

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights November 26, 2020

(link to today's full issue of Highlights)



The Office at the Winchester Unitarian Society will be closed on Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday!

Upcoming Worship

Sunday Family Worship: This week, "Waiting" We will be meeting via Zoom at 10 a.m. this Sunday, November 29th. 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.

Family Worship Advert:

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Family-Worship-11.29.2020.mp4>

Sunday 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 29

10:30 Worship, ONLINE



Photo by [Sins S](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Monumental Change

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.

This Sunday, we Share the Plate with our long-time partner, the **Women's Lunch Place**, continuing to serve poor and homeless women in downtown Boston.

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>



HERE'S A HANDY INVITE TO FORWARD TO YOUR FRIENDS

**Bring a Friend THIS 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>

"MONUMENTAL CHANGE"

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.

This Sunday, we Share the Plate with our long-time partner, the **Women's Lunch Place**, continuing to serve poor and homeless women in downtown Boston.

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!

PAGEANT, PAGEANT, PAGEANT! CASTING CALL We are still looking for **narrators, Mary Joseph and Caesar**. We can always use more angels, critters and ornament hangers, shepherds, angels, and stars. We also welcome any of you who wish to serve as narrators. Please contact Rebecca@winchesteruu.org or Naomi Magnoni at REC@winchesteruu.org by November 30th.

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-11.15.20.pdf>



The Great WUS Thanksgiving Cookoff will be on Thanksgiving Day, **November 26th at noon**. Log on so we can cook together or just say chat!

www.tinyurl.com/wusworship

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...

**Welcome Winchester Unitarian Society
New Members!**



John Healey grew up in nearby Somerville, has always lived in Massachusetts, and now calls Winchester home. John has three daughters: Sarah Payson Maker (47), Rebecca Creighton Maker (45) and Kelsey Erica Healey-Maker (31)

Over the course of the past year, he says, “I became increasingly more involved with the electoral actions created by progressive groups such as *Swing Left*, *Sister District*, *Reclaim Our Vote*, etc. As with millions of other people, I could see that Donald Trump had the mindset, rhetoric and ambitions of a dictator, and that he was the most pernicious influence on our democracy: at least in our lifetimes, and perhaps in the history of our country. I wouldn't have been able to live with my conscience had I not worked to prevent his reelection, so I volunteered with the groups above to that end.”

John enjoys windsurfing and playing the guitar, usually not at the same time! He’s looking forward to rejoining the church choir. If given the chance, he would spend some hours on a pleasant, warm, sunny day at the beach with his family, followed by a tasty and healthy cookout, ending the day with song, wine, conversation and laughter.

John says, “I'm apparently attracted to strong, knowledgeable, talented women, since I was happily married to one such force of nature for 20 years, my late wife, Kate, and I'm now the partner of another equally formidable and delightful woman, Francoise Moros.”

John identifies as a husband, mate, father, brother, athlete, singer, social justice activist.

He is inspired and motivated by a handful of statements by leaders from the past:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us that “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”
- In accepting the Democratic Party's nomination for President in 1936, Franklin Delano Roosevelt said “Governments can err, Presidents do make mistakes, but the immortal Dante tells us that divine justice weighs the sins of the cold-blooded and the sins of the warm-hearted in different scales. Better the occasional faults of a Government that lives in a spirit of charity than the consistent omissions of a Government frozen in the ice of its own indifference.”
- Frederick Douglass said “Those who profess to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation, are people who want crops without ploughing the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning; they want the ocean without the roar of its many waters. The struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, or it may be both. But it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”
- “If your life's work can be accomplished in your lifetime, you're not thinking big enough.” — Wes Jackson

When asked what feeds your spirit, John shared this: “There are a few *locations* actually, in the presence of which I feel connected: with all human generations, past, present and future; with the splendor and gift of all life, and indeed with all of our magical universe. Being on mountaintops, and being on the ocean both give me this feeling of connectedness, wonder, and happiness for my life, and reinforce in me the urge to ‘leave it better than you found it’. As for music: I enjoy many artists in the

pop, rock, blues, folk and classical musical genres. Beethoven's *Eroica* and Wagner's *Die Walküre*, especially, are among the most moving and transcendently beautiful pieces I have ever heard. I usually have "gooseflesh" when listening to parts of *Eroica*, and "tear up" at the finale of *Die Walküre*."



