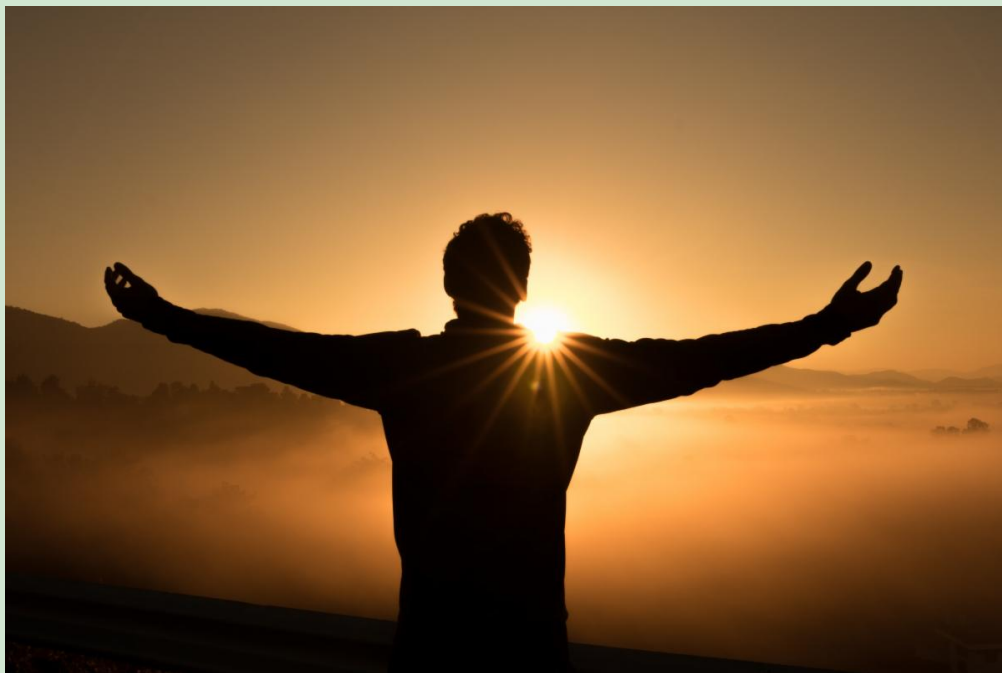


Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights April 1, 2022

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



The Theme for March is **Awakening!**

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, April 3rd
10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online
Virtual Worship Logistics Below

