

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights March 11, 2021

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



The theme for March is Commitment

Photo: 2012 UUA General Assembly participants gather in worship in preparation to protest Tent City in Phoenix, AZ, a notorious camp incarcerating undocumented migrants run by then-sheriff Joe Arpaio

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, March 14
10:30 Worship, ONLINE

Convicted of Unitarian Universalism

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.

Although we respect your inherent worth...



We **WILL** start without you.
Remember Daylight Savings Time begins
Sunday. Set your clocks an hour ahead!

WUS Family Worship: We will be meeting for FAMILY WORSHIP via Zoom at 10 a.m. this Sunday, "Words Matter?" 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.

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



FREEDOM!

It is with great joy that we share the news that, after living in sanctuary for more than three years at First Parish Bedford, Maria has received a one-year stay of deportation! While she is now free to enjoy daily life without fear, Maria will not leave the church immediately as she and her support team secure the resources she needs to resettle in the community.

As a Level 2 Sanctuary congregation, WUS has been an active member of a coalition of faith communities supporting Maria and FPB through volunteering, advocacy and financial support.

On-Going Scam Attempts: What You Should Do



On February 27th and the following Sunday, we brought to the congregation's attention that WUS has been targeted in a new scam.

The thief impersonated a staff person by email and requested the password to access the member directory. Having received the password, they have since downloaded the directory and have been impersonating Rev. Heather by email with two different messages, asking for gift cards for worthy causes. **You can tell the request is fraudulent as there are slight differences between the email they use and Heather's WUS email address. Also, Rev. Heather does not solicit gift cards this way.** Adding some humor to the situation, they have also confused ministers and congregations and have impersonated another local UU minister and requested gift cards from WUS members in *their* name.

We have changed the password to the member side of the website, removed the directory from this page and have reported the fraudulent email addresses to Google. **Contact the office if you need access to the member side of the website.**

We are asking all of you to respond in these ways:

- **Do not** buy gift cards and provide their codes to anyone on behalf of WUS, especially via email.
- While we appreciate being notified that this is happening, **do not** forward these emails to Rev. Heather and/or the office. The email traffic has been overwhelming. We are aware of the situation. Just delete the email and hope that the scammers make a positive change and use their obvious intelligence and talents for honest work.
- **Do not** forward an electronic copy of the directory to anyone; prompt someone needing the information to contact the office.
- **Do** spread the word about this situation among other members of the WUS community. The best way to counter these cynical attempts is to ensure that everyone is educated about what is occurring and prepared to recognize electronic impersonation when it happens.

These scams would not work if members of faith communities did not want to partner with their clergy to make the world a better place. In the end, while these scams are disheartening, let us focus our attention on the legitimate positive change we all create together through our service and generosity. **Thank you!**

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.

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!



Next Open Mic night is Thursday, March 25th at 7pm.

Thanks to everybody who made the last open mic night a huge success. We had a number of stellar performers from our congregation who contributed their talent along with some friends from the Music School and the broader community. I hope

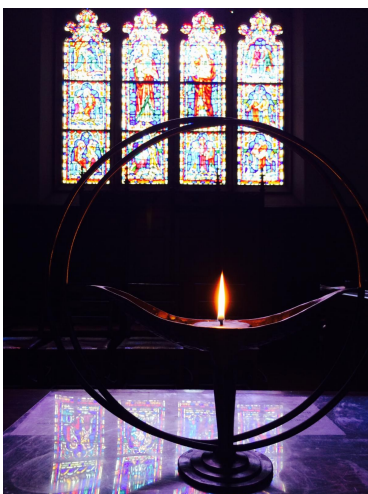
many of you tuned in to enjoy the event. "Let's do it again!" was the consensus feeling following the event. And so we will on **Thursday, March 25 at 7pm**. WUS Music Director John Kramer will again be hosting and we are collaborating with the Winchester Music School and Winchester Together.

Watch the event live on the WCMS [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) channels, and learn more about Winchester Together on [its new website](#) and on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Contact Music Director, John Kramer john.kramer@winchesteruu.org if you have any question or are interested. Or [sign up at this link](#).



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!



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

Meeting ID: 816 9247 5503

Passcode: 767094

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kvW4I0HDx>

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

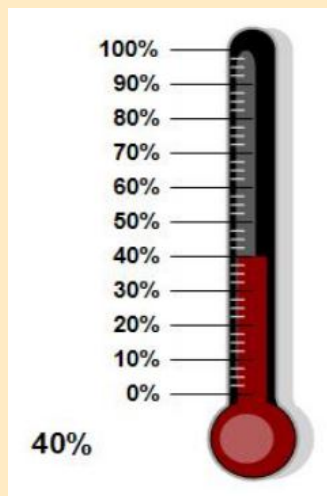
Log on at 5:30. We sit in silence for the first half hour. After a short reading and lighting the chalice, there will be a time for facilitated, reflective conversation. If you cannot sit for the full half hour, log on for a shorter time.

Open Office Hours Return

www.tinyurl.com/hkjzoom

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!

Annual Pledge Campaign will End Soon



A friendly reminder from your Pledge Team to submit your card if you haven't already done so. As of this week, we've received **58 pledge cards** representing nearly **40% of pledging households** and putting us closer to our \$375,000 goal. Your gift allows the work of our church and community to continue to thrive. The funds permit our congregation to extend our mission and give life to our values. Here's a haiku to inspire you:

*It feels good to pledge
Giving is like a smile
It is contagious*

Pledging is easy: submit your card by mail or pledge online at www.winchesteruu.org/giving/pledge/. Please help us reach 100% participation by March 15. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Robbie Brown, Alison Kirchgasser, Stephen Perepeluk

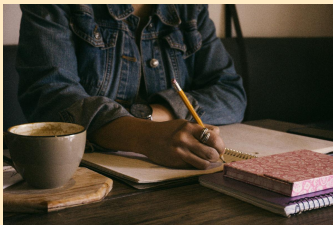
Thank you to our Building Committee and some generous donors for these Capital Projects:

- We are pleased to announce that the **Judy Virnelli Memorial re-landscaping of our Mystic Valley Parkway entrance** with the **Memorial Brick Walkway** is scheduled to begin this spring.

