

# Winchester Unitarian Society

## Highlights January 28, 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 31**  
**10:30 Worship, ONLINE**



Photo by [Jr Korpa](#) on [Unsplash](#)

**Imagine What We Could Do if  
We Could Do What We Imagine**  
Sam Wilson & WUSYG

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 31st 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](#)

## 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-01.24.21.docx>

## 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](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.**

### **2021 UU Mass Action Campaign Launch**

**Thursday Jan 28, 7:00 PM -- 8:30 PM**

[REGISTER](#) [Facebook Event Page](#)

Join fellow UUS to learn about our legislative organizing plans for the new year. We will build power together and work with our front line and coalition partners. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

### **UU Mass Action Monthly Action Hour!**

**Friday Jan 29, 12:00 - 1:00 PM**

[Register HERE](#) [Facebook Page](#)

This will be an opportunity to hear updates about all our campaigns and take action together, such as calling your legislators, signing petitions, and more to support our frontline and coalition partners. A fine way to connect with other UUs from across the state!



### **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



## 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

**TONIGHT, 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, Thelonious 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 \(A Better Chance\)](#).

**Are you looking for inspiration from fellow UUs across the country?** *Thirty Days of Love* is our annual celebration that runs through Valentine's Day. It's an opportunity to

lift up the ways Unitarian Universalists are taking bold, courageous action for intersectional racial justice.

In 2021, *30 Days of Love* will focus on four themes from a recently published report called [Widening the Circle of Concern](https://sidewithlove.org/thirty-days-of-love), which was developed by the Commission on Institutional Change. <https://sidewithlove.org/thirty-days-of-love>

Look at these videos, readings and conversations for children, youth and adults:

Week One: [Living Our Values in the World](https://sidewithlove.org/week-one-january-17-23-2021) (January 17 – 23)  
<https://sidewithlove.org/week-one-january-17-23-2021>

Week Two: [Hospitality and Inclusion](https://sidewithlove.org/week-two) (January 24 – 30)  
<https://sidewithlove.org/week-two>

**Harvest the Power Leadership Session 3 This Sunday, January 31st, 4-6PM** We'll see you then. You will need paper and pencils/art pencils (from your "kit") and a penny for this week's session. To prepare, you may wish to read the UUWorld article on reconciliation as a spiritual practice found here <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/reconciliation-as-spiritual-discipline>.

**ALL AGES are invited to participate in the 2021 Valentine's Project!** Since we're supposed to have a storm early in the week, the Valentines bin hours will be announced. In the meantime, look for printables on the website for Valentines Day. 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 for distribution to older friends, who are feeling the isolation of almost a year in lock down.

### **Are you interested in Marketing?**

The Winchester Unitarian Society is looking to update our website and weekly newsletter as well as establish more of a presence on social media. It is for this reason we are looking to develop a Marketing Team to work with our Administrator to create a united and single voice for future publications. Responsibilities for members of the Marketing Team would be to brainstorm on ways to improve how we reach out to the congregation and the outside world and coordinate with our various committees to make sure we are sharing all of the great work our people are doing.

If you have marketing experience or are interested in marketing, please contact Thomas in the WUS Office at [office@winchesteruu.org](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org). Thank you!

### **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:

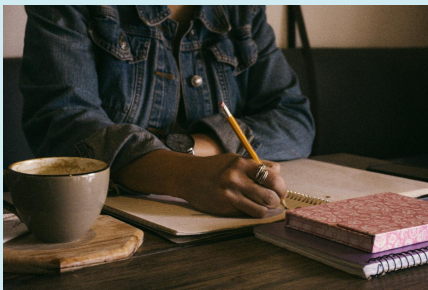
Karen Erikson: [karenerikson@comcast.net](mailto:karenerikson@comcast.net); (781) 223-0089

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



**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)

## **Religious Education**

**Middle School Crossing Paths Interfaith exploration meets this Sunday, January 27th 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 and rituals about the

afterlife. 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 is having a regular ZOOMSYG meeting this Sunday, 4:30-6 pm: [www.tinyurl.com/wusygzoom](http://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](mailto: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](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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