

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights January 14, 2020

(link to today's full issue of Highlights)



The theme for January is Imagination

Photo: A participant in Courage Collages, a workshop for cancer survivors, works on her collage

Upcoming Worship

WUS Family Worship: We will be meeting via Zoom at 10 a.m. this Sunday, January 17th to revisit "Seeds, a parable" 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. THIS Sunday, January 17th, Winchester Unitarian Society will be virtually visiting All Souls DC for their 10:30 Worship service, but will still be meeting for Family worship followed by time with Ms Juanita.

Miss Juanita and story time. Since the worship service at All Souls does not have a first reflections equivalent, our youngest members are invited to remain with Miss Juanita (of the playroom fame) hear stories and sing songs, engage in parallel play and visit with each other.

*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](#)

*LEADERS for JanFest on Sunday, January 24th

Leaders meet at 5:pm, program from 5:15 to 6:ish. This year, virtual JanFest is for all ages, including, you who are reading this. Got a skill, craft, game or story to share or teach? You choose the topic and participant ages. Since virtual space allows us to accomplish quite a bit in a short period of time, you can sign up for a shorter time segment and then go prowling the breakout rooms for another activity. You will have access to screen sharing in your breakout rooms.

Let the RE committee know what you'd like to offer ASAP, via rec@winchesteruu.org.

Sunday, January 17 10:30 Worship, ONLINE



Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Worship Field Trip Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson

For the MLK weekend service, we will be visiting with our UU siblings at All Souls in Washington DC. The Rev Kimberley Quinn Johnson will be guest-preaching. 10:30 Eastern. Link: <https://zoom.us/j/91875814433> , check out their homepage at <https://all-souls.org/> . Feel free to stay for All Souls coffee hour, or come back to

WUS coffee hour after the service. We'll be hosting space after the service back at our usual spot: [tinyurl.com/WUSworship](https://www.wincesteruu.org/WUSworship).

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

"What can we do?" This past Sunday, many people expressed feelings of powerlessness around current events. Here are a couple of stories which feature people sharing stories of transformation through relationship: [Megan Phelps-Roper](#), formerly of Westboro Baptist Church, talks about building relationships on social media that in time pulled her away from an extreme right-wing cult. Here, [Aijen Poo, of the National Domestic Workers' Alliance](#), shares the challenges of organizing a group of women that nobody thought could possibly be unionized. And here is an article on the [many different ways we can care for ourselves](#). As always, if you want to talk please reach out to the PCA on duty this week, or you can set an appt with Kye via this link: <https://calendly.com/kyeflannerymdiv>. Kye is also holding weekly Zoom office hours for the congregation Thursdays, from 12-2pm, Eastern time.

Joys & Sorrows: In the summer, we have the practice of sharing joys and sorrows with our community out loud, by speaking them aloud to the group. It is a practice of community litany and also of uplift -- a way of seeing one another. We'll be opening up that practice again in our Sunday service, through mid-February. In the dead of winter, after weeks and a year of fear and heartbreak, let us take up the practice of hearing our neighbors' concerns and gladness, and speaking out our own. We know that there are many sorrows now, and we must speak them aloud — we also know that life is often a practice of excavating joy, so let's allow others to share in that light as well! This practice works in a large group when we are willing to be honest, and also concise. We welcome your voice, and let us be aware as a community of our use of the group's space. If you are often a voice that speaks up, consider stepping back and leaving space for others.

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.wincesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Worship-Notes-1.10.2021.pdf>

Virtual Jan Fest for ALL AGES: Sunday, January 24th Leaders meet at 5:pm, program from 5:15 to 6:ish. The virtual world allows us to include everyone in Jan FEST this year. Got a skill, craft, game or story to share or teach? Since virtual space allows us to accomplish quite a bit in a short period of time, you can sign up for a shorter time segment and then go prowl the breakout rooms for another activity.

Since we rarely encounter each other, we would like to connect across the generations, so sign up and show up! Let the RE committee know, via rec@winchesteruu.org. We'd like to hear from you by the end of THIS week, January 17th. Want to show a commitment to creating beloved intergenerational community? Then we'll see you there via <https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

Safe Congregations Moment

We're including a moment in Highlights to help us consider what it means to create each day a safer congregation.

"Our faith demands our service in promoting and creating communities of peace, love, and justice for all. Our faith calls us to practice our relational theology ... in ways that foster well-being in ourselves and others by doing no harm and acting responsibly to create communities and institutions that are safe and nonviolent... our faith calls us to be courageous and committed leaders in the ongoing search for truth and meaning, spiritual freedom, and ethical responsibility." writes Patricia Hoertdoerfer.