- An **HVAC update** that will improve fresh air circulation throughout the church and improved heating in the chapel to be completed this spring.
- An **accessible restroom on the ground floor** is to begin construction in March. Thank you to the Building Committee and several architects in the WUS community who managed the constraints of plumbing and building structure to find a suitable location in the vestibule near the back entrance. Although the vestibule will be a bit smaller, many unsightly plumbing and heating pipes will become less visible and our "Team Re-Do" will bring aesthetic touches to integrate the new bathroom with the space. We are grateful to be able to provide accessible facilities for our community!

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



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

The "Blessed Brick Team" is pleased to let you know that an order for 135 bricks has been placed! Such enthusiastic participation will help offset the costs of the installation of the walkways.

Thank you to all who participated in this fun and meaningful project during this difficult time of Covid. Thanks, especially, to Thomas and Jenny in the office for fielding the order forms, payments and questions. We could not have done this without you!

Later in the spring you will begin to see the "Pathways" taking shape. In the fall we hope to gather together to celebrate this collaboration of so many generous hearts.

With gratitude,
The Blessed Brick Team
Sara, Karen, Barbara, Julie, Carole, Maggie and Maria

Come to a Discussion about the Benefits of Sharing a Home as we Age

When: Sunday March 14, 2021

Time: 2:00 PM

Where: Zoom (Link will be provided to those who RSVP)

RSVP or Email Questions to Judy Lipperman at: JJReflections2020@gmail.com

Please join me and members of our community and beyond who are interested in discussing, learning, and brainstorming about the benefits of sharing a home as we age.

Please feel free to spread the word about this to people you know who may be interested or could benefit from learning about sharing a home.

In this first session we will have two speakers who will share with us their experiences in sharing a home and the benefits they have gained by living with others. We will also, time permitting, open the floor to attendees who wish to add their insights and or questions.

The overall idea going forward, after this first session, depending on interest, will be to create a space for people, to learn, discuss, brainstorm, share resources, and network about sharing a home.

This is a 100% grassroots volunteer effort and there are no fees, costs, or anything being marketed or sold in conjunction with this effort.

We welcome your suggestions, feedback, and assistance. Thank you for helping us get this effort started.

All the Best - Judy Lipperman

Social Action & Outreach

On Tuesday March 23 from 6:00 to 7:30, join UU Urban Ministry to learn about the **History of Paige Academy and Culturally Responsive Education**. For more than 50 years, The Reverend Joseph Cook and Dr. Angela Cook have ensured their innovative school in Roxbury provides stellar education to a diverse student body. www.uuum.org

The UU Service Committee supports Central American Migrant Justice

The root causes of forced displacement are just as important to address as ensuring sanctuary and refuge from harm. UUSC focuses its efforts on supporting new systems of protection, particularly for women and Indigenous youth. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee advances human rights through grassroots collaborations. For example, in Honduras, it supports *Foro de Mujeres Por La Vida*, a coalition of over 17 women's organizations, to reduce gender-based violence and document the impact of increased militarization on women's security. <https://www.uusc.org/right-to-safety-in-central-america/>



Building Beloved Community Book by Book

The Racial Justice Planning Committee will be sharing reading recommendations each month in the spirit of helping us grow further into the intentionally proactive, radically inclusive, anti-racism congregation we aspire to be.

This month we highlight *Say I'm Dead, a Family Memoir of Race, Secrets, and Love* by E. Dolores Johnson. Ms. Johnson tells a multi-generational story of interracial relationships, racism, and her own search for her white roots. We chose this book because of the opportunity to meet her via the Network for Social Justice program on Wednesday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. To register for this free program, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-talk-tickets-140856823551>



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, March 14th 12-1PM. This month, an exploration of the **Buddhist religion, Buddhism.** This week, **"The Eightfold Path"** Buddhist practices. 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 4:30-5:30ish 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. There are eggs to print and color at [this link](#). Stickers and other egg decor will be available at WUS in a plastic box outside of Main Street beginning Sunday.

Annual Easter Canned Goods Hunt April 4th, 12:30: We bring back this Easter tradition of hiding nonperishables around the congregation's building and grounds in a socially distanced way. This year, whatever the weather, we'll be placing your nonperishables in protective containers for the hunt. **Please drop items off at WUS in the food pantry collection baskets for hiding before or on the morning of April 4th** and EVERYONE is welcome to cheer our hunting crew on if you would like to wander over after worship.

Looking Forward: We plan to offer **Our Whole Lives in the 2021-2022** program year. The program will begin in mid-October (as is typical) or as re-opening rubrics allow. The Our Whole Lives program is open to the greater community, so please spread the word! I (Rebecca) am looking for teachers, parents and graduates of OWL to offer a sentence or two for testimonials about the experience to go into publicity materials. If you have one, please drop me a note 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. Also this Sunday we're having a Pi(e) Day celebration! WUSYG families - see your email for details.

We're planning our alternative April Vacation "Service Camp" - [please fill out this planning survey ASAP](#).

Looking ahead: We will be hosting an in-person, outdoor, socially distanced meeting on March 21 from 2-4 pm! Can't wait to see you there!

As always, 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.

Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main St. Winchester MA 01890
(781) 729-0949 | office@winchesteruu.org | www.winchesteruu.org

Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main Street, Winchester, MA 01890

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by office@winchesteruu.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!