

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights February 11, 2021

[\(link to today's full issue of Highlights\)](#)



The theme for February is Beloved Community

Photo: A beautiful display of our beloved community, members of the Membership and Fellowship Committees in the Metcalf Kitchen preparing food for the last Spaghetti Dinner

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, February 14
10:30 Worship, ONLINE



The Greatest of These is Love

The Rev. Heather Janules

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

WUS Family Worship: We will be meeting for FAMILY WORSHIP via Zoom at 10 a.m. this Sunday, February 14th. *"One Size May Not Fit All"* 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.

Ms. 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.

Worship Notes

Kye wants to offer a moment of thanks for the continuing courage in your work as a congregation on the topics of Beloved Community and Solidarity. This quote comes from Gregory Boyle, author of "Tattoos on the Heart": "No daylight to separate us, only kinship. Inching ourselves closer to creating a community of kinship such that God might recognize it... we imagine no one standing outside that circle, moving ourselves closer to the margins so that the margins themselves will be erased."

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/2021/02/Worship-Notes-02.07.2021.pdf>

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

Congregational News

Valentines? It's not too late to deliver them to the congregation's building (via the Main Street Entrance mail slot) for mailing to our WUS family members who have been cooped up for a very long time. **Valentines will be collected Friday at 5pm for mailing.**

We are nearing the end of the UUA's annual "30 Days of Love". There are many ideas to engage all the members of your household around Racial Justice and exploration of values, hospitality, inclusion, liberation, and restoration. Find out more here <https://sidewithlove.org/thirty-days-of-love>

Dear Members and Friends of Winchester Unitarian Society,

After a year's work, **the Visioning Team** (Patty Cameron, Karen Caputo, Lauri Clark, Terry Currier and Erin Graham) is pleased to share with you their preliminary report on the children and youth programming at WUS. We interviewed staff and others, researched and reviewed materials from the UUA and other liked-sized UU churches, and have produced a preliminary report that goes beyond our original charge. Staff and Standing Committee have already reviewed draft copies and it's time to roll it out to all of you!

We encourage everyone to read the [preliminary report](#) (please note, the appendices are optional) and then bring your feedback to the next cottage meeting on

Sunday, Feb 14 at 12:30PM after virtual church.

This meeting will be facilitated by UUA Consultant, Erica Baron. She will have guiding questions that will focus us. The Zoom link for the meeting will be the same as the link used for WUS worship services:

tinyurl.com/WUSworship

If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to offer feedback, please feel free to email Patty at patty.cameron@comcast.net. This preliminary report is a benchmark in our planning for children and youth programs moving forward. Enjoy the read and join us at the next cottage meeting.

A Message from the Pledge Team

Pledge packets will arrive at your homes in the next few days and will include charts showing a breakdown of revenue and expenses as well as a distribution of last year's pledge amounts. Your generous gifts comprise the majority of the operating income for WUS and provide our Standing Committee with the information they need to establish priorities for spending. Thank you in advance for submitting your pledge card before our campaign ends on **March 15**.

Robbie Brown, Alison Kirchgasser, Stephen Perepeluk

A Message From the Employee Relations Committee

It's rare for the Employee Relations Committee to make a public statement: We do what we can to ensure that the Society's staff members are treated well, that they have the resources needed to function effectively, and that their job-related concerns

are heard and acted upon. We do our work in strict confidentiality. Only once in a great while, do we feel compelled to speak out.

During the past months, we have observed, with gratitude and near-wonder, the skill, the creativity, and the perseverance with which the staff has addressed the challenges of Covid-19. They have mastered unfamiliar technologies; written new material; and adapted old material. Perhaps most difficult, they have carried on in relative isolation. Gone has been the abundance of human interaction they all value highly. It's been more work and less rewarding work. As one of them put it, "This isn't what I signed up for."

So, with a loud voice, the usually quiet Employee Relations Committee extends to all the WUS staff our thanks, our admiration, and our amazement for what they have done to bring us through this stubborn pandemic. We hope others, too, will find ways to say thank you.

In fellowship, the Employee Relations Committee
Sara Delano, Nancy Scott Newhouse, and John Russell

The Pastoral Care Associates invite you to a Coffee/Tea and bagel gathering on Tuesday, February 16th 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!



Get Ready for a Virtual Open Mic! Thursday, February 18, 2021 @ 7pm.

We all need some music and joy this winter! In conjunction with Winchester Together, a community-based initiative of events and acts of kindness to address isolation and pandemic fatigue, [Winchester](#)

[Unitarian Society](#) and the [Winchester Community Music School](#) (WCMS) are co-hosting a virtual Open Mic.

John Kramer, music director at WUS and former faculty member at WCMS, will facilitate this fun evening of music, community, and camaraderie.

