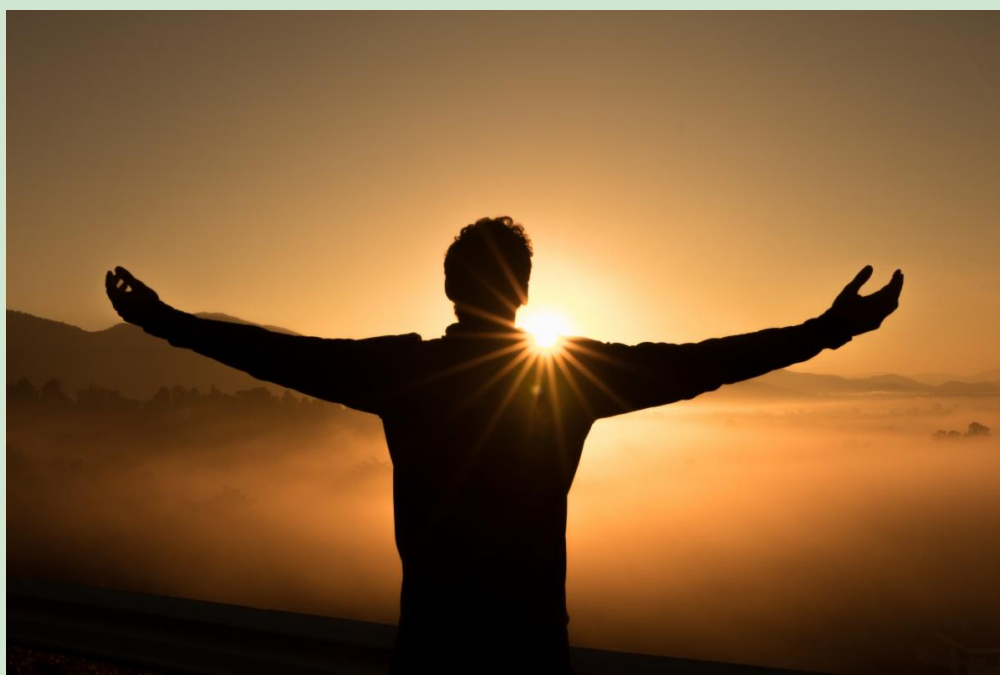


Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights

April 8, 2022

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



The Theme for March is **Awakening!**

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, April 10th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below

