

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights February 17, 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-Sheriff Joe Arpaio, has since been shut down.

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, February 20th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below



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

Stop Helping, Start Solving

David Blais

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

6-Part Climate Seminar begins this Sunday

(See Event Poster [HERE](#))

The WUS Green Sanctuary Comm. and 350 Mass MetroNorth invite all to our 6-part seminar "**Climate Solutions and You**". Learn more about the climate challenge and the range of solutions which if taken together could reverse the growth of green house gases. Also learn about high-leverage actions of local citizens, and practical ways we all can help. This virtual and interactive six-part series will be presented via zoom on Sunday afternoons from February 20 through March 27. Each session runs from 4-5:30 PM (except the March 27 session, which will run 2-3:30 PM). We encourage you to attend all six sessions, or catch-up on any of the six short videos missed and be present for the units with speakers who interest you the most. It is free to all, students thru elders.

Each session will begin with one of the six short videos in "Climate Solutions 101," narrated by Jonathan Foley, Project Drawdown's executive director. The video will be followed by discussion in breakout rooms, then a talk by a local climate activist who will also answer participants' questions.

The speaker at the first session, this Sunday, is Mark Sandeen. Mark is a Lexington Select Board member, and former chair of the Sustainable Lexington Committee which won Massachusetts' Leading by Example award. Mark was also chair of Lexington's Community Choice task force and co-chair of Lexington's Getting to Net Zero Emissions task force. Mark led Lexington's effort to adopt a sustainable building policy, enabling Lexington's two newest schools to be among the first net zero energy schools in the state. Mark is a co-founder of MassSolar, a non-profit organization working to ensure fair and equitable access to solar power for everyone in the Commonwealth. Mark is also co-founder of Lexington's Interfaith Garden and the author of the "All Things Sustainable" column in the Colonial Times Magazine.

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

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](#)]

Don't Miss Winchester's Repair Café #2

Sat. Feb. 26 from 9:30 – 12:30 in Chidley Hall at the Congregational Church

At the first Repair Café last September volunteer repair specialists (including WUS members Dave Fonseca and Phil Coonley) successfully repaired, and demonstrated how to repair, over 50 items, including knives, tools and small pieces of furniture. In addition, there was much sewing of everything from canvas water buckets to waders, and the darning of many moth holes. Also repaired were lamps and numerous electrical items, including a vacuum and a toy police motor bike. AA

At the 2nd Repair Café there will be a Spring Bike Tune-up for children's bikes, and the repairers are hoping for more children's toys. So . . .

Sign up for an appointment to repair your items [[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 Ministries 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 Carrier, 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 *STILL* 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 folk 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!

Religious Education



It was so much fun creating our own version of this sign last week and hearing your kids think about some of their beliefs! Thanks for joining us!

This Sunday, February 20th, 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 this Sunday using this link: www.tinyurl.com/WUSRE. We are planning 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'll be finishing our "In This Home We Believe" signs (inspired by ones like the image above) and, with parents' permission, putting them in a window and decorating that window AND/OR we will also be painting our pots (where we will eventually try to grow flowers that pollinators especially love!).

Reminder about the signs if you missed last week's messages: Last week kids began making signs using the parchment paper we enclosed in their care bags starting with "In this home we believe..." Then, with parental permission, the idea is that the 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 or move onto **Helpful setup for painting:** Please help your children be prepared for this activity by setting up a good space for them to paint. A big black trash bag was included in the care bags as one option for placing on a table/floor underneath where they'll be working. Each child was also given a plastic apron that they will be able to

use to help cover their clothes, but you still may wish to help them dress appropriately for painting. It would also be helpful if each child had a cup of water (that can get messy) and some cloth/napkins/paper towels to help clean up any spills (please and thank you!). **Thanks in advance for your help, parents!**

OWL (Our Whole Lives, 7th and 8th grades): There is on OWL meeting this Sunday due to the start of February vacation. For more information, please message Karen: kcaputo8@hotmail.com who also sends separate weekly emails to parents. Enjoy your breaks and we look forward to seeing you again on the 27th!

We also wanted to specially invite our OWL parents to attend worship next Sunday, the 27th. [CB Beal](#) (they/them) will be leading the service and preaching about “Preemptive Radical Inclusion” as an entryway to increase justice and equity among ourselves and in the world, and embody beloved community during COVID. CB is a gifted and renowned speaker and storyteller in the UU world, and they hold some unique identities as a “fat, white, queer and non-binary UU religious educator,” all of which position them as particularly insightful in speaking to families with teens, who are inevitably thinking about and trying on new identities as a normal part of this stage in their lives. Please join us in-person or virtually at 10:30 for this special service!

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)

It was great to see so many of you last Sunday at our **SUPERBOWLVALENTINESRETURNTOINPERSONEXTRAVAGANZA!** Special shoutout to all of our Quidditch champions!

Upcoming Meetings

This Sunday, Feb. 20th, there is no WUSYG due to the start of February vacation. We look forward to seeing you again on the 27th, from 4:30-6:30 pm, for in-person WUSYG in Metcalf Hall.

Special Worship Service on 2/27

I also wanted to specially invite our WUSYG parents to attend worship next Sunday, the 27th. [CB Beal](#) (they/them) will be leading the service and preaching about “Preemptive Radical Inclusion” as an entryway to increase justice and equity among ourselves and in the world, and embody beloved community during COVID times. CB is a gifted and renowned speaker and storyteller in the UU world, and they hold some unique identities as a “fat, white, queer and non-binary UU religious educator,” all of which position them as particularly insightful in speaking to families with teens, who are inevitably thinking about and trying on new identities as a normal part of this stage in their lives. Please join us in-person or virtually at 10:30 for this special service! CB is also hilarious - I promise you won't regret it if you come!



Service Trip Update (repeated from last week in case you missed it)

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 our upcoming in-person meetings 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.

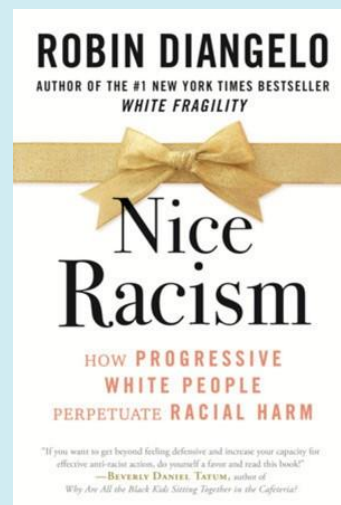
PLEASE SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY 3/6/22
1-2 PM ON ZOOM FOR ANOTHER
CONVERSATION ABOUT THE 8TH PRINCIPLE
www.tinyurl.com/WUSworship

Please mark your calendars now for the remaining upcoming post-sermon conversation we will be having on **ZOOM, 1-2 PM on SUNDAY, 3/6/22.**



**BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY,
BOOK BY BOOK**

Nice Racism is Robin Diangelo's new book, following her bestselling *White Fragility*. Both books are targeted for a white audience and are not easy reading for those of us who believe ourselves to be actively anti-racist. That said, I recommend the book as a "must read" –a critical path to understanding how even our best intentions-- our "niceness"-- can perpetuate racism. "How can we raise an uncomfortable and often contentious issue such as racism when niceness has been established as the procedural norm?" she asks and goes on to say that "niceness makes it difficult to address the strong emotions anti-racist work often brings up, such as grief, pain, and anger." Diangelo is quick to distinguish "niceness" from kindness, however. Read the book to find out more.



Sandy Thompson for the Racial Justice 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!

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