Here is the link to the sign up for Open Mic:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d49a4ab2f4-virtual>

More details coming soon. Watch the event live on the WCMS [YouTube channel](#), and learn more about Winchester Together on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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

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. Thank you!

Building Beloved Community- Our Transforming Journey

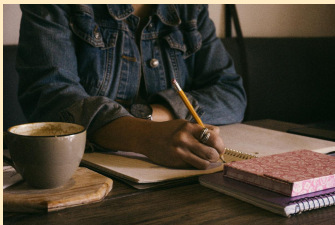
The Racial Justice Team Planning Group has been meeting with WUS committees and we are grateful for the time, thoughtful attention, and meaningful sharing that has taken place. These meetings are one step of many going forward as, together, we work towards transforming our Beloved Community, the Winchester Unitarian Society, from a multiculturally-aware congregation committed to racial justice to an intentionally pro-active, radically inclusive multicultural anti-racism congregation. Watch for our monthly book recommendations and other suggestions and reminders for how we can move forward, individually and collectively on this journey.

With Thanks from the Music Committee

Thank you to all who helped to make Jazz in the Sanctuary a big success on Saturday night. We had 103 participants and a terrific evening of jazz! Our trio took us on an

entertaining journey through a century of African American jazz compositions, ones that significantly contributed to the jazz art form. A special thanks goes to James Pidacks for his sound, lighting and systems work. We are still collecting donations from the concert. 50% of the "at the door" donations will go to [Winchester ABC](#). Our next concert is on April 17th featuring Kemp Harris. <https://www.kempharris.band/>

As of February 1 individuals in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 categories qualify for the COVID vaccination. Do you have questions if you qualify for the COVID vaccination? Are you having difficulty navigating the [mass.gov](#) website to make an appointment? Are you frustrated there are no appointment times available? The Pastoral Care Associates (PCAs) Carol DeLaney RN/Chaplain and Kim Foley RN are available as a resource to offer support and guidance to see if you qualify and/or how to make an appointment. Carol can be reached at 781.507.3366 or ccdelaney1@hotmail.com and Kim can be reached at kqfoley@gmail.com



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: Mark your calendars for our next meeting on **March 7th at 4:00 PM**. And please respond to the newest Doodle Poll to schedule sessions 5 and 6. The poll is [here](#).



Social Action & Outreach

Did you know we have a statewide group organizing for social action? At **UU Mass Action** all of our work is directed at dismantling systems of oppression. **Save the date for: UU Mass Action "15th Anniversary Celebration & Fundraiser!" Saturday February 27, 6:30 - 8:00 PM.** Learn about the present, past and future work our fellow UUs do in the state. [REGISTER HERE](#) (zoom link will be sent after you register).

AND, to help us better understand **A core problem with the Massachusetts Criminal Law system**, UU Mass Action encourages us to watch this video recording of Mass Inc's Feb 5th forum: **Rooting Out Racial Bias**, [Watch it here](#)

It's Grant Application Season. Social Action and Outreach invites members and staff to sponsor grants for organizations whose work reinforces our mission. Please tell Sue Doubler (suedoubler@gmail.com) by **February 28** which organization you wish to sponsor. As we work to support people impacted by the pandemic, we must also work for change. We encourage you to find groups that are working to change systems which have created inequities. Look for the [Grant Application Form](#) on our website.

We have supported educational work of the **Royall House and Slave Quarters**, in nearby Medford, for several years. Their on-line programming resumes on **February**

18 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm with a reading and conversation “Poetry as Protest”, led by Professor Honorée Jeffers, a poet whose book *The Age of Phillis* imagined the life and times of Phillis Wheatley Peters through poems about her “age” — the era that encompassed political, philosophical, and religious upheaval, as well as the transatlantic slave trade. Registration is required via [Eventbrite](https://royallhouse.org/whats-happening/news-and-events/). <https://royallhouse.org/whats-happening/news-and-events/>



On-Going

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



Religious Education

Middle School Crossing Paths Interfaith exploration meets this Sunday, February 14th 12-1PM. We are exploring the Temples and Kami Shrines, purification rituals and the common features of **Shinto religion**. It's not too late for other middle schoolers to join in at the beginning of a new session, 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'll be baking Valentine's Day Treats with Marina, and then no meeting on the 21st due to February vacation. We're also having a V-Day Brunch with Alums this Sunday from 11:30-1 on Zoom at the same address as above, BYOB: bring your own brunch! 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.

Beyond the Congregation

VIRTUAL SOCIAL JUSTICE TRIVIA NIGHT!
Thursday, February 25, 2021, 8:00 - 9:30 PM

Mixing general trivia with social justice historical and pop culture factoids, this virtual trivia event is meant to be a fun way to spend a COVID-safe evening in. Play will involve individuals (or families-who-live-together), not teams. All ages are welcome! Prizes for the top three finishers will be awarded! Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-social-justice-trivia-night-tickets-137819699431>

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