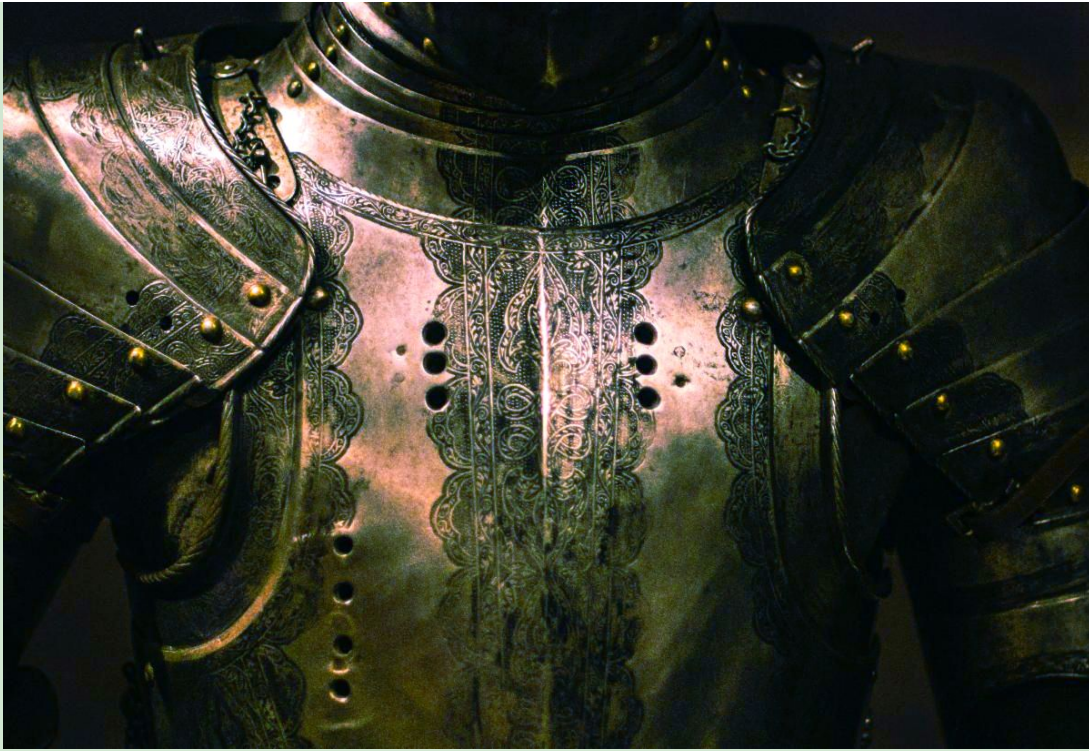


Photo by [Rosie Kerr](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The Green Knight

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

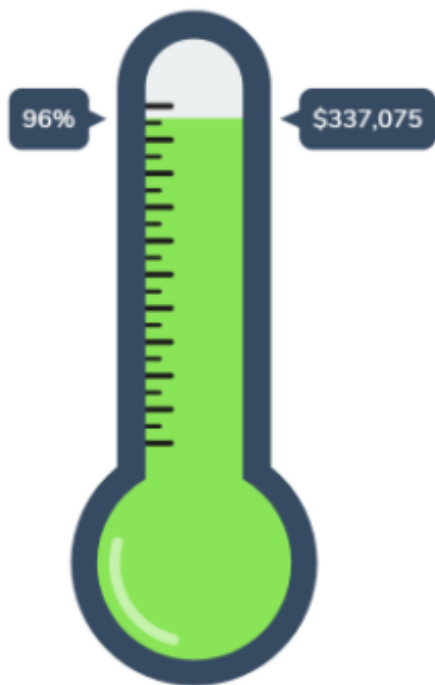
presence and, if applicable, resources. Contact the office, 781-729-0949 or office@winchesteruu.org

Congregational News

We hope that you were inspired by last week's youth-led all-ages service. Please fill out this form if you want to help us live into our RE Vision for Children and Youth at WUS next year: <https://forms.gle/i5Sw8b6YuENacJQe7>
We're looking for a large variety of levels of commitment and ways to be involved, and filling this out does not obligate you to do anything. Thank you!



GOAL: \$350,000



Pledge Progress Update 4/7/22

We're so close to completing our pledge campaign!

We have achieved 96% of our goal so far. The last few of us who have yet to pledge will receive friendly reminders this week.

Are you a straggler? We understand and welcome your participation at church. Please let us know if you are not able to participate this year.

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

If we can answer any questions or assist in any way, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you in advance for your generosity,

Robbie Brown: robthomas48@yahoo.com

John Healey: oceanwaterlover@gmail.com

Liz Scott: efscott@comcast.net

WUS Concert Series

Winchester Unitarian Society proudly presents



Windbornesingers.com

Windborne

LIVE IN THE SANCTUARY

Friday,
April 29TH
at 8:00 p.m.

Proof of Vaccination and booster
is required along with a mask.

