

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights January 6, 2022

(link to today's full issue of Highlights)



The Theme for January is "Living With Intention"

Photo: The UU Community of Casper has created the Rev. James Reeb Memorial Mural Project. You can learn more about Reeb and other civil rights leaders featured in the mural here: <https://uucasper.org/james-reeb-mural/>

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, January 9th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below



Photo submitted by Sheila Puffer

Mysterious Times

Rev. Hank Peirce

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.

The livestream will be broadcast on the front Terrace for those who wish to be at WUS but choose to attend outdoors, weather and technology permitting.

VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

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

At the conclusion of the Postlude, **click here to attend Virtual Social Hour**: <https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

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

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

Our beloved administrator Thomas Slack will soon be heading to Japan to teach English to middle school children. What an adventure! His departure date has been delayed due to travel restrictions resulting from the most recent surge of the COVID pandemic. We are starting the process to find his successor. Our bylaws preclude members from being employed at WUS, but perhaps you could spread the word about the job opening beyond the congregation? Here's the announcement for you to circulate:

The Winchester Unitarian Society in Winchester, MA, seeks an Administration and Outreach Manager to oversee administrative, financial, and communications functions necessary for the effective operation of our liberal religious Unitarian Universalist congregation. Find a full job description [[HERE](#)]

This position is full-time. Salary range is \$48,000 - \$55,000 annually plus benefits, based on experience.

To apply, please email your cover letter and resume to WUSjobs2022@gmail.com.

With thanks from search team members Chuck Khuen, Liz Lintz, Judy Murray, Brad Steele



2022 WUS Circle Groups (deadline to sign up: January 16)

Dear WUS members and friends:

For those who have been at WUS awhile, you may remember that Membership organized "Circle Dinners", where [anyone interested in connecting, WUS members & friends alike] singles, couples and families were paired in small groups of 8-12 people, and households arranged to dine together in each others' homes in the Winter and Spring.

Last year this tradition was put on hold since it wasn't safe to gather. As Covid persists, we realize the need for connection, and so we're expanding the concept to **Circle Groups**. These include additional ways to connect, such as: Walking Groups, Game Nights, Arts & Crafts Groups and Virtual Movie Watching Groups.

To sign up, please fill out our survey, here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C79SQRN>

The deadline to sign-up is: **January 16th**.

For more info, check out the **FAQ Sheet** [here](#) or in the Symmes Room.

We encourage everyone to sign-up, as it's one of the most enjoyable ways to get to know others in our congregation!

From the Music Committee:

Join us for Jazz in the Sanctuary on Friday evening, January 28th at 8:00. The program of new music by John Kramer is titled Songs of Hope and Resilience. Come hear music written for this moment; music that will provide calm, joy, wonder, and renewal for your spirit. This music draws the great wealth of jazz history and style as it charts a course towards the future. John is joined by Rick McLaughlin on bass and Yoron Israel on drums. More information to come in upcoming Highlights.



Y'all means all! ALL of you are invited to join us in leading a fun activity for our K-6 kiddos on a Sunday morning in February. We are doing virtual RE for the remainder of January but hope to return in person in February for FebFest! Do you have a special craft you like to make, a thing you like to cook, a hobby or skill that brings you joy in sharing with others? Do you get a kick out of taking things apart and then putting them back together? What's your secret/hidden talent and can you show us how to do it? We're excited to have you ALL bring the things you're joyful about to our kids this February for the arrival of FebFest! In return, you'll get to

experience the magic of multigenerational ministry. This opportunity is not to be missed! Please reach out to Sam if you're interested (several slots are still available!) Sam.Wilson@winchesteruu.org

Green Sanctuary, the church's group most focused on the environment, meets the 2nd Sunday every month from Noon to 1:30. All are welcome. We are meeting only by Zoom for now. The Zoom link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/92846314712?pwd=S3FFUVhTdUI3Rzg2SW5QSzVRdWI0QT09>



Thank you so much for participating in Guest At Your Table (GAYT) again this year. **We will be collecting back the boxes and/or checks this Sunday, January 9th.** This will be your **final chance** to bring them back. **There will be a box in the Main Office to collect your boxes or checks**, or families can give them to their RE leaders. We will then send all of our donations to UUSC together (and create and share a tally of how much our congregation contributed). Thank you in advance for your generosity during this season of gratitude. Questions, email Sam: Sam.Wilson@winchesteruu.org



Happy New Year everyone! We had lots of fun making cupcakes and doing other fun things outdoors with you all last weekend :)

This Sunday, January 9th, 10:30 am - RE for K-6 On Zoom

We are moving from December "Opening to Joy" into January, "Living with Intention." With that in mind, we have intentionally decided to err on the side of safety for our children and

families. At this time, given that our county is in the [Severe Zone](#), our RE leaders have decided to suspend moving RE indoors for the month of January. We will review that decision on a monthly basis moving forward.

