

# Winchester Unitarian Society

**Highlights October 21, 2021**

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



*The Theme for October is "Cultivating Relationship"*

## Upcoming Worship

**Sunday, October 24**

**10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online**

Note New Virtual Worship Logistics Below!



**"To Affirm and Promote":  
A Principled Faith\***

## The Rev. Heather Janules

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### 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. Parents with young children** are especially encouraged to attend on the Terrace so the service can be experienced safely and in community.

**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](mailto:membership@winchesteruu.org)

### VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

On Sunday 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 **Vern Blodgett** will be this Sunday, October 24th at 2pm. A registration form to reserve seats in the Sanctuary can be found here: [Registration Link](#).

The service will also be livestreamed at [www.tinyurl.com/wuslivestream](http://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](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org)

## Congregational News

### We Believe in Dog Walks Again!

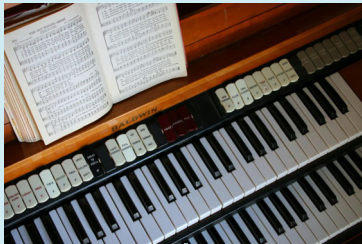
We Believe in Dog is a gathering of WUS members and friends – and their dogs – who walk together in the Fells. You don't need a dog to participate! All participating dogs must be friendly and vaccinated.



**We next gather on Saturday, October 30th.** 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](mailto: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.

**Save the Date for this fun intergenerational event on Halloween after worship/RE!**



### Concert Series Kicks Off on Nov 5th!

Our in-person and streamed (with new streaming technology) concert series begins on Friday Nov. 5th, 8:00 PM. John Kramer and Resident Musicians of musiConnects <https://www.musicconnects.org/> will perform piano quintets of Florence Price and Antonin

Dvorak. If you wish to be a concert series sponsor or know more about sponsorship, please contact Kathryn Maffei at [KLMINC@aol.com](mailto:KLMINC@aol.com). Please use this link to buy tickets for the concert, register to attend and upload an image of your vaccination card: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe2p\\_LWRBa00koVG3qpH1G8eS-6\\_qOcFLqzic5uskr8BrvGqw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe2p_LWRBa00koVG3qpH1G8eS-6_qOcFLqzic5uskr8BrvGqw/viewform)

### Thanksgiving Baskets

With the effects of the pandemic still lingering, many families continue to face food insecurity. We can help!

We have provided boxes of holiday foods for area families through the Council of Social Concern's Thanksgiving Basket Program. Last year we donated 45 boxes and



again have opportunity to participate this year.

This year, we estimate the cost per box, including a \$20 gift card to be from \$70--\$85. We have again arranged with Winchester Stop and Shop to provide boxes for people who would rather not shop themselves. Please let us know if you prefer this option.

**Sign up** to donate one or more dinners by sending Sue Doubler an email at [suedoubler@gmail.com](mailto:suedoubler@gmail.com). We will send you a shopping list and provide the heavy-duty box you will need.

Together, we can make Thanksgiving a happy holiday for many families in the Woburn/Winchester area who are facing difficult times.

### **New WUS Fundraiser:**

The WUS MaxSold Auction Starts Two Weeks from Today!

Can you believe it's only TWO weeks until we start our new fundraiser - The WUS Maxsold Auction! Now is the time to Volunteer and find that treasure to donate!



All aspects of our Maxsold auction will take place in the WUS Chapel, from Nov. 4 to Nov. 20. The actual auction is live to the public from Nov. 10-17. People who buy items - i.e. the public - will pick up their items at the Chapel on Nov. 20. How can you help?

#### #1: Donate

We're inviting all WUS members to donate gently-used, vintage, new, and interesting items for the auction. *Donations can be dropped off at the Chapel on two days only: Nov. 5 from 4-7 p.m. and Nov. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

What can you donate? Anything that has value or is interesting: 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>. Navigate to "Browse Auctions." At the top right of the page is a location search function. Type in 01890 into the box, on the dropdown click "within 30 miles" and then click Search.

If you want more info on what to donate, and what not to donate, check this link created by the WUS MaxSold Auction Team:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SifZZAJqQbMmw5lb8-LThfW3ExFaMI39QHMQbZsL9aI/edit?usp=sharing>

#### #2: Volunteer

We need 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. You can sign up for a specific date, time slot, and job at this Sign Up Genius web page.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f48acab2fa0f9c61-wusmaxsold>

### #3 Promote our Auction

When our auction is live, Nov. 10, we will send a link to all WUS members. You can share the link with your networks.

