# Winchester Unitarian Society

## Highlights May 14, 2020 (link to today's full issue of Highlights)



Photo taken by Rebecca Kelley-Morgan: Remains of a 19th century dwelling in Organ Pipe national monument, AZ. May's theme is Thresholds

# **Upcoming Worship**

# Sunday, May 17 10:30 Worship, ONLINE



Photo by MD Duran on Unsplash

Youth Sunday Sam Wilson, Haley Wegner, WUSYG Seniors Worship Associates: WUSYG

This Sunday is Youth Sunday, our special annual service that includes our beloved graduating seniors' statements, and a bridging ritual that will mark their transition to Young Adulthood in the UU faith. The rest of the youth group will be contributing with readings, musical performances, and more. The service will focus on the ways love and community empower us to adapt to adversity. In addition, our congregation will be saying goodbye to Haley Wegner, the Assistant Director of Youth Ministries, who has served our teens and our faith for the last 5 years.

This Sunday, we will be sharing our gifts with **Ferry Beach**, a UU retreat & conference center whose mission is "to awaken hearts to explore, grow and renew the spirit of universal love." 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 "May 17th Offering" in the memo line or comment field.

In light of the Stay at Home order issued by the Governor, 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: <u>https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship</u> 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 TIME!** Please join us for **Family Worship Friday at 4:30 PM. https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship** Details are in the Religious Education section of Highlights.

**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

And "Decorate the Chancel": As flower deliveries and dedications are postponed until we return to the sanctuary, we invite you to send photos of flowers from your garden or from your daily walks to be included in our services. Email these photos to heather.janules@winchesteruu.org

We are looking for more "Tech Support" volunteers. If you are Zoom-fluent and would be willing to be on-call Sunday mornings to assist viewers, please let Rev. Heather know.

# **Community Connections**

### A Pastoral Letter from The Rev. Heather Janules [link]

## **Resources Available**

Through the generosity of WUS members and friends, we are prepared to distribute:

**Cloth, handmade masks.** The Commonwealth now requires masks worn both indoors and outdoors when social distancing is not possible.

With a large supply of simple, no sew masks, anyone can receive a handmade reuseable mask who needs one. You may request one for each member of your family from the WUS office for pick up at the Main Street door. If you are not leaving the house, let Rev. Heather know and we will coordinate delivery.

**Financial support.** If your income has been significantly decreased as a result of the pandemic shut down, you are eligible for financial support from the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

Contact Rev. Heather if these resources would be helpful to you: heather.janules@winchesteruu.org; 781.729.0949 (phone messages are forwarded by email.)



#### 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!

#### Connecting with the Office During this Time

When contacting Thomas or Jenny <u>please send your email to both members of the</u> <u>office staff</u>. Thomas will be in the office three days per week. Jenny is only working two days in the office per week and Thomas is working from home on those two days. By sending your emails to both Jenny and Thomas it will ensure we can respond to your requests in a timely manner. You can reach someone in the office between 9am to 3pm. Please let us know if there is any way we can help. Thank you.

Office phone (781) 729-0949 Thomas' email: office@winchesteruu.org Jenny's email: adminassistant@winchesteruu.org

# **Congregational News**

#### From the Music Committee:

**Saturday, May 16th, at 7:00 PM**, Music in the Sanctuary will present three Beethoven sonatas, performed over live-streaming by Music Director John Kramer (in the sanctuary). Our all Beethoven program (celebrating his 250th birth year) is as follows:

- Sonata No. 23 in f minor, Op. 57 "The Appassionata"
- Sonata No. 13 in E-flat major, Op. 27 "Quasi una fantasia"



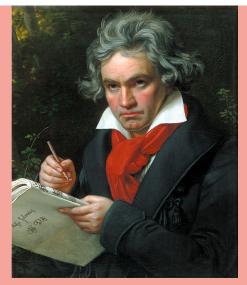
#### • Sonata no. 28 in A major, Op. 101

A portion of our donations will go to local area Covid-19 relief funds. You may donate through Give+ [link to app tutorial] PayPal [link] or by mailing a check to: WUS / 478 Main Street / Winchester, MA 01890.

