

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights April 1, 2021
(link to today's full issue of Highlights)



The Theme for April is Becoming
Photo: "Courage" by Rebecca Kelley-Morgan

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, April 4
10:30 Worship, ONLINE



Gary Bendig on Unsplash

The Growing Edge:

An Easter Service

The Rev. Heather Janules

All are *highly encouraged* to wear a festive hat to worship or other spring finery!

At 12:30 on Sunday, all who can are invited to come to the WUS yard to cheer on our young friends engaged in the canned good hunt.
COVID protocols will be followed so please wear a mask!

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, “Easter Eggs” for some thoughts about this spring Holiday. *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.

Annual Easter Canned Goods Hunt April 4th, 12:30-2:00ish As of this printing the weather forecast is a bright one. 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.

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.

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

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

BUDGET PREVIEW AND FEEDBACK SESSIONS

FY22 Budget presentation and discussion will be held **via Zoom at 7 pm on Monday 4/12 or Wednesday 4/14** – choose the date convenient to you. This is your opportunity to help our Standing Committee draft a budget for the next church year (Sept 1, 2021 through Aug 31, 2022) which will be presented for your vote at Annual Meeting in May. We're looking for your input to ensure smooth operations and programming for our next fiscal year. If you have not yet submitted your FY22 pledge, now is the time! Materials are provided for you to review before the meeting. Details and Zoom link can be found [HERE](#). The Budget Team (Patrick Draine, Sue Kiewra, Judy Murray and Brad Steele) looks forward to seeing you.

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/>



Harvest the Power Leadership: We meet next Sunday, April 11th for our fifth session at 4:00 PM. "Integrity". Our sixth session is on April 25th.

Please be sure to check out the Racial Justice Book suggestions in this (and every) edition of Highlights. We invite you to join a conversation beginning April 13th based on this year's UUA common read and hosted by our Austin congregation. Please contact Rebecca@WinchesterUU.org for additional details.

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 Pastoral Care Associates invite you to the next **Coffee/Tea and bagel gathering on Tuesday, April 20th 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!





"The Good Place"

Bring-A-Friend Sunday
April 18 | 10:30am

Join us on Zoom
<https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

Winchester Unitarian Society

Ever wonder about the afterlife?

Join us for a light-hearted and thought-provoking exploration of the BIG questions raised by the TV show, "The Good Place."

There has been a terrible mistake - Eleanor Shellstrop learns she has died and gone to the Good Place but has not actually done any of the virtuous deeds to be there. Thus begins the television show "The Good Place," inviting its viewers to consider the nature of the afterlife, mistakes of all kinds, what makes someone "good," human motivation and our favorite flavors of frozen yogurt. A number of WUS community members followed Eleanor and her friends through four seasons of the program together. This service is based on our exploration of the big questions raised by *The Good Place*. We will be careful to avoid spoilers. While you are not required to watch the show in advance of this service, you are encouraged to do so.

Connect with WUS's friendly members and join in the conversation during virtual coffee hour after the service!

You are Invited to Celebrate Rebecca's Ministry

WUS's Director of Lifespan Religious Education Rebecca Kelley-Morgan will finish her time with us at the end of this program year. Plans are afoot to celebrate her twelve years of service and many shared memories.



The "Celebrate Rebecca" team has some special gifts in mind to honor Rebecca. (If you want to know some of the details, contact a member of the team by writing CelebrateRKM@winchesteruu.org)

We invite you to contribute to our community celebration in a couple ways:

- Post your memories, photos, words of gratitude, short video reflections, art by children and then some to this virtual memory book: www.tinyurl.com/CelebrateRKM Please contact a member of the Celebration Team if you would like technical assistance in posting your contribution: CelebrateRKM@winchesteruu.org
- Some of the special gifts need to be ordered so you can support the effort by sending a check or electronic payment to the WUS office with "Rebecca Gift" in the memo line or comment field. Any contributions beyond the cost of the special acknowledgements will be given to Rebecca as a financial gift. (Note: these contributions are not tax deductible.)

Thank you, in advance, for your participation and generosity!

Karen Erikson, Lee Barton, Linda Copeland, Mary McIntosh and Rev. Heather Janules

Pledge Reminder

Even though our "official" month-long campaign has ended, efforts continue behind the scenes. We recently sent an email reminder to members and friends whose pledges we hope are forthcoming. We recognize that this has been a difficult

year for many in our congregation and understand that it may not be possible for all to make a pledge or to increase their amount. Please know that we will be grateful for any amount you are able to pledge. Please also let the office know even if you decide that you won't be making a pledge this year so we can remove your name from future updates. Feel free to contact the office for a replacement card to submit by mail or you can download a new card or pledge online at www.winchesteruu.org/giving/pledge/.

