

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights November 5, 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, "Sometimes it Hurts" We will be meeting via Zoom at 10 a.m. this Sunday, November 8th. 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-Advert-11.08.20-WUS-end-caps.mp4>

NEW on Sundays, November 8th: Miss Juanita and story time. This Sunday during worship 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 8

10:30 Worship, ONLINE



Photo by [Denise Jans](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Where Do We Go From Here?

The Rev. Heather Janules

Perhaps, by the time we gather on Sunday morning, we will know the results of the national election. This service will reflect on the chapter between the last Presidential election and this one and invite us to consider the road ahead.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with we share our gifts with the **MA League of Women Voters Citizen Education Fund**. The Fund promotes voter registration, education, engagement, and protection activities and educates and engages citizens through public conversations on timely and important issues.

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>

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

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. Thanks to the congregation we will be supplying 45 large boxes of food to the Council for Social Concern. If you missed the deadline to sign up, there is still 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. What we need now are big cars and strong backs. Please contact Gordy McIntosh to volunteer your car and/or assistance in transporting these heavy boxes.

Do you know about this environmental issue in Boston? Eversource has proposed building a large high-voltage installation in Eagle Hill, a neighborhood already facing environmental challenges. It's burdened with massive jet fuel containers for Logan Airport and much of New England's heating oil -- plus giant piles of road salt. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, the project isn't even needed based on electricity demand.

For more information about the substation proposal: "[The Injustice Of Climate Change](#)," Roseann Bongiovanni and John Walkey, *WBUR Cognoscenti*, September 18, 2019.

"[East Boston and Power: An Environmental Justice Community in Transition](#)," John Walkey, *Union of Concerned Scientists*, October 31, 2019.

**To Support Medical Aid in Dying
Join the Mass Virtual Rally in Support of the End of Life Options act**

The End Of Life Options act was voted out of the Joint Health Care Committee and is now before the Joint committee on Healthcare Finance. UU Mass Action: We are hoping to get momentum to get it voted out of this committee and before the legislature. Speakers will include Roger Kligler from Falmouth UU, Sen. William Brownsberger, Molly Walsh from UU Society of Wellesley Hills and a hospice nurse.

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.

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!

News from the Sanctuary Movement

In January 2021, Maria will be a "guest" at the First Parish of Bedford for three years. Maria has been involved in a movement called Colectivo Santuario for some time now. On October 28th, the attached video was shared with candidate Joe Biden to seek his support if he is elected President. Maria and her peers in sanctuary also hope to meet with Biden over Zoom.



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!

Congregational News

Post-Election Listening Circle:
TONIGHT Thursday November 5th 7:00 PM Regardless of the general election's outcome, the divisiveness of the national campaign season has been challenging, and for many of us, painful. Join your fellow

congregants for a facilitated gathering and a time to be in community as we tend to each other's spirits. This evening is sponsored by the Pastoral Care Associates and WUS staff: www.tinyurl.com/wusworship

Photo by [Tiffany Tertipes](#) on [Unsplash](#)



UU the Vote Post Election Vigil & Community Gathering
Thursday Nov 5th, 8:00 PM

[Click here for Facebook Page](#)

No matter the results of the election this year, we know we will want to

gather in community. This gathering will be hosted by the UUA President, Susan Frederick-Gray. It will be accessible on Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube.

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.

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.

WUS 2020 Auction “Zoom A Bid”

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING AUCTION TEAM

for stepping up to make this a “one of a kind” fundraiser in the midst of a pandemic!

You volunteered because you care about the mission of the Winchester Unitarian Society. Your aim was to ensure that we continue providing services and resources to all individuals in our community. Given the upheaval this year we know how difficult it can be to motivate and we applaud your can-do attitude and creativity. We thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to help with this year’s fundraiser.

THANK YOU to our fabulous co-chairs and live auction hostesses, Marilyn Mullane and Julie Khuen and their amazing team: Sioux Brokaw, Naomi DeLairre, Sara Delano, Karen Erikson, Kristine Kamikawa and Cynthia Randall. You personally connected with many and the variety of donations speak for themselves. Over 130 items were registered online, and 12 more fun and delicious donations helped to launch our first virtual live auction. So important at this time, our congregants generously supported many local businesses to create amazing raffle packages. You gave all those donations descriptions accompanied by witty quips and photos that clearly enticed many bidders. Your logo and posters got the word out with pizzaz! Thank you to our behind-the-scenes team: Jennifer Edwards, our skilled architect for the on-line silent auction; Thomas Slack, church administrator extraordinaire, who made sure we all received the invitations and announcements; and to Ivan Correia, for his live auction technical support.

And THANK YOU to the Live Auction cast: to Stephen Perepeluk, who was masterful as *emcee* along with his partner, Terry Fitzpatrick who tracked the live bids and gonged the evening along; to Tyson Kamikawa as video coordinator and smooth entertainer with his live renditions of many familiar tunes, and to Julie and Marilyn, our fabulous hostesses who certainly attended to many details. Together, you brought fun, levity and cheerful competitiveness to the evening. With all the hard work over the last few months the Zoom evening felt personal and the community connected. More importantly, you were patient, kind with each other in stressful times and your unparalleled commitment to excellence shone through.