You are encouraged to view the concert through Zoom [link] for the best sound quality.

The concert is also available for streaming on YouTube:

#### https://youtu.be/zclL-cDKs0Y





#### Mark Your Calendars! Winchester Unitarian Society Annual Meeting Sunday, May 31st, 2020

Following the worship service on Sunday, May 31, 2020 the Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom. This will be an abbreviated version of the traditional Annual Meeting to handle the most

important articles and postpone completion of additional articles at a Special Meeting to be scheduled on or before September 30, 2020, or as soon thereafter as is safe and practicable. More information about the Annual Meeting will be released in the next few weeks. Thank you.

#### **Annual Review**

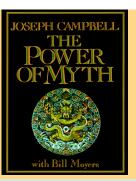
Input welcome! We are beginning the annual review process for our leading program and administrative staff - Rebecca Kelley-Morgan, John Kramer, Sam Wilson and Thomas Slack. We welcome input from the congregation. As part of our usual practice, we will not include anonymous feedback.

Please send your thoughts to Rev. Heather at <u>heather.janules@winchesteruu.org</u> by **May 28th** by responding to these questions: How has WUS best served its mission in the past year? How has [the staff person] contributed to these successes? How could WUS have better served its mission? Do you have any suggestions for [the staff person's] programmatic or professional growth?

"The Power of Myth" discussion group meets this Sunday, May 17th for a discussion on "Masks of Eternity" at 12:00 PM. Please contact Matthew Bronski for login information for the virtual room. He can be reached via MBBronski@sgh.com Mark your calendars for our wrap up session on June 14th.







#### **Calling All Writers!**

A 6 week on line facilitated writers group is now forming. Please RSVP to Rebecca at **rebecca@winchesteruu.org**. We will be writing on Thursday morning beginning at 9:30 ending at 11:00. If you missed the memo, you can join us in week two, after that the group will be closed. The group runs from May 14th-June 18th.





What We Owe To Each Other: Discussions on "The Good Place" Six Session Series: Every Friday Night from 7-9pm Beginning May 15th

Not every television show touches on human morality, philosophy and the afterlife. Nor

does every program include a collection of funny and lovable characters, most of whom are dead and some are neither human nor robot. But The Good Place offers all these things as a way to explore ancient spiritual questions with a light heart.

Join Rev. Heather in watching Season 1 and discussing the questions each episode raises. Through an on-line format, we will watch two short episodes in real time and then share our thoughts, reactions and ideas with one another.

You are encouraged to participate in the whole series but drop-ins are also welcome. Let Rev. Heather know if you wish to participate: heather.janules@winchesteruu.org

## Save the Date: Being Prepared in the Time of COVID-19

Saturday, June 6th, 9:30-11:30 AM Led by the Pastoral Care Associate Team FREE; to be held via Zoom

Any time is a good time to consider what medical procedures you would choose during a health crisis when you cannot communicate and to "get your affairs in order."

The current pandemic, posing unique medical challenges to some patients, makes the need to

consider these questions and raise tender issues with your loved ones even greater.

On **June 6th**, your PCA Team will offer a workshop, outlining the questions to consider and how to legally communicate your wishes, in an open and supportive format.

(For example, have you wondered how to choose and/or serve as a Health Care Proxy? Explore this resource: <u>https://theconversationproject.org/wp-</u> content/uploads/2017/03/ConversationProject-ProxyKit-English.pdf)

If you plan to attend or have questions, contact Rev. Heather at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org



#### Mask Makers update notes:

As the need for fabric masks increases with the "mask orders" from city and state officials, we invite you to participate in an outreach mask ministry to our Winchester congregants as well as our greater community. To be more effective in this outreach we would like to coordinate efforts for donation, drop offs and pick-ups. Heather or Rebecca will be in touch with the "known" mask makers and any

"stealth" mask-makers are invited to reach out to me (Rebecca) at <u>rebecca@winchesteruu.org</u>

#### Flow into Spring with Yoga 6:45 – 8:15 pm via Zoom Through Winchester Unitarian Society Spring Session: March 9 – May 18, 2020

Find respite and renewal in the present moment with WUS Gentle Yoga Flow. Please join us, even if you have not been to the class before. Our class is led by Fritzie Nace, (MA in Body/Movement Therapy and Counseling Psychology).

