

# Winchester Unitarian Society

## Highlights September 10, 2020

*(link to today's full issue of Highlights)*



The Theme for September is *Renewal*

*Photo: Found art near Horn Pond*

## Upcoming Worship



**Sunday, September 13**

*To Quench Our Thirst: Water Communion*

A Service for All Ages

**10:30 Worship, an "ONGATHERING"**  
*with in-person elements*

It is our annual ritual, gathering from our summer days to begin a new congregational year. But this year's Ingathering - now "Ongathering" - will be different...as we are

living through unusual times.

**You should have received a dedicated email on Tuesday to fully invite you into this year's experience.** Link to it here: [\[LINK\]](#)

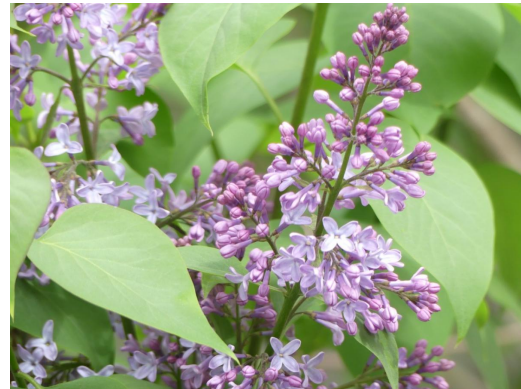
We will make opportunities for you to film yourself pouring your water at WUS throughout next week including some "welcome back" greeting time with Rev. Heather (masked and distanced) on Sat, September 12th. The Sunday service will then be virtual. Those who can and wish to do so are then invited to bring their own chair and gather afterwards on the Mystic Valley lawn for masked and distanced greetings. Protocols, outlined by our Pandemic Planning Task Force, will be followed. **The building will remain closed except for emergencies so please plan ahead in terms of the input and output of water.**

In this gathering, we will offer one final blessing over our common bowl. **Be sure to also bring food donations for Council for Social Concern, our local food pantry, greatly impacted by the pandemic.**

## Worship Notes

### Seasonal Flower Images Wanted

Please send current photos of local flora to Rev. Heather at [heather.janules@winchesteruu.org](mailto:heather.janules@winchesteruu.org) so we can "decorate the chancel" during virtual worship.



### 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!

## Community Connections

### A Note from the Standing Committee and the Pandemic Planning Task Force

**With Gratitude:** We are grateful for the news in recent weeks of the continuing decline of COVID 19 cases in Massachusetts. As our congregation looks to the beginning of our church year, we remain cautious and place the health and well-being of our staff, congregation and communities as the highest priority. On August 19, the Pandemic Planning Task Force (PPTF) presented ["Pathways to ReOpening"](#) which outlines WUS's response to the Massachusetts phased reopening. We thank them for

their dedication, time and effort in preparing this guidance for us, and we will continue to reach out to them for guidance throughout the pandemic.

**On-Line Worship Continues** Although the State permits in-person worship, we continue to feel it is prudent to be more cautious, and so will continue to have Sunday Worship on-line for the foreseeable future. We have been indebted to all those who have made this shift to technology-based worship successful. We are mindful that this requires additional time and effort and thank all who have made this possible. We are also pleased that so many are joining us who would normally be separated by distance! We hope to develop the technological capacity to continue streaming our Worship Services when we return to the Sanctuary. The Standing Committee will poll the congregation in the near future to get “a pulse” on when and how to return for in-person worship.

**In-Person Meetings and Gatherings at WUS:**In-person gatherings and meetings are now permitted in WUS building and on the grounds. HOWEVER, we ask that everyone STRICTLY FOLLOW the **Guidelines** found [HERE](#) to ensure the health and safety of everyone.

- Anyone wishing to gather at WUS must notify the office to reserve space.
- At that time, the organizer will receive the Guidelines which include Health Screening Questions and a Sign-In Sheet. (can be emailed)
- All attendees must answer the screening questions accurately. If no risk of Covid is apparent, that person may attend and must sign in on a hard copy, including phone number.
- The organizer will return the Sign In Sheet to the Office within 24 hours where it will be maintained for contact tracing if necessary. (A photo of the hard copy may be taken and emailed to the Office.)

