

Winchester Unitarian Society Highlights March 25, 2022

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



The Theme for March is "Renewing Faith"

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, March 27th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below



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

Love is my Religion

Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

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.

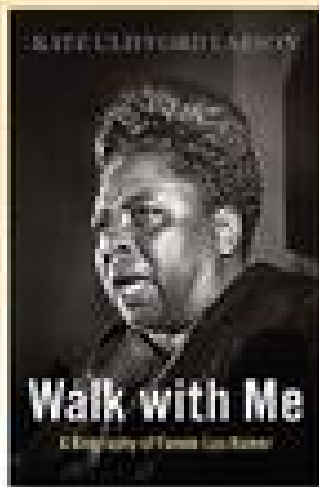
Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

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! March 27

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

To attend the presentation virtually, go to:

<https://venue.streamspot.com/8993d7a4>

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.



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



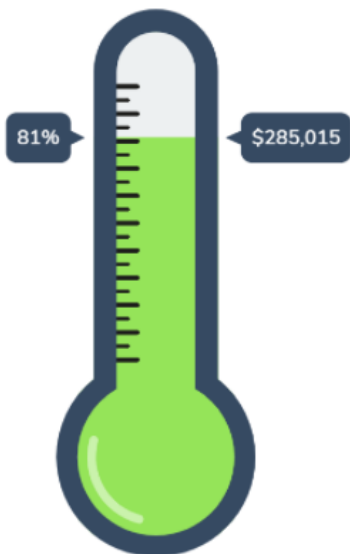
AND AFTER THE SERVICE...

ENJOY SOME CHILI

FINAL FUNDRAISER FOR WUSYG'S SERVICE TRIP

MET-CALF HALL

GOAL: \$350,000



Pledge Progress Update for Highlights 3/21/22

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

As 3/21/22, we have an overall participation rate of 76%, and we have received pledges bringing us to 81% of our \$350,000 goal. That means we are on track, but there are still a significant number of outstanding pledges that we believe are forthcoming.

Are you in 24% 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

John Healey

Liz Scott



CLIMATE SOLUTIONS AND YOU

Learn - Act - Lead

Virtual and Interactive 6-part Series

The **Green Sanctuary** team invites you to:

Our Final Session is this Sunday, March 27

2:00 to 3:30 pm (new time)

Unit 6 includes a Drawdown 101 video, conversation with two local youth activists, and participant Q&As

Unit 6, Making it Happen: with guest speakers Emily Hitchcock, climate-minded horticulturalist, and Sharlow Hitchcock, environmental educator. Both young activists will speak about their experiences with the Sunrise Movement and give listeners ideas about how they can get involved in support of the youth climate movement.

If you were not able to attend the first 5 sessions, or want to revisit them, you can watch the recordings at the 350 Mass MetroNorth channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY8MEktLZy-4lu1Z7CMPIzA>

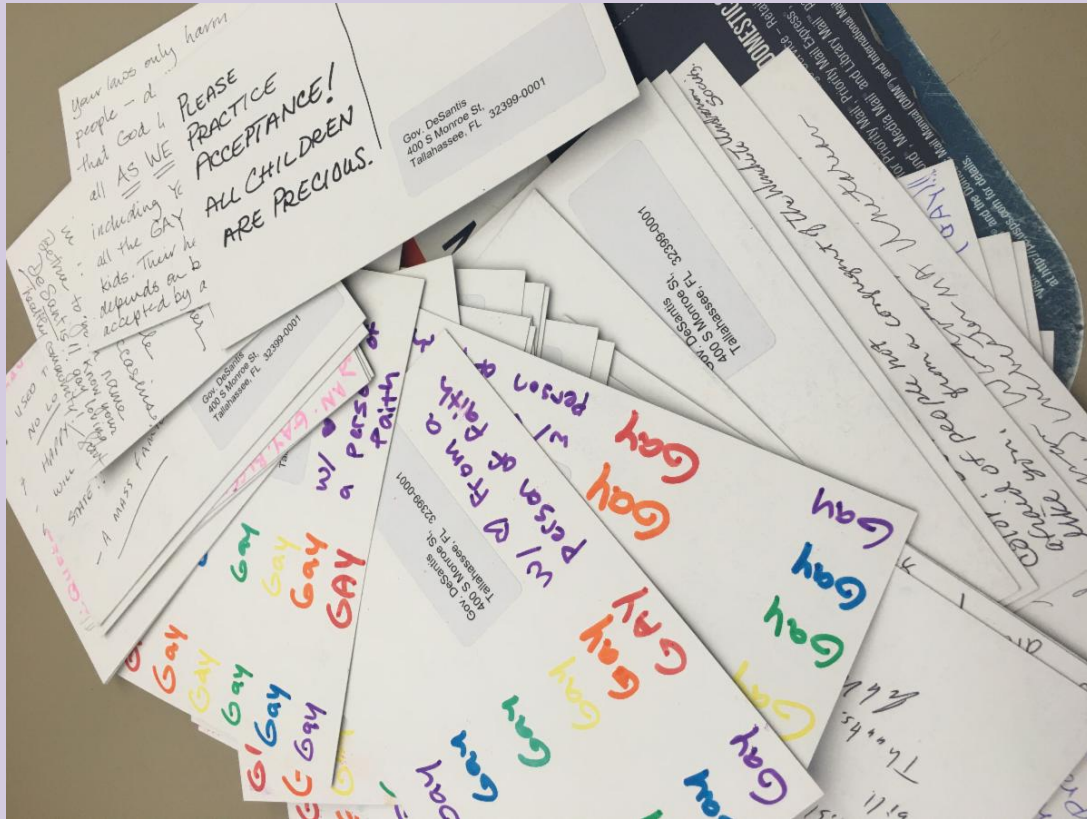
For more information go to: <https://climateandyou.eventbrite.com>

