

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights March 12, 2020

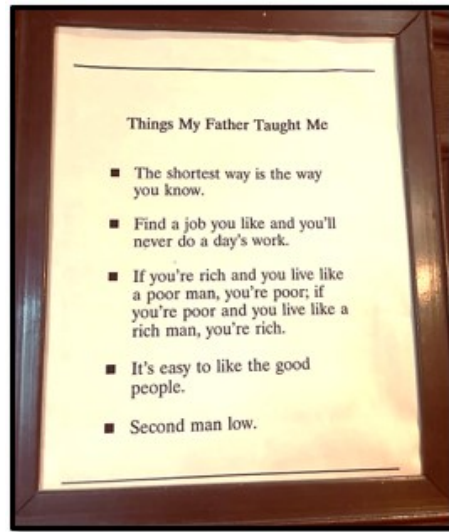


Photo illustrating this month's theme of "Wisdom"

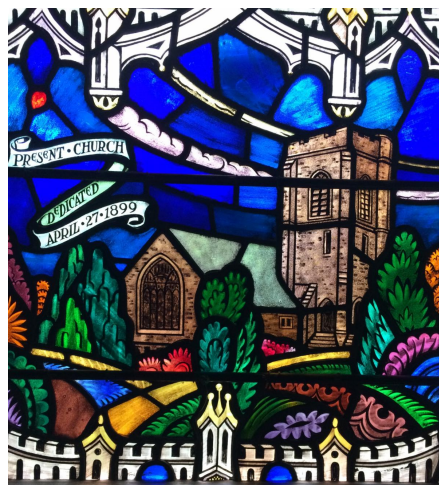
Photo: In our recent Creating a Spiritual Legacy program, Judy Murray shared a list of things her father would say that her family had framed. It currently hangs in her home. Her father's wise sayings are "The shortest way is the way you know; Find a job you like and you'll never do a day's work; If you're rich and you live like a poor man, you're poor. If you're poor and you live like a rich man, you're rich. It's easy to like good people. Second man low."

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, March 15

(No Family Worship)

10:30 am Intergenerational Worship, ONLINE



Parables of the Pandemic

The Rev. Heather Janules

Worship Associate: Marcy Tompson

We are living through strange times. What have we learned from the Coronavirus pandemic? What is the Unitarian Universalist response? Join us on-line for our first ever streamed worship service. **There will be one service at 10:30 pm.** Look to your inbox on Friday for more information.

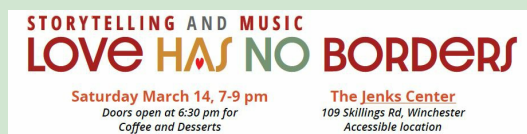
Previous communications have gone out this week concerning the coronavirus and how it could impact the congregation. Please see the links below for that information:

[WUS Responds to Coronavirus Concerns](#)

[Online Worship Announcement](#)

This Sunday, we share our gifts with the WUS Minister's Discretionary Fund, available to WUS members and friends and beyond in times of significant need. If you know of someone financially impacted by the pandemic, let Rev. Heather know so the MDF can be of assistance.

Events This Weekend HAVE BEEN POSTPONED!!



Postponement of “Love Has No Borders” event March 14th at the Winchester Jenk’s Center

It is with great sadness and the utmost care for the community that the Winchester Unitarian Society has decided to postpone “Love Has No Borders”, the fundraiser for LexRAP this Saturday evening (March 14th) from 7-9 pm at the Jenks Center in Winchester, MA. We are hoping to reschedule the event for the fall and will repost on all of the same networks as before.

This event was a fundraiser for LexRAP – the Lexington Refugee Assistance Program – which helps refugees to settle in the United States and to become productive and well-adjusted members of the community. LexRAP provides hands-on assistance, including a support network for housing, food, clothing, transportation, health care, education (especially English), employment, legal aid, and socialization.

As you can imagine, the financial needs to care for these refugees and asylum-seekers are enormous, so, if you are moved, please donate as you can to this wonderful organization. Click [here](#) to donate.



Postponement of WUSYG Chili Cook Off Sunday, March 15th

WUS leaders have decided to cancel this event. New date to be determined.

Religious Education

This Sunday:

Morning Programs:

Sunday morning worship is our religious education for the morning. Join us online for worship. The family lesson can be found [here](#).

Stay tuned for more information about the on-line worship coming Friday, March 13th.

Afternoon Programs:

Our Whole Lives **meets 4:30 - 6:00 in the Wallace Room.**

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.

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

Families should look out for an email from Sam later today, detailing the following. In short: this Sunday, as the cook-off was cancelled, WUSYG will meet in the Chapel from 4:30-6:30 pm (and take precautions to avoid direct contact, including bringing your own snacks!) After this Sunday, subsequent WUSYG meetings will depend on whether or not the schools are meeting. YAC met last night to discuss all of this, and please know that we are committed to finding creative solutions to being in community together throughout this time. We also discussed the service trip at length, and have decided to meet again in a week to further discuss, at which point a decision will be made on how to move forward with that. As always, youth and parents should feel free to contact Sam or Haley if they'd like some support during this uncertain time. We love you and look forward to seeing you Sunday!

