

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights May 28, 2020

(link to today's full issue of Highlights)

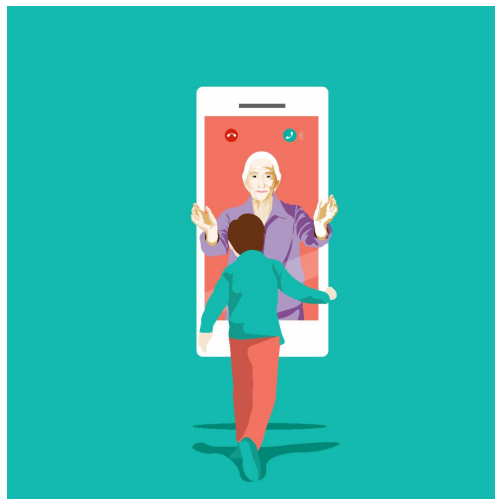


Photo taken by Rebecca Kelley-Morgan: Remains of a 19th century dwelling in Organ Pipe national monument, AZ.

May's theme is *Thresholds*

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, May 31
10:30 Worship, ONLINE



Virtual Realities and Essential Ministries: What Makes a Congregation?

The Rev. Heather Janules
Worship Associate: Stephen Perepeluk

In this month of exploring "thresholds," our state has begun the process of moving

from "stay at home" orders to gradually "reopening." What does this mean for houses of worship? The UUA has recommended that congregations offer virtual ministry until May of 2021. What informs this recommendation? How should we respond? And, as we consider virtual ministries for the long-term-but-not-forever, what might we lose and gain with such a model? What truly makes a congregation? Bring your questions and ideas to this service as we navigate these decisions and hard choices together.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **Anna's Fund of the Winchester Farmers Market**. Named after long-time volunteer Anna LaViolette, this fund doubles SNAP benefits up to \$10 per customer card, per market day.

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 31st 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: <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 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.

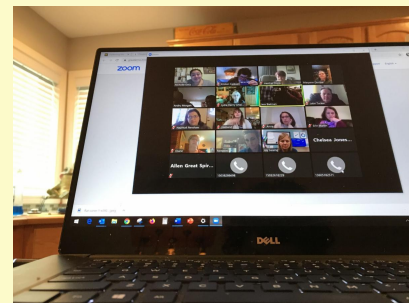
This Sunday!!

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. The Annual Meeting will convene at 11:45 a.m. 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. Please read the documents below prior to attending the Annual Meeting. Thank you and see you on Sunday!



[WUS Annual Report 2020](#)
[Warrant for 153rd WUS Annual Meeting](#)
[WUS Slate for Annual Meeting 2020](#)
[Co-Treasurers' Report](#)

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. Bring some picnic food to “share” with each other. We will be getting together here **potlucktheology** All are welcome!

Staying Connected while Staying Apart: Religious Education

Please join us for **Family Worship Friday at 4:30 PM**. This week A 7 Principles Garden. Have a family chalice ready, or a candle, or LED light. We look forward to gathering virtually. **A note to adults 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 are building a library 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@winchesteruu.org for details.

Community Connections

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

Update on WUS Congregational Life and the Pandemic

Last week, UUA President, the Rev. Susan Frederick Gray, issued a letter, advising congregations to plan on continuing virtual ministry until May of 2021. You can read this letter here: <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/message-uua-president-updated-guidance-gathering>

The letter includes an additional, helpful resource, which you can find here: <https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/gathering-guidance>

This Monday, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker granted houses of worship permission to open as part of Phase One of reopening the Commonwealth. The guidelines can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/places-of-worship-protocols-summary/download>

How will WUS respond? We are a self-governing congregation so it is up to us to navigate the path forward.

Our worship service on May 31st will explore the practical and spiritual questions raised by the opportunity to open and the risks and sacrifices involved in doing so. Please become familiar with the above resources in advance of the 31st.

