

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights June 11, 2020

(link to today's full issue of Highlights)



Junes's theme is *Compassion*

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, June 14
10:30 Worship, ONLINE



Photo by John-Mark Smith on Unsplash

The Gospel of Flowers: Flower Communion

The Rev. Heather Janules
Worship Associate: Stephen Perepeluk

Flower Communion is an annual ritual first created by Norbert Čapek so his congregation could celebrate their collective beauty, diversity and individuality. In this intergenerational service, we reflect on the lessons that Čapek and flowers themselves teach us about community in challenging times. **Bring a flower when you log-on. You are also encouraged to have fun by dressing in floral clothes and putting flowers in your hair or in your lapel.** Let's celebrate beauty together!

This Sunday, we share our gifts with the **Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth**, whose mission is "To inspire, facilitate, and support personal, congregational, and denominational practices that honor and sustain the Earth and all beings."

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 "June 14th 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.

Please join us for **the last Family Worship of this program year this Friday at 4:30 PM.** Details are in the Religious Education section of Highlights.
<https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

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

Update on WUS Congregational Life and the Pandemic

Your Standing Committee has formed 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. **Many thanks to Dirck Stryker, Cynthia Randall, Evan Forcucci, Kerry Bartlett and Kim Foley for agreeing to serve on the Task Force. James Pidacks and Fritzie Nace** will serve as liaisons from the Standing Committee and Thomas Slack and Heather Janules will participate as staff.

You may reach the Task Force by emailing

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!

Resources Available

Through the generosity of WUS members and friends, we can offer **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



SAVE THE DATE for **ZOOM-A-BID!**

WUS Online Auction and Fundraiser

Online: Friday, October 9 – Friday, October 23

“Live” Auction via Zoom, Saturday, October 24 at 7 pm

Join in the fun! Begin now by thinking about items, services, or experiences you can donate. In October see what everyone has offered and let the bidding begin!

Details to follow. Let's make this Winchester Unitarian Society fundraiser the best ever.



Hearts, Minds, Action: A community conversation exploring Racism Today

Thursday June 11, 8-9:30pm

[https://zoom.us/j/97993397625?](https://zoom.us/j/97993397625?pwd=WE4xcWlsQzd4WjJ3SVW02WWpaUGZOQT09)

[pwd=WE4xcWlsQzd4WjJ3SVW02WWpaUGZOQT09](https://zoom.us/j/97993397625?pwd=WE4xcWlsQzd4WjJ3SVW02WWpaUGZOQT09)

Co-sponsored by Temple Shir Tikvah, The Winchester Unitarian Society and The Network for Social Justice

A Program for both adults and youth



Hearts, Minds, Action; a community conversation exploring racism TODAY at 7:00 pm.

This program, for both youth and adults, will be facilitated by leaders from Temple Shir Tikvah, the Winchester Unitarian Society, and Network for Social Justice. We hope that it will bring the community together in conversation to reflect on recent events in the wake of the murder of George Floyd and the ways systemic racism manifests in all aspects of our society. Join today [here](#). This will be the first of three conversations focused on racial justice. Dates for future conversations include June 23rd and July 15th from 7:00PM-8:30PM.

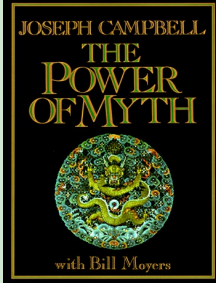
The Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) welcomes your input on Rev. Heather's ministry this year

As part of its charter to “monitor and nurture the health of the ministry of the Society,” the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) is charged in the bylaws of WUS with conducting “an assessment of the work of the Minister...as part of an annual review and renewal of the ministry and leadership of the Society.” An important component in COSM’s review is congregational input, and both COSM and Rev. Heather welcome your open and honest thoughts in an online questionnaire, available through midnight of June 30th. You can click on the link in the e-mail sent by the office or enter it: <https://tinyurl.com/RevHeatherReview2020>

If you have any questions, please contact any of the members of COSM (Martin Newhouse, Chair; Harris Gibson, Sheila Rudolph-Correia, Mary Saudade, or Woody Wood).

Power of Myth - Final Meeting

“The Power of Myth” discussion group meets next for our final wrap up session on **June 14th at 12:30 PM. *Note new time.** Please contact Matthew Bronski for login information to the virtual



room. He can be reached via MBBronski@sgh.com

It's Not Too Late to Support "Take Me Home"

Did you miss last Sunday's fun-draiser led by WUSYG, benefiting UU MassAction's COVID-19 Emergency Fund and our own Winchester Unitarian Society?

You can purchase merchandise - handmade soap, simple no-sew face masks, WUSYG cookbooks and houseplants - by visiting tinyurl.com/wussoap. Delivery of these items is free! All soap profits and 100% of the proceeds from the other items benefit the fundraiser.

Or, you could just donate here: [[link](#)]
Thank you for your generosity!



Ragtime Concert, Friday, July 3rd @ 7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for an all Ragtime concert presented by Music Director John Kramer. This uniquely American music is a perfect way to celebrate the holiday weekend. The concert will be a fundraiser for **Black Lives Matter UU, Women's Lunch Place, and the Winchester Unitarian Society**. For more information visit the concert event page and be sure to tell all your friends.