While we are pleased to offer this safe avenue for some in-person gatherings, we wish to affirm that any member of the WUS community - friend, member, lay leader or staff - who cannot participate in gatherings in person, for any reason, should feel no pressure to do so. Organizers of in-person events should poll their invitees carefully and make arrangements for virtual participation to ensure inclusion and hospitality.

**Renters' presence:** The Winchester Cooperative Nursery school will be opening, following strict guidelines from the state. We have mutually agreed to cordon off the nursery school area Monday – Friday. They will enter from Metcalf doors. We ask that no one be in that area during the week. Please call the office with questions.

**Re-Envision Our UU Community:** All are encouraged to find ways to continue fulfilling our WUS Mission and Vision, living our values and creating community together that is safe, welcoming and inclusive. Be creative! Stay Connected!

**Questions or Concerns?:** Please feel free to reach out to the Standing Committee Co-Chairs:  
[James Pidacks](#) and [Fritzie Nace](#)



# OPEN

## OFFICE HOURS

*With Rev. Heather* · WUS Meditation Garden

Every Thursday (weather permitting) from Noon—2PM

Beginning September 3rd

Call the WUS office (781.729.0979)

if the weather casts doubt

**MASKS REQUIRED!**

As always, Rev. Heather is available  
by appointment beyond office hours as of September 1st

### Congregational News



Online:

Friday, October 9 – Friday, October 23

Live Zoom Auction:

Saturday, October 24 at 7:15pm

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## **SNEAK PREVIEW #2**

**ZOOM-A-BID, WUS's Community Fall Fundraiser**, kicks off on **October 9th!** On the 9th, you'll receive a link to the **TWO-WEEK ONLINE AUCTION** and, right away, you can start delving into a treasure trove of auction items.

And then, on the evening of the 24th, the **LIVE AUCTION** begins on Zoom at **7:15 p.m.** with **Auctioneer Stephen Perepeluk** and a **Special Musical Interlude** with **Tyson Kamikawa!**

*Here's this week's peek at two Online Auction items:*



*Two hours of handyman work by a skilled WUSer whose name is regularly given as a reference by Kevin Ryan of Fells Hardware. Carpentry is his specialty, but he can also help with masonry and electrical work.*



*Learn how to make your own sourdough starter and bread. Join this talented WUS bread maker for one-on-one instruction over Zoom. The high bidder will also receive a package with everything needed to get started—flour, ball jars, kitchen scale, bowl, towel, written instructions, and recipes.*

We promise you'll be dazzled by the wide variety of auction offerings – from small treasures to vacation getaways, professional services for your home and landscape, delicious foods delivered right to your door, “master classes” brought to you by skilled fellow WUSers, original art work, surprise themed bundles, and more!

**Stay tuned for Sneak Preview #3 brought to you by your Auction**

**Committee:** Sioux Brokaw, Naomi Delairre, Sara Delano, Jennifer Edwards, Karen Erikson, Kristine Kamikawa, Julie Khuen, Marilyn Mullane, and Cynthia Randall.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR AMAZING DONORS: YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE!**

*If anyone would still like to make a donation, consider a gift card to support an area restaurant.*

**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](mailto:heather.janules@winchesteruu.org)

### Save the Date - We Believe in Dog is Back!

**Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 19<sup>th</sup>.** 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. Dogs, however, are free to walk without masks. :)*

Let Rev. Heather know if you plan to come: [heather.janules@winchesteruu.org](mailto: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.



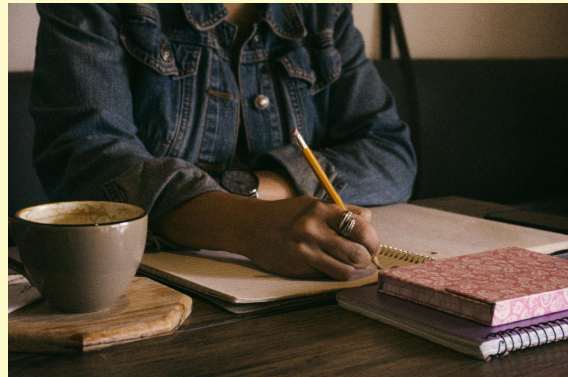
### The Fourth Thursday of the Month: The Soul Matters Covenant Group...