Handicapped accessible

*"The best musical discovery of the year...Stunningly
powerful vocal harmony... Windborne sets a new bar
for folk harmony singing today"*

—Brian O'Donovan WGBH, National Public Radio

Winchester Unitarian Society
478 Main Street, Winchester, MA
www.winchesteruu.org

For information or directions, call (781) 729-0949

Concert can also be streamed - check out winchesteruu.org
for more information and for the latest COVID protocols

Suggested donation: \$20 adults, \$15 seniors and \$5 students

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

The concert will be live-streamed and performed for an in-person audience. Unless circumstances change, church attendees will not have to register, but will need to be masked and show evidence of vaccination and a booster. <https://www.windbornesingers.com/about/>

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, ACTION BY ACTION

WONDERING WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH OUR 8TH PRINCIPLE PROCESS ?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#2. PLEASE NOTE: NEW ZOOM INFORMATION BELOW

We will be having two formal presentations about our **8th Principle process**, with lots of time for Q and A, on zoom on the following evenings in April. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us so that you will be well prepared for the voting process on this issue at the Annual Meeting on May 15th.

Tuesday, April 19th, 2022, 7-9 PM – NEW ZOOM
INFO: <https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

Thursday, April 21st, 2022, 7-9 PM - NEW ZOOM
INFO: <https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

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

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

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

We Need More Cans!

We do a canned food hunt every year on Easter in lieu of an Easter Egg Hunt. We need more canned food donations to help make this Hunt even better! Please help us by bringing in extra cans and leaving them in the Basket by the back entrance. Thank you!

Stained Glass Window Tour



Please join us in the sanctuary after services on **Sunday April 24th** for a **tour of our magnificent stained glass windows**. Ever wonder about the iconography and the stories behind (and within) our beautiful stain glass windows? Why are there so many squirrels?

Please join **Raym de Ris** who can help plumb the visual and symbolic mysteries contained in our windows. **Light lunch** in the Michelsen room to follow.

WUS FY23 Budget Preview Sessions

Dear Members and Friends of the Winchester Unitarian Society,

The Standing Committee will be hosting two meetings via Zoom on the draft proposed budget for the coming fiscal year which begins next September 1st. You are invited to attend either one of these meetings. As has been true in recent years, the church is confronting a number of financial challenges in the upcoming financial year. Your understanding of the issues, and input into how the church can best address them, is highly valued by the staff and church lay leadership.

Please consider reviewing the [Budget and Finances Tutorial](#) to gain an understanding of the current state of WUS's finances, and to learn about the process of creating a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. We encourage you to dig into the details of the FY 2023 budget by exploring the [WUS FY23 Draft Budget 4-5-22](#). At the preview meetings, the Budget Team (Bradley Steele, Judy Murray, and Sue Kiewra) will give an overview of the proposed budget, host a Q&A period, and gather your feedback. Your Standing Committee wants to hear from you before finalizing the proposed budget to present at our annual meeting for your vote.

Our Bylaws require the congregation to hold an annual meeting in May. We will notify you soon on the time and date of the meeting along with warrant articles to be presented.

We hope to see you at one of the preview budget meetings on either

Thursday, April 14th at 7 pm or Sunday, April 24th at 1 pm via Zoom at:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97866013407>

Voting members of the Society are especially encouraged to attend but everyone is welcome. Questions and comments can be submitted in advance by emailing treasurer@winchesteruu.org, subject line "FY23 Budget."

Fritzie Nace, WUS Standing Committee Chair

WUS Fundraiser Planning Please complete the Survey!

[NEW SURVEY LINK](#)

The Standing Committee is looking to solidify plans for our next fundraising efforts. Each June we have a presence at the Winchester Town Day. Sometimes we have used this opportunity to fundraise in various ways. We have also had wonderfully fun fundraisers that draw donations primarily from our own members. We would like to consider all options and gauge the energy, interest and availability of our WUS community to determine our next fundraising steps.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS [SURVEY](#) NOW TO HELP US DETERMINE OUR NEXT FUNDRAISER!!!

It will take less than 5 minutes. This is a high-level interest survey and in no way commits anyone to anything in particular. Also, we have many long-time members who routinely pitch in, despite their age and stage in life. It is time now to lean on those of us who are under 70 years old!! You DO NOT have to have signed the Membership book to participate. In fact, FUNdraisers are a great way to get to know other WUS -ers!!

