

# Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights February 20, 2020



*Photo illustrating this month's theme of "Resilience"*

*- A heart tree, painted on stone by Rebecca Kelley-Morgan.*

*Trees are good role models for resilience, rooted in place but moving with whatever weather comes their way...*

## Upcoming Worship

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

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

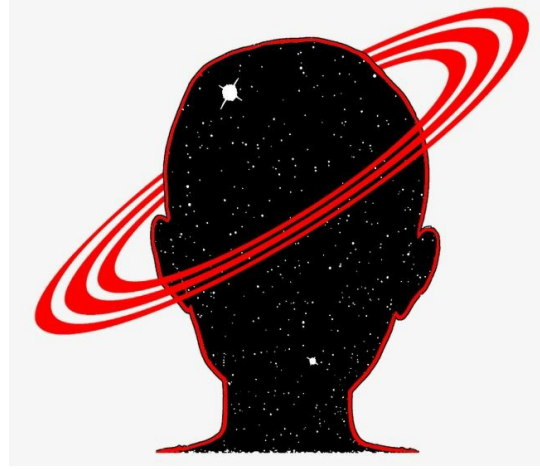
**About Family Worship**

This Sunday, "Potato, Egg, Coffee?" What do circumstances ask of us? How do we respond to challenges? Spoiler alert - not always the same way. Rebecca Kelley-Morgan leads the morning.

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**Sunday, February 23**

**10:30 am All Ages Worship, Sanctuary**



## The Gospel According to Afrofuturism

The Rev. Heather Janules  
Worship Associate: Peter McEntee

Afrofuturism is a cultural movement that merges science fiction, spirituality and social justice, a movement that draws from the past and present to imagine a hopeful future. As we conclude this month exploring "resilience," we celebrate Black history month by also celebrating a future envisioned by creative Black artists.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **Community Change, Incorporated**, a local anti-racism organization living out its mission through "education, advocacy and working in solidarity with others to organize for change."

## Events This Weekend

### Spiritual Legacy, Part II: Sunday, February 23rd 12:15-2:15 PM in Michelsen



Please join us for part II of this workshop. We meet for a simple meal of soup and bread to nourish ourselves as we begin the process of reflecting on our experiences of creating, or not creating, a spiritual legacy and discuss "what's next." All are welcome.

Contact Marianne DiBlasi or Donna Reed for any questions. RSVPs are requested, although not required. Please RSVP to Marianne DiBlasi at [Marianne@winchesteruu.org](mailto:Marianne@winchesteruu.org).

## Religious Education

### This Sunday:

#### Morning Programs:

During the month of February we're acquainting children in our Religious Education morning program with some of the social justice initiatives within this congregation. This week we gather in one large group to hear about symbols we use at this congregation that reflect our values. We'll learn more about the flags we fly in front of our congregation's building, our commitment to racial justice as we finish

writing thank you notes to mail to Winchester businesses who said “yes” when asked to post a symbol of welcome and inclusion in their doors and windows.

### **Afternoon Programs:**

Our Whole Lives **meets at 4:30 - 6:00 in the Wallace Room** . This week, conception and pregnancy. Sioux and Ryan lead the group.

Please **note the new date for our next Potluck Theology** will be offered on **March 29th**, rather than April 5th. We will be decorating pysanky eggs, dip dying and hearing about the myths of the spring season. All ages are welcome.

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**Parent's night Out!** Many thanks to the volunteers from WUSYG, Keira, Rhea, Isabelle and Ms. Juanita for making “kids night out” such a fun outing. We look forward to repeating this event in the future.

## **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](http://www.winchesteruu.org/youth)** where you can also find more information about our programs and ways to stay in touch. Email **[wusyouth@gmail.com](mailto: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.

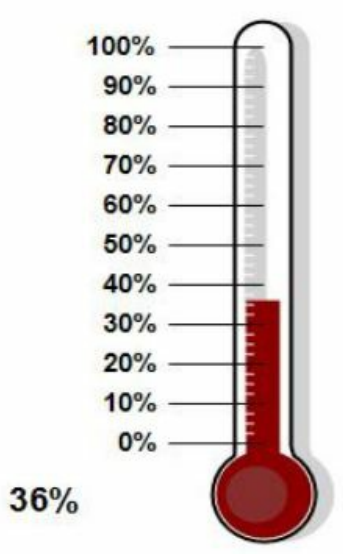
Please contact Music Director John Kramer for more information at [john.kramer@winchesteruu.org](mailto:john.kramer@winchesteruu.org)

## **Congregational News**

### **Annual Pledge Campaign**

We've already received 50 pledge cards representing nearly 36% of pledging households. Given that the majority of pledges are typically received during the last two weeks of the campaign, we are hopeful about reaching our \$400,000 goal by March 1.

