

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights September 17, 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 20

10:30 Worship, ONLINE

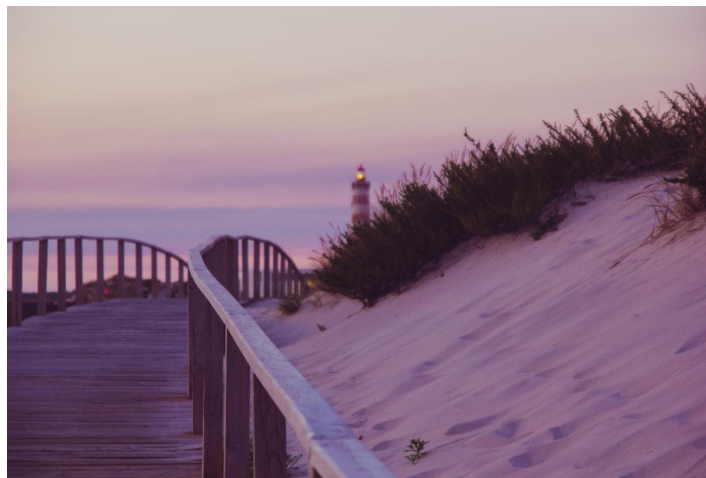


Photo by [Miss Porcelain](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Sacred Liminality

The Rev. Heather Janules

Human life is defined by arrivals and departures from states of being - birth to death, night to day, Summer to Autumn. But so much happens in the spaces inbetween, the liminal spaces. As we continue in this time in-between with the pandemic, this service

will reflect on the spiritual gifts of liminality, inspired by Susan Beaumont's book *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You Are Going* We will also pause during the service to do another "pulse check" with the congregation about our interest and readiness to connect in person.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with the **Council for Social Concern** our local food pantry, responding to the increased demand for food related to altered school schedules and lost wages during the pandemic.

Worship Notes



Chalice Images and Short Videos Needed

Thank you for the flower images...We will be set for the season!

But we wish to refresh our images for "Kindling of the Light" in on-line worship. Please send your images and

short videos of you kindling your chalice at home to Director of Music John Kramer at john.kramer@winchesteruu.org

An Order-of-Service Experiment

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

SNEAK PREVIEW #3

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

And then (drum roll please...!), on **Saturday, October 24th**, you, your family, and close friends are invited to attend WUS's **VIRTUAL LIVE AUCTION**, a fun and festive evening beginning at **7:15 p.m.** with *Auctioneer Stephen Perepeluk*.

Join us on Zoom for all the excitement of **LIVE BIDDING, TWO RAFFLE DRAWINGS**, and **MUSICAL INTERLUDES** with *Tyson Kamikawa!*

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



Escape to the Cape! Enjoy a weekend in Harwich in this four-bedroom house overlooking a 17-acre pond. You'll be just a 20-minute walk to Red River Beach on Nantucket Sound and an easy drive to Chatham and other neighboring towns. Relax on the deck and take in the Fall colors and bird life on the pond!



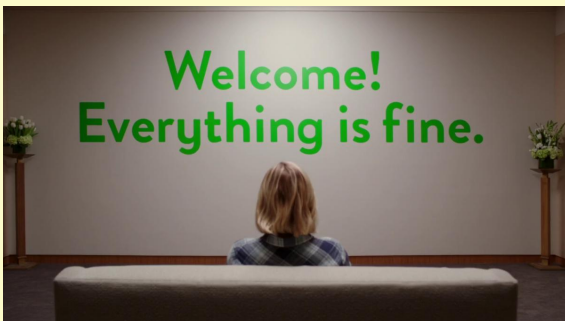
Four Weeks of Health and Wellness Coaching with your WUS Personal Wellness Coach. You'll clarify your goals and receive the guidance, motivation, education, and accountability you need to reach those goals. Whether your goals include losing weight, developing a healthier lifestyle, increasing energy, and/or decreasing stress, you will stay connected with your Coach via phone or Zoom once a week for four weeks.

