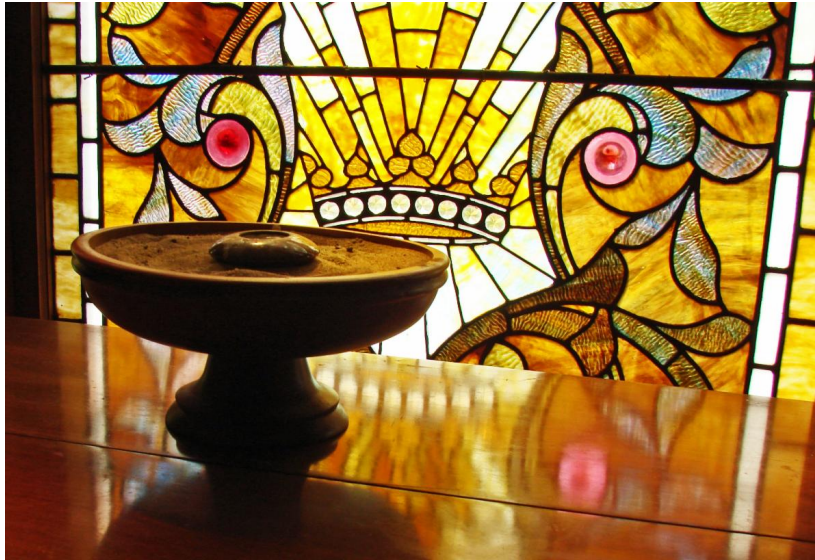


Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights March 3, 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 6th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below

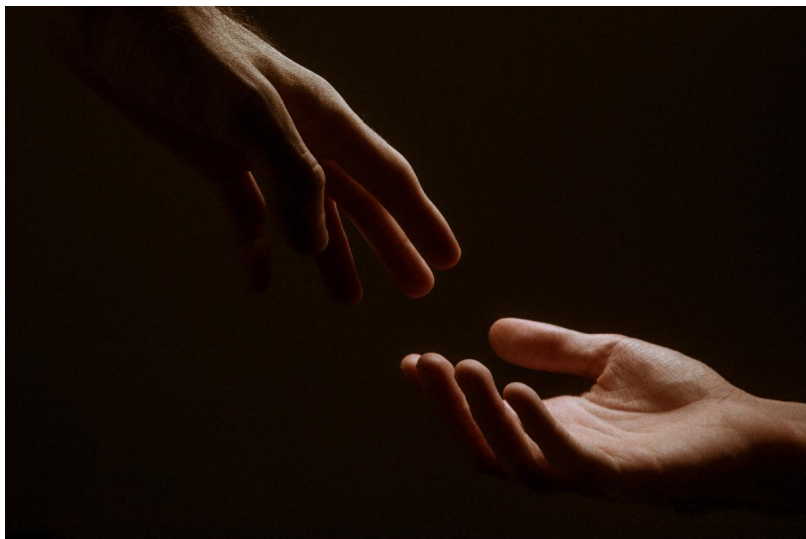


Photo by [Jackson David](#) on [Unsplash](#)

God

Becoming God

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.

Join Us to Say FAREWELL to Church Administrator, Thomas Slack this Sunday, March 6th

It is with gratitude, yet sadness that Winchester Unitarian Society is saying good-bye to Thomas who has done a wonderful job keeping the wheels of WUS turning smoothly with kindness and respect for the past nearly 2 1/2 years. Unfortunately, his tenure has been primarily during the pandemic! His last day will be March 11th. Although his departure date is not yet firm, Thomas is looking forward to his next step, teaching English to children in Japan.

We will be saying a fond farewell to Thomas in the Sunday service on March 6th. Please join us to wish him well. We will have our first Coffee Hour with beverages (masked when not drinking).

We are also pleased that he will be able to work with our new Manager of Administration and Outreach, Richard Dorbin, who started on February 28th. We will welcome Richard in our service on 3/13.

If you would like to contribute to a gift for Thomas, please contact Fritzie.nace@gmail.com. A virtual card is [HERE](#) where you can share your own words of farewell.