...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](mailto:heather.janules@winchesteruu.org)

**Covenant Groups, Affinity Groups, Connections to be made and deepened?** As we go into autumn, and the days shorten, our connections are increasingly important. 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 the materials sent out in monthly Soul Matters packets which align to the theme of the month, for example, in September, Renewal. Affinity groups are organized around a shared interest or circumstance, our writer's group is one. But there's room for other interests - perhaps a parent's affinity group (after the kids are in bed!), a musician's group, a group for those who identify as People of Color, a children of aging parents group, a "let's talk about this past month's worship services" group, a divination salon, or? Let us know a) if you would like to join or move to another covenant group or b) if you are interested in affining with like minded people. Questions or? Please reach out to Rebecca at [Rebecca@winchesteruu.org](mailto:Rebecca@winchesteruu.org) and let us know what you need.

**WUS Writing Group** This September, the Wednesday morning writers group is led and facilitated by Dan Hermes from 9-10ish a.m. Dan will be facilitating through the end of September, so please be in touch if you'd like the url to join the group. Dropping in is fine and invite your writing friends. Dan can be found here at [dan@lexiconsystemsinc.com](mailto:dan@lexiconsystemsinc.com)



**Mask Makers:** We have "kits" of fabric, instructions and the parts you need to make a cloth face 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](mailto:rebecca@winchesteruu.org) to work out pick up details. There are also sewing machines available if you would like to borrow one.



**The Wednesday Night Meditation Group is ON-LINE  
Wednesday Evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 PM**

Sitting from 6:30-7:00 pm  
bell will ring

Walking from 7:00-7:20 pm  
bell will ring

Optional informal discussion 7:20-7:30 pm

**Specific Instructions:**

**TO JOIN BY PHONE:** - Dial-in number (US): (712) 770-5505, Access code: 891-437-

International dial-in numbers: <https://fccdl.in/i/891-437-120>

**TO JOIN BY COMPUTER OR OTHER DEVICE:**

Join the online meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/891-437-120>

Online meeting ID: 891-437-120

For additional assistance connecting to the meeting text "Help" to the Dial-In number above. Message and data rates may apply.

**Also, please join as early as 6:20 pm to greet each other before we ring the starting bell at 6:30.**

**We will all be muted during the 2 meditation periods, when you should be able to see a video of a lit candle on the screen.**

**For further information, please contact Patty Shepard at [shepard.patty@gmail.com](mailto:shepard.patty@gmail.com)**

PLEASE NOTE: Free conferencecall.com has a new software download that you may be asked to allow when you click on the link above. All you need to do is to accept the download and follow the prompts, including allowing a non windows installation, if you have windows on your device.



**Fall Yoga Session Begins**

Join us Mondays 6:45 – 8:15pm via Zoom

Led by Fritzie Nace, MA DTR

Deep breathing (pranayama) brings warmth and focus. Yoga postures (asanas) gently stretch and strengthen, enhance balance and counter patterns of daily tension. Connecting breath and movement deepens self-awareness and enlivens our sense of being. If you have never done yoga before, or only just a bit, Fritzie gives clear guidance through a slow flow of postures, offering support as we go. If you have more experience, you are invited to take the postures to your own depth of challenge. Ten-class (\$130), 5-class (\$65) and drop-in (\$15). For more information, see WUS website here. Questions? Email [fritzie.nace@gmail.com](mailto:fritzie.nace@gmail.com).



**SAVE THE DATE!**



MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020 - 7 PM on Zoom

**A PRESENTATION from the YES ON 2 CAMPAIGN**

**Learn More And Help To Bring Ranked Choice Voting to Massachusetts!**

**PLEASE SHARE WIDELY!**

**PLEASE NOTE:** You need to [REGISTER HERE](#) to attend this **LIVE VIRTUAL EVENT** or to receive a link to the recording.

**YES on 2** began as a grassroots-driven movement to build awareness around an improvement to our elections known as **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)**. RCV helps reduce the issues of vote-splitting and so-called "spoiler" candidates -- common problems which often put pressure on candidates to drop out, and which prevent fresh, diverse voices from running for office in the first place.