Sponsored by the Winchester Unitarian Society and 350 Mass MetroNorth

Postcard Campaign

"Last Sunday as part of Rev. Hank's sermon on courage we were asked to take part in an exercise by sending postcards to Gov. DeSantas of FLA marking our displeasure

with his "Don't Say Gay" bill. As of Tuesday over 40 postcards were mailed off. This was an easy example of how we as people of faith can express our religious values."



Here's Where our Ukrainian Refugee Assistance Funds are Going

As most of you know, our congregants have been sending Ukrainian refugee assistance money to the Unitarian Providence Charity Organization (UPCO) in Transylvania. UPCO (Hungarian name: Asociația Gondviselés Segélyszervezet) is a community service foundation in which all the Unitarian churches in Transylvania (including our Partner Church in Marosvasarhely) participate. An initial amount of \$6,000 was sent two weeks ago. We hope our congregation is donating more in response to the all-church email of Thursday, March 10. We have received the following acknowledgement from UPCO:

Thank you very much for your kind donation, it is much appreciated. As our emergency response is extending, every contribution is vital to be able to reach as many refugees as possible.

God bless you!
The Gondviselés Charity Organization's team

UPCO is located in Cluj, a large Transylvanian city and the center of Unitarianism in Transylvania. Here's what UPCO is doing or will be doing with our funds:

- For refugees transiting through or staying briefly in Transylvania: Providing hot meals, blankets, medicine, diapers, overnight lodging, transportation to and from the railroad station, and administrative support.

- For refugees staying in Cluj, Transylvania for a longer time: Providing kindergarten and after school services; help finding jobs; language instruction.
- For those internally displaced but still in western Ukraine: Working with all Hungarian churches in Transylvania to coordinate the delivery of food, medicine, and other critical supplies to both Catholic and Protestant churches in western Ukraine.

Donations toward Ukrainian refugee assistance may still be made at [“Urgent: Support Families Fleeing War in Ukraine.”](#) Your money will go to UPCO via a crowd-sourcing partnership with the International Women’s Convocation.

PARTNER CHURCH NEWS

As outlined elsewhere in Highlights, the Society has already sent \$6,000 to the Unitarian Providence Charity Organization (UPCO) in Transylvania. Its purpose: To help fund UPCO’s provision of assistance to Ukrainian refugees who have fled to Romania. We notified our Partner Church in Transylvania of our contribution and received this note of thanks from minister’s wife Gizi:

