

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights
March 17, 2022

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



The Theme for March is "Renewing Faith"

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, March 20th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below



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

If I Were The King Of the Forrest

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

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.

Winchester Unitarian Society

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**

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.

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.

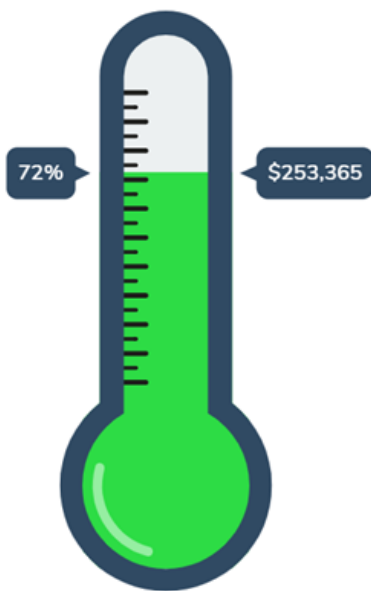
He and his wife have a combined 5 children and 4 grandchildren spread throughout Maryland, Nebraska and Ohio.

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”.

GOAL: \$350,000



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

We are closing in on our goal, but we still have a way to go. We have extended this year's pledge drive for one week, until 3/22/22.

As of March 15, we have collected 76 pledges totaling \$253,365, which is 72% of our goal. We are waiting to receive 42 more pledges.

Are you in that group of 42? 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!

Please mail in your pledge card or 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,

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

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Sundays, March 20, 4:00–5:30 pm

March 27, 2:00–3:30 pm

The Green Sanctuary team invites you to join us Sunday, March 20 for our 5th 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 4 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 20—Unit 5 Putting It All Together: with guest speaker John Walkey, Director of Waterfront and Climate Justice Initiatives at GreenRoots. John will discuss the disproportionate effects of climate change on Chelsea and other Boston area communities, and explore ways those of us not living in these communities can help.

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

Sponsored by the Winchester Unitarian Society and 350 Mass MetroNorth

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

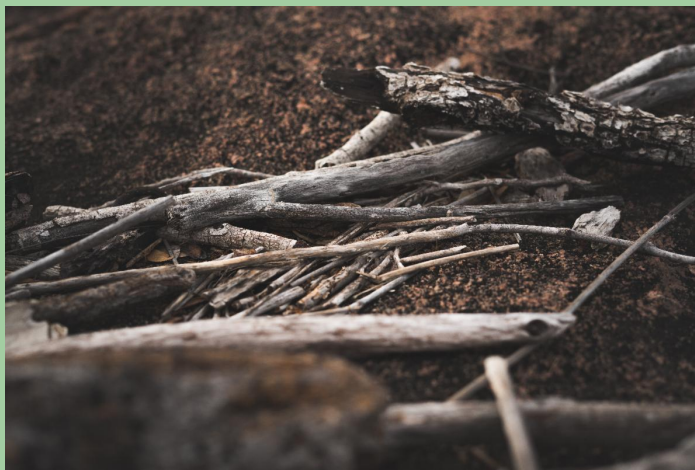


sexuality education for 7th & 8th graders) - AKA one of our most crucial ministries to young people? We have several trained teachers but we are always looking to find more awesome folx willing to get trained and join our roster. Perhaps you have a younger child and you want to level up on your education 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!

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.

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 still able to find their rocks from the week before, and also renewed their faith in each other by leading each other blindfolded around the playground! It was pretty funny to see people try to break the bundle with all of our sticks together, too (no one could, of course).



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.

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, March 20th, in-person WUSYG, 4:30-6:30 pm

We will have a regular meeting this Sunday. We will be planning for the worship that we will be leading together on April 3rd and we will also be talking about West Virginia. We only have 3 WUSYG meetings together before our trip, so each of these meetings will now focus somehow on something related to our trip. Those of you not going on the trip are still more than welcome (it's likely we'll go back there at some point, and also it's relevant for everyone living in America who cares about issues like poverty, the economy, politics and the environment). Those going on the trip should consider our meetings on March 20th, March 27th, and April 10th somewhat mandatory. We know that many of you have lots of things going on (including upcoming musicals and plays, etc.), and, attending these meetings is really akin to attending dress rehearsals for a show. Everyone needs to be prepared for the week that we will all be spending together soon.

