

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights February 4, 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 7
10:30 Worship, ONLINE



Photo by Southern Poverty Law Center

Y'all Means ALL: An 8th UU Principle?

Kye Flannery

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 7th. *"Our 8th Principle" What? Don't we only have 7? 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."

Kye is 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>.

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-1.31.2021.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

This week's safer congregations moment, recommendations from the UUA
<http://www.uua.org/safe/handbook/social-media-and-safer-communications>

How are we doing with these elements of media safety?

- We inform participants when they are being recorded on video, church buildings are not considered public space.
- We do not post videos of a public music performance unless we have obtained copyright and other permissions
- We get permission in writing from adults and guardians of minor children when children are part of a group that is photographed or videoed for distribution or archival purposes
- On church-sponsored sites, photos of people under 18 do not include names or contact information

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!

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 one of two cottage meetings on either

Monday, Feb 8 at 7:00PM or
Sunday, Feb 14 at 12:30PM after virtual church.

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

tinyurl.com/WUSworship

If you are unable to attend a 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 a cottage meeting.

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](#).

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/>

ALL AGES are invited to participate in the **2021 Valentine's Project!** Materials are available at the church next to the steps outside the Main Street entrance, or when the building is open, just inside the Main Street entrance. We also have printables on the website for Valentine's Day.

Please join in 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. In this month of exploring "Beloved Community" we invite you to explore the diversity of age and generations

under the Zoom roof of Winchester Unitarian Society. Please use the regular worship service link. <https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

We are in the midst 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>

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

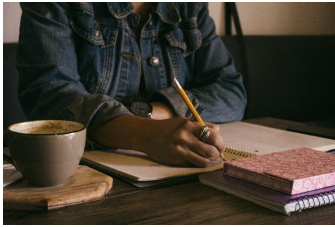
Sincerely,

The "Brick Team"

Sara Delano, Karen Erikson, Barbara Keyes, Carole Nassif, Maggie Russell and Maria Shepherd

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 reschedule session 5.



Social Action & Outreach

Submit Testimony in Opposition to DOC's Mail Reg's Changes.

A public hearing was held to hear testimony about the regulation changes impacting people who are incarcerated and the physical mail they receive. Many more people arrived at the zoom meeting than anticipated, so the deadline to submit written testimony has been extended **until Fri Feb 5th**. Please support this important effort and submit your testimony today! [IT'S EASY HERE'S HOW](#)

It's Grant Application Season. Have you ever sponsored a grant from our church? Social Action and Outreach invites members and staff to sponsor organizations whose work reinforces our mission. We need to know by **February 28** which organization you wish to sponsor. 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 to change systems which have created inequities. Look for the [grant application](#) 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/>

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, BOOK BY BOOK

This month the Racial Justice Planning Group focuses on the work of Claudia Rankine, a Jamaican-American poet, playwright, and professor. A central focus in her work is addressing race in a way that allows all of us to stay in the room together. What is it to "act civil," of whom is that demanded, and how does that



permit, or not, a Black person to exist fully as a United States citizen?

There are several ways to access her work that might fit your schedule: A book or two. Video short documentaries. A magazine article. A lecture on February 11 at 6 pm.

Let us begin with the February 11, 2021, 6 p.m. online Beckwith Lecture at Tufts University. The invitation to attend says, “As everyday white supremacy becomes increasingly vocalized with no clear answers at hand, how best might we approach one another? Author and poet Claudia Rankine, without telling us what to do, urges us to begin the discussion that might open pathways through this divisive and stuck moment in American history.” Register here:

[https://artgalleries.tufts.edu/blog/news/2020/12/08/beckwith-lecture-claudia-rankine/?](https://artgalleries.tufts.edu/blog/news/2020/12/08/beckwith-lecture-claudia-rankine/?fbclid=IwAR0kGSF67JSeQVgFXj497mE2cJ3hTbGA7ZUJbmZsuPvjrBvBXsBYxbCfAGM)

