

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights February 10, 2022

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



The Theme for February is "Widening the Circle"

Photo: Attendees of the 2012 UUA General Assembly hold a vigil outside an outdoor prison in Phoenix, Arizona, witnessing the mistreatment of those held for immigration violations. This camp, run by then-Sherriff Joe Arpaio, has since been shut down.

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, February 13th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below



Photo by [Tim Mossholder](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Generosity in Heart and Spirit

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.

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

Thank you from the Music
Committee:



We had another great night of "Jazz in the Sanctuary" on January 28th. It was an uplifting evening for our 34 in-person attendees and 54 live-streamers. If you didn't have a chance to see it on the night of the concert, here is the streamspot link: <https://venue.streamspot.com/video/3bf4f91cd3> Thank you, John, for the pieces you wrote and shared with

us. Thank you, Steve Forcucci, for recording everything so beautifully. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this concert. Mark your calendar for our next concert, on April 29th, with the talented vocal quartet, Windborne: "The best musical discovery of the year ...stunningly powerful vocal harmony...Windborne sets a new bar for folk harmony singing today"-Brian O'Donovan, NPR

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS AND YOU

Virtual and Interactive 6-part Series

SUNDAYS February 20, 27 4:00-5:30 pm
March 6, 13, 20 4:00-5:30 pm
March 27 2:00-3:30 pm

For information and to register go to: <https://climateandyou.eventbrite.com>

Sponsored by **350 Mass MetroNorth and the Winchester Unitarian Society**



This lively video of the **Winchester Transfer Station**, made by Judy Murray's sister, went out to choir members. Green Sanctuary invites everybody to enjoy it via the link found [[HERE](#)]

New Children's Religious Education Coordinator Position – Spread the Word!

After much discernment with many voices heard, we have developed the position of Children's Religious Education Coordinator to move us into the next era of our Religious Education program.

Sam Wilson has been doing a fantastic job as interim coordinator in addition to his role as Director of Youth Ministries. In this new configuration, Sam will be the Director of Youth and Children's Ministry and will supervise this new position whose role will primarily be to run the Pre-K through 6th grade programming. The Coordinator will also administratively



support the 7th and 8th grade programming consisting of the Our Whole Lives program and a new middle school youth group run by Sam. This will be a part-time position for 11 months of the year.

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 a Children's Religious Education Coordinator to work with our Director of Youth and Children's Ministry to plan and administer the children's religious education program for our liberal religious Unitarian Universalist congregation. Find a full job description [[HERE](#)]

This position is 20 hours/week August through June. Salary range is \$18,645 – \$25,300 annually, based on experience.

To apply, please email your cover letter and resume to CRECsearch@winchesteruu.org.

With thanks from search team members Terry Currier, Terrill Levering, Naomi Magnoni, Fritzie Nace and Sam Wilson

Upcoming Events with the Article II Study Commission, of the UUA

As you may remember the Article II Study Commission was charged in 2017 to "review Article II of the UUA Bylaws, and propose any revisions that will enable our UUA, our member congregations, and our covenanted communities to be a relevant and powerful force for spiritual and moral growth, healing, and justice." [Please see full charge here for details.](#) This is the group that will be directly addressing the 8th principle at the national level. They are now in the process of gathering input from individual UU's far and wide. Please see the details below and note the deadline of April 30, 2022, for submission of the online survey, live link below.

Online Open Houses: [Monday, February 28](#) and [Monday, March 28](#) at 3 pm ET / 12 pm PT.

The Article II Study Commission wants to hear what questions you have about the process of studying—and possibly revising—Article II. Join the Study Commission to ask any questions you have about the process and how you might be involved in the work! All are welcome, and asked to register in advance at the links above.

Theological Panel Series **conversations continued this spring with "A Conversation on Covenant, Part 2" held on January 27.** The recording is [available on Facebook](#).

Upcoming panels are:

- "A Conversation on Inspiration," Thursday, February 24 at 8 pm ET / 5 pm PT ([register here](#))
- "A Conversation on Purpose," Thursday, March 24 at 8 pm ET / 5 pm PT ([register here](#))
- "A Conversation on Values," Friday, April 15 at 8 pm ET / 5 pm PT ([register here](#)).

**And please do fill out the [Individual Survey form](#).
This survey will remain open until April 30, 2022.**

“Be Prepared!” say the Pastoral Associates

It isn't just a motto for the Boy Scouts anymore. For anyone, it's good to plan ahead, in anticipation of changing needs at end-of-life—or even afterward...