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

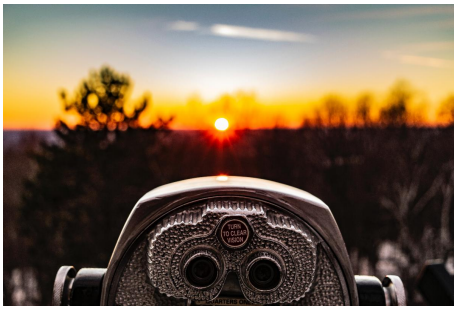
Choirs

There will be no choir rehearsal this weekend, Sunday, March 15th.

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



Are We Where We Need To Be?

In spring of 2018, after a few years of approving a deficit budget, the congregation charged the CORE team with answering the question “Are we where we need to be?” with regards to resource allocation towards mission and vision. Members of the CORE team have reported back to the congregation with information about our programs and resources compared to other churches. The report ([linked here](#)) was distributed recently and a discussion about the findings was held on Sunday March 1 after the Service. Notes from that discussion have recently been posted ([linked here](#)). As a result of the CORE team report, a new Visioning Team has been created to use that data to help focus our program priorities and suggest actions that can help us move forward in keeping with our mission. Please keep reading upcoming Highlights for more information about when/how they will ask you for **your** vision and input.



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.

**The locks have also been changed. Please return your old keys to the office.
Thank you!**



Calling all knitters, stitchers and other hand crafters: We are meeting next on **March 19th at 7:00 PM.** but generally expect to meet the **FIRST THURSDAY**, and the **THIRD SUNDAY** of the month - adjusting as necessary to not compete with other WUS events. Bring along creations to make for town day and our fundraising efforts. Knitters, crocheters, quilters and embroiderers are all welcome. Please contact Rebecca Kelley-Morgan at rebecca@winchesteruu.org

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 22 at 12 noon** we will have **our first TEAM meeting (rescheduled from this Sunday, March 8th.)** 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) or Cynthia Randall (cynthiarandall@comcast.net) for questions prior to the March 22 meeting. You can read more about the organization at www.ehogar.org

End of Life Matters, Session 1: Sunday, March 29th Michelsen room at Noon

We meet for a light lunch and take the next two hours to explore conversations that clarify our values and intentions. In addition we look at quality of life issues and end of life decision making, with some practical support around documentation to have in place before it is needed . RSVP's requested but not required. Contact Rebecca Kelley-Morgan at Rebecca@winchesteruu.org to let us know you're joining the group. **Part 2 is offered on Sunday, April 29th.** You are welcome to either or both sessions. This program is offered by the Pastoral Care Associates.



Sanctuary New Volunteer March Training at First Parish Bedford

As we are now over 2 years, 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, March 30, 7:00pm-9:00pm, Room 202

Tuesday, March 31, 1:00pm-3:00pm, Room 202

Please send marilynmullane@me.com the date you would like to attend as well as your email and cell phone # no later than noon on Friday, March 27.

On behalf of WUS Sanctuary Task Force

Family Housing WUS

The Winchester Unitarian Society community has been incredibly generous in helping "the family" with donations of Pediasure, pull-up diapers, rides to appointments, conversation, and more. Now we, the family support team, are asking for help in finding housing for them.

The house where they have been living (winter-in-Florida owners) is not available

after May 1. Do you know of any apartments available for a reasonable rent? Someone going away on sabbatical who would like house sitting? A landlord who would be willing to rent at below market rate?

Please contact Gloria Legvold (781-729-8247; glegvold@comcast.net) or Sandy Thompson (781-729-80063; sandra.thompson3@comcast.net)

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

If you are interested in providing direct support to a local LexRAP refugee family, 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

Condolences are with Marsha Durbano and John, Caroline, Craig and Sean O'Callahan with the recent death of Marsha's father, Robert. You may learn more about him and his life here: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/telegram/obituary.aspx?n=robert-durbano&pid=195625157&fhid=20762>

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

Learn UU Mass Action's UU Legislative Priorities: Webinar, Wed April 1, 7:00 PM. UU Mass Action will provide a general overview of our legislative Priorities on UU Advocacy Day, but if you want an opportunity to understand the details and to ask questions, please **RSVP for this webinar**



Sign up for UU Mass Action's Advocacy Day: Tue April 14, 9:30 AM - 4:00

Program: Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St 10:00 - 1:00 PM (includes lunch). An award will be given to Dean Stevens! For the past two years, Dean has generously donated his time and talents to the Metrowest Immigrant Solidarity Network's fundraiser, "Singing in Solidarity." **Check out some of his music and videos here** **Register via our Donate Page** It's \$25 until April 3.

50 Years of Boston Pride - Come march with The UUs!!

UU Mass Action has officially registered for the 50th Boston Pride! Our registration fee allows for only 100 people to join us. When: Sat June 13, 11:00 start time **Facebook Event Page**

Groups: Talk to people in your congregation and find out who is coming to Boston Pride. To let us know you're coming: **Complete this form**

If you're coming alone and will join us in Boston, great! **We need you to complete this form**

Please **be sure to RSVP** so you don't miss out.

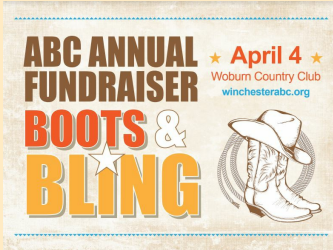
Council of Social Concern

Next time you go shopping, please

consider buying extra **baked beans**, **apple juice** and **peanut butter** 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



The Winchester A Better Chance event planning team has decided to **POSTPONE** the announced **April 4th** fundraiser. Stay posted for an expected fall event date.

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. 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) 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. 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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