

# Winchester Unitarian Society

## Highlights September 24, 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 27**

**10:30 Worship, ONLINE**

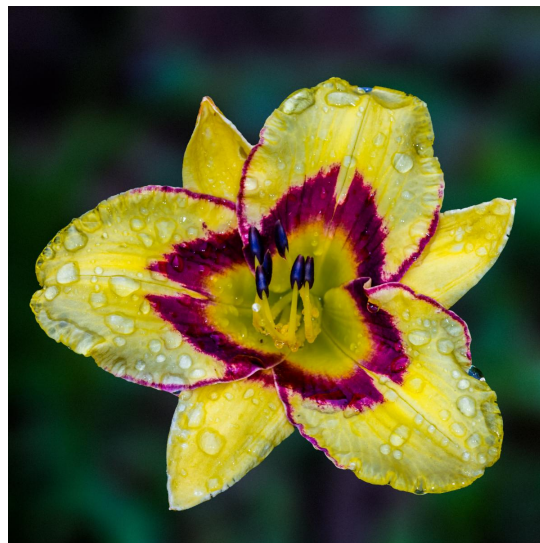


Photo by **Michael Payne** on **Unsplash**

## **Whole Again: The Renewal of Yom Kippur**

The Rev. Heather Janules

Last week, we explored the powerful transformations that can take place in liminal

time, the time in-between one thing and the next. Each year, the Jewish people intentionally practice living into liminal time through the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Between these two sacred holidays, we are invited to seek forgiveness for the ways we have wronged others and the divine. These days, with so much conflict and hostility in our world, true forgiveness may seem like an impossibility. How do we - as individuals and as communities - find their way "whole again" in this time? Let's explore together...

This Sunday, we share our gifts with the **Anti-Defamation League**, whose mission is to "stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all."

**Family Worship, has returned to Sundays. This week, Reconnecting! We will be meeting via Zoom at 10 a.m. this Sunday, September 27th.** Log on at 10 at <https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship> in the chat feature, write "the secret password". You will be invited into a breakout room by the host and everyone is muted as they arrive before we begin family worship. This week, we orient ourselves to this year's family worship, and reconnect with each other.

The sessions will not be recorded, and we have layers of privacy safeguards for our youngest members.

## 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](mailto: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 (781.729.0949)**

**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**

### AUCTION SNEAK PREVIEW #4

**WUS's Community Fall Fundraiser, ZOOM-A-BID, begins in just 2 WEEKS!**

The week of October 5th, you'll receive all the information you need to get started bidding on a trove of auction items in the **TWO-WEEK ONLINE AUCTION**.

And then, 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 *Event 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 auction items:**



**Furniture restored!** New furniture may look nice but often misses the quality and patina of old wood and the accompanying family history of an antique. This talented WUS furniture restorer will repair and refinish your vintage wood furniture--resetting loose joints, stained or aged finish, and other manageable repairs. If you have a vintage table, or chest, or a couple of chairs that need



some love, here's the perfect opportunity.



**Three Mouthwatering Homemade Pies!** Your choice of three specialty pies baked by a skilled WUS pie maker and delivered right to your doorstep. Freshly baked and delivered, individually or all together. Mix it up or three of a kind. Guaranteed to bring a smile to your face and satisfaction to your belly. Choose from: apple/blueberry, mixed berry tart, lemon sponge, pumpkin, or mince.

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 #5 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!**

**The Winchester School of Chinese Culture will not be running their after-school program at WUS this year.** If you would be willing to lead an effort to find or suggest alternative sources of building related income, please reach out to Thomas in the WUS office ([office@winchesteruu.org](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org) or 781-729-0949). Any building use must be consistent with the guidelines from the Pandemic Planning Task Force and the needs of our long-time tenant the Winchester Cooperative Nursery School. Every little bit helps!! Please share your time and ideas! THANK YOU!

