

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights June 4, 2020

(link to today's full issue of Highlights)



Junes's theme is *Compassion*

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, June 7
10:30 Worship, ONLINE



Photo by [Tyler Nix](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Love. Period.: Join the Revolution!

The Rev. Heather Janules

Worship Associate: Martin Newhouse

Middle Collegiate Church - a progressive, multicultural Christian community in NYC - organizes an annual conference each year from the foundation of their congregation, the intersection of liberal spirituality, progressive social movements and the arts. What can the leaders of this year's Revolutionary Love conference, representing many faith traditions, offer us in this painful chapter? Join Rev. Heather in exploring the ideas of this year's conference, held in April.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with the **Louis D. Brown Peace Institute**, a local "center of healing, teaching, and learning for families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief, and loss."

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.

Please join us for **Family Worship 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.

Events This Weekend

WUSYG Presents:

TAKE ME HOME

A virtual "potluck" and fundraiser
featuring music and stories from our youth



THIS SUNDAY

Sunday, June 7th

10:30-11:30 Worship

11:45 Virtual Potluck (bring a dish that reminds you of home!)

12:00 Program feat. stories & music from our youth

This Sunday, please join us for this special event after the worship service. There will be a brief break after worship, then please be ready to “bring” food that reminds you of “home” at 11:45 to enjoy in small groups via breakout rooms (as if you were sitting with each other at a potluck!)

At noon, we will bring everyone back together for our main event: youth will share some videos of things we can all do from home, plus a few musical performances, interspersed with “commercials” for special homemade products you can purchase, too.

WUSYG is organizing this fundraiser as a way to give back to the church, a second home for many of us. 75% of the proceeds will be going to the WUS Operating Budget, and 25% will go to the UU Mass Action Covid Relief Fund.

If you cannot attend but would still like to donate, please [use this link](#), or send a check to WUS, and put “Take Me Home” in the memo/note field.

Questions: Email Sam and Haley, wusyouth@gmail.com



Winchester Candlelight Vigil for Peace, Unity and Justice

In memory of George Floyd and
all victims of systemic racism

This Sunday, June 7th 6:30 -8PM

FB Event Link:

[https://www.facebook.com/events/277237083425763/?
notif_t=event_calendar_create-if_id=1591289624322754](https://www.facebook.com/events/277237083425763/?notif_t=event_calendar_create-if_id=1591289624322754)

Gather at Main Street and Mystic Valley Parkway with respect for social distancing guidelines (masks required). Bring candles or a flashlight and a sign to communicate what is on your heart in this silent vigil. Or gather on your porch with your families and alongside your neighbors.

George Floyd was choked to death for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. When you hear the town's bells toll at 8 pm for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, light a candle in memory of all lives lost to systemic racism.

Post photos and videos of your candle online with the hashtag #win4justice

Community Connections

Update on WUS Congregational Life and the Pandemic

UUA President, the Rev. Susan Frederick Gray, has 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>

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker has 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. 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. The formation of the Task Force is almost complete.

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.

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



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=WE4xcWlsQzd4WjJSVW02WWpaUGZOQT09)

[pwd=WE4xcWlsQzd4WjJSVW02WWpaUGZOQT09](https://zoom.us/j/97993397625?pwd=WE4xcWlsQzd4WjJSVW02WWpaUGZOQT09)

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

A Program for both adults and youth





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

This 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.

REGISTRATION BY FRIDAY, NOON 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.



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.

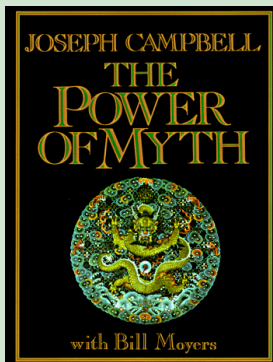
Please contact Betsy Bowles if you are interested.
(617) 584-6477

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.

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.



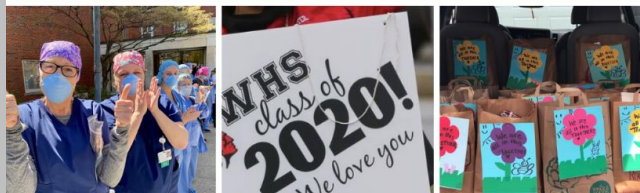
Power of Myth - Final Meeting

"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.



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 "Breaking News" *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.

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

We are all impacted by the known and unknown acts of violence against black people in our country.

Instead of providing you with my usual list of events of interest, I recommend the statement below, and suggest you sign up for their newsletter. This week it contains many events which will have occurred by today, but may help you make connections. <https://charleshamiltonhouston.org/news/> .

We strongly condemn the Minneapolis Police Department's vicious and brutal murder of George Floyd. This and other recent events highlight the lethal impact of the racist criminalization of Americans of African descent and the need to explicitly name and unequivocally fight against the racism and violence that has been woven into the fabric of the United States since its founding.

It is understandable that this longstanding, flagrant disregard for the human rights of African Americans has led to outrage across the country. We call on law enforcement officers responding to demonstrations to exercise utmost restraint and work closely with community leaders to avoid escalating the situation further.

The murders of African Americans at the hands of police and vigilantes must stop and perpetrators must be charged and brought to justice. As research centers at Harvard University committed to human rights, we affirm the values of racial equity, justice, and non-violence. For the future of the United States, our public leaders must urgently do the same.

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.

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:

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.

Check out: **Weekly Digest** by: David Roitman

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

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 Coonley, 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
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: [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**

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