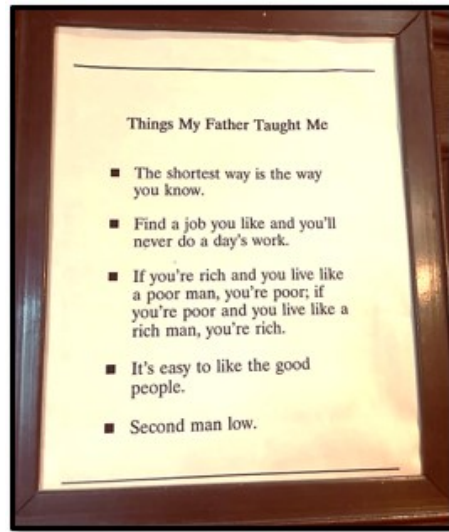


# Winchester Unitarian Society

## Highlights March 26, 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 29**  
**(No Family Worship)**  
**10:30 am All Ages Worship, ONLINE**



**Overcoming Adversity:  
Lessons from Beethoven**  
John Kramer, Music Director

It is the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig van Beethoven. Our choral celebration featuring the Adult, Children's and Youth choirs, along with guest musicians, is on hold at present, but Music Director John Kramer will present some of Beethoven's piano sonatas along with thoughts on his music and life. Beethoven overcame deafness and continued to write inspirational and powerful music, including his 9th symphony, which contains the celebrated Ode to Joy theme.

**Share Your Light:** We would like to create a slide show of our collective candle lighting for the "kindling the light" portion of our service. Please send a short video of you lighting your candle or a photo of your lit candle to Music Director John Kramer at [john.kramer@winchesteruu.org](mailto:john.kramer@winchesteruu.org)

This Sunday, we share our gifts with our long-time partner, the **Women's Lunch Place**, continuing to serve poor and homeless women in downtown Boston. Due to the pandemic, WLP has switched to providing take-out meals. You may donate through Give+ [\[link to app tutorial\]](#) PayPal [\[link\]](#) or by mailing a check to WUS, 478 Main Street, Winchester, MA 01890. Please write or type "March 29 Offering" in the memo line or comment field.

In light of the Stay at Home order issued by the Governor this week, worship will be broadcast from home until further notice, affirmation of the long-cherished belief that the Holy dwells everywhere! Zoom in as usual at 10:15 am on Sunday for a 10:30 beginning: <https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

**Tomorrow, you will receive the order-of-service and "pew/couch packet" which will also be saved to the front page of our website.**

## New & Creative Ways to Connect

Dear Friends,

If you got an email "from me" from [revheatherkjanules@gmail.com](mailto:revheatherkjanules@gmail.com) with this message: "Hi, how are you doing? I need a favor from you, email me as soon as you get this message. There is something I need you to do. I am going into a meeting now with limited phone calls, so just reply my email. God Bless" IT IS NOT FROM ME. It is from scammers trying to extract money from you. Please delete and ignore...

– Rev. Heather

### Sunday Morning Worship

Attend online worship. Come in your jammies, with a bowl of cereal, a cup of coffee. (You don't have to wear your "Sunday best" but you have to wear *something*.) Come, and worship in a virtual community together. Those with access to the internet and who have laptop cameras will be able to see the faces of those who come to worship. Through the "chat" function in Zoom, you will be able to type each other greetings in a spirit of welcome. Alternatively, you can use your phone to call in and hear the service.

The Zoom link is: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/7158399909>

To connect by phone:

646-876-9923 (New York)

or

312-626-6799 (Chicago)

Enter Meeting ID: 715 839 9909

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,7158399909# US (New York)  
+13126266799,,7158399909# US (Chicago)

To view Online Services Recordings, visit the “Members and Friends” page on [www.winchesteruu.org](http://www.winchesteruu.org)

## Online Social Gathering and Virtual Visit to an Orfeo & Majnun Festival

Are you ready to travel, be in crowds and attend cultural performances? I am! All are invited to join Marianne DiBlasi for an online social gathering on Tuesday March 31, 7pm. During our time together, we will begin with a check-in, then take a 3:32 minute virtual journey to Krakow, Poland for the vibrant Orfeo & Majnun Festival Aix 2018, followed by an open discussion. The Festival is an inclusive, intercultural and multilingual music theatre project involving multiple art forms representing current social, cultural, and urban challenges.

