

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights February 18, 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 21
10:30 Worship, ONLINE



Accountammunity

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 21st. *"First you Listen"* 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

To Question is to Answer: Your Input is Needed

Next Sunday, February 28th, will be a Question Box service. What is a Question Box service? The questions, ponderings, curiosities and wonderings of the gathered community serve as the focus of the Second Reflection time. In our last Question Box service, questions ranged from "Do you believe in an afterlife?" to "Why did we remove the carpet in the sanctuary?" This historic chapter we are living through has likely inspired you to consider new ideas or rethink your beliefs.

There will be an opportunity to post your questions in the chat box during the service BUT we welcome questions in advance. Send yours to Rev. Heather at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org

Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

If you are facing a time of joy, sorrow or transition in your life, your 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



Get Ready for a Virtual Open Mic! TONIGHT, 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](#).

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

Opportunity Knocks!

Make a difference and new friends. The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee seeks your help shaping our church's path, and doing the indispensable work that will take us along that path. Positions are available in governance, social action, youth advisory, children's religious education, membership growth, music programming, and fellowship. If you're elected at May's Annual Meeting, your term on one of these groups would begin in September. Information on the Committees' roles and who you could be working along side can be found in the "**Opportunity Knocks**" e-mail coming to you next week from the WUS Office. Please let Nominating know soon soon you would like to chat about which Committee(s) most interest you at nominating@winchesteruu.org

A Message from the Pledge Team
Annual Pledge Campaign Underway

It's the first week of our month-long campaign and all members and friends of WUS should have received their pledge packets by mail. We have an ambitious goal and we need your help to get there. Please help us get to 25% by the end of our first week. Thank you. Click here for an additional pledge card <https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020-Pledge-Card-single.pdf> or pledge online at <https://www.winchesteruu.org/giving/pledge/>.

Robbie Brown, Alison Kirchgasser, Stephen Perepeluk

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?

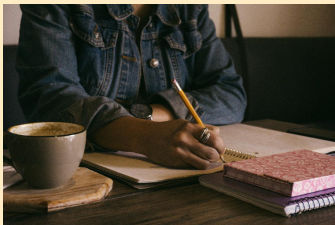
The Winchester Unitarian Society is looking to update our website and weekly newsletter as well as establish more of a presence on social media. It is for this reason we are looking to develop a Marketing Team to work with our Administrator to create a united and single voice for future publications. 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.

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](https://www.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 ccdolaney1@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](#).



The Pastoral Care Associates invite you to the next **Coffee/Tea and bagel gathering on Tuesday, March 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!

Social Action & Outreach

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. **By March 6**, you will then be contacted by a member of the Committee who will be your contact person. The firm deadline for Grant Applications to be received (electronically) by the contact person is March 31. Look for the [Grant Application Form](#) on our website. Send your questions to Claire McNeill (rkmcn@aol.com).

We have supported educational work of the **Royall House and Slave Quarters**, in nearby Medford. **TONIGHT from 7:00 to 8:00 pm** their on-line programming resumes with a reading and conversation “Poetry as Protest”, led by Professor Honorée Jeffers.

On Wednesday February 24, watch the new on-line tour of the Museum telling the often forgotten history of Northern slavery. “We center the lives and labor of enslaved people to tell a complex story about resistance and freedom and demonstrate how Black people were crucial to ending slavery in Massachusetts. Following the 40-minute video, we will host a live discussion. Attendance is free, but [registration is required](#):
<https://royallhouse.org/whats-happening/news-and-events/>

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.** “Meet” other UUs, and 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).



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 21st 12-1PM. We are exploring the Temples and Kami Shrines, purification rituals and the common features of **Shinto religion**. We welcome middle schoolers on an ongoing

basis, so if a particular topic/religion is of interest, you are welcome. Learn more via rebecca@winchesteruu.org.

WUSYG Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

No WUSYG this weekend because of the February vacation. We hope you all find them rejuvenating and joyful. As usual, message Sam & Haley at wusyouth@gmail.com if you have any questions, concerns, compliments or just some good memes to share! 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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