

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights November 12, 2020

(link to today's full issue of Highlights)



The Theme for November is *Healing*

Photo: The Angel of Hope statue at Horn Pond, after the recent snow. This statue was erected to create a peaceful place for families to gather who have lost children

Upcoming Worship

Family Worship: This week, “We Light This Chalice” We will be meeting via Zoom at 10 a.m. this Sunday, November 15th. To streamline the process and save the sanity of the 10:30 worship behind the scenes team, we are meeting in a new Zoom Room. Please log on a little before 10 at <https://tinyurl.com/WUSFamily> The new Zoom link will also be posted in the chat in the usual worship virtual room. All will need to be admitted by Rebecca and sessions are not recorded.

Family Worship Advert:

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Family-Worship-for-November-15th.mp4>

NEW THIS FALL: Miss Juanita and story time. Following the first reflections, our youngest members are invited to visit with Miss Juanita (of the playroom fame) hear stories and sing songs. As soon as the First Reflections ends, please re-enter the link for <https://tinyurl.com/WUSFamily> (it will also be posted in the chat) room where Miss Juanita is waiting for you. The very youngest may wish to bring an adult friend. All will need to be admitted by a member of the program staff and sessions are not recorded.

Sunday, November 15



Photo by [Ian Hutchinson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The Power of Service

Thomas R. Slack

This Sunday, our very own office administrator, Thomas Slack, will grace the pulpit for the very first time, in honor of Veterans Day. Please join us to listen to him speak about his military experience and the importance of honoring veterans and emulating their devotion to service.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **Wild Hearts Horses for Heroes** "Wild Hearts Horses for Heroes Healing through Horsemanship program provides active-duty and veteran service members with an alternative to traditional therapy in order to cope with PTSD, TBI, MST and other psychological wounds of war."

Transcription Service Now Available

When you log on to worship, you will now see an icon reading "LIVE Otter ai." This is a transcription application that provides text for any Zoom meeting, a good tool for those with impaired hearing or anyone seeking clarity about what is being broadcast.

You can see a tutorial here: <https://tinyurl.com/OtterDemo>

PAGEANT, PAGEANT, PAGEANT! CASTING CALL: Unfettered by virtual constraints, we will forge ahead with our annual holiday pageant - this year on December 13th. There is a role for everyone. It's easier in some ways, since you can pre-record your part. Along with non-speaking roles for shepherds, angels, stars and animals, there are single line speaking roles for Caesar, angels, wise people, and shepherds. We also welcome any of you who wish to serve as narrators. Please contact Rebecca@winchesteruu.org or Naomi Magnoni at REC@winchesteruu.org.

Worship Notes

Chalice Lighters Needed

Our worship services are made richer by

many faces and voices. Like with analog worship, one way people can easily contribute is by lighting the chalice in worship. On-line, you can pre-record this ritual or light the chalice live. If you would like to do so, contact

heather.janules@winchesteruu.org



Worship Notes Are Now Online

Although there is no longer an Order of Service, you can now find worship notes online. These notes include Centering Thoughts, Music Notes, as well as the various songs, readings, and hymns from the service. Follow the link below to see the most recent notes from worship. Thank you!

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Worship-Notes-for-Publication-2020.11.08.pdf>



Bring a Friend Sunday: November 29 @ 10:30 AM

Please join us online (in the comfort of your home and in PJ's, if you like)

By Zoom at:

<https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

Reflections of Monuments with Rev. Heather Janules

Historians may look back at this time as a time of national reckoning. Who are we as a people and what is our story? Culturally, the victors - who are often also the storytellers - are commemorated with monuments and public symbols. In a time when these representations of the past are being retired and even torn down, how do we respond? This service will invite us to consider the ever-changing public story as told in bronze and logos.

Service begins at 10:30 AM and is followed by virtual "coffee hour" where you and meet and chat with others in the WUS congregation.

We hope to "see" you there!

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. **Please find the drop off baskets in a new location - by the back door of the building near the parking lot.***

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



Thanksgiving Baskets. Thank you for committing to donating 45 large boxes of food to the Council for Social Concern. **What we need now are big cars and strong backs for delivery to Woburn on two dates. Please contact Gordy McIntosh to volunteer your car and/or assistance in transporting these heavy boxes.** Do you need a box for your Thanksgiving donation? Contact Claire McNeill. If you missed the

deadline to sign up, there is always a need for basic foods. It's now easy to bring other food donations to the church and place them in the basket inside the back door leading to the kitchen.

Our Refugee Support Continues

We continue our **Go Fund Me campaign** for the refugee family many of you have so generously helped with diapers and Pediasure, moved furniture, donated money, sent cards, shared toys. They are so grateful.

The parents have work permits, but the father's research job has been eliminated because of COVID. He is job searching again. The mom is looking for a part time job which will enable her to be home with their child when he is not in school.

