, January 27, 7 -9pm: First Parish Bedford, 75 Great Road

Tuesday, January 28, 1 -3pm: First Parish Bedford, 75 Great Road

Please e-mail 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.

**Immersion Trip to Honduras -
August 1-8, 2020**



Winchester Unitarian Society members are organizing an Immersion trip to Honduras to visit El Hogar, a school and home, if needed, for about 250 students. The program will give you the opportunity to engage with students, parents, staff, alumni and other nonprofits working for

change. You will learn about the culture and the people of Honduras and explore the issues of extreme poverty, violence and climate change migration. There will be an information table in the Symmes room after the service on 1/19 and 1/26.

On **Sunday, February 2 at 12:30 pm (following the Pledge Drive Kick Off)** there will be an information meeting. You can reserve your spot by bringing a \$250 deposit to the meeting.

Contact Carol Delaney (ccdolaney1@hotmail.com) or Cynthia Randall (cynthiarandall@comcast.net) for additional information and to answer any questions. You can read more about the organization at www.elhogar.org

Save the Dates!

Family Book Discussion: *Refugee* by Alan Gratz sponsored by WUS and the Winchester Library. Sunday February 9, 2:30-4pm at the Winchester Public Library

Families with children ages 9+ and up are invited to discuss the book, *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. The discussion will be co-facilitated by Brittany DeLorme, Children's Librarian, and Rebecca Kelley-Morgan.

Copies of the book in a variety of formats are available at the library and in the special display areas. Additional copies are available through the Minuteman Library Network and limited numbers for loan at WUS.

Parent's Night Out! February 15th from 5-8. Parent's night Out! February 15th from 5-8. Here's a valentine for parents and guardians. While your children play and socialize over a kid friendly meal, you might go have a dinner out eaten on plates that can break or spend some quiet time. Please RSVP to Rebecca Kelly Morgan rebecca@winchesteruu.org by February 9th and let us know if your children have any dietary limitations, so that we can plan appropriately.



Rainbow Campaign Enters Next Phase

Network for Social Justice and Winchester Unitarian Society have organized our first day for volunteers to visit local businesses to invite them to post a rainbow decal in their window, a symbol of welcome to LGBTQ people and their allies.

Our visits will begin on **Saturday, February 1st from 10 am - noon**. We will gather for a quick orientation and then make these visits in a team or teams. If you haven't yet indicated an interest in this project and would like to join, please contact Rev. Heather:

We also need a couple volunteers willing to call businesses in advance to make them aware of our upcoming visit. Please let Rev. Heather know if you are interested in this role as well.

*Photo: Henry Hunter Maguire celebrates pride with a rainbow decal at his home.
Look for photos of flags and decals posted around Winchester with #rbowconnectionwin*

Updated Needs for Local LexRAP Refugee Family



Thank you to all who have been generously donating Huggies and PediaSure to support a local LexRAP refugee family and their young child. These items are very needed and greatly appreciated by the family! The refugee family continues to need these items and has made a new request for Huggies Nourish and Care wipes.

If you would like to support this family, please bring items to WUS and place them in the blue LexRAP donation box in the Symmes room. Please see below for specifics, especially for the PediaSure since it's the only type the child likes.

Vanilla PediaSure Shake, 8 oz. with blue cap that says "no artificial growth hormones"

Huggies brand pull-ups, size 5T for boys

Huggies Nourish and Care wipes

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

Drivers: to take family members to medical appointments, for groceries etc.

Conversational English visits: to practice speaking a new language

If you are interested in supporting local refugee families, please contact Marianne DiBlasi at marianne@winchesteruu.org. Thank you for supporting Winchester Unitarian Society's relationship with Lexington Refugee Assistance Program (www.LexRAP.org) whose mission is to provide refugee families with a network of community support.



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

Celebrate Martin Luther King Day with the NAACP in Medford.

“What does his legacy mean today?” Come for community building, speakers and lunch to the St. Raphael Parish Center, 514 High St. at 10:30, with program at 11:00. Contact Claire McNeill to carpool.

In the Evening come to Town Hall in Arlington (730 Mass Ave)

Featuring: Michael Curry, Esq., National NAACP Board of Directors. Doors open at 6:45 pm with light refreshments. **Program Begins 7:30pm.** They will be collecting non-perishable goods for the Arlington Food Pantry. A free-will offering will benefit public and nonprofit programs.

Jericho Walk led by BA4CJ (Burlington Area 4 Clergy Justice) on Tuesday, January 21 at 1:00 pm at Burlington ICE offices. Remember to park way in the back of the parking lot.

Climate Justice & Action

Are you ready to take bold action as part of our state wide UU network?

Fill out **this form** to about how you would like to be involved and join the movement. Whether you are already leading your congregation's climate work, or are totally new to the movement, please fill this out! And save the date for a kick-off UU Climate Campaign call on Wednesday, January 23 at 7:00PM. RSVP at **the form** above to get the zoom info.

Have you been on a Jericho Walk, supporting people threatened with deportation?

A company in Arlington has been working with ICE. You may sign a letter requesting that they cease doing that work profiting from families being torn apart by ICE.

Link to the Letter **Link to sign-on** **Deadline: January 24**

ABCs of Racism: Starting the Conversation about Race and Racism with Kids on Jan 28 at WUS from 7:00 -9:00 pm.

This interactive workshop led by Boston-based racial justice educators **Wee the People** will explore the barriers that prevent adults from talking about race and racism with kids, examine the social science of race awareness in children, and identify strategies to start the conversation with kids about the complexities of race, racism, and racial differences. This event is free, but registration is required. Register [here](#).

Last Sunday, members watched the launch of #UUtheVote. We can engage our neighbors, educate our communities, and more broadly shape the public discourse with values-based framing, rooted in our theology and principles. [Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved.](#)

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.



Beyond the Congregation

Stories from the Border

Thursday, January 16th from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Kickstand Cafe, 594 Massachusetts Ave in Arlington. Refreshments, and handmade jewelry and items for the home from Teosinte, El Salvador, will be available for sale. Please join the Arlington-Teosinte Sister City Project for an evening of true stories about lives in the balance on the US-Mexico border. Storytellers include Leva Jusionyte, Kate Goldman, Cristina Castillo, Cristina and Evelyn Cortez, Sarah Glover and Cristian Rodezno.

Cosponsored by Centro Presente, ArCS Cluster, Arlington International Film Festival, Temple Shir Tikvah and the Social Justice Committee, First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington.

Suitcase Stories

presented by International Institute of New England (IINE)

Friday, January 31 at 8:00 pm

Somerville Theatre, Davis Square

Somerville, MA

Suitcase Stories® and Global Arts Live (formerly World Music/CrashArts) partner again to feature inspiring refugee and immigrant stories. Suitcase Stories® is a traveling live performance that features foreign and U.S.-born residents sharing refugee and immigrant stories. The format of storytelling in a theatrical setting is especially suited to these powerful tales of real-life experience, and because of our ever-changing casts, every show is different and features new voices!

IINE has been serving immigrants and welcoming refugees to New England for more than 100 years. Now more than ever, new Americans need to know they don't journey

alone - our community continues to embrace and support them. Hope to see you there! [Buy Tickets Online](#)

WhaleCoast Alaska 2020

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2020 is for you!

4 Alaska UU congregations invite you to experience our unique environmental/cultural/spiritual program this summer. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, sea lions, etc. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships -- our program is truly the best way to visit Alaska! Tours led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime. For complete info go to: www.WhaleCoastAK.org, [email dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org) or call 907-322-4966. Discount for groups of 8 or more. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

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)

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