In its May 20th meeting, your Standing Committee decided to form a **Pandemic Planning Task Force** charged with leading the process by which we figure out how we will function as a congregation before there is a COVID-19 vaccine. If you are interested in serving on this task force, please

contact Rev. Heather or Fritzie Nace.

For now, we are assuming that we will be offering virtual worship and programming at least until the end of August...Stay healthy and safe, everyone!



Photo: A priest gets creative in blessing congregants with holy water.

Community Chaplain Available to WUS

Chaplains are ministers who serve institutions – hospitals, prisons, military units, schools, retirement communities and more. Chaplains also teach the ministry of pastoral care to others through programs called Clinical Pastoral Education or CPE.

WUS member Carol Delaney has completed two units of CPE. As this second unit included the onset of the pandemic, she has learned how to provide pastoral presence through the platforms of Zoom and the telephone.



Carol, who is also a member of the Pastoral Care Associates team, approached the Standing Committee for permission to serve as a Community Chaplain, making herself available to those who are in particular need of personal and spiritual support. She also offers herself as a resource for coping with the stress and grief related to the COVID-19 pandemic through 1:1 and group formats. Her ministry would be supported by her CPE supervisor, the Rev. Ed Frost, and myself through regular structured meetings. The Standing Committee gratefully accepted her request to serve in this way. Thank you, Carol!

If you wish to make a phone or Zoom appointment with Carol, please email communitychaplain@winchesteruu.org or call the office (781.729.0949) so she can be in touch to make an appointment. As part of our on-going outreach to the congregation during the pandemic, Carol will also be doing some outreach, checking in with members. So, if you receive a call from Carol, I encourage you to take the time and connect with her or make an appointment to do so at another time.

I am grateful to Carol, to our Standing Committee and all those working together to ensure we all have the support we need in these challenging times.

· Rev. Heather

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 reusable 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.)

Connecting with the Office During this Time

When contacting Thomas or Jenny please send your email to both members of the office staff. 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

Good News! We are pleased to report to the congregation that we have been fortunate enough to procure a forgivable loan through the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program. The details and information have been posted to the members section of our website.

Sue Kiewra & Judy Murray

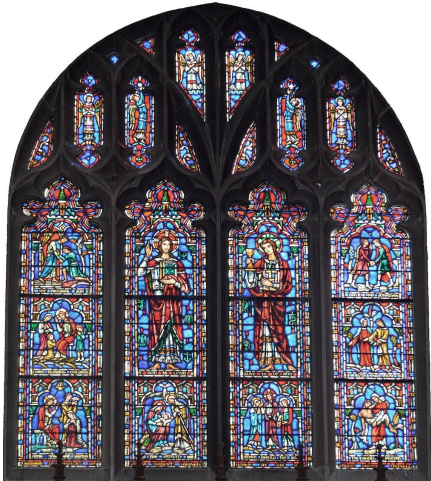
Being Prepared in the Time of COVID-19: End-of-Life Planning

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 named your Five Wishes? If you are not sure what the Five Wishes are, you should attend!)

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED and there is light homework to complete before we gather. To register, please click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/WUSEOLReg>

Please also forward this invitation to friends and family members.



Save the Date!

Join us **June 7th after worship** to hear stories and music from youth. "Bring" food that reminds you of home, to eat and talk about with your "table" (breakout group) before the performances. Proceeds go toward local Covid relief funds & WUS, a second home for many of us!

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 heather.janules@winchesteruu.org 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?



Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!

Invitation to WUS Members

Our virtual General Assembly will take place June 24-28 and this year. The Standing Committee is offering free registration for the five delegates our congregation is allowed to have. Fortunately, we have two members that have already expressed interest.

This is a wonderful opportunity to gather and deepen our commitment with each other and other members of our faith. There will be general information sessions on current topics, workshops, presentations, Sunday worship and evening entertainment.

If you are currently a member of our congregation and would like to benefit from this transformative experience there is only one stipulation. Your involvement is needed on our Denominational Affairs Committee. This is a two year commitment and we hardily invite your participation.