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

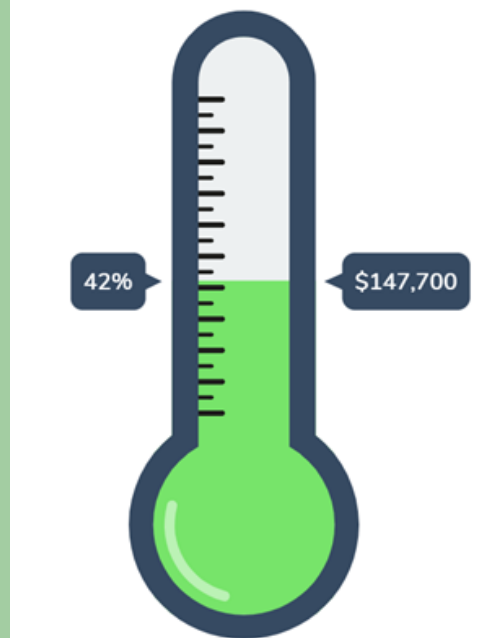
From the Pandemic Planning Task Force

The PPTF continues to meet with staff bi-weekly to assess the pandemic situation and WUS's response. At this time, we will continue to ask everyone to wear masks when attending Sunday worship or meeting at the church. We invite you to come back to in-person worship if you are able. Our CO2 sensor allows us to monitor the air circulation in the sanctuary in real time and the heating system has built in fresh-air circulation. We continue to leave the "wall" between Symmes and the Sanctuary lowered to increase volume of air circulated. All these measures have kept our air circulation well within the safe zone and we feel quite comfortable accommodating more people in the Sanctuary.

Unless circumstances change markedly, we plan to resume Coffee Hour with beverages only on March 6th. Folks are encouraged to continue wearing masks unless actively drinking a beverage.

Science has confirmed what we know intuitively to be true: there is a powerful impact of being with others in person that brings comfort, joy, healing and much positive energy! The PPTF and Staff will continue to update the congregation in Highlights, so stay tuned!

GOAL: \$350,000



A Progress Update from the Pledge Team for 03.03.2022

As of March 1, we have collected 42 pledges totaling \$147,100, which is 42.2% of our goal.

The past two years have been challenging for the church financially. While some families have also faced economic challenges, many of us who are retired or nearing the end of our careers have ridden market gains that have put us in a more secure financial position. Please consider giving generously to the church if you are in a position to do so.

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
Bradley Steele, Treasurer



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 for Climate SOLUTIONS and You! Together, we can meet the climate challenge. Learn about large-scale global actions already underway, high-leverage actions of local citizens, and practical ways we all can help. Come to the entire series, or pick and choose.

March 6 - Unit 3 Reducing Sources: with guest speaker Cora Weissbourd, a volunteer with Mothers Out Front. Cora will share information about our emissions sources in Massachusetts and our state's climate goals, with a focus on buildings and natural gas. Cora will discuss the Mothers Out Front Clean Heat, Clean Air campaign and explain how to get involved in Mothers Out Front or other climate efforts at a level that is comfortable for you.

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

Sponsored by the Winchester Unitarian Society and 350 Mass MetroNorth

Winchester's Repair Café #2 SNOW DATE SAT. MARCH 5 9:30 – 12:30 in Chidley Hall at the Congregational Church

At the first Repair Café last September volunteer repair specialists (including WUS members Dave Fonseca and Phil Coonley) successfully repaired, and demonstrated how to repair, over 50 items, including knives, tools and small pieces of furniture. In addition, there was much sewing of everything from canvas water buckets to waders, and the darning of many moth holes. Also repaired were lamps and numerous electrical items, including a vacuum and a toy police motor bike. AA

At the 2nd Repair Café there will be a Spring Bike Tune-up for children's bikes, and the repairers are hoping for more children's toys. So . . .

Sign up for an appointment to repair your items [[HERE](#)]

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.

We're *STILL* Looking for More OWL Teachers!



Have you ever thought that you might want to be a part of leading OWL (Our Whole Lives, comprehensive sexuality education for 7th & 8th graders) - AKA one of our most crucial ministries to young people? We have several trained teachers but we are always looking to find more awesome folk willing to get trained and join our roster. Perhaps you have a younger child and you want to level up on your education before they really need this stuff, or perhaps your children are all grown up and you know how valuable this was for them so you want to be part of it. Or, perhaps you're simply a strong advocate for reproductive justice and/or you just love working with middle schoolers! Whatever the reason, we'd love to talk to you about it a bit more and see if this might be a good fit. Please reach out to Sam - Sam.Wilson@winchesteruu.org - I would love to hear from all of you-hooo!

Religious Education



We had SO much fun at our Feb Fest Finale Fiesta last week! It was awesome watching everyone work hard as a team to decorate the pull-string pinata and prepare the fixings for our trash-can nachos. It was just great to be back together in person as well.

