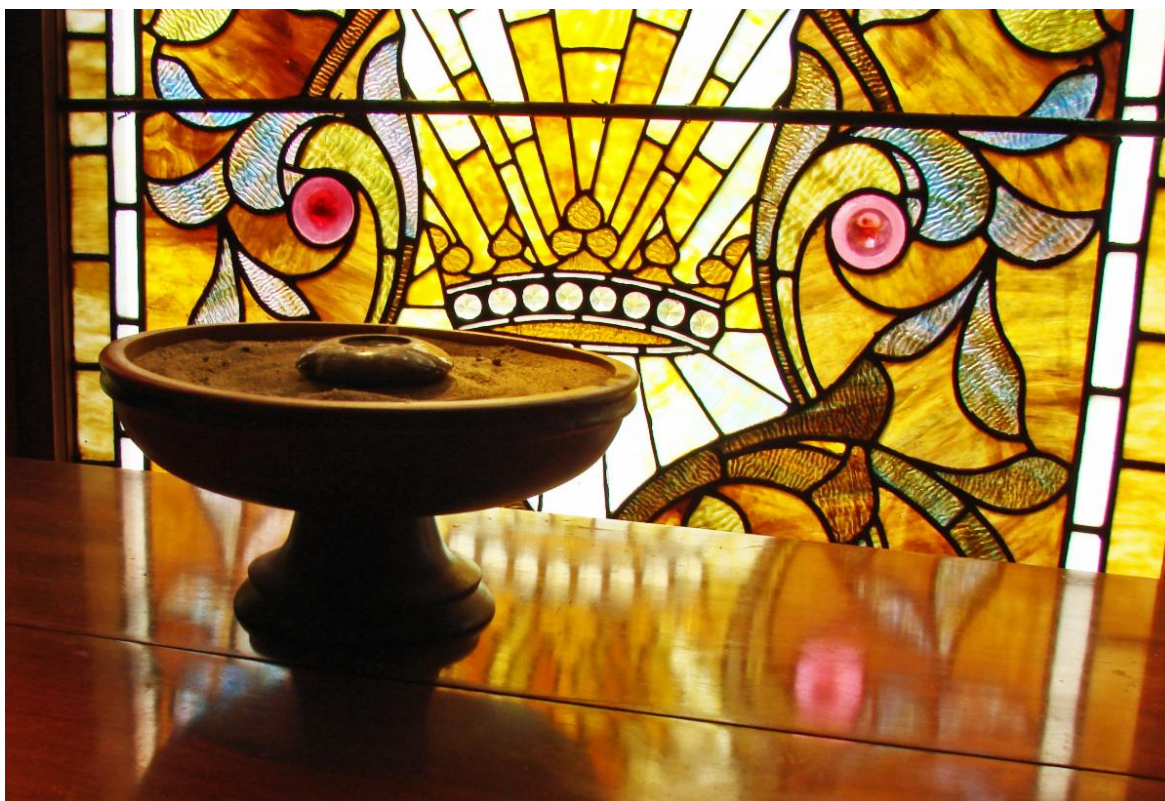


Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights March 10, 2022

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



The Theme for March is "Renewing Faith"

Photo: A chalice at the UU Society of Oneonta

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, March 13th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below



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

Amazing Gratitude: The Work of the Church

**Nominating and Leadership
Development Committee**

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



It is with great pleasure that we welcome our newest staff member, **Richard Dorbin** as our new **Administration and Outreach Manager**.

Richard will assume many of the administrative, building, financial, and communications functions necessary to the effective operation of the Winchester Unitarian Society (WUS). In the newly developing portion of this position, he will also collaborate with congregational leaders in promoting WUS events and ministries and welcoming and integrating newcomers into congregational life. Jenny Goh will continue as our awesome Administrative Assistant!

We will officially welcome Richard this Sunday in the service and at Social Hour. Please join us!

A bit about Richard:

He and his wife, Beryl live in Acton. They recently moved from Milwaukee and couldn't be more thrilled to be back in Massachusetts. They enjoy spending an inordinate amount of time driving around the state, investigating museums big and small. Some 40 years ago, Richard studied photography in western Mass. Since that time, he raised his three sons in Maryland where he was a self-employed commercial photographer. When the weather cooperates, you can (and will) find Richard out painting 'en plein air' as painting has become a passion for him.

He and his wife have a combined 5 children and 4 grandchildren spread throughout Maryland, Nebraska and Ohio.

In addition to a propensity towards the Arts, his interests also include history and the pursuit of Social Justice. He is a licensed tour guide for the city of Concord and worked part time as a historic interpreter at The Old Manse.

His years as a business owner and town councilman in Maryland gave Richard the experience he plans to bring to the job and serving the WUS community.

"I am thrilled to be here at WUS and look forward to getting to know the community and be part of our mission of social transformation and environmental responsibility".