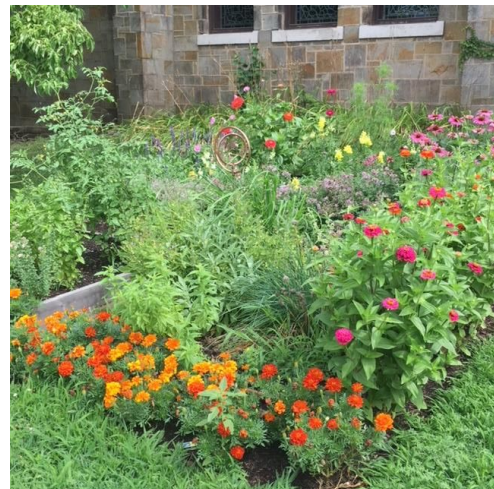
Please contact Betsy Bowles if you are interested.

(617) 584-6477

bebowles13@gmail.com

Volunteers needed for a week of garden watering

If you need an excuse this summer to get away from home for an hour, or just want to help out, please volunteer to water the church gardens for a week or two over the next several months. It's easy and would be very much appreciated. If mother nature cooperates and provides rain, duty would be light, but if she is stingy with moisture, 3 visits during the week may be necessary especially while the plants are establishing themselves in the garden. We use a soaker hose in the Welcome Garden which needs to run for about an hour.



Saturday, May 16th the WUS gardening group had a very productive day planting over 150 plants in four areas around the church. Our Welcome garden now has a spot of yellow (for the chalice) which will be enhanced as they grow by volunteer calendula,

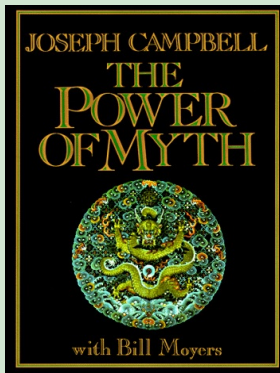


rudbeckia and red amaranthus forming the flame. The herb garden has been refreshed with various new herbs, marigolds to keep out the critters, and flowers to entice pollinators. The nursery school fence is lined with tall Indian Summer rudbeckia which when flowering are spectacular and welcoming. Outside the education wing plants loving sun and shade wrap the cornered wall, and by mid summer with careful tending, will provide color and interest. So, if you are looking for a destination for peace and privacy or to meet outdoors on a beautiful day with 10 or fewer of your favorite friends, come visit and watch the garden grow.

For details contact Margaret Lowry at mlowry142@gmail.com

Mask Makers update notes:

I have made “kits” of fabric and the parts you need to make a mask. If you are a sewer, but don't have materials and would like to be able to sew, please contact (Rebecca) at rebecca@winchesteruu.org to work out pick up details.



Power of Myth - Final Meeting

“The Power of Myth” discussion group meets next for our final wrap up session on **June 14th at 12:00 PM**. Please contact Matthew Bronski for login information to the virtual room. He can be reached via MBBronski@sgh.com

HOW IS COVID-19 IMPACTING YOU?

Help Winchester document life during the pandemic.

- Save your photos and videos or write down an experience that shows how COVID-19 is changing your world.
- To submit your pieces to a town-wide living history project, visit winpublib.org/covid19project.



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 [via email here](#) 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: <https://fccdl.in/i/891-437-120>

Online meeting ID: 891-437-120

Join the online meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/891-437-120>

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>

Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

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:

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WUSYG Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group



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 Pediture 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 [here](#) 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 (glegvold@comcast.net, 781-729-8247) or Sandy Thompson (sandra.thompson3@comcast.net, 781-724-7571) Many thanks!