The Zoom Meeting Info is below. Please note: this is a different Zoom account than we have been using on Sunday mornings.

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/8948469872>  
Meeting ID: 894 846 9872

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,8948469872# US (New York)  
+16699006833,,8948469872# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location (Not recommended since this is audio only)

+1 646-558-8656 US (New York)  
+1 669-900-6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 894 846 9872



**Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> Coffee Break, Noon-1p:** Use the worship link to take a break from work or refereeing sibling arguments to check in with folks at WUS. In last week's coffee break, we touched on the origins of the term “station wagon,” the best over-the-counter pain killer to address COVID-19 fevers, the variety of instruments we have in our homes but do not play well and then some. Bring your lunch or a hot beverage and join the conversation wherever it might lead! Don't be a fool and miss it...: <https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>



### Facebook

If you haven't already, consider joining the Facebook group “Winchester Unitarian Society Members & Friends” to let people know how you are doing, share pictures of your pets, the kids, your “merit badge” achievements, post silly memes – we all need to laugh!

### Growth and Learning

As with all other groups, any programs scheduled for face-to-face meeting time at Winchester Unitarian Society will be on hold. Let's get together virtually.



With so many cancellations, now is the time for that book discussion group, that program that you've always wanted to lead and reflection on matters of the spirit. We are learning right here, right now with virtual connections and habits of keeping each other well. Let us continue in that spirit of growing and learning together. Please be in touch with me if you have an idea or an offer. I will be reaching out to the knitters for a virtual group and look for virtual "cooking together" sessions to be announced.

## Religious Education

### Staying Connected while staying apart:

Please join us for Family Worship Friday at 6:00 PM. Have a family chalice ready, a candle, and these happy and sad (link to graphic) faces, stones or beads or beans or colored paper bits for Joys and Concerns. We look forward to gathering virtually.

<https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

Please join us for Potluck Theology on Sunday at 4:30. Everyone is welcome whether you have young children or not. We will have some seasonal thoughts and if you have eggs, food coloring and vinegar to dip dye that is our activity. If you don't have eggs or food coloring, we are also inviting people to create color wheels out of found objects. The link for our gathering is <https://zoom.us/potlucktheology>

In addition Rebecca Kelley Morgan is hosting two parent's check in and support groups next week. Monday at 8:00 PM and Wednesday at 8:00 AM. Whatever the ages of your children, the challenges of working from home and managing a family, keeping teenagers corralled, the abrupt change in schedules and circumstances - it's all vent/rant/support worthy. These are drop in groups found at <https://zoom.us/ParentsSupportGroup>

As we navigate these unusual times, I (Rebecca) am here to support you. Let me know what is working, as well as what is not. If your needs change, let me know. We want to offer useful and uplifting connections, not more things to add to the to-do list.

## WUSYG

### *Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group*

#### WUSYG MEETINGS

WUSYG is stressing physical-distancing but social-connecting! We will now be meeting digitally TWICE a week for \*ZOOMSYG!\* every Sunday, 4:30-6:30 pm, and one additional time during the week. This week we will meet tonight (Thursday), from 4:30-6:30 pm. Youth should use this link to join our meetings: <https://hbs.zoom.us/my/haleywegner> Our Sunday meetings will be similar to regular WUSYG meetings, and our Weekday Bonus WUSYGs (WBWs!) will be strictly fun: dance parties, visiting the zoo together virtually, watching movies, open mic nights, and much more!

#### PARENTS

We have a few questions for you (about your trip deposit \$, a time for parents to meet virtually, and boxes we want to get to your kids) please fill out this Google Form for us: <https://forms.gle/b8ZYqqv4aRMTWGD38>

Thanks!