Robbie Brown, Alison Kirchgasser and Stephen Perepeluk



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

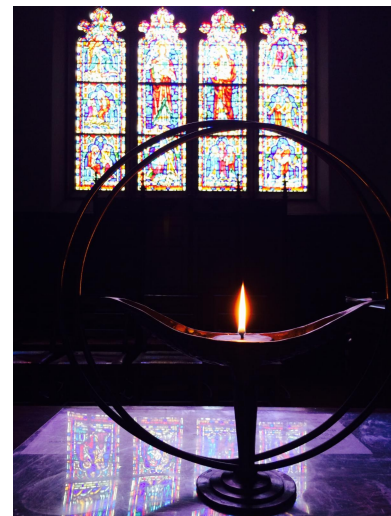
A year into the pandemic, in the heart of winter, so many of us are soul tired, angry, living with deep grief. These are the times when caring for body mind and spirit are critical. Please join us.

**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).

Social Action & Outreach

This spring, join **Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice at Harvard Law School** for a series of virtual film screenings with panel discussions.

[***Love & Solidarity: James Lawson & Nonviolence in the Search for Workers' Rights***](#)

Wednesday, April 7, 7:00-9:00 pm [Register](#)

[***Day One***](#) A woman who is on her first *day* of working as an interpreter for the United States Army is forced to deliver a baby for the wife of an enemy bomb maker.

Wednesday, April 21, 7:00-9:00pm [Register](#)

Youth and Guns Virtual Town Hall. Wednesday, April 7th at 11:00 AM

The MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence is partnering with [Citizens for Juvenile Justice](#). The Center for Court Innovation has released an in depth and critical report on why youth pick up guns. [A link to the report is here](#) A panel will discuss what their recommendations mean in MA. [Register HERE](#)

UU Mass Action can assist YOU to join with other UUs to advocate for changes in our state on a list of justice themes: Immigration, Incarceration, Environment, Indigenous and Housing. To learn if your State Senator and/or Representative is a co-sponsor for one of the bills, read this chart and then tell them which bills you support. Democracy requires participation.

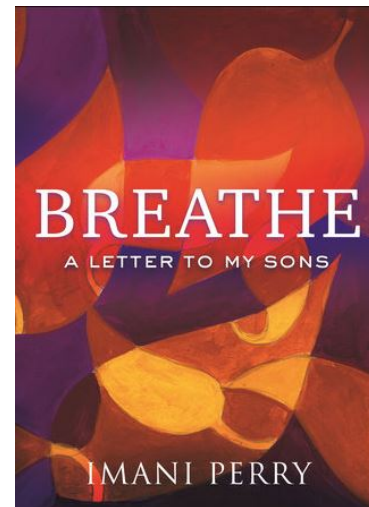
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Building Beloved Community, Book by Book

The stark words, “I can’t breathe,” have become all too familiar in the context of law enforcement dealing with Black and brown bodies. Imani Perry chose to title her book, *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons*. She writes, “Feeling deep love and complete helplessness to protect the beloveds is a fact of Black life.”

Perry, a professor of African-American studies at Princeton University, graduated from local Concord Academy, received an undergraduate degree from Yale, and Ph.D. and J.D. from Harvard. Her compact book of personal experience, vulnerabilities, and admonition is peppered with Baldwin, DuBois, Shakespeare, Dickinson, Morrison, Emerson, Wells and more.



Love, pride, imagination paired with discipline, resilience are foundational themes. She teaches her sons not to hold up their hands in the “don’t shoot” mode but rather to raise their right fist in power. As Perry states to her two sons on the first page, “... to admit that you are people. Black boys. People. This fact, simple as it is, shouldn’t linger on the surface. It should penetrate.”

A reader will find passages of unflinching challenge--that deeply resonate with anyone guiding young people and reveal once again what we white parents never have to say to our own children. Yet, Perry encouragingly says, “...joy, even in slivers, shows up everywhere. Take it. And keep taking it.”

Breathe is the “UUA Reads” choice for 2021. This year, in the world of virtual meetings, we have the exciting opportunity to join three Tuesday evening discussions, beginning April 13, with a UU congregation in Austin, Texas. A different part of the country with new friends to meet! Explore yourself

at: <https://www.uua.org/read/breathe>. Rebecca Kelley-Morgan will answer your questions, too: rebecca@winchesteruu.org

--Your Racial Justice Team Planning Group.



March, April, MAY! Almost time to make another move forward—now into new housing--for the family in need.

They have been working hard toward self-sufficiency: the dad has found a job in his field, health care, and the mom is studying while caring for their special needs son.

She writes, “...we need to save for **rent** and to supply basic needs for our little child. Your help will bring a smile to our child and hope to us. We want to restart our new life as American residents.”

Although the **housing unit** itself will be modest, first and last months’ **rent** and security deposits mount!

In the past year, many of you had generously helped with basic supplies, money, and friendship. The small “family support team” is again asking for your direct help in any amount possible.

We are establishing a new GoFundMe account, specifically for this **housing** need. **Please be on the lookout for the link we will soon provide.** A personal check is another option.

If you have any questions, contact:

Karen Hirschfeld (781-488-8805; karenhirschfeld@gmail.com)

Gloria Legvold (781-729-8247; glegvold@comcast.net)

Sandy Thompson (781-729-8063; sandra.thompson3@comcast.net).

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 does NOT meet this Sunday, April 4th. We reconvene next Sunday with our friends in Chicago at noon. 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.

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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