

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights September 16, 2021

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



Photo: "Ocean's Reach" by Bob Janules. This photo not only reflects the ocean's "embracing" nature but is also shared in celebration of Water Communion and recognition of the meaning of fractals in adrienne maree brown's "Emergent Strategy"

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, September 19

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Note New Virtual Worship Logistics Below!



Photo by [Andy Wang](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Hot Rocks and Conscience Letters: A Modern Parable of Repentance

The Rev. Heather Janules

IN PERSON ATTENDEES

Come to the WUS Sanctuary (478 Main Street, Winchester)

You will be asked to sign in, indicating that you are free of COVID symptoms and have not been exposed to COVID. This task, plus finding a seat (as half the pews are roped off) will take more time than usual so plan to come early for a 10:30 beginning.

There will be brief times when the congregation will be visible on the livestream so if you don't want to be seen virtually, please choose one of the pews in the back marked as private.

The livestream will be broadcast on the front Terrace for those who wish to be at WUS but choose to attend outdoors (new tech set up willing; additional devices as back up welcome!) **Parents with young children** are especially encouraged to attend on the Terrace so the service can be experienced safely and in community.

Please read below under "Religious Education" for more information.

The Membership Committee seeks Ushers and Greeters for future in-person services.

Ushers and Greeters will manage the sign-in process.

If you are willing and able to volunteer, please email membership@winchesteruu.org

VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

On Sunday, September 19th at 10:30 AM, **click here to connect with the livestream** from the Sanctuary: <https://tinyurl.com/WUSlivestream>

(Note that the Stream is not yet run through our Zoom account so attendees won't be able to post to the chat and interact in real time. Stay tuned for future advancement when this will be possible! Thank you for your patience.)

At the conclusion of the Postlude, **click here to attend Virtual Social Hour:**

<https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

All are invited to attend and participate in **Outdoor Coffee Hour** on the new Terrace directly after the service.

More information about the worship services can be found on the [website](#) and the Weekend Worship Announcement that comes out on Friday.

Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

The Service in Celebration of the Life of **Beth O'Donnell** will be held on **Saturday, September 25th, at 1:00 pm.**, followed by an outdoor reception (weather permitting) on the Bell Tower Terrace.

Seating in the sanctuary will be through a reservation system to ensure we not exceed capacity. This reservation system will be made available to the public via Highlights next Thursday, with priority being given to Beth's immediate family and closest friends in the meantime. Please note that masks will be required for all attendees and social distancing will be observed while seated in the sanctuary. An audio/visual broadcast of the service will be streamed to another place at WUS to accommodate overflow seating. For those who are unable to be present in person, the link to the livestream is www.tinyurl.com/wuslivestream

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



Volunteers Needed as WUS Returns to In-Person Worship Services

The Winchester Unitarian Society has returned to in-person/hybrid gatherings which means volunteers are needed to serve as ushers, greeters, and Sunday Secretary. Please contact the WUS Office for more information or sign-up at this link: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1drji6sztX5log0twVilyrFzSYjFq3MK_RU9Yne3McdA/edit#gid=0

Thank you! See you at the next worship service!

office@winchesteruu.org
(781) 729-0949

New WUS Fundraiser Coming in November

As we head into Fall, you may be wondering what type of fundraising can WUS do while Covid continues to linger? Well, we have your answer!



We've partnered with [Maxsold](#), an online auction company specializing in downsizing and estate sales, which is offering fee-free auctions to nonprofits during Covid. That means all the money we raise through the auction will be used to support WUS.

We'll be asking WUS members to donate gently-used, vintage, new, and interesting items for the auction. With everyone spending more time at home, this is the ideal time to dig out those "treasures" and give them new life. Donations can be dropped off at WUS in early November, and will be auctioned off to support WUS, so please start setting them aside.

