

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights March 25, 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 28
10:30 Worship, ONLINE



[Laura Seaman](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Music Sunday:

The Hymns We Sing

John Kramer, Music Director

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, “UU liturgy -music” which is not nearly as dull as it sounds! *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

Invitation to Memorial Service & Celebration for Ron Denhardt Ron Denhardt Celebration & Memorial Service Saturday, April 17th from 4– 5:30pm

We invite you to join family, friends and the Cambridge Insight Meditation Center community as we gather together in celebration, memory and honor of Ron Denhardt. For decades, Ron was an exceptional and integral presence at CIMC. His generosity and spirit are woven into the fabric and foundation of the Center. Ron supported countless people at the Center, in big and small ways, as a teacher and as an encouraging and tireless spiritual friend

JOINING THE PROGRAM

[Click here to join this online program.](#)

Passcode: cimc

Meeting ID: 947 0135 6440

Phone: (646) 876-9923

Please join a few minutes early so we may begin our service on time.

A copy of the Program for the Memorial Service can be found [HERE](#).

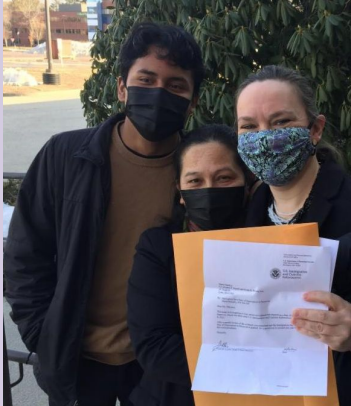
Here is a link to additional written information about Ron's life: <https://bostoncremation.org/obituary/ronald-charles-denhardt>

A Message from Ron's immediate family about Donations

Please consider joining us in making a donation to Cambridge Insight Meditation Center. If this is something you are able to do, please send a check of any amount

to 331 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139 with a note that your gift is in Ron Denhardt's honor. All proceeds will be made available for the benefit of the People of Color Sangha. Thank you very much for your generosity!

Sincerely,
Patty Shepard, and Ian and Shane Denhardt



This week, Rev. Heather had a brief conversation with **Maria**, the Sanctuary guest at First Parish Bedford. As a Level 2 Sanctuary congregation, WUS has been an active participant in the coalition of congregations supporting Maria and FPB for the past three years. She just received a one-year stay of deportation order.

Maria asked that we share her deep gratitude for all the love and financial and emotional support offered to her and her family during her sanctuary stay. She misses us and sends her best wishes. Maria affirms "when things get difficult, God puts angels into your life!"

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

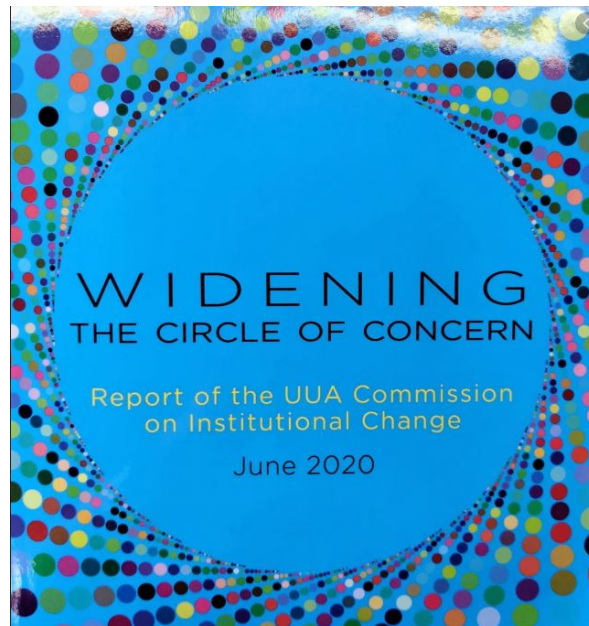


TONIGHT'S OPEN MIC HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL TUESDAY, MAY 4TH DUE TO A LOW NUMBER OF SIGN UPS. WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US THEN!

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~~ **Tuesday, May 4th 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](#).



