

# Winchester Unitarian Society

## Highlights January 21, 2021

*(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

**Sunday, January 24**  
**10:30 Worship, ONLINE**



Photo by [Tim Marshall](#) on [Unsplash](#)

**Imagining:  
Charity & Solidarity**  
Kye Flannery

More information about the worship service can be found on the [website](#) and the Weekend Worship Announcement that comes out on Friday.

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**WUS Family Worship:** *We will be meeting via Zoom at 10 a.m. this Sunday, January 24th to continue re-imagining the world. 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.

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**Miss Juanita and story time.** 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, for a time to 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 January are posted [HERE](#)

**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- it's not too late to sign up here <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HEqqLzuPDYwywzWZC6GDKDfRwzNbMFLJikcffBtEGJE/edit?usp=sharing>

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. Two of the activities require materials that you will need to have available, Crocheting with Sarah Milt and Bread Making with Ryan Levering. In addition, Linda Copeland will be offering The ABC's of Tarot. You may find details on required materials at the above link as well.

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](mailto:rec@winchesteruu.org). Want to show your commitment to intergenerational community? Then we'll see you there via <https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

## Worship Notes

This week we have witnessed a beautiful Inauguration Day, and a memorial for those we have lost to Covid-19. We'll host another Listening Circle after Sunday's service, lasting 45 minutes-1 hour. We'll focus on some listening questions: *What has been the hardest for you over the past year?* And then, after listening to one another answer that question, we'll get to the second — *where do you feel drawn to go from here?*

Kye is also holding weekly Zoom office hours for the congregation Thursdays, from 12-2pm, Eastern time. You can also set an appt with Kye via this link: <https://calendly.com/kyeflannerymdiv>.

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**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/2021/01/Worship-Notes-1.10.2021.pdf>

## Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

Our thoughts are with Amy Hunter Maguire's parents, **Rev. Doris and Rev. Howard Hunter**, as they recover from a recent tragedy. Their condo unit in Cambridge caught fire early Wednesday night on January 13th and will have to be gutted. Thankfully, they were not injured but it was a traumatic experience. They are staying at their small home in Rockport, where they were UU ministers for 16 years.

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](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org)

## Social Action & Outreach

**It's Grant Application Season.** The Social Action and Outreach Committee invites members and staff to **sponsor organizations whose work reinforces our mission.** This year we will donate 3% of our budget. 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.

**Here's how to sponsor an organization. By Feb. 28, please contact Sue Doubler -- [suedoubler@gmail.com](mailto:suedoubler@gmail.com)** to say what group you plan to sponsor. Use the link on the website to download the form and fill out your portion. When you contact the proposed organization, ask about any special project to which the grant might contribute. Due to the pandemic, we request that all applications be made online. A member of the Social Action and Outreach Committee will be designated as the reviewer for your grant proposal. We need to receive all completed grant applications by March 31.

**The Social Action and Outreach Committee welcomes you to a New Year of educating ourselves,** learning about needs in our communities and working to make a difference. What are you working on? What opportunities do you know about? Please email us at [soac@winchesteruu.org](mailto:soac@winchesteruu.org) so we can spread the word.

**Update on Unemployment Benefits during Covid-19. Today, January 21 at 5:00 PM.** Monica Halas from Greater Boston Legal Services will provide a presentation on the new rules and programs. [Update: Unemployment Benefits During Covid-19 \(office.com\)](#)

Would you like to hear from area UUs working for racial justice? [The Black Lives Matter Certified Working Group](#) has its next quarterly meeting, **via Zoom, on Sunday, January 31st, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM.** We are always open to new members. [Please Register Here](#) You will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Do you wish to be an “ally,” supporting groups working for change? UU Mass Action, on Wed Feb 3, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM on line. [Register in advance for this meeting](#)** Working Through Our Urgency and Fear; Advancing our Activism from a Grounded Place of Love. This workshop will explore common patterns of pitfalls while trying to be an ally. We will share stories, discuss and do a self-evaluation.



### 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](http://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](mailto:glegvold@comcast.net), 781-729-8247) or Sandy Thompson ([sandra.thompson3@comcast.net](mailto:sandra.thompson3@comcast.net), 781-724-7571) with any questions.

## Congregational News

### Safe Congregations Moment

When looking for a staff or volunteer for the congregation, UUA recommends:

- A) Running a "criminal conviction check"
- B) Googling the person
- C) Using any state or local resources available, such as an offender registry
- D) Treat any findings as an "invitation to further exploration," having a conversation with the candidate about any findings and considering the type of trust needed for job for which the person is applying (finance, working with children, ministry)
- E) That's right, all of the above!

For further

reading: [https://www.uua.org/files/documents/mpl/transitions/responsible\\_staffing.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/documents/mpl/transitions/responsible_staffing.pdf)

### 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>

Please see the [Winchester Unitarian Society website](#) for more details.

### 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.

We will be sharing our attendee donations with [Winchester ABC \(A Better Chance\)](#).

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:karenerikson@comcast.net); (781) 223-0089

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

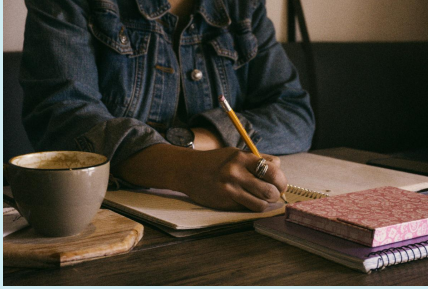
Sincerely,

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](mailto:dan@lexiconsystemsinc.com)

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

**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 to create valentines which you may return to WUS (there's a bin for that too) for distribution to older friends, who are feeling the isolation of almost a year locked down.

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](mailto:JJReflections2020@gmail.com). Thank you.

All the Best - Judy L.

## Religious Education

**Middle School Crossing Paths Interfaith exploration meets this Sunday, January 24th 12-1PM.** We are finishing up our current unit on Christianity at the end of January, so bring questions. Rites of passage, continued. Christian beliefs around marriage, religious vocation and the afterlife - part 1. 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](mailto:rebecca@winchesteruu.org).

# WUSYG

## Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

WUSYG will have a ZOOMSYG meeting this Sunday, 4:30-6 pm: [www.tinyurl.com/wusygzoom](http://www.tinyurl.com/wusygzoom) which will start with check-in per usual but then we'll be joining Jan Fest to learn and create with the rest of the congregation! As usual, message Sam & Haley at [wusyouth@gmail.com](mailto:wusyouth@gmail.com) - or youth can hit us up on our group Discord - if you have any questions, concerns, compliments or just some really good UU jokes! We'd love to hear from you. We're also always available to youth and parents just to listen or chat about things that are going on in your lives and/or the world. Stay safe this week; we love 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org) | [www.winchesteruu.org](http://www.winchesteruu.org)

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