

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights March 4, 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

***The Winchester Unitarian Society
Office will be closed on Monday,
March 8th! The Office will be open
again on Tuesday!***

Upcoming Worship

**Sunday, March 7
10:30 Worship, ONLINE**



Photo by [Benjamin Voros](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Half the Sky: Honoring International Women's Day in the Era of COVID 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, "What's The Story?" *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

Today we received the following sad news from **Patty Shepard**: "After nearly a year of treatment for metastatic cancer, **Ron Denhardt** died peacefully yesterday afternoon (March 3, 2021) in the presence of his wife, Patty Shepard, and 2 adult sons **Ian and Shane Denhardt**. When we know the details of the 'Celebration of Life' event that the Cambridge Insight Meditation Center (CIMC) will be having on zoom, we will share them here. The three of us seem to be doing well, all things considered. Remaining grateful for all of the many kindnesses that have been offered to Ron and his family during this very significant time in our lives, Patty"

Yesterday would have been **Linda Reck's** 82nd birthday. Her family has selected March as the time to hold a virtual memorial service as part of this annual celebration of her birth. Please join us for a virtual service on **Sunday, March 21st at 3pm** at the link we use for worship.



Terry Currier and Sarah Kelley are overjoyed to announce the birth of their grandson and nephew, **Hunter Kelley LaMontagne**. He was born on **Sunday, February 28** to **Rebecca Kelley** - Terry's daughter and Sarah's sister - and **Brian LaMontagne**.

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!

DRE Search Team

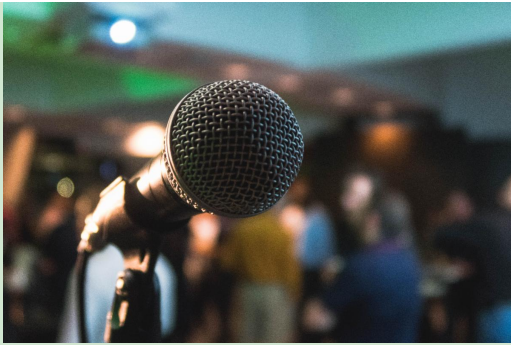
In June 2021, Rebecca Kelley-Morgan will be bringing her ministry with WUS to a close. The Standing and Religious Education Committees are putting together a Search Team to begin work very soon to find an Interim or Acting Director, as recommended by the RE Visioning Team in their report. The team will 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!

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





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

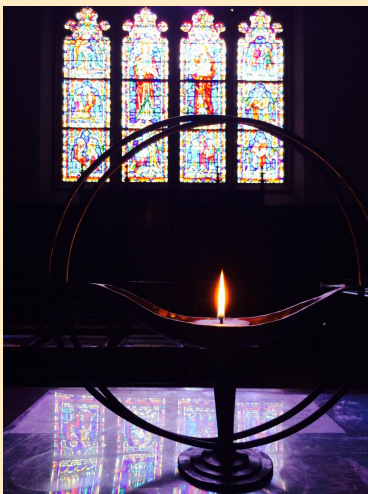
Thanks to everybody who made the last open mic night a huge success. We had a number of stellar performers from our congregation who contributed their talent along with some friends from the Music School and the broader community. I hope many of you tuned in to enjoy the event. "Let's do it again!" was 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

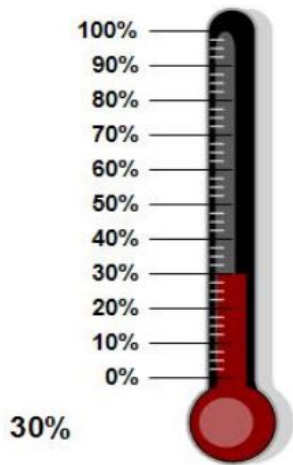
www.tinyurl.com/hkjzoom

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

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!



A Message from the Pledge Team

Annual Pledge Campaign Update

This Sunday we will be more than halfway through our month-long campaign. We've already received 45 pledge cards representing nearly **30%** of pledging households and putting us on our way to the \$375,000 goal. Please help us reach 100% **participation by March 15**. Thank you. Pledging is easy: submit your card by mail or pledge online at www.winchesteruu.org/giving/pledge/.

Your pledge team,

Robbie Brown, Alison Kirchgasser, Stephen Perepeluk

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.

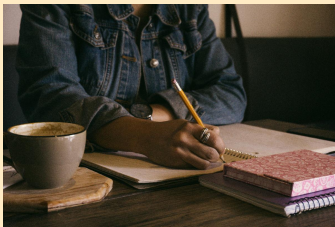
Thank you to our Building Committee and some generous donors for these Capital Projects:

- 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

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.

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

Join UUUM on-line for stories of the **life, work, and legacy of Henry Hampton** in Roxbury and beyond. **March 9, 5:30 to 7:00pm.** Henry Hampton is the acclaimed creator of the award-winning documentary *Eyes on the Prize*. Go to: www.uuum.org

Advocate for Vaccine Equity now. MIRA and eleven other civil rights, immigrant justice and public health organizations from across the commonwealth formed the Vaccine Equity Now! Coalition. To support their recommendations for Gov. Baker see: www.miracoalition.org

On Wednesdays this spring, join [Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice](http://charleshamiltonhouston.org) at Harvard Law School for a series of virtual film screenings with panel discussions. **On March 10 view "The Uncomfortable Truth,"** from 7:00 to 9:00. <https://charleshamiltonhouston.org/events/anti-racism-film-series-the-color-of-covid-project/>



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 7th 12-1PM. This month, an exploration of the **Buddhist religion, Buddhism.** This week, **“The Middle Way”** Buddhist beliefs. 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 on the website](#), and stickers and other decorating materials will be made available at WUS.

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 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. This program is open to the greater community, so please spread the word!

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

WUSYG is having a regular ZOOMSYG meeting this Sunday, 4:30-6 pm:
www.tinyurl.com/wusygzoom

Linda Copeland will be joining us after check-in to lead "Tarot- Hold your Future in your Hands." Please bring a regular deck of playing cards. It's okay if some are missing. Tarot decks or no decks are ok too! 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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