Speaking of being prepared, if you are one of the many people who did NOT come last Sunday to WUSYG, but you are going on the trip, **please watch the movie October Sky** at some point before the trip. It's a heartwarming movie for the whole family that can be found for free via Prime TV (or I can loan you the DVD). It takes place in the area that we will be working on. It tells the story of the Rocket Boys (the street where we will be staying is literally "Rocket Boys Drive") and has been pre-approved by our host (unlike most representations of Appalachia, which all too often show everyone who lives there as simply dumb and poor).

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>

Snack Sign-Up - we still 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 3rd - 10 am - 1 pm - WUSYG leads 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.

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

As we continue to honor women this month, we recognize the toll, physical and emotional, that war imposes on women and children. The higher rate of mortality falls on their men, and the trauma of those left behind endures for generations.

The number fleeing Ukraine, already in the millions within a compressed time span, is unprecedented. The pressure of providing humanitarian services mounts and falls on its neighbors.

And, as we daily witness the heart-breaking terror and trauma there, we well know that suffering does not confine itself to one Euro-centric area.

Thank you to those who have already contributed so generously to this wider beloved community. What more can we do?

First, do seek out John Russell for specific details, especially about how support is directed toward our Transylvanian sister church's work.

Then, further check these resources and consider donating as you are able:

<https://www.faithify.org/campaign/51/Support-Families-Fleeing-War-in-Ukraine>

This is a UU crowd-funding organization sending urgent support to Rumania, Hungary, and now Poland. This appeal ends on April 2, 2022.

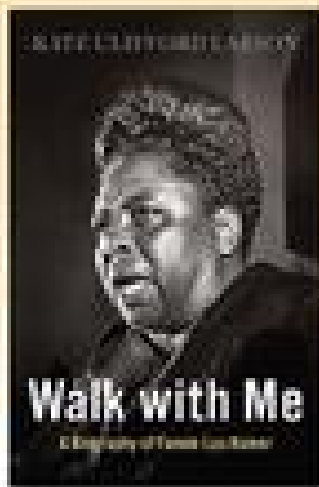
<https://www.intlwomensconvo.org/>

The UU International Women's Convocation is a global partnership that works for women's empowerment, in Ukraine and throughout the world. Send a check to Treasurer, International Women's Convocation, at 7811 S. 112th St., Seattle, WA 98178.

May we find peace within ourselves and create peace in our world.

—Gloria Legvold, for the Racial Justice Team Planning Group

WALK WITH ME



A presentation by local historian
Kate Clifford Larson
on the life of Black activist
Fannie Lou Hamer

MARCH 27. 4 PM
Open to all - FREE

Winchester Unitarian Society at 478 Main Street

Go to winchesteruu.org for Livestreaming link
and Covid protocols for in person attendance

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/>

A couple of programs coming up
at First Parish Concord that look very good to us!

Democracy as a Spiritual Practice



Join us for a compelling two-part Zoom series on Democracy as a Spiritual Practice. Our first program **Strengthening our Civic Muscles** - explores authoritarian regimes through the lens of Timothy Snyder's book *On Tyranny* with Rev. Patrick McLaughlin from the UU Church of Manchester NH. We encourage attendees to read this short book prior to the session.

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.

[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.



VOLUNTEER WITH UUUM



Join us this spring as a volunteer with UU Urban Ministry! We have many opportunities for all sorts of skills, interests, and experience levels, both remote and in-person. If you're interested in signing up for any of these opportunities, contact volunteer coordinator Cristy Stiles at cstiles@uum.org. We hope to see you there!

Prepare students for the workplace and their futures with Believe in Success

Help students craft resumes and cover letters, search for jobs or school programs, and practice mock interviews. Believe in Success is completely remote, and all sessions will be conducted via Zoom. To view volunteer dates and sign up, [just click here](#).

Distribute food to our Roxbury community

Join us at the UUUM campus to distribute food alongside our newest partner organization, ICNA Relief, Saturdays March-May from 10am-2:30pm.

Help alumni find opportunity on the Believe in Success Scholarship Committee

This is an exciting new opportunity for volunteers who want to cultivate a deeper understanding of the inner workings of Believe in Success, reviewing applications for our brand-new scholarship for BIS alumni. We are looking for volunteers who are new to BIS as well as those with experience! Our committee will meet virtually twice a trimester.

Help students shine with Roxbury Youth Program

Provide homework and study help for high school students in person with RYP After-School, or share your expertise in the arts, leadership, or digital technologies as a workshop leader.

For more information, contact **Gordon McIntosh** gordon.mcintosh@verizon.net



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:

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!

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