Building Beloved Community, Circle by Circle

Join us in open-minded, open-hearted conversation on Saturday morning, March 27, at 10 a.m. for Session One, Theology, led by Rev. Heather!

If you plan to participate, please let Rev. Heather know by emailing heather.janules@winchesteruu.org

During our March 21 service, we heard news again of *Widening the Circle of Concern*, the Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change released last June at General Assembly.

Our own Rev. Heather will lead the first in a series of workshops designed to help UU congregations move into, understand, and implement the emergent and transformative findings of this report.

Unitarian Universalist theology and spirituality are often defined by freedom of thought. Yet there is a difference between freedom for the individual and collective liberation. What DNA “writ large” is in our individual DNA? Our dominant white culture? What is in our collective Unitarian Universalist DNA? Equity, justice, compassion, interdependence, inherent worth and dignity of each person?

Our office now has several copies of the report that you can borrow; please contact our office administrator, Thomas Slack, Thomas.slack@winchesteruu.org.

The report is also available online at <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>.

If you can make time, and absolutely not a requirement, read the chapter on theology. You can also listen online while you polish the car or fold the laundry!

Join together in exploration on March 27, 10 a.m. through 12 noon, on our Zoom link: www.tinyurl/wusworship

Your Racial Justice Team Planning Group —
Vicky Coccoluto, Phil Coonley, Gloria Legvold, Gordy McIntosh, Claire McNeill,
Patty Shepard, Sandy Thompson

Knitters! Join the Knitting Circle this Sunday

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will have its first group knit this Sunday, March 28th at 5pm at www.tinyurl.com/wusworship



We welcome knitters who are not making shawls too! The first half hour, we will craft in silence to reflective music. The second half hour we will enjoy a conversation with each other. Contact Rev. Heather at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org if you plan to attend.

Photo by rocknwool on Upsplash



From the Music Committee:

Our 15th WUS Concert Series concludes with the Kemp Harris trio on April 17th. Kemp is a singer, songwriter, story teller, and master weaver of American musical styles. On NPR's *On Point*, Kemp has been described as being "beautifully there" and as an artist who will "take your breath away."

Please join us on Saturday, April 17th at 7:00 PM. 50% of "door donations" will be shared with the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury. An all church Zoom invite will be sent out a few days before the concert. You can see Kemp and friends in action at this site: <https://www.kempharris.band/>



The Pastoral Care Associates invite you to the next **Coffee/Tea and bagel gathering on Tuesday, April 16th at 9:30.** While we wait for herd immunity and warm weather, let's connect virtually. Join us via the main link, <https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>. Dropping in and out is fine - we'll be there!

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.

Nourish Your Spirit Spiritual Practice in Community

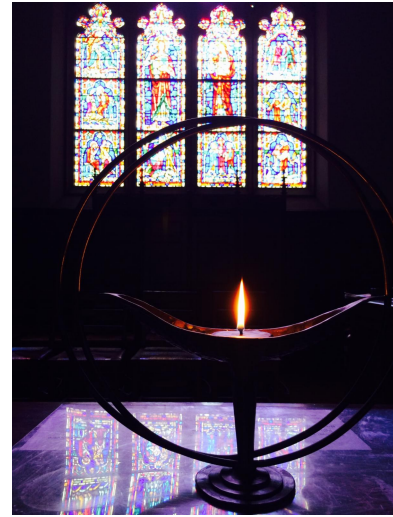
A year into the pandemic, in the heart of winter, so many of us are soul tired, angry, living with deep grief. These are the times when caring for body mind and spirit are critical. Please join us.

**PLEASE NOTE: THE WEDNESDAY EVENING
MEDITATION GROUP IS NO LONGER OFFERED.**

SABBATH SIT

Led by Rev. Heather
Each Friday, 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!