What can you donate? It's really anything that has value: Smaller furniture like side tables and benches, new and used tools, classic cameras, costume jewelry, watches,

book collections, vintage and collectables, Mid-Century Modern, and home décor like framed prints, matching lamps, mirrors and rugs, as well as sports memorabilia, newer exercise and sports equipment, new electronics like Rhomba or classic electronics like speakers and turntables, and even Pokeman classic cards are just a few examples. The best way to understand a MaxSold auction is to visit their web site and poke around. <https://maxsold.com>.

We seek Volunteers to help with the physical side of the auction, which involves sorting donations and adding photos to the online Auction Catalog, among other tasks. If you are interested in Volunteering on this fundraiser, please email Rachel Whitehouse at racheljwhitehouse@hotmail.com



We Believe in Dog Walks Again!

We Believe in Dog is a gathering of WUS members and friends – and their dogs – who walk together in the Fells. You don't need a dog to participate! All participating dogs must be friendly and vaccinated.

We next gather on Saturday, September 25th. We will meet at the second of three entrances to the Middlesex Fells on Hillcrest Parkway at **10:00 am** and start walking around 10:05. *There will be a sign-in sheet with a brief symptom survey. If you are fully vaccinated, as per CDC guidelines, you won't need to wear a mask.* All dogs, however, are free to walk without masks. :)

Let Rev. Heather know if you plan to come: heather.janules@winchesteruu.org
Please also send your cell number if this is your first walk so we can reach out to you if you are not at the starting point when we are about to begin.

New Platform for Online Giving

On September 30, 2021 the GIVE+ app will be terminated by VANCO. It is for this reason that the Winchester Unitarian Society has decided to transition to a new provider for our online giving needs.



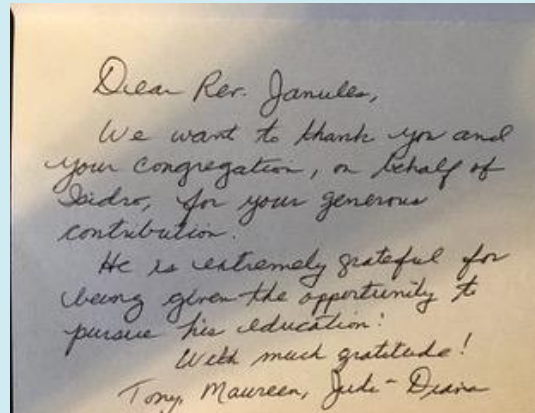
The new platform will become official as of Friday, October 1st but has already been setup if you would like to familiarize yourself with it before the end of September. You can find some information about Breeze Online Giving and Text Giving below:

<https://wus.breezechms.com/give/online>

Your text-to-give number is live at:
(781) 230-6690

The Winchester Unitarian Society office staff will be reaching out to regular users of VANCO over the next two weeks to help with any questions or concerns as we transition to the Breeze platform. Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you require any assistance. Thank you!

The folks at First Parish Bedford sent this card on behalf of Isidro. They wanted to express their gratitude and appreciation for those members of the Winchester Unitarian Society who made contributions in support of his continued education.



A Note from Kye, Summer Minister

I just wanted to thank you so much for the time with you this summer, and for your part in making the summer services so meaningful and deep — whether through preaching or lay leadership, video-wrangling, beautiful music, active participation in after-service conversation, communicating with the congregation, or offering much-needed PCA support. It's meant a lot to be able to work with you this summer, and to be able to witness you work, support, laugh, rest and grieve together.



I am wishing you all a beautiful Fall, and sending such gratitude for our time together this summer.