Linda Copeland: Until age 13, Linda lived in rural, western New York state. She says, "Thankfully at age 13, I moved to Columbus, Ohio, a city!" Then, via serendipity, she moved to Florida at age 18. However, she never adapted to living in Margaritaville and after a divorce in 2016, she moved to MA. She is a retired psychotherapist. She worked with adults and families in schools, hospitals, and private practice.

Linda describes herself as a 30-year student of practical metaphysics with a passion of doing Tarot readings. She is also writing volume 2 of "*Guidelines - Finding Hope in a Broken World*." *Guidelines* is a short memoir channeled from her spirit guides that reflects her life experiences blended with advice from "the other side."

Linda feels fortunate to live in Winchester and draw inspiration from music, nature and her British Short haired cat, Seamus. She is also passionate about fairness.



Susan Woodward was born in Brookline, grew up in Boston and has lived in Winchester since 1997 (23 years). She has one daughter, Krista, who attended VO, McCall, and Winchester High School. Krista is now 30 years old and lives in Washington D. C. and works at PCORI, a non-profit health research institute. Susan has family in the area; her sister and family live in Lexington and her brother is also nearby in Arlington.

Susan taught Spanish and a little French for 38 years in Boston and Lexington. She has had exchanges with schools in France, Spain, Mexico, and Costa Rica. Linda and colleagues promote a program called Amigos de las Americas. During the summer, students had the opportunity to explore a new country, practice their Spanish, and make a positive impact by doing a community service projects with partners in their town.

Since retiring, Susan finds she has the luxury of having days with nothing scheduled. Recently, she and a good friend traveled the Mohawk Trail, stopping in Florida, MA to admire the mountains, waterfalls, and foliage. The two enjoyed a picnic lunch and a short hike but couldn't find Susan B. Anthony's house. She's determined to go back someday.

Susan and her family love the summer and spending time in New Hampshire. They have fun swimming, kayaking, and canoeing. They especially look forward to reuniting with old friends they don't get to see all winter.

In the spring of 2019 Vicky Coccoluto, invited Linda to a concert directed by John Kramer. This event piqued her interest in the church, and she decided to attend

Sunday worship and coffee hour. She met a lot of people and was encouraged to participate in some of the activities offered by WUS. Over the course of time, she volunteered to work at the Women's Lunch Place; a humbling experience. She recently signed the membership book, and feels an even greater sense of belonging. Susan respects the democratic form of government and have been a member of the League of Women Voters Winchester for nine years. Her favorite activity is voter registration at Winchester High School. She is proud to be a member of the League. It is dedicated to educating voters about national, state, and local issues with events open to the public. She was delighted when WUS celebrated the League's 100th year anniversary during a Sunday service in February 2020.

The congregation of WUS has inspired her. She grew up in a church that was male dominated and talked a lot about sin. It got to a point where she attended service because of some false loyalty, so she stopped. She was searching for a church whose values aligned with her own. The Unitarian church does the work to alleviate the unfairness of the world. People in the U.S. and other parts of the world are begging for justice. She would like to do her small part.

Congregational News



This year in lieu of our annual **Mitten Tree**, we are inviting cash donations to benefit the Council for Social Concern in Woburn. They are committed to keeping the shelves in their food distribution center stocked, and supplying families with what they need this winter.

You may make your donation via PayPal, Vanco's Give+ Mobile app, or by writing a check payable to WUS. Please put in the notes field that your contribution is for the 2020 Mitten Tree. Contributions will be collected until December 14th, so that families may have a more festive holiday season. Thank you for supporting our neighbors.

