

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights July 9, 2020

(link to today's full issue of Highlights)



Upcoming Worship

Sunday, July 12
10:30 Worship, ONLINE



The House of Peace

Carrie Schuchardt

Worship Associate: Lee Barton

"It is the obligation of every person born in a safer room to open the door when someone in danger knocks." (Dina Nayeri) The marginalizing and demonizing of the refugee is a soul-illness in our time. The House of Peace, founded in 1990 in Ipswich, Ma, will reflect on its thirty years of striving to offer safe rooms, healing and spiritual sanctuary to refugees and victims of war.

Sunday, July 19
10:30 Worship, ONLINE

Life After Covid-19

Dirck Stryker

Worship Associate: Stephen Perepeluk

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!

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:

July 9
July 23
August 6
August 20

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

Congregational News

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.

Highlights from the virtual UUA 2020 General Assembly

The Action of Immediate Witness process at General Assembly offers delegates the opportunity to engage in collective social witness to courageously affirm what is just and good through a statement that demonstrates solidarity with those affected. The 4300 delegates to GA this June passed this Action of Immediate Witness, stating...

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, as Unitarian Universalists we commit to shaping a world in which love and justice may thrive, where Black leadership, creativity, and resilience is celebrated while Black grief is honored and held with love. We will use our voices to amplify the demands of Black Lives Matter, Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU), Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM), Movement for Black Lives (M4BL), Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100), Undocublack, and other organizations by and for Black people.

THEREFORE, we commit to making our congregations and communities authentically multicultural, multiracial, anti-oppressive spaces that dismantle anti-Blackness;

resisting a culture of perfectionism, and repairing our mistakes; and given that building the Beloved Community in an ongoing and ever evolving process, we commit to staying in this work for the long haul.”



Call to Action for WUS Fall Auction
ZOOM-A-BID!

Online: Friday, October 9 – Friday, October 23
Live Zoom Auction, Saturday, October 24 at 7 pm

Contributions are being accepted **NOW**
[CLICK HERE](#) to donate an item.

YOU are the Auction! Get creative with your own ideas. A few suggestions:

HELP and SERVICES: Handy-person services, bicycle repair, painting, home repairs, graphic design, landscaping, piano tuning, computer aid...

SPECIAL EXPERIENCES: Haiku of the month, chalk-sidewalk art, surprise box-a-month, artistic drawing/letter in a mailbox, porch serenade...

OBJECTS OF INTEREST: Art, jewelry, collectibles, perennial plants, antiques, furnishings, handcrafted items...

RETREATS: Boat ride, sports car for a day, weekend at Kripalu Center, round of golf, vacation home get-away...

GIFT CERTIFICATES: Supporting local businesses: car wash, beauty salon, spa, restaurant, dry cleaner, specialty shop, dog groomer...

Please note that we ask that you buy and donate gift cards to help our area businesses recover from the pandemic.

EDIBLES: Jams, celebration cakes, soup or pie of the month, dream on!

This auction has been designed to meet current CDC regulations for COVID-19.

Thank you!
Your procurement team,

Sioux Brokaw
queenbee108@comcast.net

Naomi DeLairre
naomidelairre@hotmail.com

Karen Erikson
karenerikson@comcast.net



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

We still need volunteers to sign up for watering in late 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 one that can be enjoyed by individuals and families alike. Please feel free to snip from our herb garden; parsley, sage rosemary, thyme, tarragon, oregano, basil, mint and marjoram.

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

We are reaching out to get an idea of what our families would be interested in doing for the summer and fall to stay connected. Not all our needs are the same but we all share the same covenants. Please click below to fill out the form.

<https://tinyurl.com/y6wr8kkf>

Help us work together by filling out the form. We will try new ideas with the same covenants during this change in all our lives! Thank you!

-The RE Committee

WUSYG Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

[WUSYG Summer 2020](#)

We're back! In order to keep our community connected during this time, WUSYG has started holding in-person, socially-distanced meetings (outdoors and with masks, too) on Sunday nights, from 4:30 - 6:30 through August 30th. Parents and youth, please click here: <https://forms.gle/deR9d1fTWhadGUS87> to see and sign our mandatory agreements for our expectations and rules during these meetings, and more information about costs and eligibility. We're so excited to see y'all again this weekend!

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

On the Fourth of July, did you hear excerpts of the powerful 1852 speech by Frederick Douglass "**What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?**" There are many versions of his long speech, some omitting the more poignant parts. Look for the full text.

Families for Justice as Healing works to end the incarceration of women and girls: Clemency for all women who have served more than 10 years, all women who are older than 50, and all women with underlying conditions. Black and Brown women receive longer and harsher sentencing. Clemency is a racial justice issue and is a tool to correct systemic racism. Please support our campaign by signing this petition: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/clemencyworksma>

MA Good News! The House & Senate FY20 passed the supplementary budget! It includes **unprecedented economic support for immigrant communities disproportionately impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.**



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:

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](#).



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