I was hoping we'd be moving out into a wide-open covid-free fall, instead we are re-grouping and realizing there is more groundedness and gentleness being asked of us — "there is more love, somewhere." We will keep on 'til we find it :)

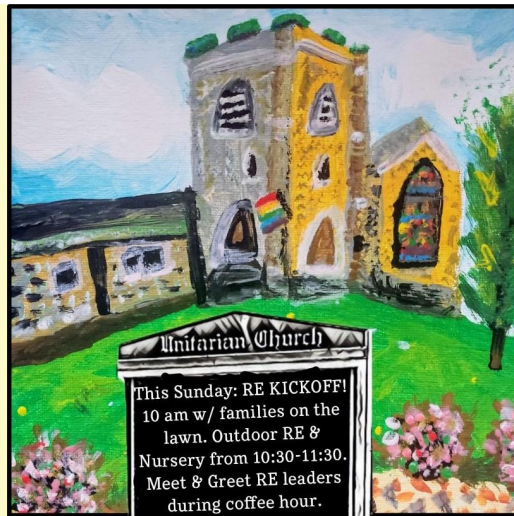
It's good to know you all are out there in the world, being a loving community with one another. Winchester remains one of the places where my heart is at home — thank you.

With all my best wishes for your health and well-being this coming year, and far beyond. <3

Religious Education

This Sunday, September 19th is the RE Kickoff starting at 10 AM! Families with children in K-6 are invited to join us on the WUS lawn near the parking lot at 10 AM to meet Sam, our new Interim Coordinator of Religious Educator (whom many of you

already know!), plus our new team of teen RE teachers and volunteer adult RE assistants. The nursery will also be open outside for our youngest. We're so excited to meet you and be all together in person again!!! We'll all play some getting to know you games before parents head off to worship, and kids will stay to continue some fun outdoor activities together with all the RE leaders. Parents are then encouraged to visit our RE Table after the worship service, during coffee hour outside, to find out more about our unique and exciting programming for this year and chat more with Sam and members of the RE Committee. Please also lookout for a dedicated newsletter to families tomorrow, and also feel free to email Sam with any questions: sam.wilson@winchesteruu.org.



Please note that for now, **RE programming will be held outdoors, and everyone will be required to wear masks and stay 3 feet apart.** Vaccinated RE leaders may lower their masks to lead certain activities outdoors from 6+ feet away. **Parents will need to check-in** their children each Sunday before dropping them off, re- COVID symptoms, consent to go into Metcalf depending on the weather, etc. We are also now asking that parents come back **and sign children out** by 11:45 each Sunday. We will have other protocols in place as well, and will continue to update you if any of the above changes. We are so grateful in advance for all of your patience and graciousness as we all wade through another complicated year together, but we're also really looking forward to having some fun together this year and cultivating some new and deeper relationships with each other while exploring our spirituality and UU values!

OWL (Our Whole Lives, 7th and 8th grades): There is a mandatory parent orientation meeting on 9/26 from 4:30-6 pm in the Symmes Room. OWL's first class will be 4:30-6 pm on 10/17. For more information, please message OWL facilitator Karen Caputo: kcaputo8@hotmail.com who will also send separate weekly emails to parents.

WUSYG: Winchester Unitarian Youth Group (9th-12th Grade)



This Sunday, the 19th, is WUSYG's Opening Night Potluck from 4:30-7 pm! Youth: tell your friends! Parents are invited to join us from 6:30-7 pm to meet Sam and Alex (the new Assistant Director of Youth Ministries!) Please check out linktr.ee/wusyg to find links for everything related to WUSYG this year - go there now to sign up for the potluck! Meetings will be generally be from 4:30-6:30 pm, outdoors, and unvaxxed participants will need to wear masks (everyone will also need to wear them to use the bathroom or if we move into Metcalf Hall during inclement weather). Also, save the dates Oct.

15-17 for the return of our beloved Fall Retreat at the Farm! For any questions, concerns (or compliments!) please reach out at anytime to Sam and Alex: wusyouth@gmail.com WE'RE SO EXCITED TO SEE YOU AGAIN THIS SUNDAY!

Social Action & Outreach

UUSJ (Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice) September 2021 - Write Here! Write Now! Tell Your U.S. Senators to Support Voting Rights

We have a rare moment to pass legislation protecting voting rights. This year [18 states have already enacted 30 laws making it more difficult to vote](#). These especially impact voters of color, indigenous voters and young people – folks who voting laws are supposed to protect.

We are therefore urging senators to support the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Together these establish clear voting rights for all and prevent partisan gerrymandering. Senators must not allow the filibuster to kill these popular bills.