An Update from the Pandemic Planning Task Force

PPTF reconvened on 11/19 and will be meeting regularly to address specific questions and inquiries about use of WUS space /grounds, to update guidelines as needed and to stay abreast of the impact of the virus on congregational functioning. We will be including program staff in our meetings to support them in planning. We have conducted 2 polls since the beginning of this church year. Although there was a range of responses regarding comfort level in allowing more in-person activity at the church, in light of the recent increase in Covid-19 cases everywhere, we will not be changing the status of our response.

For the foreseeable future, we will continue in "Phase 3 – Vigilant" of our WUS Pathways to Reopening. This means we will continue to limit in-person gatherings to outdoors, or indoors following all guidelines for safety including number of people in the space. Please reach out to us at pandemicplanningtf@winchesteruu.org if you or your committee has any questions about in-person activity on church grounds. All requests to use the church grounds should go through our church administrator, Thomas Slack, and follow the Screening Questions and Sign-In protocol.

Thank you to Thomas for faithfully implementing the guidelines with both church and community use of the building and grounds. Thank you to all who have respectfully

utilized these guidelines, allowing some much – needed in-person activity particularly for our youth! It is such vigilance that keeps our community healthy.

We have had one report of a member who tested positive, though no close contact occurred within our WUS community. Contact tracing was done using our protocol. The member successfully completed self-quarantine and reported negative test result post-quarantine. We are so thankful that only mild symptoms were experienced.

Please continue to use our Guidelines and Sign-In sheet for any in-person gatherings so that we may continue effective screening and contact tracing.

In gratitude for the sacred community we create together
~The Pandemic Planning Task Force



UPCOMING MINI SABBATICAL

As some have heard, Rev. Heather was scheduled to take a three-month sabbatical this year for rest, spiritual exploration and renewal. Ministers earn 1 month of sabbatical for every year of service; Heather is currently in her sixth year with WUS.

As a pandemic is not the best time for the settled minister to be away and January - March is not the best time to be quarantined in New England, plans have changed. Heather will take an abbreviated, six-week sabbatical, all of January and half of February. She will take a four-month sabbatical next program year.

We are in the process of hiring **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.

Stay tuned for more information...and welcome back, Kye!

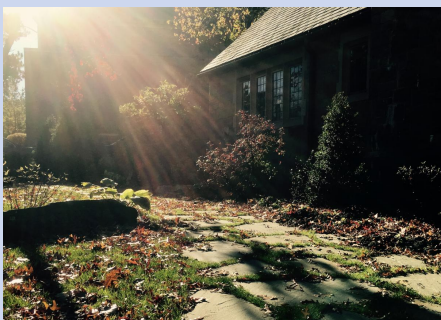
AN UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY

Your Co-Treasurers are coming to the end of their 3-year stint. WUS is looking for a member or members who are willing to step into this role by the end of this program year – or sooner for some training. **PLEASE KNOW that we do NOT intend to leave the new treasurer(s) on their own.** We will happily help guide whoever takes on this important role! There have been many changes over the last three years that make the role of treasurer much more manageable. Jenny is a capable bookkeeper and has a capable backup in Thomas. They have both worked diligently to learn the new systems and have lightened the load on the treasurer significantly. Most of the regular responsibilities of the treasurer can be performed from the comfort of your home using Quick Books, Breeze, Google, and online banking. Please consider taking a turn as treasurer. It offers insight into the workings of the church and a deep understanding of some of the behind-the-scenes happenings. While it has been a particularly busy 3 years, it has been a rewarding experience for both of us. NOW IT'S YOUR TURN! If you are interested, please feel free to contact us or anyone from Nominating Committee. THANKS!