Pledging is easy: submit your card during the offertory, by mail, drop it off in person in the office, leave it in the designated basket during coffee hour or pledge online



a t [www.winchesteruu.org/giving/pledge/](http://www.winchesteruu.org/giving/pledge/). Blank pledge cards will be available during coffee hour.

A big thank you to those who have already made their pledge! This year we will be sending environmentally friendly individual thank you's via email (with several exceptions for members and friends without an email account).

## Rev. Heather on Vacation

With the exception of the Standing Committee meeting on February 19th, Heather will be on vacation from February 17-22nd. Intern Minister Marianne DiBlasi will be on-call for pastoral emergencies. Those who need to reach Marianne in the event of an emergency can reach her by calling 781.729.0949 or emailing [marianne@winchesteruu.org](mailto:marianne@winchesteruu.org)

## From the Intern Minister

As we entered the year 2020, the reality of my two-year part-time internship coming to an end this Spring became more real. It's with bittersweet emotions of deep gratitude for and sadness of leaving this beloved community that I announce my last Sunday at WUS will be April 5. With the support of Rev. Heather and the Standing Committee, this date is sooner than the original end date of May 31 for two primary reasons.



First, in conversations with Heather, we recognized the truth that there is no such thing as part-time ministry. In spite of efforts to work the agreed upon 20 hours per week, having an authentic experience of ministry required working more than 20 hours. To compensate for the additional hours worked, my internship will end early.

The second reason is, I have commitments beginning mid-May. During the weekend of May 16-17, I will be in Chicago for graduation festivities and the commencement ceremony from Meadville-Lombard Theological School's Master of Divinity program. Shortly after returning, I will begin a summer Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) chaplaincy internship at Heritage Havenwood Heights in Concord, NH.

I am comforted and energized by the wonderful ministry we will do together between now and April 5. I am honored for the opportunity to serve WUS as your intern minister.

With blessings,  
Marianne

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The Intern Committee will host a cottage meeting to collect feedback on the

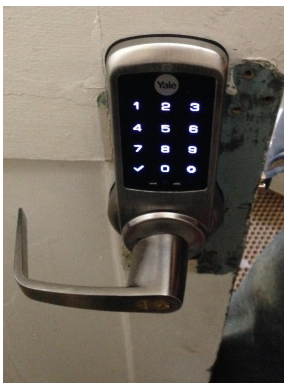
internship of Marianne DiBlasi as she completes her 2 year stay with us.  
**We'll meet Sunday, March 8th at noon in the Parlor. Please join us.**

### **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.



### **New Keypad at Metcalf Kitchen Door**



A new door lock has been installed on the rear door by the kitchen. Your current key will work, when the locks change your new key will work. Instructional signage on how to use the keypad and how to request an access pin will be posted shortly. Touch up paint will be completed shortly. For questions please contact Thomas Slack at (781) 729-0949 or James Pidacks.



### **Sanctuary New Volunteer February Training at First Parish Bedford**

As we are now into 2 years, 2 months, your continued support for Maria is oh so important. Bedford really need to grow volunteers for upcoming months. Also, if you attended a training session a long time ago, but not yet volunteered, you are most welcome to sign up for a refresher.

Please note two important changes. Bedford needs a minimum of 3 trainees total per training session. If they have fewer for an upcoming session by the sign-up deadline, the training will be postponed to the following month. If a training has to be postponed, you will be notified by the end of Saturday.

#### February Sanctuary Volunteers Trainings:

Monday, February 24, 7:00pm-9:00pm, Room 202

Tuesday, February 25, 1:00pm-3:00pm, Room 202

Please send [marilynmullane@me.com](mailto:marilynmullane@me.com) the date you would like to attend as well as your email and cell phone # no later than noon on Friday, February 21.

On behalf of WUS Sanctuary Task Force

**Calling all knitters, stitchers and other**

hand crafters: We are meeting on March 1st noon to 1:00 in the Michelsen room to organize a new knit and stitch group. This is your group, and your opportunity to make connections, and stitch in a meditative and reflective space if that is your desire. Knitters, crocheters, quilters and embroiderers are all welcome.