Please use this [convenient online letter writing platform](#) to edit and send letters to your senators. They need to hear from as many of us as possible to re-enforce the importance of this legislation, and thank them for their efforts.

UU Grounding: As UUs, we affirm the sacredness and power of each voice and vote. Our 5th UU Principle compels us “to advocate for a healthy, inclusive democratic process.” On June 26 the UUA General Assembly approved an Action of Immediate Witness (AIW), a resolution to Stop Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Rights and a Multiracial Democracy. [See full text here.](#)



BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, ACTION BY ACTION

Each year our Unitarian Universalist Association calls our congregations to focus on crucial issues of justice and equity. In 2021 the Actions of Immediate Witness have been The Covid-19 Pandemic; Stop Voter Suppression; Defend and Advocate with Transgender, Non-Binary, and Intersex Communities.

There is also an important [2021 Statement of Conscience: Undoing Systemic White Supremacy](#). Its opening reads:

“Seeking universal justice and equity, we call upon the Unitarian Universalist Association and Unitarian Universalist individuals and congregations/groups to actively engage in undoing systemic white supremacy in all of its manifestations...”

To read the full statement, please go to:

<https://www.uua.org/action/statements/undoing-systemic-white-supremacy>

Over the next weeks, your Racial Justice Team will share four specific actions we can consider together, as compassionate Winchester Unitarian Society “thinkers and doers.”

Please contact us with ideas and questions. Join us in this work. We will welcome you!

--Sandy Thompson, Patty Shepard, Claire McNeill, Gordy McIntosh, Gloria Legvold, Phil Coonley, Vicky Coccoluto



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



Beyond the Congregation

NOTRE DAME DE PARIS: THE RESTORATION (Live talk)
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 17 at 7 PM
Griffin Museum of Photography, 67 Shore Rd., Winchester

A massive fire in April 2019 devastated the cathedral of Notre Dame, one of the architectural treasures of the world. Michel Picaud, President of the [Friends of Notre Dame de Paris](#), will speak of his organization's efforts to rebuild the cathedral. The talk is presented by the [Winchester Jumelage Association](#) with support from the Winchester Cultural Council. Free admission; free-will donations will be accepted towards the restoration work. Please register in advance via email to AClanigan@gmail.com.

FLUID SOUL AT MYSTIC LAKES (Virtual event)
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 at 7 PM

A special online event featuring Indian classical dance artist Mouli Pal and soprano sax player Phil Scarff, performing on the shores of Mystic Lake. The event will feature live performance by the artists along with screening of the videos providing a unique perspective of nature, which is not merely a background but is transformed into a character. For more information, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVT6tP8gSHE>

Attendance is free but registration is required, at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fluid-soul-at-mystic-lakes-tickets-170390819528>

**Winchester
Indigenous Peoples' Day
Family Celebration**

**Farm Tours
Crafts
Storytime
Planting Activity
Much More!**

October 11, 2021
Drop in from 10-12
Wright-Locke Farm | 78 Ridge St | Winchester, MA
Event is FREE, but registration is limited
Register at <https://tinyurl.com/4wd27wxp>

Presented by:

NETWORK
for **SOCIAL JUSTICE**
Educate - Engage - Activate

FAN FAMILY
ACTION NETWORK
of Winchester

***Do you have ENTHUSIASM and ENERGY to share?
Join our volunteer team at Winchester A Better Chance !
Please contact info@winchesterabc.org to learn details.***

Winchester A Better Chance (WABC) is a chapter of a national ABC program that provides academic opportunities for talented scholars of color.

WABC houses our scholars during the school year, and is run through the efforts of a team of dedicated volunteers.

Volunteer roles range from small to large!
Come learn more about WABC and the volunteer roles in WABC at the Sept 25 Farmers' Market!

Visit us at: www.WinchesterABC.org
www.facebook.com/winchesterabc/
www.instagram.com/winchesterabc/

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](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by office@winchesteruu.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!