RCV levels the playing field -- giving **more choice**, and guaranteeing a **stronger voice** for every voter. It eliminates worries about casting a "wasted" vote, regardless of whether or not your favorite candidate is deemed the most "electable," or whether they have the biggest bank account, or whether they drop out before election day after you've voted early. RCV encourages candidates to run **more positive and issue-based campaigns**, and it ensures that candidates win with **over 50% support** from their district. For a short 1-minute primer on how RCV works, check out the video on the [YES on 2 website](#).

This year, **YES on 2** volunteers certified **128,780 signatures** with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, placing Ranked Choice Voting on the **November 3, 2020 ballot**. Now, with only a handful of weeks left, each of us must answer the call to get this initiative over the finish line.

**HOSTED BY**

**Social Action and Outreach Committee of the Winchester Unitarian Society**  
**with the following Co-Sponsors: Mystic Valley Area Branch, NAACP, and others TBA.**

**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](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org)

**Religious Education**

**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's health and well being. 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 as we ask the kids how they would like to be of service this fall. It's nice to see other people, even with masks on! 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](mailto:naomimagnoni@gmail.com). We look forward to connecting with you!

## WUSYG Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

**WUSYG will be starting on September 20th, 4:30-6 PM, on Zoom.** Parents are then invited to join us on Zoom at 7 to connect with each other and hear more about this year's programming. Here's the link for all WUSYG meetings on Zoom this year: <https://tinyurl.com/WUSYGZoom>

We are also hoping to be able to hold monthly special in-person events, too, starting in October.

Your families will be in our hearts and minds as you transition back to school during this complicated time. As always, please feel free to reach out to Sam and Haley with any questions, comments or pastoral concerns: [wusyouth@gmail.com](mailto:wusyouth@gmail.com)

## Music

### Virtual Choir

Saturday, September 12th: Virtual Choir Retreat 9am-12pm.

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](mailto:john.kramer@winchesteruu.org) if you have any questions.

## Social Action & Outreach

### Council of Social Concern

**There is an urgent need for food donations for the Council for Social Concern in Woburn. You may drop off food at church or at the pantry.**

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](http://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

**Every Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m.** a community vigil in support of racial equality and justice for Breonna Taylor takes place at the four corners of Mystic Valley Parkway near the Winchester Unitarian Society.  
All are welcome!

**Come show your support for Black lives, Friday September 11** from 8:30-10:30 AM at 301 W. Wyoming Ave. in Stoneham, just 5 miles from Winchester. It will be held across the street from a "Back the Blue" rally, using the national tragedy of the September 11th terrorist attacks to show support for police at this time of racial reckoning. Bring signs, masks, and your voice. (Sponsored by White People Challenging Racism)

**Show your support for Racial Equity by joining a nearby Rally on Saturday September 12.** The Mystic Valley Area Branch of the NAACP supports "Mobilize Youth Medford" in its rally and march for racial equity in Medford Public Schools. The gathering at Dugger Park in West Medford will open with an activist art project at 2:00 PM. The rally and march will begin at 3:00 PM, featuring the voices of students calling attention to pressing needs in the schools.

**The UUA is acting to provide caucus groups for people of color.** An online gathering of UU s who identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC) will be held on Saturday, September 19 from 10 to 1:00. Meet other BIPOC UU's from congregations in your area, experience our faith in new ways, and together help us build a more beloved community. Organized by DRUUMM—Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries. Registration will be accepted until September 18: Dawn Robinson [drobinson@uua.org](mailto:drobinson@uua.org). For general information: Joseph Santos-Lyons [jsantoslyons@uuma.org](mailto:jsantoslyons@uuma.org)

**UU the Vote** is a non-partisan faith initiative to educate our communities and mobilize voters. They are currently organizing phone banking to activate voters in the states which have been targeted by voter suppression tactics. UU the Vote needs funds to hire trainers using dialer technology. See: [uuthevote.org](http://uuthevote.org) to support their efforts.

***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](mailto: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:

- Sunday, September 13, noon to 6 p.m.
- Sunday, September 20, noon to 6 p.m.
- Sunday, September 27, noon to 6 p.m.
- Sunday, October 4, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:glegvold@comcast.net), 781-729-8247) or Sandy Thompson ([sandra.thompson3@comcast.net](mailto:sandra.thompson3@comcast.net), 781-724-7571) Many thanks!

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org) | [www.winchesteruu.org](http://www.winchesteruu.org)