Whether you are intrigued—or repelled at the thought of the entire subject—the PCAs are working on a new series of educational programs this year that will review topics related to:

- (1) Services available for those who choose to **age in place at home**, such as healthcare, household help, and financial considerations.
- (2) A follow-up session will explore care for one who is **dying at home**; support offered by hospice; possibility of home vigil/funeral; grief care for the bereaved.
- (3) Finally, **“green” burials** and other environmentally-updated options for disposal of remains (more varied than you think!) will be reviewed in the third session, as well as traditional after-death choices.

The PCAs welcome congregational input for these discussions, especially from anyone who has expertise in financial planning, Elder Law, or home care. ***If you have skills in these fields and would like to contribute information or guidance in planning, please text or call Donna Reed (781-626-1785) by February 17.*** Workshop dates to be announced later. Stay tuned!

We're Looking for More OWL Teachers!

Have you ever thought that you might want to be a part of leading OWL (Our Whole Lives, comprehensive sexuality education for 7th & 8th graders) - AKA one of our most crucial ministries to young people? We have several trained teachers but we are always looking to find more awesome folx willing to get trained and join our roster. Perhaps you have a younger child and you want to level up on your education before they really need this stuff, or perhaps your children are all grown up and you know how valuable this was for them so you want to be part of it. Or, perhaps you're simply a strong advocate for reproductive justice and/or you just love working with middle schoolers! Whatever the reason, we'd love to talk to you about it a bit more and see if this might be a good fit. Please reach out to Sam - Sam.Wilson@winchesteruu.org - I would love to hear from all of you-hooo!



Have any old towels to spare?

We're looking for old (but washed and dried) beach, bath or hand towels that we can turn into rags for Wright Locke Farm as a fun FebFest activity for our youngest. Do you have any that you can donate to us for this purpose? If so, please let Sam know and/or leave somewhere in

his office (Rebecca's former office). Thank you so much in advance!
Sam.Wilson@winchesteruu.org

Religious Education



Thanks for helping your kids get set up for our painting activity last week. It was great to see everyone's ideas coming to life to envision the world that we all wish for! I loved all the colors, the hearts, the hugs, and the consideration of our planet. Our kids are both exceedingly caring and creative!

This Sunday, February 13th, 10:30 am - RE for K-6 On Zoom:

www.tinyurl.com/WUSRE

We are continuing to celebrate Feb Fest with your families for the rest of the month! We're bringing the party to each of your homes through Zoom with a different format for our meetings this month (with more fun stuff at the start!) We will also be using the rest of the materials from the care bags for interactive meaning-making arts & crafts during the 2nd half of our meetings. **We will be doing virtual RE on Zoom from 10:30-11:30 for the next 2 Sundays in February using this link: www.tinyurl.com/WUSRE.** We are hoping to return in-person on February 27th for a fabulous in-person Feb Fest Fiesta! Don't forget that our zoom meetings will be INTERACTIVE so you may see your kids running around and/or needing to grab supplies or find things or otherwise doing goofy stuff (don't worry - they're supposed to be doing that!)

This Sunday, we will do some interactive games together first for Feb Fest, then we'll be creating "In this Home I Believe" signs (inspired by ones like the image above) and, with parents' permission, putting them in a window and decorating that window. The idea is that kids will at least create signs using the parchment paper we enclosed in their care bags starting with "In this home we believe..." Then, with parental permission, that sign is posted (either outward facing if the window is visible to others and you want to share your family's values with the world) or inward facing (to help remind your family and your indoor visitors). Then, we included window decals and window markers so that the kids can decorate the rest of the window with hearts and trees and other things that show their values (using some of the imagery they came up with last week when they thought about the world that they wished for!) Please think about whether or not you have a window that you would mind getting decorated, whether or not you want it outward or inward facing, and how your kid can be set up to join us on Zoom nearby this window. If not, that's fine too and they can just decorate their sign, too. Thanks in advance for your help, parents!

Stuffie Sleepover Camp

The stuffies are continuing to have a great time at Stuffie Sleepover camp! Last week they got to hang out with the WUSYGers. Here you can see

them making some late-night snacks with the teens. Our plan had always been for families to get them back when we come back in-person (so for your kids to be reunited with them in-person at church!). However, we also know that with our delayed return, that is quite a long time without them, so if you would like to come pick up your stuffies before Feb. 27th, please reach out to Sam to arrange that: sam.wilson@winchesteruu.org



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 “Lovemaking” facilitated by Sarah Milt and Karen Caputo. *Please note on Feb. 13th, OWL will meet 30 minutes earlier, from 4-5:30, to accommodate the Super Bowl. For more information, please message Karen: kcaputo8@hotmail.com who also sends separate weekly emails to parents.

Contact Us

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)

Thanks to everyone who came out to our (hopefully final!) Zoomsyg meeting, where we continued shifting gears toward an anti-oppression focus that we will continue for the next few months leading up to the April service trip. We appreciated you all sharing some of your privileges (or lack thereof) during our Zoom-modified “privilege walk” and we look forward to continuing these convos in the coming weeks.