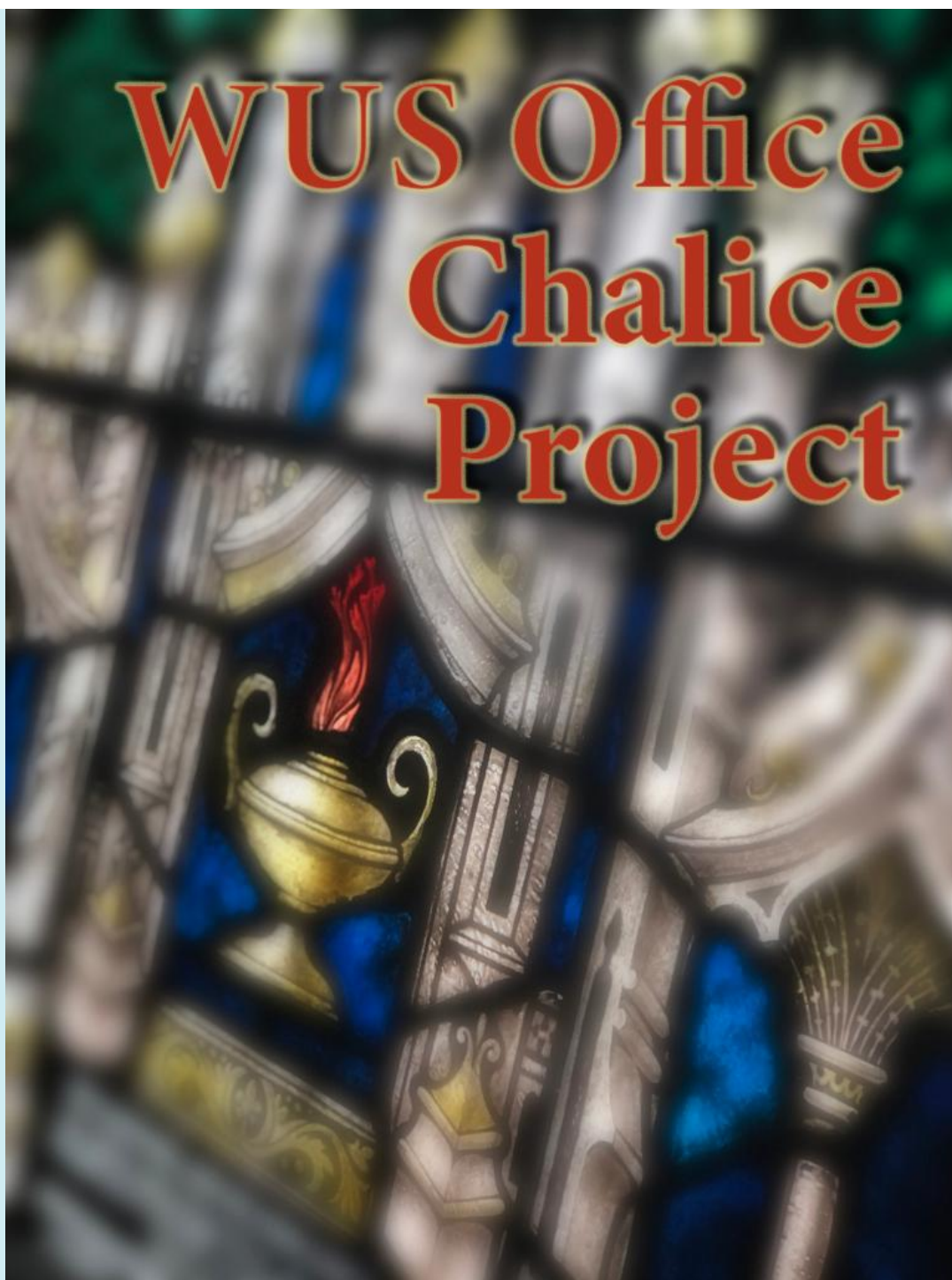
Grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to this very nice donation. I know that the leaders of [UPCO] are making the best possible use of this amount of money to help many refugees. We have always spoken of our Winchester brothers and sisters in a voice of admiration and respect. Thank you for confirming this now.

May God bless your lives and fill people’s hearts again with hope, gratitude, love and peace.

Kind regards,
Gizi Nagy,
Marosvásárhely

WUS Office Chalice Project

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 what I am calling 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)

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.

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 each other! It was nice to be outside together and do some group trust-building activities together (plus talk a little bit and start to get excited about our return to the Sanctuary on April 3rd!) It was especially fun setting up our obstacle course together! And, if we’re outside again next week, we want to give y’all fair warning that the upper part of the playground is going to be LAVA!



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

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 above 50 degrees and not raining, in which case we’ll go outside).

This Sunday we will be talking about how we are all connected (to each other and to the planet) and then we will be planting some seeds with Margaret. Thanks so much to everyone for bringing back their pots this Sunday! We may get a chance to paint them before we plant the seedlings elsewhere (so that they’re ready when we transfer them later).

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. We will be creating a “VICC section” (for Very Important Children & Cats) and kids will also be invited to 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, and teacher appreciation cards to decorate. We’re 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 & cornbread to eat outside. 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 “Sexual Decision Making” facilitated by Sophia Sid, Karen Caputo, and Sarah Milt. 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 Sunday, March 27th, 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.

Earlier that day, on **March 27th**, youth are encouraged to attend the **final session of “Climate Solutions and You”** which will feature youth activists. For more information go to: <https://climateandyou.eventbrite.com>

Reminder - We only have 2 more 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 27th, and April 10th somewhat mandatory. We know that many of you have lots of things going on, 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 to WUSYG on 3/13, 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).

This Tuesday, March 29th, WUSYG will be meeting at church at 7 PM to create massive amounts of vegan and red meat chili to sell at our fundraiser. Please stay tuned for details on how your family can contribute, thanks!

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.

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!

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 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

Did you know that UUA's proposed 8th Principle is a contemporary culmination of, not a replacement for, the 7 Principles of UU shared values? Did you know that these 7 were formally adopted by the UUA in 1985 and last modified in 1995? The 8th Principle brings us up to date—to 2022—and was developed by an inclusive, diverse representation within our faith community.

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/>

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

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.

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



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

Democracy as a Spiritual Practice

Thursday, March 31, 7:30pm

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.

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**

Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main Street, Winchester, MA 01890

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