

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights January 2, 2020



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

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, we have a new (old) scale for joy and cares. Come check it out!

Sunday, January 2 10:30 am All Ages Worship, Sanctuary



Wild and Precious

The Rev. Heather Janules

Worship Associates: Harris Gibson and Stephen Perepeluk

It is our annual tradition, inviting representatives of three generations to answer poet Mary Oliver's question "What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious

life?" Come hear what Elizabeth Sharon, Matthew Bronski and John Russell have to say. **As this is the first Sunday of the month, a conversation will follow worship in the Parlor at noon.**

This Sunday, we share our gifts with First Parish Bedford, supporting their Sanctuary ministry. Exactly two years ago this Sunday, FPB welcomed an undocumented immigrant into sanctuary as their guest. Since then, WUS members and friends have served as volunteers, providing protective presence and to support "Maria" and her family. **To learn how to become a volunteer, contact Rev. Heather, Marilyn Mullane or Patty Cameron.**

Religious Education

This Sunday:

Morning Programs:

Sometimes you just have to do something different. In January, community members offer workshops for and with our young people.

This week for JanFest:

Checkmate! Join Sean Crowley for chess. All levels are welcome, ages 5 and up meeting in the Michelsen room.

Tortillas! Tyson Kamikawa reprises his tasting kitchen of flavored tortillas. Learn about different spice and seasoning blends and have fun in the kitchen. 5 and up meeting in Metcalf kitchen.

Air Clay Art: Younger children are invited to create art with air clay. Chalice, animals or? We meet in the play room ages up to 6.

Afternoon Programs:

Our Whole Lives meets **4:30-6:00 pm in the Wallace Room.** This week, Redefining abstinence. Jenny and Ryan lead the group.

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

WUSYG resumes its regular meetings this week, 4:30-6:30 pm this Sunday in the WUSYG room.

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

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!

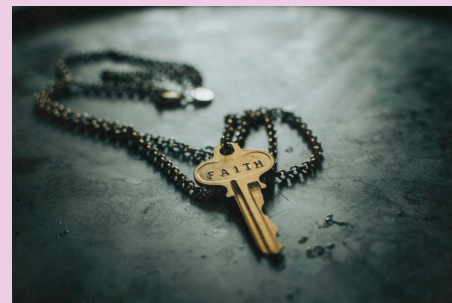


Gratitude from LexRAP

On behalf of the LexRAP refugee families and children, I am sharing their gratitude for the abundance of generosity from members of the Winchester Unitarian Society. The Mitten Tree Target gifts cards, along with donations from four other organizations, allowed each child to receive a Target gift card and small toys, as well as give each family a Market Basket gift card. The gifts were distributed at a festive potluck for LexRAP families, volunteers, and donors. Thank you for your sharing your light and love with LexRAP refugee children during this holiday season!

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.



Circle Dinner sign-up time!

Deadline -Today - January 2nd, 2020

It's time to widen your circle of friendships with fellowship and good eating! Circle dinners consist of small groups of singles and couples from the church dining together in each other's homes throughout the winter and spring. Everyone contributes to the meal and it is hosted by a member of the group, on a rotating basis. Newcomers are especially welcome. This is a great way to get to know the people you see on Sunday in a relaxed, convivial setting.



You can sign up for Circle Dinners online - it's very easy! Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5GKHV2C>

And, if you don't have a computer, Membership will have a laptop at coffee after the church service on December 22nd. You will be notified in January of your group members. This is one of the most popular social events at the church and many people participate. Don't miss out!



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.**



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.

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:

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.

- 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

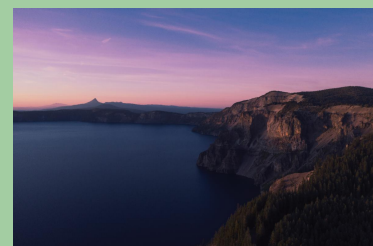
Save the Dates!

"Your Spiritual Legacy" Part I & II

Sponsored by the Pastoral Care Associates

January 26 & February 23

Michelsen Room / 12:15 pm



Save the Dates!

Potluck Theology, January 26th. All are welcome to join together for a shared meal, a conversation on refugees and our 7 principles, fellowship and fun. 4:30 to 6:30 in

the Symmes room.

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.

February 15th: Parent's night out!

Membership Reflection and Renewal Retreat

A fun and reflective program for newcomers, long-timers and everyone in-between on Saturday, January 25th from 9 am – 3 pm.

Are you considering becoming a member of the Winchester Unitarian Society? Are you a member but it has been awhile since you thought about your spiritual journey? Or maybe you just joined and have questions about what membership means at WUS... This program is for all of you!



Drawing from our past "Beginning, Becoming and Belonging" classes, this retreat will help you gain understanding about your religious experiences, learn about UU history and receive practical information about membership at WUS. As we will explore together, you will also meet new people and strengthen existing bonds with participants.

A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided; child care is available upon request. In respect for the group process we ask that participants commit to staying for the entire program.

Please RSVP to marilynnullane@me.com and remember to request child care, if needed.

-Your Membership Committee

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

Pass the #SafeCommunitiesAct

New date for the Safe Communities Act hearing: Friday, January 24, starting at 11:00 AM in the Gardner Auditorium.

UU Mass Action is helping to organize for this hearing. There is a Safe Communities Coalition registration link for this hearing, but we will register as a group – **please let us know you're coming by completing this form**



FRIDAY
JANUARY 24

This is our biggest mobilization yet! Help us pack Gardner Auditorium with SCA supporters and visit legislator offices.

SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT HEARING

RSVP TODAY:
[BIT.LY/SCA-JAN24](https://bit.ly/SCA-JAN24)

Can't make it?
1. Email legislators: bit.ly/MA-SCA
2. Help us cover costs: bit.ly/SCA-fund

SUPPORT SAFE COMMUNITIES

CHILDREN
FAMILIAS
UNIDAS

If you can't come in person, you can:

- Share the **Facebook event page**
- Write and submit your **written testimony** to the Co-Chairs of the Public Safety Committee. Please copy all members of the Committee **and** bcc the Coalition, as **instructed in the guidance here**.
- Or: If you want to just send an email (not testimony) to the Committee! It's most impactful if you write your own; **click here to generate a pre-addressed email form**, or...
- Or: Use our Phone2Action tool: **this version if you've already emailed your own legislators**, or **this one to reach both the committee and your legislators**.

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.

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

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** 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**.



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