This Sunday, Feb. 13th, WUSYG will meet in-person *an hour earlier* from 3:30-5:30 PM for a SUPERBOWLVALENTINESRETURNTOINPERSONEXT RAVAGANZA!

We haven’t seen many of you since we went back to Zoom, so we’re excited to see lots of you return for this fun event this Sunday!



Youth Activism Panel (featuring Sam!)

This Sunday, from 1-2 pm on Zoom, the Network for Social Justice is coordinating a panel of young adults who work with youth activists, and Sam is one of the

YOUTH DISCUSSION SERIES

Join a **virtual career panel** of youth activists who are organizing around a variety of issues in their communities



Sam Wilson
Dir of Youth Ministries & Training, Coordinator of Religious Education, Winchester Lutheran Soc.

Sophie Ishizawa
Housing Equity VISTA, AmeriCorps Member

Philmore Phillips, II
Founding Director, OATD - The Coalition of U.S. & Activists

Sam Geary
Co-Founder, Kick It For a Cause, Inc., & Mental Health Advocate

SUN, FEB 13 1-2 PM
REGISTER @ [HTTPS://BIT.LY/LET-CAREER-PANEL](https://bit.ly/letcareerpanel)

Leaders for an Equitable Tomorrow (LET) is a youth development initiative for Winchester and Woburn youth sponsored by:



LET is funded through O'HANIG DoH funds from Lohay Hospital and Medical Center and Winchester Hospital

speakers! We'd love to have some of our WUSYGers (and/or their parents) come, to support Sam but also to learn more about opportunities to get involved in activism as a potential career/way of life!

To register (to get the link to join the Zoom), go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/registration/tZcpd--urz8sH9NRzUVtgamiZQkRxfCPytl>

Secret Cupid

Hopefully by now everyone has delivered and received their gifts! Thanks to everyone who participated!

We're excited to share our anonymous cupids' identities this Sunday when we get back together in-person again :)



Service Trip Update

We are still moving full-steam ahead with our plans to go to West Virginia for our Service Trip in April. We recently met with a parent who is an Infectious Diseases physician/Public Health consultant who helped us talk this through. We have come up with several ways to help us reduce our risks throughout the trip as well as contingency plans in case something does happen. We will be sharing more details with the trip

attendees in the coming months (and of course, we will be continuing to track numbers, etc.) Based on current estimates though, we remain very hopeful that we will still be able to go to War (West Virginia, that is!) We look forward to returning in-person so that we can have everyone around as we begin shifting our focus toward preparing (mentally and emotionally) for the trip ahead of us.

Social Action & Outreach

It's Grant Application Season!

The Social Action and Outreach Committee invites members and staff to sponsor organizations whose work reinforces our mission. As we become increasingly aware that many of the inequalities in the U.S. have systemic causes, **we must also work for changes in policies.** We encourage you to find groups that are working toward new solutions at the local, state, national and international level in addition to the groups that we have been honored to support for many years.

Here are the steps for participating this year:

1. All potential sponsors should notify Sue Doubler about any group they plan to sponsor this year **by Feb. 28.** Please contact Sue via her email

address: suedoubler@gmail.com

2. Early in March, SAOC members contact the sponsors of the organizations applying for grants, for which they will be the reviewer, and clarify the process, as needed.
3. Sponsors notify the organization about the grant opportunity, obtain contact information, and learn about any possible special project to which the grant might contribute.
4. Sponsors find the [Grant Application Form](#) and complete Section I and II, before sending it to the organization. Please request the application be returned to the sponsor well before the March 31st deadline and convey our preference for electronic applications and simple financial statements. <https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Grant-Application-2021.pdf>
5. On receipt of the application, sponsors make sure it is complete, and then send it to the designated reviewer on the SAOC via email.
6. **Complete applications must be submitted by the sponsor to the reviewing SAOC member by March 31.**

Please Note:

Sponsors with questions about the process, especially before you know who will be reviewing your application, please reach out to Claire McNeill by phone at 781-729-3625. Please leave a voicemail with your question.



BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, WORDS INTO ACTIONS

As we further explore what the UUA's proposed 8th Principle could mean for our own congregation, we focus on its phrases: "working to build," "dismantle racism and other oppressions," and "by our actions."

These phrases move our personal and congregation's "spiritual journey toward wholeness" beyond our individual words and actions into a combined energy directed

toward tearing down systems and structures of embedded discrimination against, and marginalization of, others.

We strive to hold ourselves accountable to each other and respectfully call each other in to this life-changing work for humanity and a future Beloved Community.

Here is the full text of the proposed UUA 8th Principle: "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

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



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!

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