

# Winchester Unitarian Society

## Highlights January 7, 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 10th. What is Prayer?" 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. Next week, January 17th, we will be virtually visiting All Souls for their 10:30 Worship service, but will still be meeting for Family worship*

**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 10

## 10:30 Worship, ONLINE



Photo by [Nadine Shaabana](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## What Can We Learn From the Stoics?

Kye Flannery

Stoicism we might associate with ancient Greece, rugby players, or stiff upper lips -- where do we see the influence of stoicism in our current culture? We can see modern refinements of this ancient wisdom in our culture's justice work, in new age philosophy, in prosperity gospel, in Buddhism, and, yes, in coping with Covid.

Please send any requests for Sunday morning announcements to Sabbatical Minister Kye Flannery by noon on Saturday at [kye@winchesteruu.org](mailto: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/2021/01/Worship-Notes-1.3.2021.pdf>

## Congregational News

**Virtual Jan Fest for ALL AGES: Sunday, January 24th 5:00-5:45ish.** The virtual world allows us to include everyone in Jan FEST this year. Got a skill, craft, game or story to share or teach? Let the RE committee know, via [rec@winchesteruu.org](mailto:rec@winchesteruu.org). We'd like to hear from you by the end of next week, January 17th. Want to be part of an intergenerational community? Then we'll see you there via <https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

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

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



# Action Alert!

## Ask the Governor to Sign the Climate Bill Today!

Excerpt, Mass Power Forward Press Release

See [Bill Summary Here](#)

“On Monday, January 4th, both chambers finally released a final compromise version of the climate Roadmap Bill: S.2995. The coalition celebrated the inclusion of environmental justice in particular, the creation of a net zero stretch building code, and giving municipalities greater control over the quality and efficiency of new construction projects. The bill builds upon the 2008’s Global Warming Solutions Act by creating interim carbon emissions targets for 2030, 2035, 2040 and 2045 as well as ‘sub limits’ for major sectors (e.g. electric power, transportation, heating and cooling). While this bill represents a significant step forward, work remains to address emissions in Massachusetts. The legislation, unfortunately, fails to include a commitment to source 100% of the state’s electricity from renewable sources in a reasonable timeline and does not fully tackle our state’s largest source of greenhouse gases: the transportation sector.”

[See the full Action Alert Here!](#)

### Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

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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

**Our area NAACP is fundraising for a clever project to educate Congress on the need for reparations.** The [Mystic Valley Area Branch](#), will purchase and send copies of the book, [“From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century,”](#) to every member of the 117th U.S. Congress. The book details the many aspects of systemic racism in the U.S. When you sign in to this [special raffle event](#), you may win one of the prizes, as well as make a donation. The deadline is January 15 at noon.

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 so we can spread the word.



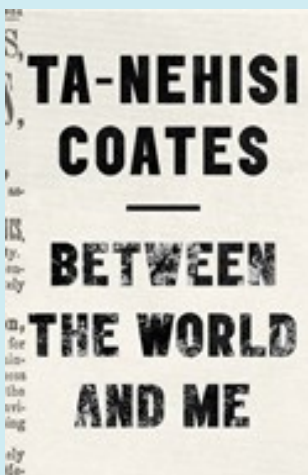
### On-Going

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



### 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.*

**UU the Vote sends a message to all.** Two months after the emergence of Covid-19, UU the Vote and All Souls Unitarian Church in DC assembled a “How We Thrive” virtual choir to ground us in our vision of creating a new world where all of our communities can thrive. As Elizabeth Alex from CASA said during our election debrief, “the win is not the election. Winning is when our communities have what they need.” This song is a prayer and balm we need as we prepare ourselves for the long-term work of building safe and thriving communities. REPLENISH yourselves: [Listen to the How We Thrive Choir sing “We Shall Be Known” by MaMuse.](#)

Did you know we have a statewide group organizing for social action? It’s UU Mass Action: Creating a World Where All People Are Honored & Valued [FY20 Annual Report](#) [Link to Newsletter Archive](#)

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.

**The Massachusetts legislature has at last voted to change the state flag and seal,** removing the symbol of a hand brandishing a Colonial broadsword over a Native person's head, with a Latin motto underneath that translates: "Peace Under the Sword." Governor Charlie Baker has 10 days to sign the resolve which will establish the special commission to design a new state flag and seal. Write to urge him to do so at once, at: [www.mass.gov/forms/email-the-governors-office](http://www.mass.gov/forms/email-the-governors-office)

### **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](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.

## 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](mailto:Rebecca@winchesteruu.org) or Naomi Magnoni at [REC@winchesteruu.org](mailto: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. There's a lot we covered, and there's a lot more we did not. 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 BACK this Sunday, Jan. 10th!**

Don't forget to drop off your gift for our Secret Gift Giving G-noming if you haven't already! 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](mailto: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](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](#).

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