With our focus on breath (pranayama), we move



gently through a flow of yoga postures (asanas) leading to a final shivasana, a deeply restful integration of the practice. Postures gently stretch and strengthen, enhance balance and counter patterns of daily tension. Connecting breath and movement deepens self-awareness and enlivens our sense of being!

If you have never done yoga before or only just a bit, Fritzie gives clear guidance through a slow flow of postures, offering support as we go. If you have more experience, you are invited to take the postures to your own depth of challenge.

Please follow this **Zoom link** to join the class. Please tune in several minutes early so we can clear up any technical challenges before beginning class.

Our class is open to the public. Please feel free to share this notice with friends. For more information or questions, email <u>fritzie.nace@gmail.com</u>.

Ten-class (\$135) and drop-in (\$15) options available\*.



\*While we are gathering virtually, the classes will be free. I would greatly appreciate donations to the Winchester Unitarian Society as a gratitude for the class.



#### The Wednesday Night Meditation Group is now on-line!

We wanted to let you know that we are going online, at our usual time. Below are specific instructions and general information, as well as an additional online resource that may be helpful during these challenging times. Last

but not least, if anyone wants to make use of this platform for other local meditation groups, please be in touch <u>via email here</u> and we'll figure out how.

We hope to see you online Wednesday evening. with metta, Patty (and Ron)

#### **Specific Instructions:**

Dial-in number (US): (712) 770-5505 Access code: 891-437-120# International dial-in numbers: <u>https://fccdl.in/i/891-437-120</u> Online meeting ID: 891-437-120 Join the online meeting: <u>https://join.freeconferencecall.com/891-437-120</u> For additional assistance connecting to the meeting text "Help" to the Dial-In number above. Message and data rates may apply.

Sitting from 6:30-7:00 pm bell will ring Walking from 7:00-7:20 pm bell will ring Optional informal discussion 7:20-7:30 pm

Also, please join as early as 6:20 pm to greet each other before we ring the starting bell at 6:30. We should all have audio access but the video access will be limited.

We will all be muted during the meditation and you should be able to see a video of a lit candle on the screen during the 2 meditation periods.

Free resource for connecting mindfully on-line, Center for Mindfulness and Compassion - daily, free and live online community practice: https://www.chacmc.org/connect

#### **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.



#### Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

We celebrate with former student minister Marianne DiBlasi who graduates from Meadville Lombard Theological School this Sunday.

It is with sadness that we share the news that WUS friend **Raj Marphatia** has died. You may learn more about him and his life here: <u>https://www.ropesgray.com/en/biographies/m/rajmarphatia</u>

If you are facing a time of joy, sorrow or transition in your life, your minister 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

## **Religious Education**

#### **Staying Connected While Staying Apart:**

**NOTE TIME CHANGE!** Please join us for **Family Worship Friday at 4:30 PM.** This week *Everybody Needs a Home*. Have a family chalice ready, a candle, happy and sad faces (<u>link to graphic</u>), stones or beads or beans or colored paper bits for Joys and Concerns. We look forward to gathering virtually. \*A note to adults - we would like to give the children an opportunity to interact with each other after the service ends. Rebecca or Heather will be leaving the room open for another 15 minutes or so and inviting the children to visit with each other. https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship

**Story Time:** We will begin offering a collection of stories for all ages online so that families can access them at their convenience. We also would like to have a diversity of storytellers as well. Please contact Rebecca for details.

**Potluck Theology Returns May 31st at 4:30 PM with a Virtual Picnic!** We will be creating cards and/or posters to display for our High School Seniors, Evan, Rachel, Charlotte and two Elizabeths. Meeting room information will be sent prior to our gathering.

# WUSYG Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group





A note to WUSYG parents went out earlier today. We are seeking feedback from parents about continuing WUSYG over the summer. Please see the email for more information, and fill out this questionnaire when you get the chance: <u>https://forms.gle/i3oWfDtYzBJfQeN16</u> Thank you!