Thank you for completing the survey!
Your Standing Committee

Religious Education



Thank you SO much to all of you for joining us in the Sanctuary last week, and helping to make our worship so special. It was so wonderful having you there and also getting your kids' help with so many parts of the service. While the service is still fresh in your minds, can you do us a favor and please fill out this quick google form about your family's experience - <https://forms.gle/WAiYcocAzt2scG7A9> We'd love to learn from you all so that we can make the next one even better for everyone!

This Sunday, April 10th

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. April's theme is Awakening. We will be reflecting on our experience together last week in worship and also getting our pots ready for the seeds that will soon be awakening in them. We will also meet outside if the weather is above 50 degrees and not raining.

OWL (Our Whole Lives, 7th and 8th grades): This Sunday is the final OWL Class and Party from 4:30-6:30 pm. Parents: You are all invited to join us for our party in our large, well-ventilated Metcalf Hall at WUS at 5:15pm next Sunday 4/10 after dropping off your children at 4:30 as normal. The easiest way to get there is to park in the back WUS parking lot which is right next to the hall. We will wrap up the class ourselves in the normal OWL room and then head down to the party to join everyone. There will be snacks and some joyously awkward festivities. Children will also join WUSYG, the high school youth group, for the last 30 minutes of their meeting. Please wear a mask inside except when eating/drinking and stay aware of personal space with others.

If you can contribute to the party prep, please check out our [Signup](#) to bring something for the festivities or to come a bit early to help setup the decorations (normal party decor + some extra OWL-ish touches).

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)

Thank you SO much to everyone who joined us last Sunday to help lead our special All-Ages service and then fundraiser! We raised almost exactly our goal of \$2,000! The worship was also our best-attended service of the year, and everyone did a FANTASTIC JOB, with SO many different contributions! THANK YOU AND CONGRATS!

This Sunday, April 10th, 3:30 pm - 4:30 Service Trip Mandatory Final Meeting (& Final Deposit Due)



This Sunday

April 10th, 3:30 pm

Service Trip Mandatory Final Meeting (& Final Deposit Due) followed by regular WUSYG meeting - 4:30-6:30 pm

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, plus please bring an additional \$25 if you would like a Trip Tee Shirt (for a total of \$425). **Trip Tee Shirt Order forms are DUE TODAY** - Please fill this out if you haven't already: <https://forms.gle/e7cct1UaNfFCerbV6> 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 me ASAP to schedule another time to meet and get the final details and submit your final payment.

Update on Final Deposit: I will talk about this at the meeting in more detail, but, please note that the actual trip costs have raised significantly since our original service trip meeting, due to the prices of gas, supply chain demand shortages, etc. The actual cost per person that we originally quoted you was \$800 but it is now likely going to be more like \$1200. We do have savings from past fundraisers that we have been accumulating over the years, so the total cost to families remains \$500 (so, your final

deposit is \$400 plus \$25 for t-shirt), and, *if any families are willing and able to pay some or all of that additional \$400 of the actual trip costs* so that we don't spend all of our savings, that would really be appreciated. As always, too, if you would like to request a scholarship, please just let Sam know. Full or partial scholarships are always available to WUSYG families for everything that we do.

Next Saturday, April 16th, Service Trip Departure at Noon in the Back Parking Lot

Please be here at noon next Saturday if you are going on the service trip. We plan to return around 7 pm on the 23rd. There will not be WUSYG meetings on the 17th or the 24th. Please note that you will need to have had a negative COVID test within the last 48 hours and you will also need to bring an additional rapid test to take on Sunday morning (in Philly before we head down to WV).

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 me for more details if you're interested!

Social Action & Outreach



Building Beloved Community

Quotation by Quotation

The Reverend Eugene Sparrow, "The God Within," 1921-1978, Black Unitarian minister; from *Been in the Storm So Long*, a meditation manual edited by Mark Morrison-Reed and Jacqui James.