Thank you for engaging in this new WUS Fundraiser! If you have questions, please email Rachel Whitehouse at [racheljwhitehouse@hotmail.com](mailto:racheljwhitehouse@hotmail.com)

Changes to our climate are happening quickly. One-third of US counties have in recent months been hot with extraordinary flooding or forest fire impacts. Other parts of the world have fared worse. What can WUS do to help slow, stop, and eventually reverse climate change? What part can we play as a faith community and as individuals—educate? advocate? act? This question is at the heart of Green Sanctuary's work this year. Please join us. All are welcome, regardless of age.

Please e-mail Phil Coonley ([Coonley@me.com](mailto:Coonley@me.com)) to let us know if you are interested in being part of the Green Sanctuary's efforts. Our first task is to find a date and time that works for as many as possible. Even if you can't attend every meeting, but would like to join our climate efforts, let us know. To know more about what GS has done and might do, see the WUS Annual Report in the Members' section of the WUS website.



### **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](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1drji6sztX5log0twViLyrFzSYjFq3MK_RU9Yne3McdA/edit#gid=0)

**Thank you! See you at the next worship service!**

[office@winchesteruu.org](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org)

(781) 729-0949

## **Religious Education**



Thank you to everyone who joined us last week for Outdoor RE as we explored the song that we sing to each other in worship, and found our light while making lights together!

**This Sunday, October 24:**

**10:30 am - Outdoor RE for K-6:** This week in RE we will be continuing our more formalized RE programming and continuing to explore "Cultivating Relationships" (the same theme as the adult worship services for the month). Our topic this Sunday is "moving together," so we will be

doing some fun movement-based activities that bring us all together and help us to bond as a group.

**Cold Weather Update:** 'tis the season! Especially now that the colder weather is upon us, please remember that in the event of rainy/cold weather, our plan is to go into Metcalf Hall. Besides being a big room, what you may not know is that **Metcalf Hall has been updated with a state of the art air exchange system that filters all incoming air and exchanges the air in the room 4-5x an hour.** We made this upgrade during the pandemic to keep our community safe, and hope that this will help you make a more informed decision about your child's participation during colder weather. Parents are also given the option at sign-in to come get their kids instead if we feel like we need to move indoors.

**OWL (Our Whole Lives, 7th and 8th grades):** This Sunday is OWL's 2nd workshop, from 4:30-6 pm in the Wallace Room on the 3rd floor. The topic is "Exploring Values" and Sophia and Karen will be facilitating. For more information, please message Karen Caputo: [kcaputo8@hotmail.com](mailto:kcaputo8@hotmail.com) who also sends separate weekly emails to parents.

**Communication Overview:** Please **click here to see our Flyer with Draft Calendar and Overview of RE** for more details on what to expect in RE this year and several dates to save. To View & **Subscribe to our new WUS RE & WUSYG Google Calendar**, please go here: [www.tinyurl.com/WUSRECalendar](http://www.tinyurl.com/WUSRECalendar) Subscribing will allow you to see what's happening every Sunday. You can also simply view the calendar on our website: [www.winchesteruu.org/youth](http://www.winchesteruu.org/youth) For visual updates on our upcoming events, please follow our new WUS RE Instagram page here: [www.instagram.com/WUSReligiousEducation](http://www.instagram.com/WUSReligiousEducation)

If you have questions, concerns, suggestions, compliments, or simply want someone to chat with about your children and/or faith development, please always feel free to email Sam, Interim Coordinator of Religious Education: [sam.wilson@winchesteruu.org](mailto:sam.wilson@winchesteruu.org) or text/call him: 857-523-9933

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



We had such a blast with many of you last weekend at Buffalo Hill Farm! Here you can see several of us after clearing out a chunk of the forest and its invasive species, to help with biodiversity on the farm.

**This Sunday, Oct. 24: WUSYG Meeting outdoors, 4:30-6:30 pm**

**This Sunday we will have another regular meeting outside (or in Metcalf if it's too cold).**

**Save the Dates:**

**Oct. 31st:** WUSYG will be meeting early, from 2-4, on Halloween to accommodate other holiday plans. Come in costume!

**Nov. 14th:** Fall Fest! This is WUSYG's first fundraiser, a fun event after the service on Sunday, with carnival games, fall treats, and special performances by youth. Youth should expect to be at WUS from 10:30-1, and there is no regular meeting that night.

