

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights February 24, 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 27th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below



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

Preemptive Radical Inclusion in Covid Times and Beyond

CB Beal

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

A Message from the Pledge Team Annual Pledge Campaign Underway

We have begun our month-long campaign and all members and friends of WUS should have received their pledge packets by mail. We have an ambitious goal and we need your help to get there. Please help us get to 25% by the end of our first week.

Click here for an additional pledge card:

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020-Pledge-Card-single.pdf> or pledge online at <https://www.winchesteruu.org/giving/pledge/>.

Thank you,
Robbie Brown, John Healey, Elizabeth Scott

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 [\[HERE\]](#)

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**



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 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.

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 finishing our own version of this sign last week and hearing your kids think about some of their beliefs! Thanks for joining us and thank you parents who let us decorate your windows! Please send us a picture of your final creations, we'd love to see them (and add them to our Instagram with your and your child's permission).

This Sunday, February 27th, 10:30 am - RE for K-6 in Metcalf Hall

It was nice to spend the past several Sunday mornings with many of you on Zoom, getting a peek into your homes and getting to enjoy a different format (while wearing PJ pants!) It was also great to have 1 additional family join us who hasn't been able to come in-person this year yet. However, we are also so excited to return to our building

and see many of you again in-person this Sunday (hopefully including the 3 kids we haven't seen since the Pageant! We've missed you!)

This Sunday, we will be celebrating our return to in-person and our final Sunday of Feb Fest with a Feb Fest Fiesta (and Stuffie Reunion!) We will be doing lots of fun things together for this festive occasion, including fiesta-themed food and activities. **Please bring an empty can or two** that we can reuse for our special snackivity, and also, if you received care bags from us, **please also bring back your pots and dirt**, etc so that we can do this activity together later in RE since we didn't get to do it together on Zoom. Otherwise, if you have any remaining materials leftover in your Care Bags, please feel free to use them as you like!

Our current plan is to continue meeting in Metcalf Hall during March (unless the weather is unseasonably warm, in which case we'll go outside). **On April 3rd, WUSYG will be leading the worship service and we are considering making it an interactive all-ages service that includes all of RE. If you haven't done so already, please answer [this one-question poll](#) now** to confirm whether you think you'll be okay with bringing your family into the sanctuary for this service. If more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of our families are okay with doing so, we will move forward with that. After April 3rd, we are still in discussion about whether or not we will return to having children join us in worship for the first 15 minutes or so, or return to having outdoor all-community worship at the start or end of the service. **Please let us know your thoughts!**

We are excited to share that we are forming a **new Junior Youth Group for 7th and 8th graders** (exact name TBD, JUSYG, or WUSJYG, or WUSYJunior? Let us know your thoughts!) **If you are a parent of a 6th or 7th grader, we'd love to hear what day/time you think would be best for this group to meet.** We are considering meeting Sunday afternoon before or after OWL, or perhaps on Wednesday or Thursday night. We are also hoping to plan other new middle school programming in the future.

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 "Sexually Transmitted Infections" facilitated by Sarah Milt and Sophia Sid. Sam Wilson will also be joining the group for the first 5 minutes to introduce himself, offer his availability as a resource, and share about our new Junior Youth Group (see paragraphs above and below!) For more information about OWL, please message Karen: kcaputo8@hotmail.com who also sends separate weekly emails to parents.

We would also love for OWL parents to know about (and weigh in on) our new Junior Youth Group that we will be forming next year. Please see the paragraph above this OWL section and reach out to Sam with your thoughts - Sam.Wilson@winchesteruu.org

We also wanted to specially invite our OWL parents to attend worship this 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)

This Sunday, Feb. 27th, in-person WUSYG, 4:30-6:30 pm We hope everyone is having a nice vacation and we look forward to seeing you again this Sunday. Please be sure to come if you are going on our service trip in April. We do not have very many more Sundays together until this trip, so, every one counts! Thanks!

Special Worship Service on 2/27

I also wanted to specially invite our WUSYG parents to attend worship this 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 couple weeks 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**

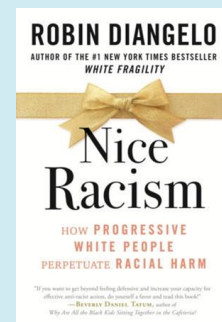
Please mark your calendars now for the remaining upcoming post-sermon conversation we will be having on **ZOOM, 1-2 PM on SUNDAY, 3/6/22.**



BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, QUOTATION BY QUOTATION

"In order to work toward policy change, we need to have critical awareness, continually educate ourselves, build cross-racial skills, develop the ability to respond constructively, and repair racial harm; these are also forms of anti-racism."

Robin Diangelo from her latest book, *Nice Racism: How Progressive White People Perpetuate Racial Harm*.



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

FOR WINCHESTER RESIDENTS
UPCOMING ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
****SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022****

7am – 8pm at the Winchester High School, Gym Entrance Only

Important Dates:

Feb. 25 - Last day to register to vote

March 2 & 10 - Debates sponsored by LWVW (more info below)

March 18 - Last day to request an absentee ballot

March 19 - Election day

[2022 Winchester Town Election Debates sponsored by the LWVWinchester:](#)

LWVW is planning to sponsor four debates before the March 19 Town election. The debates will be broadcast on WinCam, and accessible subsequently as recordings on the WinCam website.

March 2, 7p-9:30p: School Committee and Board of Health

March 10, 7p -9:30p: Select Board and Planning Board

[2022 Winchester Town Election Voter Guides](#)

For the second year in a row, the LWVW will publish voter guides with profiles of candidates running for all elected offices.

We anticipate that the voter guides will be available on the LWVW website (<http://www.lwvwinchester.org>) by March 5.

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
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