## WUSYG PASTORAL CARE & OUTREACH

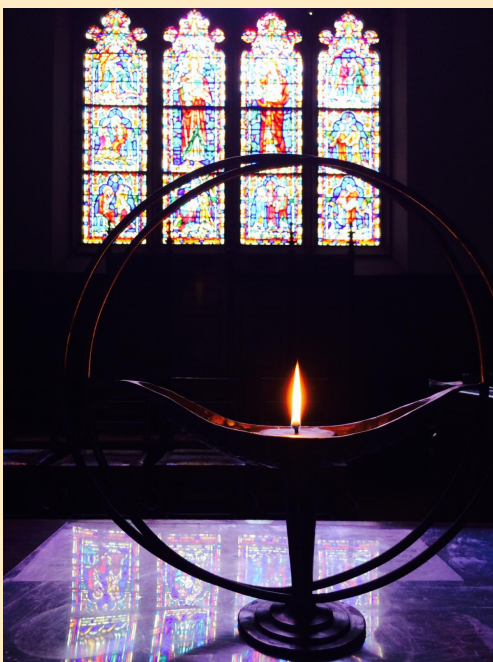
Haley and Sam have begun scheduling individual Zoom meetings with youth; please reach out if you'd like to set one up. We'll also be available to check-in with folks directly one-on-one via any of our social media platforms. During this unusual time we'll be amplifying our outreach via social media, too, so youth should be sure to follow @dysamwilson and @wusyouth on Instagram, and @wusyouth on Snapchat (as well as updates via Facebook groups for youth and parents).

## Music

### Virtual Choir

The music program will be experimenting with a "virtual choir". This is new to all of us so it will be interesting to see how it comes together. Choir members should already have been contacted about this. Please contact Music Director John Kramer at [john.kramer@winchesteruu.org](mailto:john.kramer@winchesteruu.org) if you have any questions.

## Congregational News



### Important Updates

In light of the increasing concerns about Coronavirus transmission, on March 18th, the Standing Committee made the following decisions:

**WUS will continue to pay all its staff throughout the State of Emergency as if we were still meeting in person.** Thus, for those who are not suffering from financial distress, please continue paying your FY20 pledges. We are also waiting for about 50 members and friends to submit their pledge for FY21. You may do so on-line through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/WUSpledge>

**In-person meetings are suspended.** We have purchased a Zoom account for use by committees, covenant groups and other groups who wish to connect. Contact Administrator Thomas Slack ([office@winchesteruu.org](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org)) to schedule use of the WUS Zoom Room. Some staff also have Zoom accounts that might be available if the main WUS account is already allocated to another group.

**We strive to continue building community while ensuring public safety and ethical integrity.** Thank you for your part and your patience as we navigate this new situation together.

### 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.



## 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](mailto:glegvold@comcast.net)) or Sandy Thompson (781-729-80063; [sandra.thompson3@comcast.net](mailto: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](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.

**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.

## Community Joys and Sorrows

### Naming Our Joys and Sorrows Beyond the Pandemic

Sometimes a community crisis overshadows the regular ebb and flow of life. Yet, those of us who are living through hard times can easily get lost as attention is elsewhere. Share what is on your heart with your community.

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

### Ways to help locally:

**West Medford Community Center:** has offered be a "hub" where food and other supplies (paper etc.) can be dropped off and picked up. We do have a certain amount of food and paper products on hand, so if you know of anyone in need, please do send them our way. 781-483-3042 | 111 Arlington St. Medford MA 02155.

If you have something you would like to donate to WMCC just put it in front of the door. When donating food/paper products/books/games/puzzles, in order to reassure folks that there are no viruses being shared along with your donation, please bag up your offering, and let it sit un-touched for at least two days before dropping it off.

**Wright Locke Farm suggests:** Our friends at Arlington Eats food pantry are doubling their efforts to make sure that there is food for those in need at this time of crisis. They have established a **fund to help provide emergency** food kits and they also **need volunteers to help** with pickups and deliveries from the Boston Food Bank. **Visit their webpage** to find out more.

**The Medford Chamber of Commerce** is reaching out to people who use surgical masks and other personal protection equipment. Please give needed items to a caregivers organizations, such as Hallmark VNA, Visiting Nurses Community, Melrose Wakefield Hospital or ask local nursing homes about their needs.

**These Medford restaurants offering take out and deliveries:**  
<http://medfordchamberma.com/restaurants-with-take-out>

### ***Reversing Voter-Suppression in Texas and Florida!***

*Actions to increase voter turnout in Swing States.*

In our past three gatherings, we have written **600 postcards and letters** to voters in these states with a cynical history of voter-suppression for political ends.

### Florida Vote By Mail Postcarding

Write postcards to Florida Registered Voters to encourage them to Vote By Mail.

### Phonebanking

There are multiple groups doing phonebanking in nearly all the Swing States. Contacts, links and instructions can be provided.

### Texas Letter-Writing

This campaign targets traditionally under-represented registered voters in Texas who we believe are unlikely to move soon, and unlikely to vote.