#### Saying Goodbye to Haley Wegner, Assistant Director of Youth Ministries From Sam Wilson, Director of Youth Ministries

It is with a mix of emotions that I write to all of you with news that Haley has decided that this will be her last year with WUSYG. She joined us soon after finishing her undergraduate studies and has always been employed full-time while also working tirelessly to lovingly provide ministry to our teens for the past 5 years. At this point in her life she is considering furthering her education, making a different career move, or some combination of the two, and, doing so while also juggling all of the demands of being in this position understandably felt like it was too much.

Obviously, we are all heartbroken by this news as she has been a wonderful friend, co-leader, co-learner, shoulder to lean on, listener, educator and so much more to so many of us. Her ability to keenly understand the nuances of teens' identity formation, and carefully but seemingly-effortlessly guiding their moral compasses while creating a loving and accepting community for them to be themselves and experiment with what that means; her ability to be completely irreverent, hilarious and ridiculous when the moment called for it but also exude reverence and compassion when necessary; plus her incredible work ethic, excellent communication skills and multitasking abilities: all made her a uniquely qualified Assistant Director of Youth Ministries. I am so grateful to have been able to have had her for this long; it is not often you get to do work that you love so much alongside someone you love so much, too!

I am also proud of all of her accomplishments in this position and know that she is leaving us emboldened as a better youth educator, with a firmer understanding of the complexities of social justice issues and an increased commitment to our faith and its values. I am so very excited to see what she does with her incredible gifts and know that she will always remain in all of our hearts, with a lifetime membership to the larger WUSYG family and community.

We told the teens about her departure last Sunday, and we hope you will join us for a special moment during Youth Sunday on May 17<sup>th</sup> when we will also say goodbye to



her as a congregation. She will continue working with WUSYG through the summer, so we plan to have a goodbye party for her (hopefully in-person!) in August. In the meantime, YAC will be convening a sub-committee to search for her replacement.

Please email me, <u>sam.wilson@winchesteruu.org</u>, or Haley, <u>haley.wegner@winchesteruu.org</u>, with any questions, and also please let me know if you have any good candidates in mind for the position!

## 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** if you have any questions.

# **Social Action & Outreach**

## **Our Refugee Support Continues**

We have started a **Go Fund Me campaign** for the refugee family many of you have so generously bought diapers and Pediasure for.

The parents have gotten work permits and the father is now working, but the salary is modest, so the money raised through this campaign will go to living expenses. You can reach the campaign <u>here</u> to donate and/or share the link to the campaign by email, Facebook, Instagram, etc.

We continue to ask for any information on an affordable apartment that might become available outside the normal real estate channels, a landlord who might be willing to rent at below market rate, or someone going away on sabbatical who would like house sitting.

Please contact Gloria Legvold (<u>glegvold@comcast.net</u>, 781-729-8247) or Sandy Thompson (<u>sandra.thompson3@comcast.net</u>, 781-724-7571) Many thanks!

**UU Mass Action:** *Movement Generation* is rooted in social movements led by lowincome communities and communities of color. It is committed to a Just Transition "away from profit and pollution and towards healthy, resilient and life-affirming local economies." MG is offering a <u>4 session online course</u> reframing the COVID to discuss real solutions and strategies to address the structural inequities that contributed to this crisis. <u>Tuesdays - May 19</u>, June 2, June 16, June 30 at 6-8pm, with optional small group conversations with other UUs on the off weeks. UU Mass Action organizer Tali Smookler is working to recruit a small group of UUs to learn together. Please register here if you would like to participate, and then email Tali at tsmookler@uumassaction.org to let her know you'll be joining, or to ask questions.