Fun is on the menu – at the Winchester Unitarian Society

## Spaghetti Dinner!

Sunday  
**1**  
March

**5:30 – 7:00 pm**

Downstairs at Metcalf Hall  
Winchester Unitarian Society  
478 Main Street, Winchester

Please join us for an all-church,  
inter-generational spaghetti dinner!

We'll have regular and gluten-free pasta, meatless sauce and meatballs on the side, salad, homemade garlic bread, and Hoodsies. All ages are welcome!

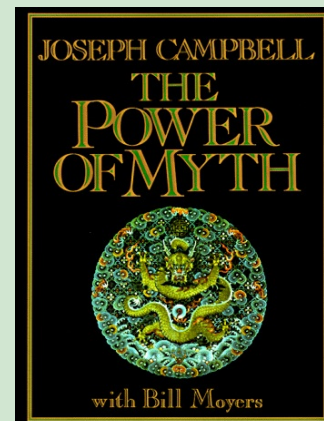
RSVP by February 26th to  
[marilynmullane@me.com](mailto:marilynmullane@me.com)

?'s: [marilynmullane@me.com](mailto:marilynmullane@me.com)

Sponsored by the WUS Fellowship & Membership Committees

### The Power of Myth Discussion March 8th 12:00-1:00 PM Michelsen Room

The "Power of Myth" explores spirituality and myth in a profound way, seeing the similarities of many myths across many vastly different peoples, cultures, religions, continents, and centuries. According to author Joseph Campbell, 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. All are welcome, whether you have joined the discussion previously, or not. Questions? , please contact Matthew Bronski [mbronski@gmail.com](mailto:mbronski@gmail.com)



### 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 are still 4-5 spots available on the trip.

On **Sunday, March 8 at 12 noon** we will have our first **TEAM meeting**. This meeting is for individuals who are committed to going on the trip. If you have not done so already, please bring \$250 as a deposit.

If you are uncertain about going on the trip you can contact Carol Delaney ([ccdolaney1@hotmail.com](mailto:ccdolaney1@hotmail.com)) or Cynthia Randall ([cynthiarandall@comcast.net](mailto:cynthiarandall@comcast.net)) for questions prior to the March 8 meeting. You can read more about the organization at [www.ehogar.org](http://www.ehogar.org)

## ***Love Has No Borders: Storytelling and Music on Immigration***

**Saturday March 14, 7-9pm**

**Jenks Center, 109 Skillings Road, Winchester**

Winchester Unitarian Society is hosting a community-wide fundraiser to create awareness for immigrant experiences and inspire hope-filled action through the power of stories and music. During the evening, we will hear from:

### **Storytellers:**

**Abdi Nor Iftin:** a refugee from Somalia who lived in Kenya before immigrating to the United States. He will share his story of life before coming to the U.S. Abdi's story was chronicled on *This American Life* in the episode: "**Abdi and the Golden Ticket**" and in his memoir, *Call Me American*.

**Marianne Boswell:** founder of Lexington Refugee Assistance Program (LexRAP) will share her family's German Jews refugee story and how LexRAP began with the simple question, "Who's with me?"

**Dr. Jawad Abo-Tabik:** An Iraqi refugee, after years of displacement, finally finds a place to belong in Lexington with the support of LexRAP.

**Patty Cameron:** member of Winchester Unitarian Society will tell her story of being a Sanctuary volunteer.

**Karen Hirschfeld:** member of the Network for Social Justice and co-chair of the Network's Immigration Justice Committee will share her vision of Winchester as a Safe Community.

### **Musicians:**

**Manuel, Betty Anne and Gabriella Díaz:** This parent/daughter trio will perform Spanish folk music. At age 6, Manuel and his family fled Spain during the Spanish Civil War.

**Beth Levin:** Cantor at Temple Shir Tikvah, will lead songs which are sung at interfaith vigils at ICE detention centers.

Suggested donations of \$10-\$20 will benefit the non-profit Lexington Refugee Assistance Program ([www.LexRAP.org](http://www.LexRAP.org)) to support refugee families who are living in the local area. Doors will open at 6:30 for refreshments and conversation.