**These actions are changing:**  
**From: an On-Site gathering**  
**To: a Pick-up and-Drop-off method.**

**Pick-up and Drop-off can be made at the Winchester Unitarian Society on Sundays between 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Volunteers will pick up the voter-contact materials one week and return them the next.

*Cost\*:*  
*- 20 postcards, \$11*  
*- 20 letters, \$15*

\* Postcards, with stamps, voter list, instructions, seals. Letters, with stamps, envelopes, voter list, instructions.

This payment for the materials is not optional.

(None of the material was provided by Swing Left or Vote Forward.)

I'd like to boost the number of people doing this so it has to be self-sustaining.

Contact: John Healey; [OceanWaterLover@gmail.com](mailto:OceanWaterLover@gmail.com)

## How to #UUtheVote Without Leaving the House

We looked at our [50+ Ways to UU the Vote](#) and suggest:

1. Visit **Vote Forward** to send letters to unlikely or unregistered voters.
2. Go to **Reclaim Our Vote** to make calls to voters who were purged from the rolls.
3. Set a date for your congregation to watch ***Suppressed: The Fight to Vote*** by Brave New Films or the movie ***Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook*** (available on some streaming services, including Amazon Prime) from each individuals home then hold a group conference call to debrief together.
4. Call your legislator to advocate for paid sick leave and relief for affected workers—not a bail out for the fossil fuel industry. Call (202) 224-3121 to be connected.
5. Spend the time to brainstorm who in your life to engage in values conversations with. Start making those calls and texts. See page 27 in our [launch guide](#).

**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](#)

## JOIN other UUs in MA for an inspiring Advocacy Day 2020

Tuesday April 14, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Virtual Event, [via Zoom](#) [Facebook](#) [Flyer](#)

**Our keynote speaker is UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray!** We will also be joined by musician and activist, Dean Stevens!

Look up your state legislators [HERE](#) and then please register: <http://bit.ly/2020UUAdvocacy> (now free)

### Get to know our Legislative Priorities

We will provide a brief tutorial on how to use zoom and then review the status and details of our priority bills. Immigrant Rights, Ending Solitary Confinement, Environmental Justice and Economic Justice all remain important issues. *The pandemic we now face intensifies the disparities that our legislative priorities address. We need democracy even more during this difficult time - and we need you!*

[Register](#) [Zoom Info](#)

We encourage you to support UU organizing in MA by making a \$25 donation. Anyone already registered who would like a refund may contact: Laura Wagner [LWagner@uumassaction.org](mailto:LWagner@uumassaction.org)

If you want to donate by check, send to: UU Mass Action, 40 Mechanic St., Suite 306, Marlborough, MA 01725. This is an important time for our priority legislation!

### Council of Social Concern

The Food Pantry at the Council for Social Concern is currently low on: **Canned meats (tuna, beef stew, spam, salmon), baked beans, hearty canned soups and pasta sauce.** Since donating food may not be convenient, contributions may be made directly on their website: [www.socialconcern.org](http://www.socialconcern.org)

*The Winchester Unitarian Society will be staffed during its regular office hours of 9:00 am to 3 pm for anyone interested in dropping off food for the Food Pantry.*

Food Pantry Hours (by appointment only) are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:45 am – 12:00 pm or 1:30 – 3:00 pm, and Wednesday Evenings 6:00 – 7:00 pm (for those working full-time or in school full-time).

If you cannot make an appointment, an emergency box can be picked up anytime Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Food Pantry is open to Woburn & Winchester residents

If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment, please call Paula Matthews, Food Pantry Director at (781) 935-6495 ext. 208



## Beyond the Congregation

Charities Recommended by Fidelity Advisory Fund

**TO DONATE TO CHARITIES ON THE FRONT LINE OF COVID-19-RELATED NEEDS:** Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, a donor-advised philanthropy, has extensive resources on evaluating 501(c)3 organizations. For guidance in giving to *those most directly involved* in the coronavirus effort—including the CDC Foundation, which augments the emergency response efforts of the Center for Disease Control, please go to the following link: [How to help: Novel Coronavirus | Fidelity Charitable](#)

### 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) 729-9817 . 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 Flower Dedications



### 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

**\*\*\*ALL IN-PERSON MEETINGS AT WUS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED\*\*\***

**Yoga, Meditation, Caregiver Support Group,  
and 350 Massachusetts Metro North**

## 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)