[fbclid=IwAR0kGSF67JSeQVgFXj497mE2cJ3hTbGA7ZUJbmZsuPvjrBvBXsBYxbCfAGM](https://artgalleries.tufts.edu/blog/news/2020/12/08/beckwith-lecture-claudia-rankine/?fbclid=IwAR0kGSF67JSeQVgFXj497mE2cJ3hTbGA7ZUJbmZsuPvjrBvBXsBYxbCfAGM)

If several of us choose to attend, we could consider arranging a small conversation via Zoom to share our reactions. (Contact Gloria Legvold, glegvold@comcast.net.)

The October 2020 *Atlantic* magazine article, “Claudia Rankine’s Quest for Racial Dialogue,” by Ismail Muhammed, is a comparison and analysis of *Citizen* (2014) and *Just Us: An American Conversation* (2020). Muhammed writes, “She (Rankine) sets out to stage uncomfortable conversations with white people—strangers, friends, family—about how (or whether) they perceive their whiteness.” Rankine suggests there is a “we” of community that does not ignore what constitutes the “I.” And, yet, “Is understanding change?” she ponders.

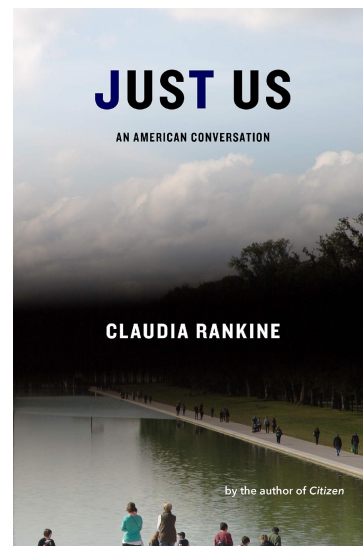
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/10/claudia-rankines-quest-for-racial-dialogue/615502/>

Winchester Unitarian Society’s racial justice book club last year hosted a discussion of her prize-winning *Citizen: An American Lyric* (2014), facilitated by Aba Taylor. Rankine invites readers, addressed as “you,” into contemporary race relations, vignettes of increasingly frequent real-life aggressions—both seemingly slight and clearly profound. Her prose poetry is richly interspersed with images and artwork into a compact 166 pages.

Rankine and her husband, documentary photographer John Lucas, a white American, have collaborated on a series of video shorts entitled *Situation*. Layering spoken poetry and moving visual imagery, we can hear *and see* public spaces and individual Black lives—airplane passengers, Hurricane Katrina, “stop and frisk” laws. The couple calls the legacy “the afterlife of slavery.”

<http://claudiarankine.com/m/situations.html>

The Racial Justice Planning Group invites you to continue building a pro-active, radically inclusive, multicultural anti-racism Beloved Community, the Winchester Unitarian Society--book by book!





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 7th 12-1PM. We are making a jump from our conclusion of Deity centric Christianity to the 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 Don't forget that we will be doing Power Point presentations this week, so, get your PP prepared to share with the rest of the group! On the 14th we'll be baking Valentine's Day Treats with Marina, and then no meeting on the 21st due to February vacation. 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

DISRUPTING RACISM LEARNING SERIES

This 3 part series is designed to build a learning circle of diverse community members committed to diving deeper into racial justice theory and its practice

- Mapping our personal anti-racism journeys
- Discussing the intersection of key concepts and overarching frameworks
- Identifying practical tools to interrupt racism

7-9pm Tuesday Evenings
February 9th, 23th & March 9th

To register visit: https://disrupting_racism-nfsjsci.eventbrite.com
With questions lnorwich@nfsj.org

NETWORK
for SOCIAL JUSTICE
Educate · Engage · Activate



SCI Social Capital Inc.

Network for Social Justice, nfsj.org

Social Capital Inc., socialcapitalinc.org

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>

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. 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
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