What does "relational theology" mean to you?

Patricia's full article, which discusses the ways in which UU congregations can address cultural problems of power, boundary violations and violence, can be found here: <https://www.uua.org/safe/handbook/culture/165729.shtml>

Solutions to the threat of rapid climate change: Can they be both fair and effective? John L Keller, PhD, CCM

Thursday, January 28, 2021

7:00 -8:30 pm,

Winchester Unitarian Society via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/98610207681?pwd=c2p2TDgxdXRlcFhVbENiRDJWb1RLZz09>

Rapid global climate change is underway, and accelerating. To scientists, the cause is crystal clear: disruption of our planet's natural carbon cycle largely from the burning of fossil fuels. A transition to a global economic system based on net-zero carbon dioxide emissions must happen within the next several decades to avoid the collapse of the global economic and political order.

Dr. Keller will address key questions, including:

- What is the magnitude of the climate mitigation challenge?
- Can humanity mitigate the worst impacts of climate change?
- How much would transition to a net-zero economy cost for the US and globally?
- What is the link between energy availability and human development?

- What are the environmental justice implications of our current fossil-fuel based global energy industry?
- Can the fossil fueled global economic system be changed while ending extreme poverty?
- Can market-based solutions, such as a carbon tax, be effective and consistent with environmental justice?
- What is the nature of the political coalition challenging efforts to effectively address global climate change?
- What actions can you take personally to make a significant difference?

John Keller is a full-time volunteer with the nonprofit Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL). CCL advocates for a national revenue-neutral carbon fee by lobbying congress and building political will through public education. John's career in meteorology and climate applications began in the early 1970s.

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.

A Special Request About Keeping the Wednesday Evening Online Peer Meditation Group Going at WUS

As you may know it was over 10 years ago that Ron Dehardt started the Wednesday evening weekly face-to-face meditation group. He provided some instruction and insight on a weekly basis for many years. For the past few years, as Ron's health has declined, a small group of us have kept it going as a peer group. Because of the pandemic, we moved online last spring and now, unfortunately, it is really time for some of us to step back from even this simple once a week responsibility. We are hoping that we do not need to stop the group completely but that really depends on how many people have the bandwidth to contribute at this point. Please do let us know soon, if you have any interest in helping to keep this weekly online group meditation experience available through this winter. We need some folks to step forward now in order for it to be feasible to keep it going. Please respond via email to shepard.patty@gmail.com and thanks very much for your consideration of this request.

It's a New Year, It's a New Era: 2021 Engraved Brick Campaign

It's that time again....

Every 5 to 10 years, WUS engages in a Brick Campaign in which engraved bricks, purchased by members of the congregation, are added to church walkways. This year, the retired Pastoral Care Associates are spearheading the initiative to add engraved bricks to the planned Celebration Walkways designed by WUS landscape designer Julie Khuen and made possible by the landscaping gift given so lovingly and generously by the Virnelli family in honor of Judy Virnelli. The new Bell Tower Terrace and Walkways to Mystic Valley Parkway and Main Street will be completed by Fall of

2021 when we will gather together once again to celebrate WUS and the community we share.

Through the engraved bricks, each of us may honor, celebrate and/or remember loved ones or special milestones in our personal or collective history. One 4" x 8" engraved brick can be purchased for \$100. Part of the cost of each brick will go towards laying the Walkways. Deadline for submitting a brick order is March 1st.

[LINK TO PRINTABLE BRICK ORDER FORM \(PDF\)](#)

[LINK TO ONLINE BRICK ORDER FORM \(GOOGLE FORM\)](#)

Questions? Please reach out to us:

Karen Erikson: karenerikson@comcast.net; (781) 223-0089

Maria Shepherd: mandmshepherd@comcast.net (781) 258-8823

Sincerely,

The "Brick Team"

Sara Delano, Karen Erikson, Barbara Keyes, Carole Nassif, Maggie Russell and Maria Shepherd

Great Work Being Done by WUSYGers and WUSYG Alumns! We're excited to share a neat intergenerational project that our people are involved in! Desk Mates is a project started by a member of Temple Shir Tikvah aimed at building desks for children who are now learning from home and do not have access to a conducive learning space. Former WUSYGer Jakob Barton has been busy constructing some of the desk kits, and now several WUSYG families are putting together some of the desks this weekend. Desk recipient organizations and distributors include Father Bill's MainSpring family shelters, the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester, the Catholic Charities/Haitian Community Center Dorchester and individual families associated with them. Thank you Jakob and WUSYGers for your ministry!



