

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights February 25, 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 28
10:30 Worship, ONLINE



Photo by [Emily Morter](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Question Box Service
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 28th. *“Pourquoi?” 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

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-2.21.2021.pdf>

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



Prayer Shawl Ministry...Plus...

Are you struggling financially due to the pandemic?
Can you knit?

Through the Pastoral Care Associates, the Winchester Unitarian Society has a long-standing Prayer Shawl

Ministry, providing shawls and thus literal and figurative warmth to those in the community facing illness, injury or loss.

Our supply is currently low. Considering how many have been challenged by the pandemic, we seek to "hire" knitters who are financially struggling and may be feeling isolated.

If you are facing financial struggle due to the pandemic, can knit somewhere between "beginner" and "professional," have access to the internet and can attend at least 2 one-hour virtual sessions via Zoom, we will purchase a shawl you create for \$100. It is not much in terms of money but we hope that the on-line "crafting in community" gatherings will add to the value of the experience. Other crafters will also be invited to join, making for a broad and rich time of reflection and conversation.

Once we have 10 participants we will schedule our first gathering. Supplies provided.

If interested, please apply here: tinyurl.com/WUSPSMinistry

Please also fill out the application if you wish to "knit for free" and join the group when it gathers.

Spread the word!

Photo by rocknwool on Upsplash

Celebrating Rebecca's Ministry

In a few short months, Rebecca Kelley-Morgan's long and meaningful ministry at Winchester Unitarian Society as our Director of Lifespan Religious Education will be coming to a close. We wish to thank her and honor all that she has given to us and our children over the years.



If you would like to be on a task force to plan a Covid-safe celebration, we would like to hear from you! Rebecca's ministry has touched all of us, whether through many creative, interesting educational opportunities for adults and children alike, her fabulous "First Reflections," through the advent of JanFest, participation in her annual Solstice Celebration, Our Whole Lives, Covenant Groups and so much more!

Contact Standing Committee Co-Chair, Fritzie Nace (Fritzie.nace@gmail.com) or Rev. Heather Janules (Heather.Janules@WinchesterUU.org) if you wish to help. We hope to have a group identified by mid-March. ~ Many thanks!

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

DRE Search Team

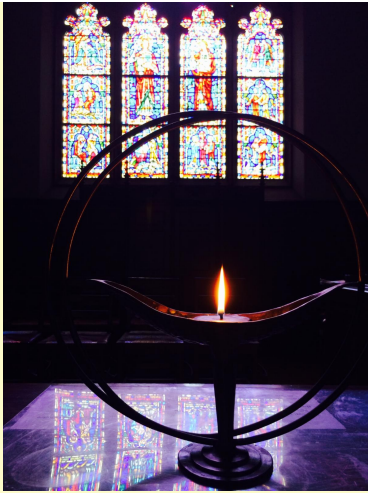
In June 2021, Rebecca Kelley-Morgan will be bringing her ministry with WUS to a close. The Standing and Religious Education Committees are putting together a Search Team to begin work very soon to find an Interim or Acting Director, as recommended by the RE Visioning Team in their report. The team will further hone a job description for the temporary position, then work with the congregation next year to discern a job description for a settled RE minister.

We are looking for a "member-at-large" to join representatives from the RE Committee and the Visioning Team and a "parent-at-large." We invite congregants who don't have children in the RE or Youth program to throw your hat in. Currently, we have a primarily female-identified group, so other gender-identified persons are encouraged!

Please contact Standing Committee Co-chair, Fritzie Nace (Fritzie.nace@gmail.com) if you might be interested. We hope to have the Search Team finalized in the next 2 weeks. ~Many thanks!

Nourish Your Spirit Two Opportunities for Spiritual Practice in Community

A year into the pandemic, in the heart of winter, so many of us are soul tired, angry, living with deep grief. These are the times when caring for body mind and spirit are critical. Please join us.



WEDNESDAY MEDITATION GROUP

Sitting from 6:30-7:00 pm

Walking from 7:00-7:20 pm

Optional informal discussion 7:20-7:30 pm

This long-standing group is now meeting on-line:

[tinyurl.com/WUSWedMed](https://www.tinyurl.com/WUSWedMed)

Meeting ID: 816 9247 5503

Passcode: 767094

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81692475503>

Please join as early as 6:20 pm to greet each other before we ring the starting bell at 6:30. We should all have audio access but the video access will be limited. We will all be muted during the meditation and you should be able to see a video of a lit candle on the screen during the 2 meditation periods.

