

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights December 31, 2020

(link to today's full issue of Highlights)



The theme for December is Stillness

Photo: Horn Pond in winter

**The Winchester Unitarian Society Office will be closed
Friday, January 1, 2021.**

We will be back on Monday, January 4th.

Happy New Year!!

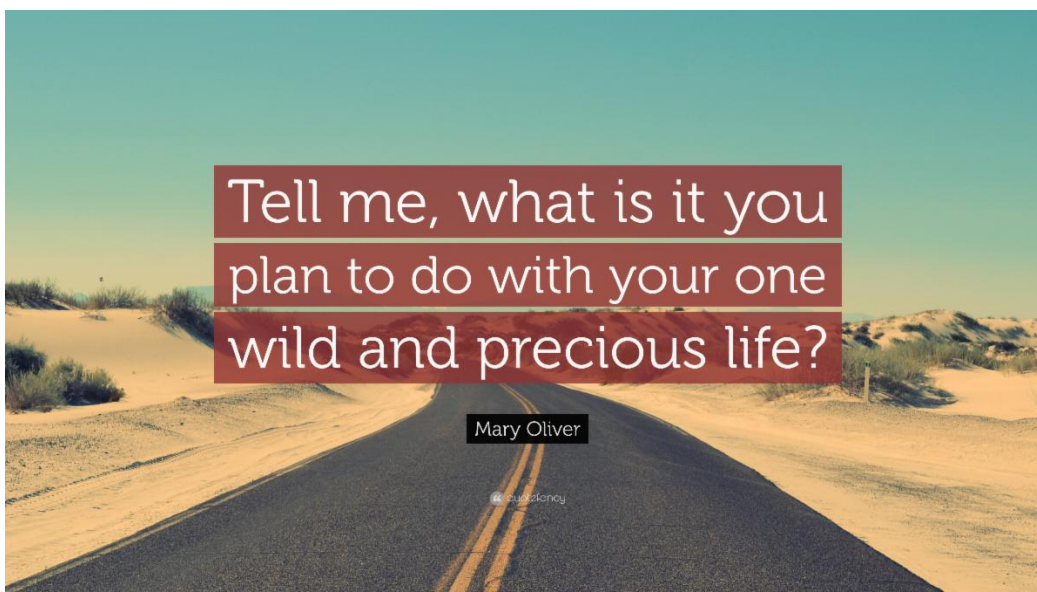
Upcoming Worship

We will be meeting via Zoom at 10 a.m. this Sunday, January 3rd, and think about all the possibilities of the year ahead. "2021 Bingo!" Please note this is NOT the main worship Zoom room, but one dedicated to Family Worship and Religious Education. Please log on a little before 10 at <https://tinyurl.com/WUSFamily>. The separate 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.

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.

*Reminder to families, there are materials posted on the website for you and your children to engage with during Sunday morning worship. The materials for December are posted [HERE](#)

Sunday, January 3 10:30 Worship, ONLINE



Wild and Precious

Colette Draine
Mark Shepherd
Bob Kenerson

It is our annual tradition, inviting representatives of three generations to answer poet Mary Oliver's question "What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" This year, we will hear from Colette Draine, Mark Shepherd and Bob Kenerson. **As this is the first Sunday of the month, a discussion about the service will begin in the main Zoom meeting at noon.**

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **Community Change, Incorporated**, a local anti-racism organization living out its mission through "education, advocacy and working in solidarity with others to organize for change."

Please send any requests for Sunday morning announcements to Sabbatical Minister Kye Flannery by noon on Saturday at kye@winchesteruu.org All announcements may be edited for brevity and clarification.

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

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/2020/12/Worship-Notes-12.27.2020.pdf>

Congregational News

Con artists are again impersonating Rev. Heather by email, asking you to be in touch. The email they use is very similar to - but different from - her WUS email address.



If you were to respond, they would ask you to purchase gift cards for those in need which would, of course, profit the scammers. **Ignore, delete and spread the word!** We support many individuals and community through a myriad of ways BUT WE DO NOT ASSIST PEOPLE BY ASKING FOR GIFT CARD CODES.

From the Music Committee:

This year our WUS Concert Series is celebrating African American music, and our annual jazz concert is a perfect opportunity to remind us all about the amazing musicians who created and developed this art form. We will revel in music by Duke Ellington, Thelonius Monk, John Coltrane, Herbie Hancock and many other greats. Please plan to join on **Saturday, January 30th at 7:00 PM**. An all church Zoom invite will be sent out a few days before the concert.



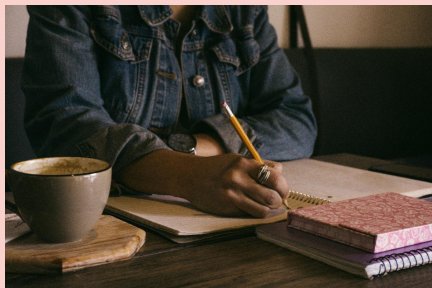
CONNECTING WITH THE SABBATICAL MINISTER

Rev. Heather's short sabbatical begins tomorrow. We have hired **Kye Flannery** as our part-time sabbatical minister. Many will remember Kye from the summers she has served as Summer Minister. While she currently lives in Austin, TX, ministry is a remote practice these days for all of us. Kye will preach for three Sundays, lend support to other worship services and be available to the Pastoral Care Associates and the congregation for pastoral support. She will attend few committee meetings -

worship planning and the Pastoral Care Associates - unless there is a compelling reason for her to be invited to others.