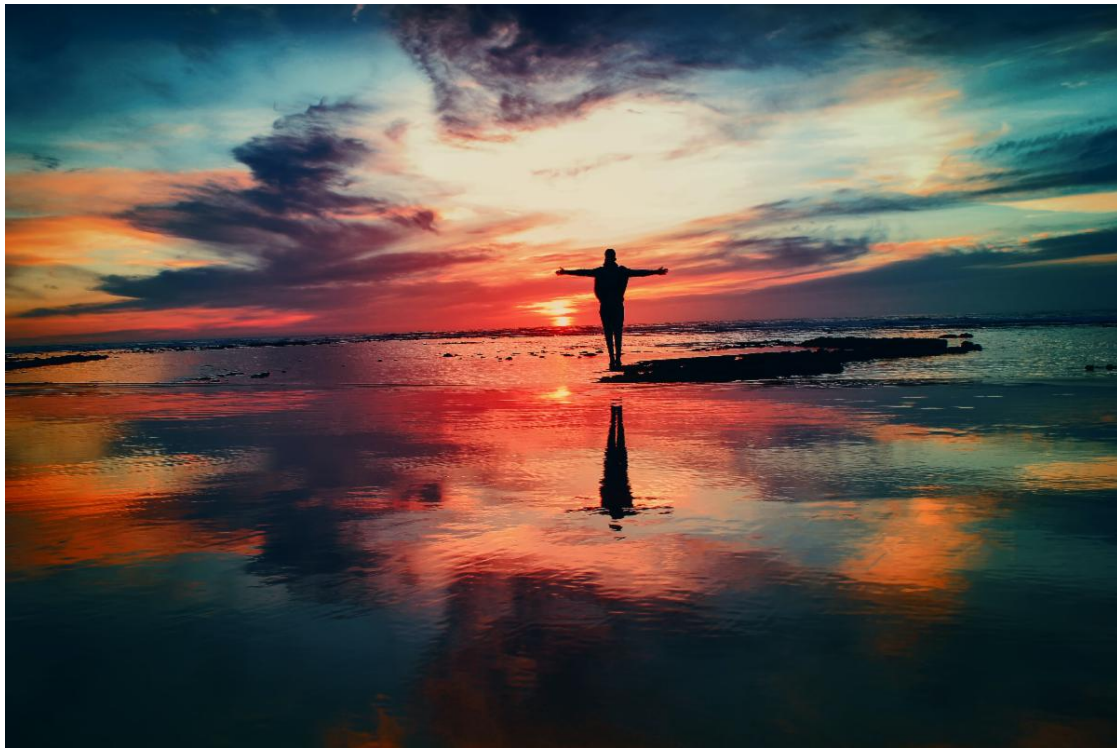


Photo by [Rosie Kerr](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Rise and Shine

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group (WUSYG)

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

This Sunday!




LET'S GET EXCITED!

APRIL 3

ALL AGES SERVICE

YOUTH LED SERVICE

KIDS ARE BACK FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO YEARS!

NEW RE LEADERS

NEW RE VISION

AND AFTER THE SERVICE...

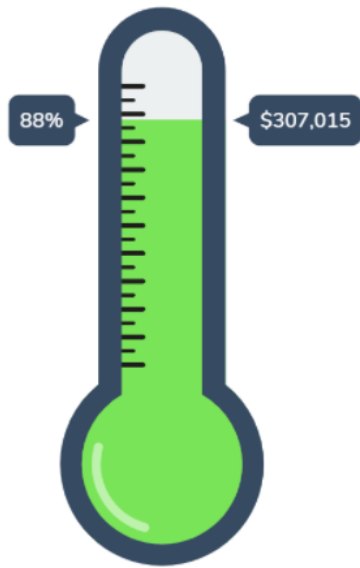
ENJOY SOME CHILI | **FINAL FUNDRAISER FOR WUSYG'S SERVICE TRIP** | **MET-CALF HALL**

Pledge Progress Update 3/31/22

Our annual pledge campaign is over but we're still hoping to hear from many of you!

As 3/28/22, we have an overall participation rate of 79%, and we have received pledges bringing us to 88% of our \$350,000 goal. That means we are on

GOAL: \$350,000



track, but there are still a significant number of outstanding pledges that we believe are forthcoming.

Are you in 21% who have waited to pledge? Please let us know how you can support the church so that the standing committee can plan for the coming year. Their budget will support our devoted staff, wonderful music, beautiful building, and our commitments to social justice activism and climate change mitigation.

And, there's a bonus if you participate soon - you won't receive a phone call asking you to pledge!

If you need a new pledge card, please contact the office. If you can pledge online, please visit <https://www.winchesteruu.org/giving/pledge/>.

If we can answer any questions or assist in any way,

don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you in advance for your generosity,

Robbie Brown: robthomas48@yahoo.com

John Healey: oceanwaterlover@gmail.com

Liz Scott: efscott@comcast.net

A request from the Afghan refugee family

The apartment lead Reva Shapiro visited the Rawan's this week and was delighted to see how well they are doing in their comfortable new home. They are so appreciative of all that has been done for them—so a tremendous thank you to those of you who contributed to the effort to get them settled.

There are a few additional items listed below that would be helpful to the Rawan's. If you have any of these things to donate, please take a photo and send it to Reva Shapiro at revashapiro@gmail.com or call 908-229-6336. And if you are willing to purchase any of them, please let Reva know that as well.

There are two drop-off locations:

10 Olde Lyme Road, Winchester (home of Joan Atlas joanatlask@gmail.com)

24 Windermere Ave., Arlington (home of Jill Greenlee, jillgreenlee@gmail.com)

Request List:

- A standing coat rack for front hall
- A thermos carafe for tea that holds 8-10 cups
- 3 covers for pans that are 8 inches, 10 inches and 12 inches
- 6.9 qt. cast aluminum Calderon (Dutch oven) with lid (\$20 at Target)
- A large outdoor toy bin

- A free-standing outdoor bike rack
- Bike locks

Windborne Concert at WUS



Our final concert in this year's series is on **Friday, April 29th** and features [Windborne](#), a group of four inspiring singers who will fill the sanctuary with rich harmonic voices and songs from around the world.