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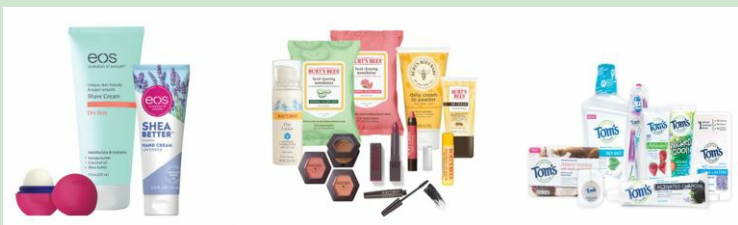
## **Hand in Hand Café**

There are many ways to strengthen our relationship with LexRAP (Lexington Refugee Assistance Program). One is to enjoy one of their "Hand in Hand Cafe" dinners held at

First Parish, Lexington (7 Harrington Rd.) The meal is prepared by local refugee women who join guests for dinner and conversation. Upcoming dinners are on March 7, April 4, and June 13 at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$30 plus a small processing fee. Go to [www.lexrap.org](http://www.lexrap.org) and follow the links to sign up.

## End of Life Matters

Please mark your calendars for **March 29th** and **April 26th** for upcoming programs on the practical and emotional considerations of late life and end of life decision making and planning. This two part program is sponsored by this congregation's Pastoral Care Associates.



## What is TerraCycle?

TerraCycle® is a social enterprise eliminating the Idea of Waste®. Operating in 20 countries, it tackles the issue from many angles,

and has found that nearly everything we touch can be recycled. It collects typically non-recyclable items through national, first-of-their-kind recycling platforms. Leading companies work with TerraCycle to take hard-to-recycle materials, such as ocean plastic, and turn them into new products. Its "Loop" platform aims to change the way the world shops with favorite brands in refillable packaging offered with convenience and style. So far millions of pounds of valuable resources have been diverted from landfills all over the world.

TerraCycle offers free recycling programs funded by brands, manufacturers, and retailers around the world to help individuals or organizations collect and recycle hard-to-recycle waste. Led by Shealagh Crowley, the Green Sanctuary team has chosen three firms' products to recycle, downloaded free shipping labels, and built a small collection station for display and use in the Symmes Room. We will check this collection station and consolidate what 's collected for free shipment back to the firms for recycling. The products are from three firms, **EOS-Evolution of Smooth**, **Burt's Bees**, and **Tom's of Maine**. Pictures of the products are shown here and on the collection boxes. Please fill them!

## NEW!!! Matching Funders with Shoppers for LexRAP Donations

Do you want to donate Huggies, PediaSure and Wipes for the young child of a local LexRAP refugee family, but don't have time to shop or can't find items in your local store? Do you have time to shop, but have already made your donations?



We would love to help by coordinating people who are willing to shop for items with those who are willing to pay for items. **Call or text Mary McIntosh 781-354-0404** with your offer / need and she'll find a match for you!

Please bring purchased items to WUS and place them in the blue LexRAP donations box in the Symmes room. See below for specifics, especially for the PediaSure since it's the only type the child likes.

**Vanilla PediaSure Shake, 8 oz. – blue cap with, 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 providing direct support to a local LexRAP refugee family, please **contact Marianne DiBlasi at [marianne@winchesteruu.org](mailto:marianne@winchesteruu.org)**. Thank you for supporting Winchester Unitarian Society's relationship with **Lexington Refugee Assistance Program ([www.LexRAP.org](http://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](mailto: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 condolences are with **Steve, Evan, Eli and Fritzie Nace Forcucci** with the recent death of Steve's mother, Jaclyn Forcucci. You may learn more about her life here: <https://burnsidefuneralhome.com/book-of-memories/4104647/Forcucci-Jaclyn/index.php>

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 Action & Outreach

**Do you have a favorite charity?** The Social Action and Outreach Committee

selects organizations whose purpose aligns with our mission. This is Your chance to propose a grant. Meet members of the committee at coffee hour to get a grant form and ask questions. Please email Gordy McIntosh by March 5 to tell us which group you plan to sponsor. You may obtain a Grant Application form from the SAOC page under the Justice tab on the WUS website. Grant applications are due on Sunday March 29.

**What are you reading for Black History Month? Come see the Racial Justice shelf in the library in Michelsen and borrow any book.** We request you return your book after a month.

**The Racial Justice book group is reading:** "How to Be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi, and "Barracoon: The Story of the Last 'Black Cargo'" by Zora Neale Hurston. If you would like to join the Racial Justice book group, contact Claire McNeill to learn our next meeting dates.