Kye is offering virtual office hours on Thursdays from noon-2 EST at the Zoom room used for worship services: www.tinyurl.com/wusworship
Should some of the attendees be young friends, she will have a storybook on hand for perhaps some story time. Office hours begin on January 7th.

You may also schedule a 1:1 virtual meeting with Kye through her calendar program: <https://calendly.com/kyeflannerymdiv/meet-up-with-kye>



Writers Group: Meets weekly on Wednesdays led and facilitated by Dan Hermes from 9-10ish a.m. 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

Harvest the Power Leadership Session 2, PLEASE NOTE new time: Next Sunday at 4:00-6:00 PM. Participant materials will be sent prior to the workshop.

Registration Closes January 2nd: "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 do so via Rebecca@winchesteruu.org.



Hello -

I am reaching out to members of the WUS community to help spread the word and help make a home sharing match between myself and my future house mate.

I have been sharing a house with a house mate, the homeowner, for the past two years, and I would like to continue home sharing in this way going forward.

I am seeking to find my new home sharing match on or before March 15, 2021.

I am a kind, considerate, thoughtful, athletic, middle-aged woman, and enjoy living with another person in a shared house situation.

Home sharing is of mutual benefit and is an emerging trend among older adults.

(Read more here: <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/your-home/info-2018/boomers-roommates-trend-fd.html>)

If you and or someone you know would like to talk with me, please contact me at the following email address: JJReflections2020@gmail.com. Thank you.

Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

It is with great sadness that we share the news that WUS member **Sam Berliner III** died on Tuesday after a brief illness. We will share information about a memorial service once plans are known. Our condolences are with his wife, the Rev. Lilia Cuervo, their family and his many friends who cherished his lively and playful mind and his loving heart, sometimes obscured by a veneer of curmudgeon. Sam will be deeply missed.

With much love and compassion in this difficult time, we share this message from **Patty Shepard**: "As some of you may already know, Ron Denhardt (my partner) became ill from cancer early this past year. While we are feeling grateful for all the good medical care and time we have had in 2020, we are now exploring home hospice services. If you would like to make contact with Ron to say goodbye, please send an email to shepard.patty@gmail.com and we will work something out soon. Cards, good wishes and prayers are always welcome and can be mailed to 14 West Chardon Road, Winchester, MA 01890, anytime."

If you are facing a time of joy, sorrow or transition in your life, the sabbatical 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

Social Action & Outreach

On-Going

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



Please find the drop off baskets in a new location - by the back door of the building near the parking lot. Access to this basket is unlocked.

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



Have you looked at “Justice and Spirit,” a public UU book club on Goodreads? Life never stops sending new spiritual challenges our way. How do we, as individuals and communities, search for truth and meaning, strive for justice and action, navigate our spiritual journeys, and live out our values? Justice and Spirit is a place where all who are interested in spirituality, religion, and social justice, whether Unitarian Universalist or not, can discuss books that relate to these crucial questions. All are welcome. See comments on books they have read during 2020. <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/173731-justice-and-spirit-unitarian-universalist-book-club>

**Learn what our fellow UUs are doing as they work for Racial Justice:
[Black Lives Matter and Building a Movement for Racial Justice](#)**

Racial profiling, police brutality, and mass imprisonment of are examples of how African Americans and other people of color suffer at the hands of today’s legal system. Join the movement to end these systems of racial injustice. See our [map](#) of UU congregations with Black Lives Matter banners and learn more about building a movement for racial justice.

**Providing Winter Warmth and Continuing Welcome
for Local Refugee Family**

We continue our Go Fund Me campaign for the local refugee family many of you have so generously helped this year.

We are very grateful that the Reverend Anne Robertson of the Crawford Memorial Methodist Church congregation underwrote the recent purchase of four new tires for the family, ensuring safer driving as New England’s ice and snow season arrives.

We hope that you will consider a donation in this season of giving that is comfortable for you. Daily needs and unexpected expenses continue as they gain secure footing in their new home country.

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) with any questions.

Religious Education

Children’s Religious Education Feedback requested: We are using a combination of online or delivered to your home religious education and family support resources. The Sunday morning packet is now monthly rather than weekly, and the November/December packets have been delivered or mailed to younger families. What’s working? What isn’t? What suggestions do you have? Share your

thoughts with Rebecca Kelley-Morgan Rebecca@winchesteruu.org or Naomi Magnoni at REC@winchesteruu.org

Interfaith Middle School Crossing Paths will be on hiatus until January 10th. Beth, Jessica and Rebecca look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

WUSYG Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

WUSYG is on its winter break hiatus. We'll see you again on Jan. 10th!
Don't forget to plan your gifts for our Secret Gift Giving G-noming PLUS get ready to get Garden Gnomed as we still spread the love whilst staying apart

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](#).

Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main St. Winchester MA 01890
(781) 729-0949 | office@winchesteruu.org | www.winchesteruu.org

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