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/events/celebrating-america-ragtime-concert/>



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.

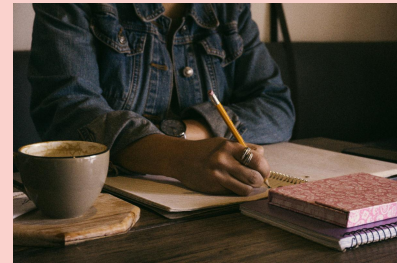
Please contact Betsy Bowles if you are interested.
(617) 584-6477
bebowles13@gmail.com

Informational Webinars to learn about this year's virtual General Assembly.

At this year's full virtual General Assembly (GA), we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle, and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. During this time of rapid change, the collective practice of our faith evolves and adapts to follow that path. Whether you're a first-time delegate or a long-time attendee, please join us at a pre-GA webinar to learn about some of these changes. Members of the Board of Trustees will provide an overview of some of the changes, along with information for delegates regarding the business sessions. Registration is required for these webinars. Follow this [link](#) for more info.

Summer Writing Group

After the current writing group concludes in two weeks, we "regroup" a new group for a six week session, to begin the week of June 20th. If you have not been part of the current group, you are welcome, and if you are a part of the current group, you are welcome to continue for the next session. To express interest, please contact Rebecca@winchesteruu.org



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.



Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

Our condolences are with **Kate and Andy Ebbott** with the recent death of Andy's father, Ralph, after a long decline.

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:

Please join us for Family Worship Friday at 4:30 PM. This week *Making Maps* *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/readers as well. Please contact Rebecca@winchesteruu.org for details.

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

Movement Voter Project (MVP) Webinar Wed June 17, 7:00 - 8:00 PM

[Zoom info](#) [Facebook Event Page](#) [RSVP Here](#)

Looking for ways to engage voters and strengthen our democracy? UU Mass Action and UU the Vote MA are collaborating with MVP. Movement Voter Project (MVP) works to strengthen progressive power at all levels of government by helping donors – big and small – support the best and most promising local community-based organizations in key states, with a focus on youth and communities of color.

75 THINGS White People Can Do About Racism

<https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18b0e0234>

Building Up People Not Prisons

You can engage right now by joining the fight to change our culture of incarceration. For the past 11 weeks, daily actions have been organized by our friends at “Families for Justice as Healing” and “Building Up People Not Prisons.” The link is updated weekly: <http://www.tinyurl.com/maweekofaction>



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 packets cost \$17 each, to cover the cost of materials.

To minimize cash-handling, please pay:

- with PayPal.com to OceanWaterLover@gmail.com or

- with a personal check to 'John Healey' or

- with cash.

- 41 Grove Street, Winchester, MA, 01570

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

June 14; noon to 6 p.m

June 21; noon to 6 p.m.

June 28; noon to 6 p.m.

*July 5; **NO PICK UP or DROP OFF***

July 12; noon to 6 p.m.

July 19; noon to 6 p.m.

July 26; 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. Please pay:

- with PayPal.com to OceanWaterLover@gmail.com or
- with a personal check to 'John Healey' or
- with cash.



A PUBLIC FORUM ON VOTING & VOTER SUPPRESSION
with music to lift your soul

SUNDAY, JUNE 14
3 or 8 PM EST; Free!

 **Go to The Riverside Church's YouTube channel**
www.youtube.com/TheRiversideChurch
CLICK HERE

Why are certain citizens denied the right to vote? And why do others choose not to vote?
The forum will examine how voter suppression threatens our ability to freely elect our leaders and our constitutional right to vote.



JusticeAid is thrilled to announce **Lift Every Voice and Vote**, an online public forum in partnership with The Riverside Church of New York, featuring Hon. **Stacey Abrams**, Founder, Fair Fight and Fair Count; **Kristen Clarke**, President and Executive Director, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law/Election Protection; **U.S. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries** (D-NY 8th District); **Maria Teresa Kumar**, President and CEO, Voto Latino; and **Ray Suarez**, Broadcast Journalist and Lecturer. With special music performances by **Abena Koomson-Davis** and the **Resistance Revival Chorus** and jazz pianist sensation **Matthew Whitaker**.

[#justiceaidforum](#) [@RiversideNYC](#) [@JUSTICEAID](#) [@866OURVOTE](#)

Join us to learn how you can take action to engage voters and ensure free, fair, and safe elections.

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.

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 **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!

The refugee family WUS has been helping has been offered household goods and furnishings from a condo in Hampton, New Hampshire. They can store the kitchen and other supplies in the attic of the house where they are staying but need a storage area for the furniture. The condo has been sold and must be emptied by July 30. This is a wonderful offer, but we need someone who is willing to drive a truck to pick things up, bring it back to Winchester, and help with placing things in a storage area. Please let Sandy Thompson (sandra.thompson3@comcast.net or 781-724-7571) know if you are available and/or know of a storage area.

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
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: 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 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 | www.winchesteruu.org**