

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights June 25, 2020

(link to today's full issue of Highlights)



Junes's theme is *Compassion*

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, June 28
10:00 Worship, ONLINE



Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!

Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly Sunday Worship Service

Join us at 10:00 AM (a half-hour earlier than usual) for live-streaming of the Sunday morning worship service from UUA General Assembly.

Learn more about this special service here:
<https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/sunday-morning-worship>

We will be streaming through our normal Zoom link:

<https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

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.

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
pandemicplanningTF@winchesteruu.org

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.)

Jenny is on Summer Break

From **July 1st until September 7th**, Jenny Goh will be on summer leave, during this time, all bookkeeping, check requests and any other financial requests will go to Thomas Slack (office@winchesteruu.org). Thank you and **Happy Summer to all!**

Summer Highlights

As of today, Highlights will be on the summer schedule of every other week.

Please keep this in mind when making your submissions.

The summer schedule can be found below:

June 25

July 9

July 23

August 6

August 20

We will return to the normal Highlights schedule on **September 3**

Congregational News

Ministerial Survey - Please Respond ASAP

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).



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.

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 of 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/>



Welcome to Our Summer Co-Ministers!

From July 1-August 31st

Rev. Heather will be on vacation and sabbatical in July and on study leave in August

WUS has a tradition of welcoming a part-time minister for July and August while the Settled Minister is away for vacation and study leave. This year, we are fortunate to welcome back two familiar faces who will be sharing the role. **Colleen "Kye" Flannery** will be the minister for Sunday services and **Marianne DiBlasi** will be on-call for pastoral care.

Both are available to officiate memorial services should the need arise.

Get to know Kye and Marianne...

Kye Flannery (above) is a board-certified humanist chaplain living in Austin, TX. When she lived in the Boston area, she served as WUS's F8th in Action teacher and Summer Minister for one year. She currently helps to run a community makerspace and spends time writing, reading, learning how communities change and grow, and making functional art. She writes, "The people of Winchester UU are close to my heart, and I value the chance to return to serve the Winchester UU community for the summer! " She will be serving remotely via Zoom for our services.

Marianne DiBlasi (right) graduated with a Master of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School in May 2020 and was WUS's most-recent Intern Minister. Her two-year, part-time internship concluded this past April. She writes, "I am grateful to the Winchester Unitarian Society for the wonderful opportunity to serve as your Intern Minister for the past two years. I'm excited to return this summer and serve as a co-minister with Kye Flannery."

Kye can be reached at Kye@winchesteruu.org and Marianne can be reached at Marianne@winchesteruu.org



If you or someone you know in the congregation is in need of pastoral care between July 1 and August 31st, please call the office at 781.729.0949 and they will forward the information to either the Pastoral Care Associates or Marianne.

Summer Writing Group

Please feel free to come to the Summer Writing Group starting on July 8, 2020. We will be meeting in Zoom from 9-11 AM. The exact format and focus of the

group will be discussed and determined at the first meeting. No writing experience is necessary. We look forward to "seeing" you!

For information and the link for the meeting contact Judy [[HERE](#)]



Volunteers needed for a week of garden watering in July and August

We had a good response to our request for help in watering our WUS gardens in June. However, we need additional volunteers to sign up in July and August. Volunteering for a week means keeping an eye on the weather and being available for an hour for up to three times that week in case mother nature doesn't bless us with rain.

Here is the link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4ca9ae23a75-wusgarden>

If you have any questions please contact Margaret at mlowry142@gmail.com or phone at 781-258-8345. Watering notes will be emailed to you.

This is an easy volunteer opportunity and you can snip fresh herbs from the garden as a bonus!

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:

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

WUSYG had its "end of year party" and is currently on hiatus for 3 weeks. We are excited to announce that **we will be returning on July 5th with *new* summer programming that will be in-person (outside, wearing masks, 6 feet apart, and otherwise following all CDC and state guidelines).** Leadership has been in extensive and thoughtful discernment about this prior to making this decision (and will continue meeting to reassess as necessary), and your WUSYG leaders will be working hard over the next few weeks to establish more detailed protocols, and to find innovative ways

for us to be together again and "do WUSYG" safely (still on Sunday nights, 4:30-6:30 pm). Families, please look out for more information soon (the decision was just finalized last night!). We're so excited to see everyone again in July, and can't wait to create some magical new memories on the lawn!

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

75 THINGS White People Can Do About Racism

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

If you'd like to support Black-owned restaurants: This is an [awesome compilation](#) of Black-owned restaurants across greater Boston. Consider supporting the [Black Hospitality Coalition](#) to help Black eateries weather COVID-19. Read more [here](#).

Calling people who want to work against racism. Subscribe to the UU Urban Ministry eNewsletter. This week's newsletter includes many other ways to educate our selves and to connect with black-owned businesses: www.uuum.org

The MA Black and Latino Caucus issued a "Ten Point Plan to Address Police Violence and Racial Justice in MA." www.mablacklatinocaucus.com



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 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.

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>

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**.



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