We will be doing virtual RE on Zoom from 10:30-11:30 for the remainder of the month. We will all meet together in our own zoom room at 10:30 for interactive activities as a group. At times we may also screenshare worship and watch parts of it together. The room will be open starting at 10 am (but not monitored), so parents can help their kids sign-on separately and then view worship on their own device in a different space if they wish to. We will also be compiling care bags with supplies to get to each family soon so that we can all have supplies to do fun activities together. Stay tuned for Sam's email in the next day or so for more details.

Our hope is that we will be able to resume meeting in person in February and do FebFest then!

Parents, please let Sam know if you'd like to lead something for FebFest (which hopefully will be in Metcalf Hall, or possibly outdoors, or, worst case scenario we will do online.) Also, don't forget this Sunday would have been our last Sunday for collecting our Guest At Your Table boxes. If you won't be going in to WUS but have been collecting money, please send Sam a check at WUS, made out to UUSC, for your box (and let him know you're doing so, please).

OWL (Our Whole Lives, 7th and 8th grades): This Sunday OWL meets from 4:30-6 pm in the Wallace Room. The Workshop Topic is "Sexuality, social media and the internet" facilitated by Sarah Milt and Sophia Sid. For more information, please message Karen: kcaputo8@hotmail.com who also sends separate weekly emails to parents.

RE for K-6 Registration Forms for 2021-2022

Don't forget that we are asking all of you to fill out [this registration form](#) for your child's attendance this program year. Big thank you to the 4 parents who've already done them! Registration is mandatory for all attendees and **please note that it was due by last Sunday, January 2nd.** Please note that this is a more comprehensive (i.e. longer!) form than in the past, and we do ask that parents fill out separate forms for each child (sorry!). Thank you so much in advance for taking the time to do this and help us get to know your family a bit better. You'll also see that there are signups for meetings with me in January; I'd love to spend a bit of time meeting with all of you to check in, get to know each other a bit better, and hear your hopes and dreams for your child's continued religious education at WUS.

If you have questions, concerns, 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 or text/call him: 857-523-9933

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



At this time, given that our county is in the [Severe Zone](#), our WUSYG leaders have decided to suspend meeting indoors for the month of January. We will review this decision on a monthly basis moving forward but hope to resume meeting in person in February after Omicron sweeps through. **This Sunday, WUSYG will meet on Zoom from 4:30-6 pm. We will use a new zoom link. Stay tuned for Sam's email and social media posts for more details.**

After discussing with WUSYGers at ZOOSYMG last Sunday, **we have decided to postpone our Holiday Party with alums until the spring**, with the hope that we will be able to do so in person one way or another (at least outside with the better weather). We will try to coordinate with our alums' spring break schedules as much as possible. Stay tuned!

Social Action & Outreach

Are you concerned about what is happening with recycling in MA? Here's something that may interest you: **MassDEP Market Development Working Group**
In the 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) committed to establishing a [Recycling Market Development Workgroup](#) to guide the development of a comprehensive Recycling Market Development Action Plan.

MassDEP is excited to announce that the first (virtual) Workgroup meeting will be held Thursday, January 13, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The workgroup is open to the public and MassDEP welcomes the participation of anyone interested in recycling market development programs and policies.

Please [click here](#) to register in advance.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, BOOK BY BOOK

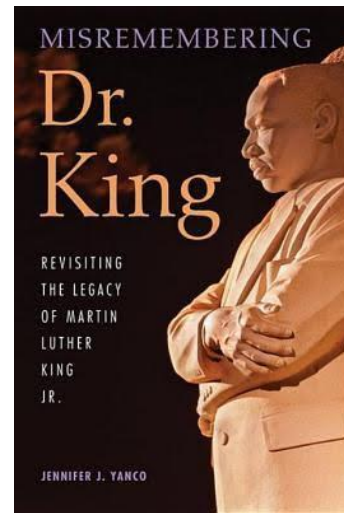
We will soon be honoring the January birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the great civil rights activist. We will again read and hear well-known,



comforting phrases from his splendid oratory—which echoes are *you* hearing right now?

In a short, evidence-based book, Misremembering Dr. King, Dr. Jennifer Yanco, who is currently a Visiting Researcher at Boston University’s African Studies Center, takes us beyond this narrow version. Yanco writes, “My objective is to highlight the important aspects of Dr. King’s work which all but disappeared from popular memory, so that more of us can really ‘see’ King.”

King campaigned against what he called “the giant triplets” of militarism, materialism, and racism; he insisted that the first two equally damage our country’s moral and spiritual health. Yanco makes the wholeness of King’s legacy relevant for 2022.



We continue to learn, together and individually, about dismantling racism, gaining spiritual wholeness, and building beloved community. Read on!

--Gloria Legvold, on behalf of the Racial Justice Team Planning Group



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

WhaleCoast Alaska 2022

Have you ever wanted to visit Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2022 is for you! 4 Alaska UU congregations invite you to experience our unique environmental and spiritual tour program next summer. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and awe-inspiring tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, sea lions, etc. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. WhaleCoast Alaska is an inspirational way to visit our beautiful state. Complete info at: www.WhaleCoastAK.org. Proof of Covid-19 vaccinations required. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience you won't want to miss!

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

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