**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.

**Writers Group: September 30th 9-10(ish) Wednesday** morning writer's group is led and facilitated by Dan Hermes. Dan will be facilitating through early November, 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: 891-437-120#

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](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).



**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020 - 7 PM on Zoom**

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

**with Rev. Vernon Walker, Campaign Consultant and  
Alex Arsenault, Field Director, Voter Choice MA**

**Learn More And Help 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.**

**Calling all Recyclers** -- and we hope that's every one of you! Empty pizza boxes can be recycled, even with grease and food stains, according to Recycle Smart MA (<https://recyclesmartma.org>) Your empty boxes are needed to make new boxes, so don't trash them.

~ **The Green Sanctuary Committee**

#### Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

Our condolences are with **Roy and Leora Cummings** with the recent death of their daughter, Lynn, from cancer. A private ceremony of interment will be held next week.

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

\*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

Chalice Lighters Wanted: [LINK](#)

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.

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 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](mailto:wusyouth@gmail.com)

## 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](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



## Update from the UU Urban Ministry

To learn how to sustain the link between WUS and the UUUM, you are welcome to attend their Delegate Training (even if you are not a delegate!):

**October 1, from noon to 1:30**

**Register Here:**

<https://tinyurl.com/uumdelreg>

And Here are Some Other Updates -

- This summer we welcomed 8 high schoolers to the first hybrid version of our summer youth employment program. Part of their project was to learn digital storytelling skills using just their phones. You can see one [cool example here](#) (but it might make you hungry).
- While we continue to shelter our Renewal House families off-site, we are taking advantage of the emptiness and renovating the kitchen and common areas. We can't wait to welcome families back to what is turning out to be a stunningly refreshed space. (With major gratitude to the Franklin Square House Foundation for funding this project and letting us dream big.)
- Our Social Justice Fellow for the Arts and Humanities is working closely with Roxbury-based artists to amplify their work -- and we continue to be moved and inspired by the creativity around us. While we plan to share a new Artist Spotlight next week, you can get a [sneak peek here](#). (And see [older episodes here](#).)
- Work to restore the historic semi-circular configuration of our driveway and to reign in our untamed parking lot begins next week.
- In other exciting landscaping news: a \$25,000 pledge in support of our Healing Garden project pushes us so much closer to breaking ground on that beautiful, contemplative space next spring.

**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!

**Are you looking for a vigil or protest spotlighting Black Lives Matter?** The best place for up-to-date info is the Network for Social Justice at [nfsj.org](https://nfsj.org).

## **Too early to think about Thanksgiving? Not at all.**

**The Thanksgiving Food Basket Program is again upon us.**

This program, sponsored by the Council of Social Concern, delivers the makings of Thanksgiving dinner to families in need in nearby communities. Last year we contributed 33 dinners. This year, the need is

greater than ever.

Please sign up to donate one or more dinners by sending Sue Doubler an email today [suedoubler@gmail.com](mailto:suedoubler@gmail.com) . We will send you a shopping list and details about delivery; you will need to provide your own sturdy box with lid. Together, we can make Thanksgiving a happy holiday for families in the Woburn/Winchester area who are facing difficult times.

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!

### **UU The Vote - Take Action Now!**

**Our frontline partners in battleground states are asking us to make calls. This is the most important action we can take at this stage!** UU The Vote uses an *autodialer system*, which is computer based. Volunteers are provided a script, which is on the computer, as well. Some people really like this system, others who are less comfortable with the technology, might prefer the *Reclaim Our Vote* system - it's your choice. **Massachusetts volunteers are needed to support swing states!**



**UU The Vote Phone Banks: [For times and sign up links, click here](#)**

Sept 29 Florida, 6 PM    Sept 30 Wisconsin, 7 PM

**Get trained and learn how** – A member from First Parish UU Of Arlington, is hosting volunteer training for the Reclaim Our Vote system for about 30 min. **Complete this form and let us know which training you want to attend**

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](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 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)

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