Visioning Team Final Report

The Visioning Team has considered all feedback from the cottage meetings and finalized their report. Notes from all meetings are included as appendices. You can find the report on the Members & Friends page of the website or at this link: <https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Visioning-Team-Final-Report-3.17.2021-rev-E.pdf>

An opportunity to take political action to dramatically reduce CO2 emissions while furthering economic and environmental justice

Soon, the Biden Administration and Congress will be considering serious climate change policy legislation. During the week of March 22-26, you have the opportunity to join Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), and thousands of fellow Americans, who will be calling Congress asking them to support climate legislation that includes a price on CO2 emissions. Economists overwhelmingly favor a tax on CO2 emissions, similar to that included in the [Energy Innovation Act](#) (EICDA). It is noteworthy that the [UUA is on the record as a supporter](#) of EICDA, having judged it to be consistent with key Unitarian Universalist principles of environmental and economic justice.

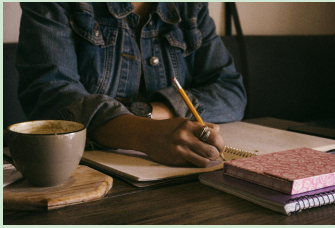
There are several alternatives on the CCL website for reaching out to your congressional representative:

1. To write, go to the [email support web page](#) on the CCL website.
2. To call, go to the [call your legislator support web page](#) on the CCL website.

Just follow the simple instructions. There's also a CCL video, posted on reddit ([Nervous about calling congress?](#)), showing what to expect during your call, and how to get your opinion on the record.

Americans now have the best chance it may have for many years to pass meaningful climate change policy legislation. The time for you to act is coming soon.

If you have any questions, contact either John Keller (wxchief@gmail.com) or Carol Delaney (ccdolaney1@hotmail.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

Social Action & Outreach

The many **vigils of support for the Asian Americans** held in our area demonstrate that our larger community does care for each other. There are many ways to work for fairness and equity. As we examine our own church community to see ways in which we could widen our circle we hope you will attend the workshops this spring. This Saturday morning at 10 AM we will think about how we can live our core beliefs. **Let us all work to Widen our Circle of Concern at WUS.**

Grants deadline reminder. Member and staff sponsors: please send your completed grant applications to a member of the Social Action and Outreach Committee **by March 31.**



Put Your Commitment to Racial Justice Into Action!

When UU Mass Action staff speak with congregations, many of you tell us that you're committed to taking action for racial justice. All our work is grounded in racial justice and we both build relationships with *and* center the leadership of those who are most impacted by forms of oppression and injustice.

Showing up for racial justice means centering the leadership and voices of those who are most impacted and being committed to doing what we are asked to do. Legislative action is an important part of creating systemic change. Join with hundreds of other UUs in MA for our annual advocacy day on Tuesday April 13 on zoom, to help amplify our collective voice!

[Find the list of priority bills and informational videos here](#)

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 21st 12-1PM. This month, an exploration of the **Buddhist religion, Buddhism.** This week, after a break for Passover, we return to the **three Jewels and the five precepts of Buddhism - beginning and ending with a short 2-3 minute meditation.** 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.

RE Volunteers needed! We need several people willing to hide nonperishables on the congregation's property on Easter morning (April 4th) before worship. Please contact Naomi Magnoni via rec@winchesteruu.org to volunteer.

Annual Easter Canned Goods Hunt April 4th, 12:30-2:00ish 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. We are also planning to meet with master gardener Margaret Lowry for some gardening know how as we begin our summer WUS garden.

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. This 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.

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 seeing you all and getting ready for our service camp in April! 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.

Beyond the Congregation

UU Advocacy Day

When: Tue April 13 (zoom only event)

We will have a live closed captioner for this event

Program 11:00 - 12:00 PM

Optional drop-in support hour, 12:00 - 1:00PM

Meetings with State Rep's 1:00 PM* - Meetings with State Senators 2:30 PM*

*Most meetings will take place at these time, some meeting times may vary

- Registration deadline: April 6, [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Share this info with your congregation:** [Newsletter blurb](#)
- **More details are available on our** [Facebook Event Page](#)
- [Issue summary videos and fact sheets](#)

This event takes a lot of work to organize -

Please help us out and register early!

Join one of two optional training opportunities to help you prepare for UU Advocacy Day (click the link the date to register):

[Wednesday, April 7th, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm](#) or

[Thursday, April 8th, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm](#)

[Action Guide: we will collect all the materials you will need in this doc, which will continue to be updated between now and UU Advocacy Day.](#)

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

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