"The past years have deepened my belief that God is within, working in mysterious ways. I therefore believe profound introspection is a synonym for prayer. But it is not just an arid exercising of the intellect, a scientific analysis of one's inner nature. Genuine emotion also plays a role in the religious experience. The world and its people, despite differences in definition of objectives, have begun to reach toward the spirit of love.

I believe that love of one's fellow humans is not just a passive intellectual concern for their welfare. Such love should manifest itself as an active effort to improve their lot. The renaissance for human dignity is moving forward, helping not only the oppressed but also the oppressor to find the God within."

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)

You're Invited to the Installation of Rev. Deborah Bennett

Join Emerson UUC for this community celebration and sacred service as we finally install Rev. Deborah as our called minister. A beautiful service featuring multiple UU clergy and special guests begins at 4 pm. [Click here to join us on zoom!](#)



PARTNER CHURCH NEWS

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

The war in our neighborhood affects our economic situation. Prices are growing a lot. There is a lot of uncertainty. People don't feel safe. Many in Transylvania have made survival packs so that if they have to flee, they will have at least a week of necessities—food, medicine, and other things---to take with them. It's like a bad dream. If someone had talked about war in 2022 in December 2021, I wouldn't have believed it. I hope it will stop and not extend to a third world war. I really hope.

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

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

It's Grant Application Season!

The **Social Action** and **Outreach Committee** invites members and staff to sponsor organizations whose work reinforces our mission. As we become increasingly aware that many of the inequalities in the U.S. have systemic causes, we must also work for changes in policies. We encourage you to find groups that are working toward new solutions at the local, state, national and international level in addition to the groups that we have been honored to support for many years.

Here are the steps for participating this year:

All potential sponsors should notify Sue Doubler about any group they plan to sponsor this year by Feb. 28. Please contact Sue via her email address: suedoubler@gmail.com

Early in March, SAOC members contact the sponsors of the organizations applying for grants, for which they will be the reviewer, and clarify the process, as needed. Sponsors notify the organization about the grant opportunity, obtain contact information, and learn about any possible special project to which the grant might contribute.

Sponsors find the **Grant Application Form** and complete Section I and II, before sending it to the organization. Please request the application be returned to the sponsor well before the March 31st deadline and convey our preference for electronic applications and simple financial statements. <https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Grant-Application-2021.pdf>

On receipt of the application, sponsors make sure it is complete, and then send it to the designated reviewer on the SAOC via email. Complete applications must be submitted by the sponsor to the reviewing SAOC member by March 31.

Please Note:

Sponsors with questions about the process, especially before you know who will be reviewing your application, please reach out to Claire McNeill by phone at **781-729-3625**. Please leave a voicemail with your question.

Have you ever been to General Assembly?

Make this your year to experience our annual gathering of UUs across the US. June 22-26. It's a wonderful chance to hear inspiring messages through formal speeches, workshops and worship. This year will be hybrid: in person in Portland Oregon or

participate in your own home. Check it out at: <https://www.uua.org/ga> Registration for virtual GA 2022 is \$250 per person.

You may now [view the GA schedule](#) to see the lineup of informative workshops, inspirational worship services, and more! You will discover which programs will be on-demand, which programs will be live-streamed. Questions? Ask Claire McNeill

Pandemic Planning Task Force

Update 3/8/2022

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.

For the latest update concerning WUS COVID policy, please go to: [PPTF Update](#)

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

On-Going

The Food Pantry at the Council for Social Concern is currently low on: **Canned meats (tuna, beef stew, spam, salmon), baked beans, hearty canned soups and pasta sauce.** Since donating food may not be convenient, contributions may be made directly on their website: www.socialconcern.org



Please find the drop off baskets in a new location - by the back door of the building near the parking lot. Access to this basket is unlocked.



Food Pantry is open to Woburn & Winchester residents
 If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment, please call Paula Matthews, Food Pantry Director at
 (781) 935-6495 ext. 208

Beyond the Congregation

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

Thursday, April 14, 7:30pm

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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
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