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

Update from the Pandemic Planning Task Force 3/8/2022

The PPTF and Staff met Tuesday to discuss updates to our current Guidelines for Gathering at WUS. The full updates to our Guidelines will appear on the website, but we wanted to highlight some changes. 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.

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 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.
- We will be removing the “ropes” so that the blocked pews will now be available. Please continue to maintain at least 3 ft between your family group and others.
- 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:

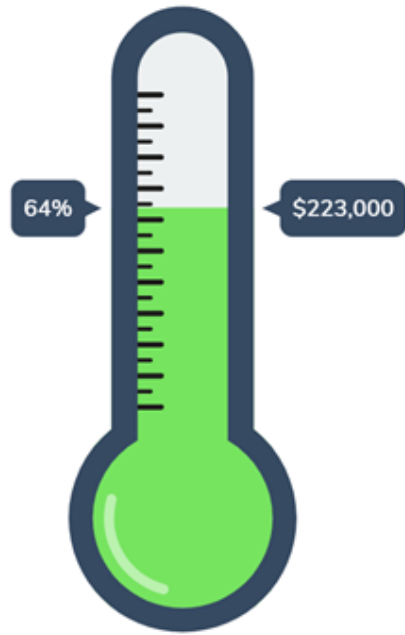
- Masks will be required when entering the building.
- Following other local public building guidelines, we will continue to require masks for gatherings indoors until March 13th. After March 13th, groups and committees meeting at the church may decide *by full group consensus* to allow masks to be optional. 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.

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.

**A Progress Update
from the Pledge Team
for 03/10/2022**

GOAL: \$350,000



We are nearing the end of the WUS Annual Pledge Campaign, so, for those of us who thought, “Oh, I have plenty of time to do that”, it’s time to pledge!

As of March 8, we have collected 65 pledges totaling \$223,000, which is 64% of our goal. We are waiting to receive 53 more pledges.

On average, we have pledged 6% more than we did last year.

We aim to complete the pledge campaign by March 15, so please participate soon. You may mail in your pledge card or visit

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/giving/pledge/>.

Thank you in advance for your generosity,

Robbie Brown
John Healey
Liz Scott

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS AND YOU

Learn · Act · Lead

Virtual and Interactive 6-part Series

Each unit includes a Drawdown 101 video, conversation with a local expert or activist, and participant Q&As

Sundays, February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 4:00–5:30 pm

March 27, 2:00–3:30 pm

The Green Sanctuary team invites you to join us Sunday, March 13 for our 4th of 6 sessions of Climate SOLUTIONS and You! Learn about large-scale global actions already underway, high-leverage actions of local citizens, and practical ways we all can help. Together, we can meet the climate challenge.

If you were not able to attend the first 3 sessions, or want to revisit them, you can watch the recordings at the 350 Mass Metronorth channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY8MEktLZy-4lu1Z7CMPIzA>

March 13—Unit 4, Supporting Sinks and Improving Society: with guest speakers Alan Field, Ingrid Geis, and Roger Rosen, members of 350 Mass MetroNorth. They will share how to advocate for climate solutions legislation on Beacon Hill, how to oppose big money's greenwashing as they continue investing billions more in climate-killing fossil fuel expansion projects, and how to participate in public demonstrations that call the public's attention to the severity of the climate crisis.

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

Sponsored by the Winchester Unitarian Society and 350 Mass MetroNorth

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

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Mission and Vision

UU Urban Ministry leaders talk about achieving a new mission and how we will get there

KARLA BAEHR, UUUM BOARD CHAIR & DAVID HARRIS, FMR. VICE CHAIR



Tuesday, March 15th, 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Join us for this virtual event: [Zoom link to join](#)

At the UU Urban Ministry's Annual Meeting last May, delegates voted to approve new, bold mission and vision statements for the organization.

Join us as we welcome UUUM board chair, Karla Baehr, and former board vice chair and retired Managing Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute, David Harris, to discuss UUUM's new vision and mission statements, the process behind their creation, and how we will help bring them about.

Event sponsored by: First Parish in Milton, First Parish Lexington, and Follen Church



UU Urban Ministry | 10 Putnam Street | Roxbury, MA 02119 | www.uuum.org

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 House: [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.