In the words of Brian O'Donovan: **"The best musical discovery of the year ...stunningly powerful vocal harmony...Windborne sets a new bar for folk harmony singing today"** - NPR - The concert will be live-streamed and performed for an in-person audience. Unless circumstances change, church attendees will not have to register, but will need to be masked and show evidence of vaccination and a booster. <https://www.windbornesingers.com/about/>

PARTNER CHURCH NEWS

In a recent email from Marosvasarhely, Partner Church friend, Gizi Nagy, writes:

The war in our neighborhood affects our economic situation. Prices are growing a lot. There is a lot of uncertainty. People don't feel safe. Many in Transylvania have made survival packs so that if they have to flee, they will have at least a week of necessities—food, medicine, and other things---to take with them. It's like a bad dream. If someone had talked about war in 2022 in

December 2021, I wouldn't have believed it. I hope it will stop and not extend to a third world war. I really hope.

Refugees continue to come. The majority of them leave Romania and want to return to Ukraine when the war is ended.

Gizi also reports that the Unitarian Providence Charity Organization (UPCO) has been responding to the needs of many Ukrainian refugees arriving in Transylvania. UPCO is the organization to which our WUS contributions have been directed.

WUS Office Chalice Project

As the new Administrator here at WUS, I have taken upon myself to try and create a church office that will be engaging, aesthetically vibrant, and continually connected to the congregation. As COVID wanes, I hope to encourage congregants to come in for a visit so that I can get to know everyone.

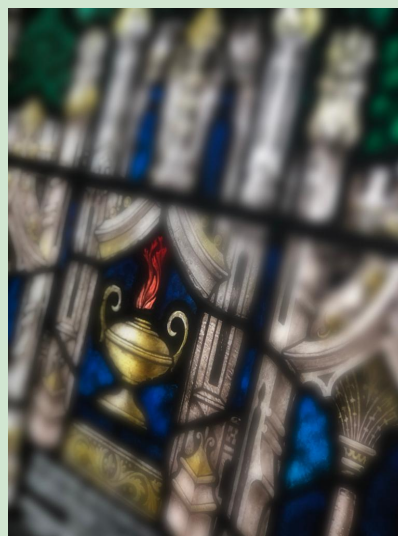
Therefore, I am initiating the "WUS Chalice Project". I am making a call to the entire congregation asking for a loan of **multiple chalices**.

I want to decorate an office shelf with a bevy of chalices. And with each chalice shared, I will be handing the congregant a personal item of mine to hold the place of the chalice until it is returned home.

My intent is to meet more congregants and create a deeper connection through sharing of something sacred, symbolic and aesthetically pleasing.

So, do you have a chalice you can share with me? Please feel free to email me at office@winchesteruu.org or call at 781-729-0949. Thanks!

-Richard Dorbin, Church Admin and Outreach Manager.



Summer Services Coordinator needed

As you probably all know, church doesn't shut down in the summer, even though the parish minister is away on vacation/study leave. In her place, lay members of the congregation step up to lead services.

All of these services are fascinating and give us all an opportunity to benefit from the varied talents of our congregation. But behind the scenes is a **SUMMER SERVICES COORDINATOR**, someone who recruits the service leaders, schedules the services, and makes sure everything is in place. June Edwards and Lee Barton have done this in the past, but they've retired and now THE JOB IS OPEN. Lee has copious information

about what's involved and is more than willing to consult with the new summer service coordinator. Please consider volunteering for this important role. Contact Lee Barton by phone (603-845-8767) or email (lee.barton2009@gmail.com)

Pandemic Planning Task Force

Update 3/8/2022

We were pleased to see many more folks join us last Sunday morning for Worship. We were able to check the level of air circulation as measured by CO2 levels in real-time. To keep levels well within the safe zone, we can responded by opening additional windows in the sanctuary. We will continue to monitor air circulation as more folks attend in person.

Guidelines of Note for Sunday Worship:

- We will continue to have mandatory masks during Worship.
- Please recognize varying levels of comfort with distancing and check in with others.
- We will be adding a second hymn to the service.
- We will continue to have beverages at Coffee Hour and ask that folks continue to wear masks **except** while drinking your beverage. Again, please recognize varying levels of comfort with unmasking and distance.

Guidelines of Note for all other presence in the building:

- Masks will be required when entering the building.
- Following other local public building guidelines, we will continue to require masks for gatherings indoors. Groups and committees meeting at the church may decide *by full group consensus* to allow masks to be optional. Masks will still be required upon entering the building until you have reached the room where you are meeting.
- Events open to the public may require additional measures such as proof of vaccination.