Fortunately, they are still able to house sit for a couple who are staying in Florida for the winter, but they are now facing the expense of replacing tires on the car they were given. Can you help, once again or perhaps for the first time?

You can reach the campaign [here](#) to donate and/or share the link to the campaign by email, Facebook, Instagram with your circle of friends. Thank you.

Please contact **Gloria Legvold** (glegvold@comcast.net, 781-729-8247) or **Sandy Thompson** (sandra.thompson3@comcast.net, 781-724-7571)

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!

Middlesex Constituents for No Cost Calls

A bill pending in the Massachusetts legislature, Bill S. 1372, would require that prisons and jails provide telephone services to prisoners at no cost to them or to those who receive their calls. Currently, prisons and jails charge highly inflated rates, causing many low-income families to have to choose between meeting basic needs and staying in touch with their incarcerated loved ones. The pandemic exacerbates the hardship because visits to prisons and jails are shut down, scaled back or unsafe for loved ones. This is a racial justice issue, given that Black and Brown families are disproportionately impacted by the criminal legal system.

If you live in Middlesex County, please sign this letter <https://forms.gle/QPifRA7MpB9FAPEK6> to Middlesex Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, President of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association and a vocal opponent of this bill. Let him know that we want our taxes, not the affected families, to pay for phone calls from prisons and jails.

Grow Your Book Shelf, Sustainably with “More Than Words.” Purchase used books to save trees, as you support our mission to empower youth through job training and mentorship. Step 1. Shop our online store for gently used books at: <https://mtwyouth.org/>

Step 2. Make room on your shelf by donating books to any of our [drop-off sites](#), including the Winchester transfer station.

Did you enjoy coffee at church last year? We purchased it from Equal Exchange, a MA coop which sells high quality organic coffee purchased from cooperatives of farmers in Latin America and Africa. Now that most churches have moved to on-line services, the small farmers need our help, for. Any member of the congregation may order wholesale cases of organic fair-trade coffee, tea, chocolate and pantry staples directly from Equal Exchange for home use. To order, call them at 774-776-7366 or shop online at: shop.equalexchange.coop Please spread the word; invite your family and neighbors to support fair trade at home during the pandemic. Claire McNeill will match up people who wish to buy half cases: 6 bars of chocolate or 3 bags of coffee.

Congregational News

From the Music Committee

Our 15th concert series kicks off on **Saturday, November 14th at 7:00 PM** with a solo piano program performed by John



Kramer: A Celebration of African-American Composers. The early 20th century witnessed significant and powerful classical music creations written by African-American composers. Much of this music was unheralded at the time by the white musical establishment, but today it is experiencing a renaissance. We are delighted to explore and celebrate some of these musically rich and expressive works with you in our November concert which will be streamed from the sanctuary. Please consider sponsoring this year's concert series at the \$125, \$200 or \$300

level. Please make your sponsorship check payable to WUS and write "concert series" in the memo field, or donate through WUS's GIVE+ or PayPal (<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/winchesteruu>). Your tax-deductible donation will be included on your WUS annual statement. To be acknowledged on our Nov 14th sponsor list, please submit your donation no later than November 9th.

WUS GARDEN NEWS

The garden has been blessed with a summer's worth of sunshine, but very little rain. Without the help of the weekly watering team who checked the weather and watered accordingly, the flowers and herbs would have been crisp as toast. A round of applause goes to:

Kathy McKool, Lindy Brown, Claire McNeill, Fritzie Nace, Marilyn Mullane, Naomi Magnoni, Cindy Randall, Gay Mohrbacher, Robbie Brown, and Linda Copeland

Thanks also to those who planted and mulched this spring:

Lindy Brown, Fritzie Nace, Julie Khuen, Brad Steele, and Ivan Correia

Please help yourself to fresh herbs as long as they last - parsley, sage, tarragon, mint, marjoram, thyme, and horseradish root.



Save the Dates!

One of the great traditions at WUS in November is **PIE SUNDAY**. Of course, we can't gather and share in the bounty of each other's kitchens this year but we CAN make pie at home and enjoy it during social hour after worship on November 22nd. **Please send a photo of your pie to John Kramer so he can include it in a Musical Montage of Pie by November 20th at john.kramer@winchesteruu.org**

The Holiday Pageant will be on December 13th. In lieu of our after-worship potluck, you are invited to join in an **Ornament Show and Tell**, followed by a virtual **Tree-Trimming Party**. We can set up our trees at home and connect through the Zoom room

while we untangle the lights.

