

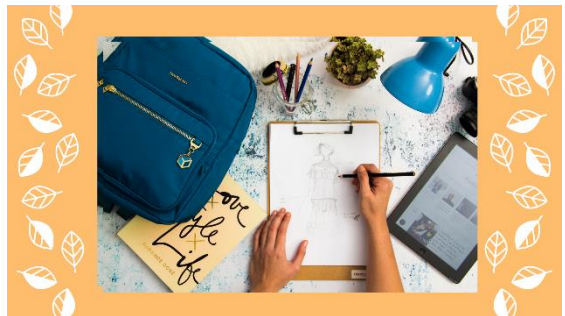
Winchester Unitarian Society
Order of Service
September 13, 2020

Centering Thought

“I want to age like sea glass. Smoothed by tides, not broken. I want the currents of life to toss me around, shake me up and leave me feeling washed clean. I want my hard edges to soften as the years pass...I want to enjoy the journey and let my preciousness be, not in spite of the impacts of life, but because of them.” – Bernadette Noll

Community Announcements

- **Children’s Religious Education:** As long as the weather allows, we will be meeting on the grounds of Winchester Unitarian Society, with masks and social distancing protocols for everyone. The first of our gatherings takes place from **12:00 1:00 PM after the virtual worship service on September 13th, rain date, September 20th.** Bring your waters for water communion to pour into our bowl and then join each other in a picnic lunch and visit Mark **October 4th 12:00-1:00** for our next gathering! For those of you who miss Sunday morning’s **Family Worship, we will be meeting via Zoom at 10 a.m. on Sundays beginning September 27th.** The sessions will not be recorded, and we will have privacy safeguards for our youngest members and their families.
 - If you haven’t been contacted by a member of the religious education committee yet, please let us know when and how to best be in touch by letting Committee chairperson, Naomi Magnoni know at naomimagnoni@gmail.com. We look forward to connecting with you!
- **Blessing of the Screens:** We begin our year with an annual blessing; this year including screens, along with backpacks, totes, bookbags, and laptops for all the ways in which we are part of the world, learning and growing every year. This year’s blessing will be virtual, so ready your bags, and your screens to receive a blessing. As in other years, a blessing tag is gifted to all who want them, and will be mailed to you. ALL ages are invited to take part.
- **An Order-of-Service Experiment Coming.** As many congregations have integrated order-of-service information into their virtual services, they have eliminated paper printouts. So, for the month of September, we will have an order-of-service available as usual but will structure the service so you may not need it. Try attending worship without using the order-of-service and tell us what works well and what does not work well. Thank you!
- **Seasonal Flower Images Wanted** Please send current photos of local flora to Rev. Heather at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org so we can "decorate the chancel" during virtual worship.
- **Outdoor Open Office Hours:** As of September 3rd, Rev. Heather is offering outdoor open office hours from noon until 2pm (weather permitting) in the Meditation Garden on Thursdays. Come to say hello, to share something on your heart and mind or to greet other members and friends of WUS. Masks required; distance protocols will be followed. If the weather doesn’t look great, call the office first to confirm that the outdoor office is open for business – 781.729.0949. We will offer outdoor office hours until winter temperatures begin.
- **What We Owe To Each Other: Discussions on "The Good Place"** ANOTHER Six Session Series: Every Friday Night from 7-9pm Beginning September 18th Not every television show touches on human morality, philosophy and the afterlife. Nor does every program include unforgettable and sometimes



irreverent characters. But The Good Place offers all these things, exploring ancient spiritual questions with a light heart...This past Spring, a number of WUS community members and friends watched and discussed Season 1 together. We had so much fun, we did an "independent study" of Season 2 over the summer and will soon watch Season 3 again as a class. If you watch the first two seasons first, you are welcome to join us for Season 3! Through an on-line format, we will watch two short episodes in real time and then share our thoughts, reactions and ideas with one another. Let Rev. Heather know if you wish to participate: heather.janules@winchesteruu.org

- **Save the Date – We Believe in Dog is Back!** Saturday, September 19th, 10am: We Believe in Dog is a gathering of WUS members and friends – and their dogs – who walk together in the Fells. You don't need a dog to participate! All participating dogs must be friendly and vaccinated.
 - We next gather on Saturday, September 19th. We will meet at the second of three entrances to the Middlesex Fells on Hillcrest Parkway at 10:00 am and start walking around 10:05. *Our walk will comply with WUS pandemic protocols for outdoor gatherings including a sign-in sheet with a brief symptom survey. Masks – worn properly – are required.*
 - Let Rev. Heather know if you plan to come: heather.janules@winchesteruu.org Please also send your cell number if this is your first walk so we can reach out to you if you are not at the starting point when we are about to begin.
- **WUS Writing Group** Please feel free to come to the WUS Writing Group on every Wednesday from now until September 30th. Meetings will take place over Zoom starting at 9 AM. The exact format and focus of the group will be discussed and determined each week based on how the attendee writers wish to spend the time. No writing experience is necessary – just a desire to write. We look forward to “seeing” you! For more information and the link for the meeting contact Dan [[HERE](#)].
- **Covenant Groups, Affinity Groups, Connections to be made and deepened?** . We would like to hear from you, if you are interested in joining a **covenant group or an affinity group**. Covenant groups usually meet monthly and engage with spiritual reflection materials. Affinity groups are organized around a shared interest or circumstance. Let us know **a)** if you would like to join or move to another covenant group or **b)** if you are interested in affiliating with like minded people. Questions or? Please reach out to Rebecca at Rebecca@winchesteruu.org and let us know what your interests are.
- **The Soul Matters Covenant Group Seeks More Participants:** This covenant group, meeting the 4th Thursday evening of the month, is part of the WUS small group ministry program. It explores the monthly themes and utilizes a packet of materials that invites participants into related spiritual practices, personal reflection and engagement with quotes, films and music to further enhance our experience. Group meetings - now on-line - are led through rotating facilitators. Our seven-person group has room for more and Fall is the perfect time to join! If newcomers are willing to commit, the on-line format allows us to welcome people from beyond the local area. Contact Rev. Heather to learn more: heather.janules@winchesteruu.org