We are basing our decisions on not only state and Winchester guidelines, but also taking into consideration decisions of local school districts. Our aim is, as always, to provide a safe space with respect for the most vulnerable among us.

Please check with the Pandemic Planning Task Force if you have any questions. Email us at pandemicplanningtf@winchesteruu.org

PPTF and Staff will meet again on March 22 and assess any further changes to our guidelines. Thank you for your support of the decision-makers and one another as we navigate this transition time together with hope and optimism.

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:

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

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. Sponsors notify the organization about the grant opportunity, obtain contact information, and learn about any possible special project to which the grant might contribute.

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>

On receipt of the application, sponsors make sure it is complete, and then send it to the designated reviewer on the SAOC via email. 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.

Religious Education

Thanks to those who joined us last week as we continued our monthly theme of “renewing faith” by focusing on renewing faith in the planet and the web of life! It was nice to be outside together at the end and plant some seeds with Margaret. I look forward to seeing how they turn out with you all in the future.



This Sunday, April 3rd

WUSYG and Sam will be **leading the worship service**, at 10:30 am, which will be an interactive all-ages service that includes all of RE. Masks and social distancing will still be required in the Sanctuary and two hymns will be sung by everyone. We will be creating a “VICC section” (for Very Important Children & Cats) in the front middle few pews where your kids will be invited to sit together with their RE teachers, and they will also be invited to

(optionally) help lead the Chalice Lighting, participate in a mad-libs style reading, and interact with the story for all ages.

There will also be a child-friendly Order of Service for them, teacher appreciation cards to decorate, and other manipulatives. The service and your kids will be visible to live streamers but we will disable the link to the recording on the website afterward to respect families' privacy concerns. We're so excited to have your families join us!

There will also be a **WUSYG fundraiser** afterwards in Metcalf Hall, which will include quarts of **chili to go, and hot chili, mac n cheese, cornbread and desserts** to eat outside that day.

All the food is free, with a range of "sponsorship seeds" that participants are encouraged to take one and pay for.

Looking for things to do this summer?

Join us at Ferry Beach! Ferry Beach is a UU Retreat Center that has a Youth Camp for current 3rd-11th graders. Sam will be a counselor for week 2, July 3-9, and we know of at least 2 other WUSYGers who are likely going to come, too. It's right on the beach and is a nice combo of free time, activities like art, theater, and outdoor games, plus UU community-building/singing/worship, etc. Ask Sam (or Fritzie or Sarah Milt, whose kids have gone through it) about it and check out their website and sign up here - <https://www.ferrybeach.org/youth-camps.html>

Don't forget that we're 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 still 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 "Communicating with a Sexual Partner" facilitated by Karen Caputo and Ryan Levering. 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're ***STILL*** Looking for More OWL Teachers!

If you know what's happening in this picture, you'd probably be great!

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 folks 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 - we would love to hear from all of you-hooo!

Update: we are also trying to start offering **Elementary-aged OWL**, so we are looking to train facilitators next year to lead this the following year. If working with younger kids on important issues like bodily autonomy sounds interesting to you, please reach out as well.

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



This Sunday, April 3rd

9:45 am - 1 pm, WUSYG leads the all-ages Service & Final Fundraiser WUSYG and Sam will be leading the 10:30 am worship service, which will be a special, interactive, all-ages service.

Your families are invited to join us! After the service, we will gather in **Metcalf Hall** for our final fundraiser. We will be selling quarts of **chili and baked goods to go**, plus have some **chili to enjoy on the spot** outside with **cornbread and desserts**. Everyone who has a role should meet us in

the Sanctuary at 9:45 am. All youth going on the trip are encouraged to go to the service (which will include a blessing of the trip participants) and then help out at the fundraiser (including staying to clean up til ~1). Please [sign up here](#) now to bring side dishes and desserts for our Fundraiser on the 3rd. There's no WUSYG that night.