SABBATH SIT

Led by Rev. Heather

Each Friday, Beginning March 5th, 5:30-6:30 pm

www.tinyurl.com/hkjzoom

Log on at 5:30. We sit in silence for the first half hour. After a short reading and lighting the chalice, there will be a time for facilitated, reflective conversation. If you cannot sit for the full half hour, log on for a shorter time.

Open Office Hours Return

www.tinyurl.com/hkjzoom

Beginning March 4th, Rev. Heather will open a Zoom room on Thursdays from 12-2 for open office hours. Drop in to say hello or to share something on your heart and mind. When the warm weather returns, we will resume meeting in the Meditation Garden!

PARTNER CHURCH NEWS

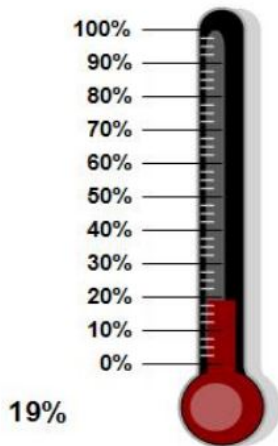
Last week, we transmitted the \$2,000 from our Christmas Eve collection to our partners in Marosvasarhely. They have sent their thanks and told us they will use the funds to launch a new church website.

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

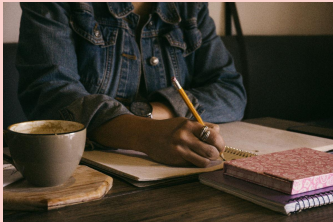
know soon soon you would like to chat about which Committee(s) most interest you at nominating@winchesteruu.org

A Message from the Pledge Team Annual Pledge Campaign Underway



We know this has been a difficult year for many in our congregation and recognize that it may not be possible for all to increase their pledge this year. If you have continued to do well financially, despite the pandemic, we ask you to consider increasing your pledge to help offset the impact to the church due to lowered pledges from those with more challenging circumstances. Please know that we will be grateful for any amount you are able to pledge. The campaign continues through March 15.

Robbie Brown, Alison Kirchgasser, Stephen Perepeluk



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. 5th and 6th Sessions take place on April 11th, and April 25th, respectively



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!

Summer Services -- Do you have a sermon in you?

Summer services will begin on June 20 and end September 5. These services are led by lay members of the congregation. If you are interested in leading a service, please contact Lee Barton at lee.barton2009@gmail.com. You would give a 15 to 20 minute Reflection on a topic that relates in some way to our Unitarian Universalist values and principles. You would have help planning and carrying out the rest of the service. Please consider it.

Social Action & Outreach

A deadline is approaching to tell Social Action and Outreach your plan to sponsor a grant 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, 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**. The [Grant Application Form](#) on our website explains the process. Send your questions to Claire McNeill (rkmcn@aol.com).

It is easy to donate food for the Food Pantry at the Council in Woburn. The need continues. Think of the impact we could make if every member family brought 4 items a month. Think of nutritious filling foods, or something a little festive. Just place your items the basket outside the kitchen door by our parking lot.



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 28th 12-1PM. We are beginning our exploration of the **Buddhist religion, Buddhism.** This week, **"Who was the Buddha?"** origin stories and branches of Buddhism. 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.

ALL AGES INVITED: March 21st 4:30-5:30 ish Potluck Theology Intergenerational egg dying - Our second (!!!) virtual potluck theology spring egg dying. Join us at 4:30 on March 21st for virtual egg dying and some theological reflections on the nature of spring, equinox and stories of rebirth and renewal. We ask you to provide your own eggs and dye, although in early March, eggs to color will be posted in the printables section of the website, and stickers and other decorating materials will be made available at WUS.

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

WUSYG is having a regular ZOOMSYG meeting this Sunday, 4:30-6 pm: www.tinyurl.com/wusygzoom We look forward to catching up on the past couple weeks and having some fun with all of you! As usual, message Sam & Haley at wusyouth@gmail.com if you have any questions, concerns, compliments, or want to schedule some time for a one on one with us, too! 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.

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