Check out all the online offerings beginning on October 9th! You'll find small treasures, 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 artwork, surprise themed bundles, and more!

Stay tuned for Sneak Preview #4 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.

Join us October 9th - October 24th for this Special Fall Fundraiser to Support and Celebrate WUS!



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. Dogs, however, are free to walk without masks. :)*

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.



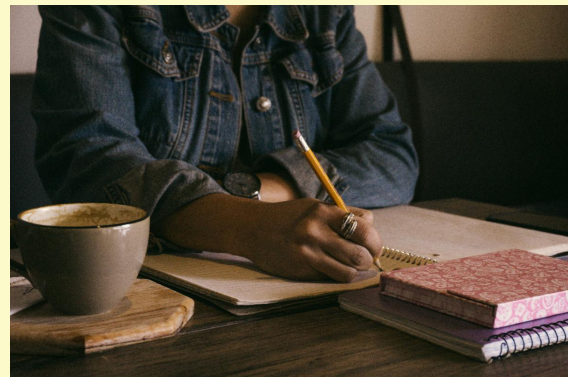
The Fourth Thursday of the Month: The Soul Matters Covenant...

...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

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 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



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 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: 891-437-120#

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

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.



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 via email the next day.

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, League of Women Voters of Winchester, Network for Social Justice, and others TBA.



Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

It is with sadness that we announce the death of the **Rev. David Pettee**, who served as the Director of Credentialing at the UUA for many years and grew up at WUS. He died on September 13th, exactly five years after he visited WUS for Water Communion in 2015. (During his visit, he recalled planting the Centennial Tree at the Main Street entrance in 1965 with his Religious Education class.) He is remembered with fondness and will be missed by many.

We celebrate with **Joi and John Loewy** with the recent

wedding of their daughter, Laura, to Joel Orlando on September 5th.

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

*Reminder to families, there are materials posted on the website for you and your children to engage with during Sunday morning worship. You'll find them linked as Pew/Couch packs. Most weeks will contain context for parents/caregivers, printed materials and short animation videos

1st Principle Animation Video: [LINK](#)

September Pew/Couch Pack: [LINK](#)

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 gatherings will take place Sundays from 12:00 to 2:00, picnic and brief program followed by social time. Park in the back lot and find us on the lawn near the garden. 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 layers of privacy safeguards for our youngest members.

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!

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

WUSYG will be starting THIS SUNDAY, September 20th, 4:30-6 PM, on Zoom. Parents are then invited to join us on Zoom from 7-8 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 outdoor events, too, starting on October 25th.

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

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 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



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!

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:d Robinson@uua.org). For general information: Joseph Santos-Lyons 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 to support their efforts.

UU The Vote invites you to Gather the Spirit with us on September 23, 2020 at 7:30 pm. In our last virtual mobilization before Election Day, we are offering an online worship and celebration event. Let's celebrate what we've accomplished together and kick off a week of action. Featuring UU leaders, musicians, volunteers and organizers from our partner groups in movement, this event will be joyful, soulful, and heart-full. Let us gather together to be nourished by the abundant, loving spirit of this beloved community and renewing our commitment to love, justice, and democracy.

Register at uuthe.vote/gather and watch live on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/pF2gWm1M53s>).

Boston Marches for Indigenous People's Day

When: Sat Oct 10, 12:00 - 3:00 PM

Where: Meet at Park St Station
(Boston Common)

[Facebook Page](#)

Rally (in person) and march on Saturday, October 10, 2020 to demand that the city of Boston honors Indigenous Peoples Day and commits to not returning the Columbus statue to Boston's waterfront.



UU Mass Action staff are developing our new Environmental Justice Campaign. We are currently meeting with UU Climate team leaders, polling congregations, and speaking with frontline partners. Environmental Justice and Housing are areas of focus.

Here's the link to our congregational poll - please take a moment to respond. We really want to hear from people statewide!

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:

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

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!

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**