### Ways to Lend Support Locally:

#### **UU Mass Action COVID Emergency Fund**

This Week's Featured Partner: **Metrowest Immigrant Solidarity Network (MISN). Last week UUs Donated \$3,086!** It enabled 250 families in Framingham, 89 in Milford and 25 in Lynn received 2 hefty bags of groceries, a \$25 grocery gift card and bandanas for each family member. To donate to the fund, send a check to: UU Mass Action, 40 Mechanic St., Suite 306, Marlborough, Ma 01752

The **Winchester COVID-19 Community Care Fund** was established April 23, in partnership with United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. The fund will mobilize resources to support Winchester residents who are in need of emergency assistance, working through local nonprofit partners to expand food distribution efforts and support the most economically vulnerable residents. See town website to make a donation: <u>www.winchester.us</u>

MA towns and groups that have special projects to help people struggling with the impacts of the pandemic:

https://www.massundocufund.org/resources Helps undocumented workers with resources, such as Know Your Rights, and emergency cash.

https://www.massjwj.net/news/2020/3/17/cover-19-mutual-aid-networks in the Boston area has very informative links to nearby towns, ex. https://mutualaidarlington.org/



#### Help to Reverse Decades of Voter-Suppression in Florida! Write Postcards From Home to Register Voters for Vote by Mail and Increase Turnout

A Florida *Vote by Mail* postcard to-go event is a safe and effective way for you to help reverse decades of the cynical and systematic suppression of the votes of working people and communities of color.

You'll personalize and address postcards to voters, telling them how to request a Vote By Mail ballot. Our postcards increase their probability of applying to vote by mail. And when they apply to vote by mail, it makes it significantly more likely they will cast a ballot.

You can write the postcards from your own home! Just pick up your packet of 20 postcards and addresses, customize the postcards at home, and return the postcards by the deadline date.

#### Update:

**The cost of each packet is now \$17** because we're now providing the FL voter with a postage-paid card to their Registrar. Using check or exact change expedites your pick up.

You can pick up postcards at: - **41 Grove Street, Winchester, MA, 01570** 





#### - Every Sunday, through June 28 - from 12:000 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

and return them to the same location on the following Sunday.

Let me know if you cannot pick up at this time or place, and I will make another arrangement to get the packet(s) to you.



RSVP here please: **<u>OceanWaterLover@gmail.com</u>** so I'll know how many packets to prepare.

M: 774-289-2207

#### Each brown paper bag packet contains:

- 20 postcards,

- 20 Voter Addresses;

- 40 postcard stamps;

- 40 sticky seals (for the sides of the postcards);

- Instructions, with a script and example.

#### The packets cost \$17 each.

To minimize cash-handling, please pay the exact amount in cash, or with a personal check to 'John Healey', when you pick up your packet, to cover the cost of materials.

## **Ranked Choice Voting**

The **Ranked Choice Voting Campaign** in MA won a **big victory** last week. The Supreme Judicial Court ordered the Secretary of State to provide a safe online option for the last round of 13,000 signatures needed to officially be on the November ballot. (If you signed last year, just tell your friends.)

Last round of 13,000 signatures needed to officially be on the November ballot. The campaign kicked off the signature drive on May 6th and we need thousands of registered MA voters to sign the RCV petition electronically from home.

## **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: <u>www.socialconcern.org</u>

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**

## Serve Local Residents Impacted by the Pandemic

Are you able to assist those most impacted by the shutdown? Complete this form to be included in a list of local people willing to run errands and connect (with precautions, of course) with those in quarantine: https://tinyurl.com/WinC19nandg

## **Charities Recommended by Fidelity Advisory Fund**

**TO DONATE TO CHARITIES ON THE FRONT LINE OF COVID-19-RELATED NEEDS:** The 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!

# 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: <u>Click here</u> For Highlights submissions: Wednesdays, 9:00 am



#### For submissions to the OOS: Wednesdays, 9:00 am Email to <u>office@winchesteruu.org</u>. No more than 250 words, please.

# **Staying Connected**

It's probably on the website!

(And if it's not,

let us know)

#### Visit the WUS website!

- Read the latest Highlights and Mystic Messenger in <u>the</u> <u>news section</u>.
- Want to know if a room is free, or when your meeting is? View <u>the calendar page</u>.
- 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 <u>How to Give</u> <u>page</u>.

Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main St. Winchester MA 01890 (781) 729-0949 | office@winchesteruu.org | www.winchesteruu.org

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