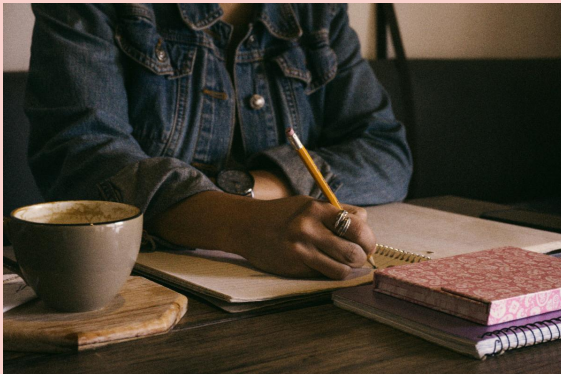
FY20 Financial Report from your Co-Treasurers

WUS bylaw Article 21, section 3, states that “A final report of the year's financial operations shall be mailed to all members within sixty days of the close of the fiscal year.” Please view the [Co-Treasurers' Report for fiscal year September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020](#) from Sue Kiewra and Judy Murray. Comments welcome via email to treasurer@winchesteruu.org.

PARTNER CHURCH NEWS

We recently transmitted \$1,800 to our Partner Church in Marosvasarhely, Transylvania. That amount covers this academic year's scholarship funding for Anna Kiss and Anna Komenitzky, our current university students. They mark the eleventh and twelfth partner church young people we've supported. Our graduates include a medical researcher, an instrumental musician, two nurses, a pharmacist, an English major, and others. Without our help, these young people would not have been able to pursue and complete their studies.

Thanks for their support of the two Annas go to Peter and Vicky Coccoluto, Larry Banks, Linda and Chris Degnen, Barbara Savage and Patrick Draine, Marilyn Mullane and Phil Coonley, Sue Kiewra, Donna Reed, Corie Nichols, Margaret Higham, and Roy Cummings.



Writers Group: 9-10(ish) Every Wednesday

Next meeting is November 18th

The 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

Save the Date!

“Sage Advice - Aging in a Time of Covid” January 4th, 6:30 to 7:45

The Pastoral Care Associates are hosting a conversation with Geriatric Care Manager, Kathy Kemp. Whether you or a loved one is contemplating additional support and/or changes to your living circumstances now or much later - it's never too early to have these conversations. With the added complications of covid, plans are even more important to have in place in case of emergent situations. To sign up (you will receive materials in advance of the workshop) please contact Rebecca@winchesteruu.org

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one this Holiday Season? Are you anticipating a BLUE Thanksgiving or Christmas? The pandemic is keeping us physically apart this Season in ways we never imagined thus disrupting our normal grief rituals. The Home Health Foundation is offering interactive Zoom workshops on Bereavement and ways to cope with your loss. The 1 hour workshops are being offered on the following dates:

Monday, Nov 16 at 6:30pm - register by Nov 14

Tuesday, Dec 8 at Noon - register by Dec 6
Thursday, Dec 17 at 7pm - register by Dec 14

Please register in advance with Whitney Hall via email at whall@homehealthfoundation.org. You are welcome to attend 1 or more - each workshop will follow the same general outline, but please indicate which dates you plan to attend. Peace and blessings during this Holiday Season.

Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

If you are facing a time of joy, sorrow or transition in your life, your minister and the Pastoral Care Associates are available to offer a listening ear, compassionate presence and, if applicable, resources. Contact the office, 781-729-0949 or office@winchesteruu.org

Religious Education

Children's Religious Education: We are using a combination of online or delivered to your home religious education and family support resources. In addition we have some in person meetings outside on the congregation's lawn. Please remember that the family and friends group is another way in which information is offered and exchanged.

Sunday, November 15th, RE families and/or anyone who would like to visit outside socially distanced, as kids play are welcome at the congregation's back lawn from **12:00ish to 2:00ish**. Dress for the weather and as the ground cools, you may want to picnic in stadium chairs or use ground tarps under your picnic blankets! Social distancing and mask protocols will be observed.

We also would like to use this time to record chalice lightings and costumed players for the pageant.

THIS Sunday, November 15th noon to 1(ish):6-8th graders are welcome as we Cross Paths with **First Unitarian in Chicago**. This week, seeking commonalities among interfaith practices, we explore two more of the eight practices of welcome - curiosity and authenticity. In virtual RE, we are able to connect with a community we would not normally be interacting with, broaden understanding and create connections in our diverse world. Please contact Rebecca rebecca@winchesteruu.org for the private link to the group meeting on Sunday and if you have other questions.

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

This Sunday we will be meeting on Zoom from 4:30-6 pm for a regular ZOOMSYG meeting, where Rev. Heath will be leading us in an interactive workshop on how to be a good friend. Link to Zoom: www.tinyurl.com/WUSYGZoom

PARENTS: please REGISTER your child in WUSYG if you haven't already: <https://forms.gle/pRtVA6SEWLxN783w9>

Questions, concerns or compliments, message Sam & Haley: 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 if you have any questions.

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