Judy Murray & Sue Kiewra

With Thanks from the Music Committee

Our concert series got off to a great start on Nov 14th with a moving celebration of African American composers. Thank you sponsors, attendees, donors and everyone who contributed to the evening's success. Thank you, John Kramer, for bringing a significant body of uniquely American music to light. And for all the technical work that went into our virtual concert, a big thank you goes out to James Pidacks. -- We are still sorting out the proceeds from the concert which came in via check, PayPal, and Gift+. 50% of the "at the door" donations will go to the Mystic Valley chapter of the NAACP.



Outdoor Office Hours

With the Minister

...will be **cancelled on November 26th** due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Weather permitting, **December 3rd will be the last Outdoor Office Hours session** for the season.

As always, you may make an appointment with Rev. Heather if you wish to meet. You may email her at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org or leave a message at her voicemail box at 781.729.0949.

We Believe in Dog

*Last walk of the calendar year
and the season...*

Saturday, December 5th, 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, December 5th. 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.

*Photo: Group "snow selfie" on the last WBID walk on Halloween.
Most walks do not have such a dramatic background!*

Writers Group: DOES NOT MEET this Wednesday morning. We'll see you next week!

Harvest the Power - Values-led leadership for today and beyond. The group meets Sunday December 6th from 2-4pm to launch the first of our monthly sessions. There are two spots open, if you want to join the group, it's not too late. Please contact Liz Lintz via nominating@winchesteruu.org



**FOR YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING PLANNING
Support WUS through purchasing handmade soap!
December 14-20th**

As some know, Rev. Heather makes and sells handmade soap. **Any soap purchased between December 14th-20th, 20% goes to the Winchester Unitarian Society.**

Order and pre-pay through the website - www.spoonerhillsoapworksonline.com - and pick up on **Saturday December 19th between 10am and 2pm** or **Sunday, December 20th between 2pm and 6pm** at WUS. If you are quarantining and not leaving the house very often, she will deliver to your home.

As "wash your hands" will still be an important mantra in 2021, soap is a perfect gift for loved ones and an easy way to pamper yourself! And spread the word - and the site!

**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: **Tuesday, Dec 8 at Noon** - register by Dec 6 and **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

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

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

*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



Social Movements and the Mattering of Black Lives: Thursday, December 3 at 1:30 PM ET Join the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy for a conversation with Dr. Megan M. Francis, Associate Professor at the University of Washington, on the role social movements play in advocating for economic and racial justice. Go to: CharlesHamiltonHouston.org and subscribe to their newsletter to learn about many events. [Sign up for this event](#)

Have you heard about the wonderful ways in which **“More Than Words”** supports vulnerable youth in the Boston area? When youth “age out” of Department of Children and Families (DCF) custody, the few supports they had left may disappear with little warning or planning. Enjoy their inspiring annual report: <https://mtwyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/MTW-FY20-Annual-Report.pdf>

Ready to Learn More About Racism?

Take a look at the “Talking About Race” section on the website of the **National Museum of African American History and Culture**. The WUS Racial Justice Planning Group offers this resource as a way to move us forward as an anti-racist congregation. <https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race>

You'll find three major portals for learning about racism: As an Educator, as a Parent or Caregiver, and as a Person Committed to Equity. Explore “I Want to Know” and be sure to click on “Being Anti-Racist.” You'll find short, informational pieces, videos, questions for you to ponder, and more. Wherever you are on your journey around race, we hope you'll find this resource valuable.

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 Pediture, 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)

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

Sunday, November 29th, 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 (forecast in the low 50's and cloudy) 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. You are invited to use this time with friends to record costumed players for the pageant.

THIS Sunday, Crossing Paths does not meet (November 29th). In December the class covers Catholic Christianity - 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 with our friends in Illinois. 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

We had SO much fun with you all last Sunday (at our final in-person meeting of the calendar year)! There is no WUSYG meeting this Sunday. Please enjoy the holiday weekend, and don't forget to also extend gratitude to the Pawtucket and Massachusetts tribes, whose unceded lands we are on in Winchester. We are SO grateful for you, our WUSYG family!

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