Gathering Music

John Kramer

Community Welcome

Fritzie Nace, Standing Committee Co-Chair

Whole Community Greeting and Good News Roundup Use the “chat” function to greet others in worship and, if you have especially good news, to share it!. Our Chat Covenant: we only write things we would say in person in the sanctuary.

Ring of the Bell Ringing of the Bell *Today we are called back to worship by the ringing of the bells at our Partner Church in Marosvásárhely, Transylvania on Easter morning.*

Greeting The Rev. Susan Frederick Gray, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Invocation Rebecca Kelley-Morgan, Sam Wilson and The Rev. Heather Janules

Chalice Lighting by Janet Parsons (Abridged) The Graham/Bronski Family
If you wish to do so, please read together the words for our chalice lighting and light a chalice at home as we light the chalice.

The flame of our chalice this morning
is a symbol of the warmth and brightness of our connections.
The flame lights our way back together again
From our separate lives,
and it lights our way forward
Into this new year of promise and renewal.

Hymn # 360 *Here We Have Gathered*

First Reflection *Bowls, Rivers, Oceans* Rebecca Kelley-Morgan

Blessing

May the light within you shine before you, everyday, everyday.
May the light within you shine before you guide your way, guide your way.
May the love we share surround you and chase your fears away.
May the light within you shine before you, this we pray, this we pray.

Meditation "Radical Gratitude Spell" (Adapted) by adrienne maree brown Sam Wilson

you are a miracle...
we greet you with wonder

in a world which seeks to own
your joy and your imagination
you have chosen to be free,
every day, as a practice.

we can never know
the struggles you went through to get here,
but we know you have swum upstream
and at times it has been lonely

we want you to know
we honor the choices you made in solitude
and we honor the work you have done to belong
we honor your commitment to that which is larger than yourself
and your journey
to love the particular container of life
that is you

you are enough
your gifts are enough
you are needed
your work is sacred
you are here
and we are grateful

Pouring of the Waters *Reflète dans l'eau (Reflections in the water)* Claude Debussy
As we share images of members of our community pouring their water into a larger vessel, symbolic of our common bowl, you are invited to pour your water at home. Your contribution of water represents your unique journey to this community and the gifts you bring.

Silence

Hymn# 100 *Peace Like a River*

Second Reflection *To Quench Our Thirst* Heather Janules

Offering

This morning, we share our gifts with the **UUA's Disaster Relief Fund**. This denominational resource has supported congregations affected by the Coronavirus pandemic and has also responded to those impacted by the derecho in Iowa, fires in California and Colorado and water and wind damage in the Gulf Coast, leaving the fund at a historic low.

You may donate through the smartphone app Give+, through PayPal (<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/winchesteruu>) or by mailing a check to WUS, 478 Main Street, Winchester, MA 01890. Please write or type the date of your offering in the memo line or comment field. Note that contributing soon in lieu of one lump sum for a period of time is easier to process and empowers us to send our collective gift as soon as possible.

Our practice is to invite first-time worship attendees to be our guests. In lieu of a contribution, please complete the Virtual Visitor Card: <https://tinyurl.com/WUSVirVisCard> so we can stay connected beyond this Sunday.

Offertory *Rivers of Grace* Carla Gates

Affirmation of Shared Ministry *Those who wish to do so are invited to join in reading together the community affirmation:*

We gather not for ourselves alone, but to use our common power to build the Beloved Community within and beyond these walls.

We create and reaffirm this covenant this day - to make justice flourish, to practice compassion amidst difference and to embody transformative love.

Blessing of the Common Bowl Heather Janules

Hymn # 126 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Benediction "Blessing of the Boats" by Lucille Clifton

Postlude *Water from an Ancient Well* Abdullah Ibrahim

Extinguishing the Chalice *Please join us in reading together the words for extinguishing our chalice:*

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

Join the Chat!

Questions for Reflection

How does the earth renew you in spirit?

How have you recognized the truth that “you are needed/your work is sacred” lately?

What is “quenching your thirst” for connection and renewal right now?

Serving Today

Real-Time Tech Support with Zoom/Community Usher: Stephen Perepeluk - 917-716-4831

Pastoral Care Associate: Vicky Coccoluto 781-729-9313

Special thanks to John Kramer for serving as Video Coordinator

*This is a Welcoming Congregation, intentionally welcoming
and affirming of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.*

*Each worship service includes wisdom or an artistic
gift from people or communities-of-color.*