Have you heard of "Faithify?" It's a UU program that enables small UU projects to be funded. Small donations are combined to support UU congregations and their communities as they live their values in the world. See **Faithify.org** to learn more.

## Democracy in Chains

Fri March 6, 7:30 PM at First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Rd. Reclaim Our Democracy invites you to an evening with Nancy MacLean, Duke University Professor of History and Public Policy, and author of the National Book Award Finalist "Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America."



**UU The Vote Massachusetts! Network with other UUs and join the action!** We now have a shared resources folder and we created a UU the Vote Massachusetts listserv. If you'd like to join our UU The Vote MA community, share with and learn from our members, **just add your information to this form.**

In the shared folder, you'll be able to access a wide variety of resources, including outreach to swing states and actions you can do.

## Council of Social Concern

Next time you go shopping, please consider buying extra **canned chowder, apple juice and cream of mushroom soup** 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

### Border Stories

**Sunday, February 23 from 11:15 - 12:15**

**Hadley Hall, Epiphany Episcopal Church, 70 Church Street, Winchester**

Join Laura Derby of Lexington and Sue Abrams of Congregation Beth Elohim in Acton

to hear their first-person accounts of volunteering on our southern border with immigrants crossing into the United States.

**An Affordable unit is available for resale through the  
Winchester Town Manager's office.**

The address is 222 Washington St #2 ( 2nd floor).

Price is \$ 235,000: 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, kitchen, dining room, living room, office, sunroom and back deck plus off street parking for 1 car.

Applications will be available on the Town website probably next week.

Maximum household income \$78,000

No more than \$75k in assets

3% down

Applications reviewed and acted on 1st come, 1st serve. (no lottery) Anyone interested needs to hop on it ASAP.

Mortgage available via Winchester Co-op or Winchester Savings Banks.



**Ask A Muslim Anything with Robert Azzi  
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 7:00—8:00 PM  
Large Meeting Room  
Winchester Public Library  
80 Washington St, Winchester, MA**

Are you challenged to understand all the media noise about Islam and what it means to be a Muslim? Join Robert Azzi, an Arab-American and native of New Hampshire, for a conversation about his experiences as a Muslim in America. Azzi is a photojournalist, columnist, public speaker, education consultant and world traveler who is eager to answer questions and engage in conversation about his life, how he came to convert to Islam, about the religion of Islam and its history - especially in America, and about the Middle East, terrorism, and associated political and social issues. As Robert says, "Nothing is off the table...I'm learning more about this great country and my wonderful neighbors than I ever expected when I started this venture." Through open and honest discussion, he hopes to help reduce misunderstandings between people of different faiths. No registration required.

**Skilled Person Needed for Online and In-Person Networking and  
Fundraising with a Community-Based Team for an Important Cause**

Do you have interest and/or experience in creative online social media, fundraising and networking? Are you looking for an opportunity to use your talent and energy for a successful project to help others and, even put on your resume?

We would like you to join the "Our Family" Team!

In the last year, a small group in the Metro-North suburbs has been helping a young family working very hard to overcome challenges as newcomers to the US. They were living with a host family and now are staying in a home while snow-bird owners are away, and will soon need to find their own apartment.

They are educated, well-motivated, English-speaking adults eager to make a fresh start. Starting over is exciting, but life in this area is *so expensive*. As they seek work

with their new work permits and Social Security numbers, they will need help to pay rent, utilities, food, health care and life's other necessities.

We're looking for someone energetic and enthusiastic to join our all-volunteer team for approximately 3-5 hours a week to network and fundraise for this appreciative family. We're thinking of different ways – a Facebook page, a Go Fund Me campaign, and other creative ways to encourage generosity from kind-hearted folks who would like to help a family that's working to help themselves.

If you would like to become an important member of a team of seasoned community helpers who have organized to assist this family – we'd love to have you join us. Please contact Karen at [karen@karenhirschfeld.com](mailto:karen@karenhirschfeld.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

### **ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH MEALS ON WHEELS FOR WINCHESTER RESIDENTS?**

Whether you are incapacitated, recuperating, or simply not wanting to cook, you would enjoy the ease of having your meals prepared at the Winchester Hospital and delivered to your door. Now is the time to look into how easy it would be to arrange for reasonably-priced, hot meals. Simply call 781-721 9817 . Leave your telephone number for a call back to get the details on this dependable service. You'll be doing yourself a big favor!

## **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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org) | [www.winchesteruu.org](http://www.winchesteruu.org)