Looking for things to do this summer? Join us at **Ferry Beach!** Ferry Beach is a UU Retreat Center that has a Youth Camp for current 3rd-11th graders. Sam will be a counselor for week 2, July 3-9, and we know of at least 2 other WUSYGers who are likely going to come, too. It's right on the beach and is a nice combo of free time, activities like art, theater, and outdoor games, plus UU community-building/singing/worship, etc. Ask Sam (or Fritzie or Sarah Milt, whose kids have gone through it) about it and check out their website and sign up here - <https://www.ferrybeach.org/youth-camps.html>

Or, join Sam and thousands of UUs from around the world at [General Assembly in Portland](#), Oregon. There is a Youth Caucus with special events for youth, and Sam would be willing to be a youth sponsor for anyone under 18 who wants to attend. Ask him for more details if you're interested!



Save the Date

April 10th, 3:30 pm - Service Trip Mandatory Final Meeting (& Final Deposit Due)

Our final meeting about the service trip will be on April 10th at 3:30 before WUSYG. This is mandatory for all attendees. We will be going over the packing list and other final details as well as having parents sign permission slips on the spot. The final deposit for the trip will also be due at this time. FYI we have

decided that we will be meeting at church on the 16th at noon, and should be returning to WUS around 7 pm on the 23rd.

This **meeting is mandatory** for at least one person from each family to attend (ideally youth and a parent come, but at least someone from the house needs to get the info). If neither parent nor child can attend, please contact Sam ASAP to schedule another time to meet and get the final details and submit your final payment - srw2108@gmail.com

Social Action & Outreach

Building Beloved Community Conversation by Conversation

If you would like to chat informally about the 8th Principle which will be voted on at our annual meeting, look for Sandy Thompson, Gloria Legvold, and/or Claire McNeill in the parlor during coffee hour this Sunday.



Sandy Thompson for the Racial Justice Planning Group

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, ACTION BY ACTION

WONDERING WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH OUR 8TH PRINCIPLE PROCESS ?

The Winchester Unitarian Society will be considering approval of the **8th Principle** at its annual Meeting this May. Please go [here](#) for details about this vote and be sure to participate in some of the many opportunities that you will have in the month of April to discuss this initiative with your fellow congregants.

Below are all 5 of the possibilities that we have set up for you to participate in this initiative along with your fellow congregants:

#1. The Racial Justice Team Planning Group members are offering opportunities on Sundays for individuals to ask in-person questions about the **8th Principle**. There will be no formal presentation but please plan to join us in the parlor after the service on any of the following Sundays, if you have questions or concerns about the adoption of the 8th principle at the Annual Meeting in May.

April 3 – with Sandy Thompson, Gloria Levgold and Claire McNeill

April 10 – with Sandy Thompson, Gloria Levgold and Claire McNeill

April 17 – with Phil Coonley, Vicky Coccoluto and Gordy McIntosh

April 24 - with Patty Shepard, Claire McNeill and Gordy McIntosh

May 1 – with Sandy Thompson, Phil Coonley and Gordy McIntosh

#2. We will be having two formal presentations about our **8th Principle process**, with lots of time for Q and A, on zoom on the following evenings in April. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us so that you will be well prepared for the voting process on this issue at the Annual Meeting in May.

Tuesday, April 19th, 2022, 7-9 PM – [Please register here and you will receive a zoom invitation.](#)

Thursday, April 21st, 2022, 7-9 PM - [Please register here and you will receive a zoom invitation.](#)

#3. If you seek further information about the **8th principle**, [here](#) are a few more recommended resources.

#4. The Article II Study Commission, of the UUA, has been offering a number of events and a survey as part of their process of gathering input from individual UU's. There is only one more event in April that we know of but they will be accepting responses to their survey until April 30, 2022. Please see the details for both the survey and their remaining event [here](#).

#5. And of course you can always contact any of us to discuss these issues further: [Current Members of the Racial Justice Team Planning Group](#)

Restore Asylum and End the Misuse of Title 42

UUs are taking action NOW to Restore Asylum and End the Misuse of Title 42. Sign a petition this week, write letters to Congress next week. Keep title 42 from being renewed. See: <https://uusj.net/wp1/>

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

The second session, **After the Protests**, explores the ways in which we can engage and rebuild our civic society to bring our democracy back into balance. This program is led by the Rev. Sharon Welch, professor and author of numerous books (including *After the Protests*); and First Parish's Social Action Manager, Rev. Paul Langston-Daley.

Thursday, April 12, 7:30pm

[REGISTER HERE FOR EITHER OR BOTH EVENTS](#)

This series is co-sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy, First Parish in Concord, First Church in Belmont, the UU Church of Manchester NH, and Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice.



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

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