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

We will be returning to 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 our upcoming 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 and we are considering making it an interactive all-ages service that includes all of RE. If you haven't done so already, please answer [this one-question poll](#) now to confirm whether you think you'll be okay with bringing your family into the sanctuary for this service (*masks and social distancing protocols will still be in place).** If more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of our families are okay with doing so, we will move forward with that. After April 3rd, we are still in discussion about whether or not we will return to having children join us in worship for the first 15 minutes or so, or return to having outdoor all-community worship at the start or end of the service. **Please let us know your thoughts!**

We are excited to share that we are forming a **new Junior Youth Group for 7th and 8th graders** (exact name TBD, JUSYG, or WUSJYG, or WUSYJunior? Let us know your thoughts!) **If you are a parent of a 6th or 7th grader, we'd 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 "Pregnancy, Parenting and Teenage Parenthood" facilitated by Ryan Levering and Sophia Sid. 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 6th, 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! If you are not going on the service trip, please come too! To be clear, not every Sunday until the trip will be related to the trip in any way, but I'm asking trip folk to come because we want them to be as in sync as possible before the trip. We are also focusing on social justice issues that are both relevant to the trip and to everyone's lives.



Service Trip Update (repeated from last few weeks in case you missed it)

We are still moving full-steam ahead with our plans to go to West Virginia for our Service Trip in April. We recently met with a parent who is an Infectious Diseases physician/Public Health consultant who helped us talk this through. We have come up with several ways to help us reduce our risks throughout the trip as well as contingency plans in case something does happen.

We will be sharing more details with the trip attendees in the coming months (and of course, we will be continuing to track numbers, etc.) Based on current estimates though, we remain very hopeful that we will still be able to go to War (West Virginia,

that is!) We look forward to our upcoming in-person meetings so that we can have everyone around as we begin shifting our focus toward preparing (mentally and emotionally) for the trip ahead of us.

Social Action & Outreach

REMINDER!
SUNDAY 3/6/22
1-2 PM ON ZOOM FOR ANOTHER
CONVERSATION ABOUT THE 8TH PRINCIPLE
www.tinyurl.com/WUSworship

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

OPTIONAL HOMEWORK:

- Take a look at some of the Avatars (representative stories) in [Widening the Circle of Concern](#) to learn about the harm that BIPOC (Black/Indigenous/and other people of color) have experienced within UUA organizations in the US. (Here are some page numbers from the printed edition that may help you to find the Avatars: XXIV – XXV, 38, 66, 75-76, 100, & 109)
- Secondly, here is a web page with lots of information about the background of the 8th Principle. <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/background>
- Lastly, Paula Cole Jones, one of the originators of the project, was interviewed by Satya Mamdani, a youth member of the Article II Study Commission, in April 2021. This delightful 45 minute conversation is both current and clear about many aspects of the “8th Principle Project”: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/blog/conversation-eight-principle-project>

We really hope that you can make the time to attend and participate in this important process. Anyone who considers themselves to be a part of our UU community is more than welcome to join us.

Sincerely,

Patty Shepard, Gordy McIntosh, Gloria Legvold, Phil Coonley, Rev Heather, Claire McNeill, Sandy Thompson, Vicky Coccoluto, and Patrick Draine
Current Members of the Racial Justice Team Planning Group (RJTPG)

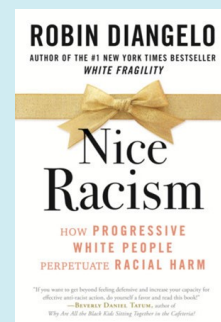
Proposed 8th Principle text: “We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.



BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, QUOTATION BY QUOTATION

“We could begin to move from our heads and connect to our feelings by asking ourselves why our hearts are not breaking every day. How have we managed not to see? How many videos did we have to watch before we believed? Why did George Floyd’s brutalization have to be so clear before we granted that he did not “do something” to bring on his own murder? What inconvenience are we willing to endure in order to build humanizing relationships across race? “

~Robin Diangelo in her new book *Nice Racism*



Sandy Thompson for the Racial Justice 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.lwvwinchester.org>) by March 5.

WhaleCoast Alaska 2022

Have you ever wanted to visit Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2022 is for you! 4 Alaska UU congregations invite you to experience our unique environmental and spiritual tour program next summer. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and awe-inspiring tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, sea lions, etc. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. WhaleCoast Alaska is an inspirational way to visit our beautiful state. Complete info at: www.WhaleCoastAK.org. Proof of Covid-19 vaccinations required. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience you won't want to miss!

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

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

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