And to all who generously contributed donations ranging from paintings, homemade delicacies, dinners, entertainment, access to your beautiful homes and treasured vehicles, landscaping, flower arrangements, bird bath, pet sitting, jewelry, amazing wines and beers, tours, carpentry, blacksmithing, welding, fire arm training, and more, a loud and heartfelt “THANK YOU!”

With the dedicated, imaginative and excellent leadership of the auction team, our congregation raised **more than \$30,000!** One of our *best* fund-raising events ever!! This was beyond our wildest dreams. Thank you all for your generosity in support of our shared values and community!

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.



BUDGET UPDATE from the CO-TREASURERS

We are happy to report that the \$89,500 Payroll Protection Program loan was formally 100% forgiven and is officially a grant! As a result, we were able to rework the budget prior to the congregational meeting held on Sunday, October 18th. The 2020/2021 budget that was recommended by the SC was approved on

October 18th. Here is the link to the budget in its entirety:

https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WUS20_21apprvd-Budget-FINAL.pdf

The Executive Summary:

- We will restore the 2.2% Cost-of-living adjustment for all of our staff
- We will restore the contribution to Social Action to 5% from 4%
- We will restore the 10% requested increase in dues to the UUA
- Other changes are detailed in the linked document
- We anticipate that we will have a budget surplus of \$4,955.87

PARTNER CHURCH NEWS

A few days ago, we 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 11th**



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

Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

Congratulations are with **Kate and Andy Ebbott** who recently became grandparents! Twins Penn Higgins Ebbott and Collins Kirk Ebbott were born on September 24th, a little premature. Babies are now home from the hospital and doing well.

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 8th, 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**. It looks like a beautiful fall day awaits, 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.

THIS Sunday, November 8th noon to 1(ish): If you want to explore other world religions and foster a connection with others, we are connecting with **First Unitarian in Chicago**. As the weather turns more New England, these hours 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 we will be doing neighborhood love notes together in our own driveways/sidewalks (with chalk from your care bags.)

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.

Beyond the Congregation

Dear friends of First Parish in Bedford,

We invite you to join us this week for a fun and unique virtual event!

Online Art Auction: Bidding open now through Saturday

Live Art Auction Grand Finale: Saturday November 7, 2020 at 7:00 pm (broadcast live on Zoom, featuring the final round of bidding, a raffle drawing, and performances by First Parish musicians)

Auction Website: <https://uubedford.org/fpb-art-auction>

Contact: uubedford-auction@googlegroups.com

Boston-based artist David Moore has generously donated 17 of his paintings for auction by the First Parish Music Committee, with the net proceeds to benefit First Parish.

Moore's works have been exhibited at esteemed galleries in Boston, New York City, and throughout the northeast. The auction features modern art compositions in an abstract form inspired by Moore's travels to Ireland and Iceland, national affairs, and natural environments. They span nearly two decades of Moore's artistic creation.

Full details and the latest updates on this event are available at <https://uubedford.org/fpb-art-auction>. Visit the website to learn more about the artist and his work, to view the catalog of paintings available in the auction and watch a "virtual tour" video of the paintings by the artist, to participate in online bidding, to purchase raffle tickets, and to find out how you can join our live Zoom event on Saturday!

There are many ways you can support the auction...

*** Get in on the bidding action! ***

This is a golden opportunity to bring a one-of-a-kind art treasure into your home, that place you're spending so much time these days – an extra spark of joy in daily life, a focal point for meditative contemplation, or, dare we say, a sophisticated upgrade for that blank wall behind you on videoconferences. And of course, original artwork makes a wonderful holiday gift for someone special in your life. View the catalog and start placing your bids today [on the auction website](#).

*** Enter the raffle! ***

Each \$5 ticket gives you a chance to win one of five original David Moore “art cards” (and you can increase your odds x5 with purchase of a \$20 ticket bundle). Raffle tickets are available for sale [on the website](#) all week long.

*** Spread the word! ***

Tell your friends, family, neighbors, coworkers... anyone you can think of who might appreciate art, music, and the First Parish community.

First Parish in Bedford, a Unitarian/Universalist congregation and a recognized 501(c)3 organization, is located at 75 The Great Road Bedford MA 01730, and online at www.uubedford.org.

**The Online Kris Kringle Fair is
Coming!
Fair Sales Open on Saturday,
November 7th!**

Historically, the Kris Kringle Fair is a daylong event held each year in early November. The Kris Kringle Fair is typically the church’s biggest social event and fundraiser of the year, with all of the **Unitarian Universalist**



Church of Reading (UUCR) helping to organize and run the holiday church fair, and with the surrounding communities coming out to attend.

This year, the pandemic makes it impossible to safely host this event in person, so we will do our best to offer some of the fair items in our online Facebook store, both to enable folks to do their annual holiday shopping, as well as generating vital funds to keep our church going during this difficult time. Offerings include hand crafted items such as handwoven scarves and dish towels, hand knit hats, scarves, and mittens, hand sewn aprons, scrub caps, American Girl size doll dresses, bags, and table runners, hand crafted jewelry, framed art works, hand made candles, and much more. There will also be a small selection of unique previously owned items for re-gifting, including jewelry.

More information is available at www.uureading.org/kris-kringle-fair

ABC Bottle Drive

November 7
CANCELLED
for Community
Safety

Support
WinchesterABC.org

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)

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