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 3: Mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 31st, 4-6PM**. We'll see you then!

The Pastoral Care Associates invite you to a **Coffee/Tea and bagel gathering on Tuesday, January 19th at 9:30**. With weather and Covid numbers keeping us more isolated again, let's connect virtually. Join us via the main link, <https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship> . Dropping in and out is fine - we'll be there!



ALL AGES are invited to participate in the 2021 Valentine's Project! On January 31st there will be a plastic bin at the Main Street entrance. It will contain lots of valentine crafting materials (you will need to provide glue or make your own (instructions provided with supplies). We are going to meet for a virtual **Valentine's Day Potluck Theology 4:30-5:30ish on February 7th.** Watch this space for more details.

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.

All the Best - Judy L.

Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

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

Our local NAACP is working on a fund-raising project to enable the group to send a copy of a book, [From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century](#) to all the members of the 117th U.S. Congress. We are holding a raffle to raise funds for this project. Please see the [website](#) to donate. Tomorrow (before Noon), Jan 15, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, is the last day. Don't delay and miss out on the fun!

It's Grant Application Season. The Social Action and Outreach Committee invites members and staff to sponsor organizations whose work reinforces

our mission. At this critical time in our country, the pandemic has revealed that many of the inequalities in the U.S. have systemic causes. As we work to support people impacted by the pandemic, we must also work for changes in policies. We encourage you to find groups that are working toward new solutions in the US and internationally. We will continue to support programs like Urban Ministry, which inform us of critical needs in Boston. **Please let us know by February 28 what organization you plan to sponsor.** Further details will be shared soon.



Join UU Mass Action for its 2021 campaign launch

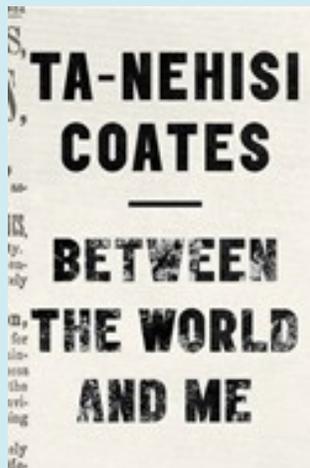
Thursday Jan 21, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Zoom Mtg: [Register in Advance for this meeting Facebook Page](#)

Join us as we present our campaign and organizing plans for the new year. Learn how we can build power with UUs and

work with our front line and coalition partners.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Building Beloved Community, Book by Book!

The Racial Justice Planning Group would like to periodically share with you some reading recommendations—books that will help us grow further into the intentionally proactive, radically inclusive, anti-racism congregation to which we have committed.

This week we call attention to *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The book is only 162 pages and, according to the book jacket, “is a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son...” Coates deals with the question: “What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?” There is also a film interpretation of the book that is creative and unusual. Read the book first to get the full impact!

To borrow the book from the Michelsen Room Racial Justice Library, please contact Thomas Slack, Winchester Unitarian Society administrator, to set a pickup time at 478 Main St.

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



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 hope that you will consider a donation that is comfortable for you. Daily needs and unexpected expenses continue as they gain secure footing in their new home country, continue studies, and job search, all in the midst of a pandemic.

We also hope to build a cushion for the future, in which they will be ready to rent an apartment. We know this may entail a deposit, first and last month's rent, and other fees.

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

Middle School Crossing Paths Interfaith exploration meets this Sunday, January 17th 12-1PM. We are finishing up our current unit on Christianity, so bring questions. This week a lesson on discernment - what are Christian Values? There are many who use the term, but do not necessarily practice the teachings of Jesus or follow the example of his life. It's not too late for other middle schoolers to join in at the half year mark, you are welcome. Learn more via rebecca@winchesteruu.org.

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

WUSYG is having a regular ZOOMSYG meeting this Sunday, 4:30-6 pm: www.tinyurl.com/wusygzoom We will be shifting gears for the new year and starting to focus on what we're going to be doing as a group for the rest of the year, including some exciting updates and possibilities for service this spring! As usual, message Sam & Haley at wusyouth@gmail.com if you have any questions, concerns, compliments or just some really good UU jokes! We'd love to hear from you.

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

Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main Street, Winchester, MA 01890

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by office@winchesteruu.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!