**Parents,** thanks so much for supporting your child's attendance in WUSYG this year! Here are a few things that you can also do, please:

1. [Register your child](#) if you haven't already (thank you to those who have!)
2. [Sign up here to bring snacks](#) for us sometime, please!
3. Subscribe to [our Calendar: tinyurl.com/wusrecalendar](https://ourcalendar.tinyurl.com/wusrecalendar)
4. **Follow us on Social Media: check out [linktr.ee/wusyg](https://linktr.ee/wusyg)** to find links for everything related to WUSYG this year, including all of our social media accounts and FB group for parents.

Questions, concerns, compliments, always feel free to email Sam & Alex: [wusyouth@gmail.com](mailto:wusyouth@gmail.com) (or text Sam: 857-523-9933 or message him on Facebook)

## Social Action & Outreach

### Freedom to Vote Rally in Washington, DC

Saturday, October 23, 11:30 - 1pm

corner of Constitution Ave. NW & NJ Ave. NW

We're into October, and the U.S. Senate has not been able to protect the freedom to vote due to partisan Senate obstructionism.

We are going to need to pull out all the stops to get the Freedom to Vote Act to the finish line. A broad coalition of organizations both local (Indivisible Massachusetts Coalition, MA Standing Up for Racial Justice, Indivisible Northampton, Swing Blue Alliance) and national (Common Cause, SEIU, NOW, Sierra Club, Brennan Center for Justice, Public Citizen and many others) have joined together to plan a Freedom to Vote rally in Washington, D.C.

Passing this bill is especially critical, since some swing-state legislatures have recently passed (or are proposing) laws giving themselves the ability to nullify the will of the voters and *declare* election winners.

Nowhere is it "chiseled in stone" that democracies cannot wither and perish. It has happened before; it is happening in Hungary, and in Poland, and it's threatening our own democracy with the "Flat Earth", science-denying, Jonestown-like cult of personality that we see trumping reason here in broad daylight.

It's as insidious, frightening and despair-inducing as it is puzzling, but as Mother Jones advised: Don't mourn; organize.

Since this Rally is happening while the Covid-pandemic is still with us, it complicates the logistics of getting safely to-and-from D.C. People are arranging to go by train, or bus, car, passenger van, etc.

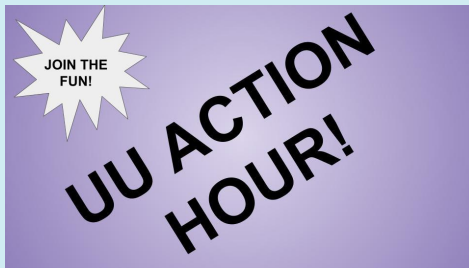
Contact John Healey to discuss how best to get there.



C: 774-289-2207

[OceanWaterLover@gmail.com](mailto:OceanWaterLover@gmail.com)

(If you cannot attend, there are ongoing phonebanks and postcard campaigns: to contact voters in West Virginia and Arizona, to have *them* call their Senators to urge them to make an exception to the filibuster to pass these voting rights bills.)



Do you find it challenging to make time to sign petitions, call your legislators, or send emails about issues you care about?

**Our monthly action hour is for you!**

Save the Date: Wed, Oct. 27, 12:00 - 1:00 PM

[RSVP](#)

Note: Date Change

UU Action Hours are now on the 3rd Wed of the month

[More info about Action Hours here](#)

## BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, BOOK BY BOOK

Heather McGhee's acclaimed book *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* invites the reader to join her exploration of the ways that racism has hurt white people, from the draining of public pools to avoid integrating them to the lending practices that led to thousands losing their homes and the subsequent economic downturn of 2008. But it's not all bad news.

McGhee tells hopeful stories about people coming together across race "This is the book I've been waiting for," says Ibram X Kendi, author of *How to Be an Antiracist*. "The Sum of Us can help us come together to build a nation for us all, with policies that benefit us all."



The Racial Justice Team

## 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](http://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



# Demystifying Affordable Housing: Lessons for Winchester

A discussion with Andrea Adams, former Watertown Senior Planner moderated by Marty Jones, Principal, MLJ Insights

**Wednesday October 27th  
7:30-9pm**

Sign up for this virtual program at [demystifyingaffordablehousing.eventbrite.com](https://demystifyingaffordablehousing.eventbrite.com)

With inquiries contact [office@nfsj.org](mailto:office@nfsj.org)



Eventbrite sign up:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/demystifying-affordable-housing-lessons-for-winchester-tickets-190605816127>

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(781) 729-0949 | [office@winchesteruu.org](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org) | [www.winchesteruu.org](http://www.winchesteruu.org)

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