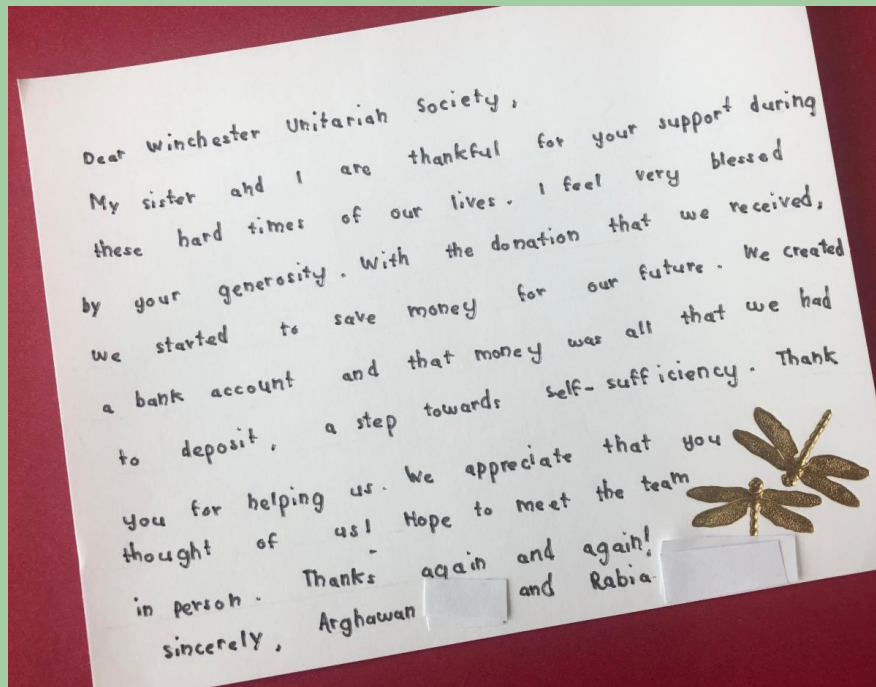
Theological Panel Series **conversations continued this spring with "A Conversation on Covenant, Part 2" held on January 27.** The recording is [available on Facebook.](#)

Upcoming panels are:

- "A Conversation on 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.



Here is a belated thank you message from two of the Mitten Tree recipients from back in December. Thank you again to all of those who participated!

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 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!



Religious Education

Thanks for joining us last week as we leaned into our new monthly theme of "renewing faith" by focusing on renewing faith in ourselves! It was awesome how all of the kids were able to remember which rock was theirs even when they were blindfolded.

RE at WUS Rocks!



This Sunday, March 13th, 10:30 am

- RE for K-6 in Metcalf Hall

We will be continuing with our traditional “curriculum” this Sunday for our multi-age program using the Soul Matters themes. March’s theme is Renewing Faith (be sure to see [the recent Mystic Messenger](#) for Sam’s article about this theme). We will be doing activities this month related to renewing faith in ourselves, each other, and our UU community.

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 and Sam will be leading the worship service, which will be an interactive all-ages service that includes all of RE. Masks will still be required. Thank you to everyone who responded to our poll; we elected to move forward with this plan based on your answers. 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 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 “Unintended Pregnancy Options” facilitated by Ryan Levering and Karen Caputo. 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

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 Friday, March 11th, we are having a “Sleepunder” at WUS from 7 pm until midnight. The Metcalf Hall is being used from 7-9, so we’ll be meeting in the Sanctuary first. Please wear PJs and bring snacks to share! See Sam’s recent email for more details.

This Sunday, March 13th, in-person WUSYG, 4:30-6:30 pm We will have a regular meeting 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, each one counts!

Snack Sign-Up - we need more snacks! Please [sign up here](#) if you haven’t done so already. We ask each family to contribute snacks twice a year. Thank you!



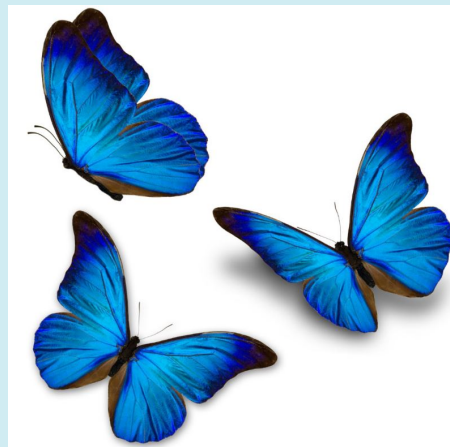
Save the Date - April 10th, 3:30 pm - Service Trip Mandatory Final Meeting (& Final Deposit Due)

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,
ACTION BY ACTION**

March is Women's History Month. Women constitute 51% of the USA population.

When you hear the word "genius," what name comes to mind? Albert Einstein ...yes, and **Mary Sherman Morgan?**

When you hear the word "financier," what name comes to mind? Warren Buffet...

and **Hetty Green?**

When you hear the word "jazz," who comes to mind? Miles Davis ... and **Mary Lou Williams?**

When you hear "voting rights advocate," who comes to mind? Martin Luther King, Jr...and **Fannie Lou Hamer?**

First, please make time to acquaint yourself with these women. Second, do send an encouraging, appreciative note to a woman who has had an impact on the direction your life has taken. You will know who she is!

—Gloria Legvold, for 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

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.lwwinchester.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
(781) 729-0949 | office@winchesteruu.org | www.winchesteruu.org

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