Check out: [Weekly Digest](#) by: David Roitman

A weekly digest of a wide variety of resources to help your engage with UU the Vote

Opportunities from UU Mass Action

Legislative Action The legislature's Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development will be accepting written and video testimonials on Raise Up MA's Emergency Paid Sick Time legislation this week: Tuesday, May 26 through Friday, May 29 Our partners at Raise Up Mass will share these testimonials with legislators who are considering the bill. [Guide for written testimony](#)
"Safe Communities" Week 3 of Action: bit.ly/SCAweekofaction



Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence Advocacy Day 2020 VIRTUAL Advocacy Day 2020

Tuesday, June 2, from 11:30-1:00 PM (via Zoom)

[REGISTER](#) [Facebook Event Page](#)

Many things have come to standstill during the pandemic. Gun violence isn't one of them. Please join us on Tuesday, June 2, from 11:30-1:00 PM via Zoom. This year we're going virtual, with a 30-minute speaking program followed by breakout sessions by geographic region. The breakout sessions will bring advocates and constituents together with their legislators to share stories and outline action steps to decrease gun violence in our communities. We will provide all the tools you need to make advocacy asks directly to legislators. Our priorities:

H.2045/S.1388 An Act Relative to Crime Gun Data Analysis and Reporting
SSYI: Safe and Secure Youth Initiatives funding

You can [support the Moral Agenda's Poor People's Campaign](#) by "attending" their **June 20 digital national assembly**. The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is [building a broad and deep national moral fusion movement](#) — rooted in the leadership of poor people—to unite our country from the bottom up. A National Call for Moral Revival is made up of people of all backgrounds. "We are Black, Brown, White, Native, and Asian; we are old and young; we are Christian, Sikh, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim; we are people of faith and not of faith; we are people of all sexual orientations and gender identities; we are led by poor people *and* we are a cross-class movement; we are people of all abilities; and we live across this nation, from Alabama to Alaska, from Maine to California to Mississippi. *There are*

concrete solutions to the immediate crisis posed by COVID-19 and the longer term illnesses we have been battling. We have **immediate demands** to address the coronavirus." This is a fine chance for us to hear from, and make connections with our diverse country. Go to www.june2020.org to learn and be inspired.



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 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.

The cost of each packet is \$17.

Using check or exact change expedites your pick up.

You can pick up postcards at:

- 41 Grove Street, Winchester, MA, 01570

Here's the Schedule for these distributions on Sundays through June:

May 31; noon to 6 p.m.

June 7; noon to 6 p.m.

June 14; noon to 6 p.m.

June 21; noon to 6 p.m.

June 28; noon to 6 p.m.

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: **OceanWaterLover@gmail.com**

so I'll know how many packets to prepare.

Each brown paper bag packet contains:

- 20 postcards and 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.

The Immigrant Justice Committee (IJC) of the Network for Social Justice celebrates the Winchester Select Board for its approval of a motion to include references to “country of origin” and “immigration status” to the town’s Human Rights Statement. The 5-member Select Board unanimously approved the amended language at their monthly meeting on May 18th.

The IJC submitted the proposed inclusions to the town’s Human Rights Statement for the Select Board’s consideration because it recognized the enormous contributions that immigrants make always, and particularly now, as they represent a large percentage of essential workers during the pandemic. Select Board member Mariano Golobuff introduced the motion for the proposed change which was unanimously accepted by the five-member Select Board.

Winchester's Human Rights Statement will now read:

Winchester is a community that is grounded in respect for every individual, and therefore protects all residents, employees, business owners, students and visitors in the enjoyment and exercise of human and civil rights. It is town policy to ensure equal treatment and opportunity to all individuals regardless of race, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, country of origin, immigration status, religion, ideology, socio-economic status, health, sexual orientation, age, military status, or disability.

Now is a critical time to include these categories. Not only because xenophobic rhetoric and actions directed at those of Asian origin has increased, but also because May is Asian- and Pacific Island-American Heritage Month. According to Phil Cooney, co-chair with Karen Hirschfeld of the IJC, the additions provide “two more foundational principles upon which to build an even stronger and more inclusive Winchester.”

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

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

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:

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: [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



It's probably on the
website!
(And if it's not,
let us know)

password).

- Want to set up electronic giving? Go to the [How to Give page](#).

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