

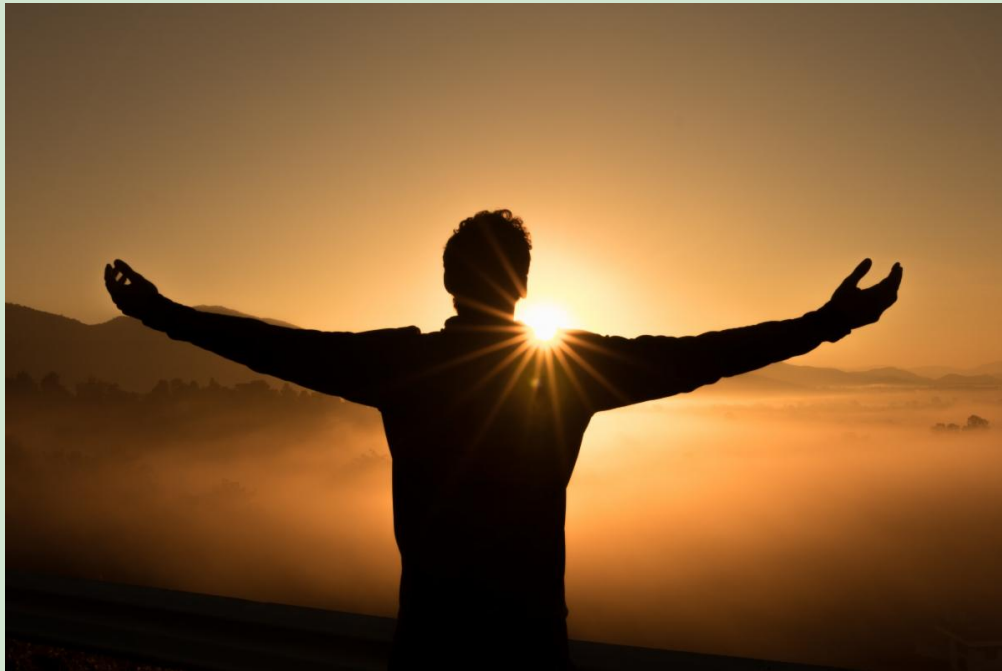


# Winchester Unitarian Society

## Highlights

April 14, 2022

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



The Theme for March is **Awakening!**

## Upcoming Worship

**Sunday, April 17th**  
**10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online**

## Virtual Worship Logistics Below



# Easter Service

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](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org)

## Congregational News

### Help Our Kids Help Others: We need more cans!

This Sunday is our annual Easter Canned Food Hunt and we could use some more cans for kids to search for. Can you please leave us some cans in the boxes by the back entrance? WUSYGers will be hiding them on Saturday before they head out on their trip to West Virginia, then RE kids will hunt for them on Sunday. All cans will ultimately be donated to the Woburn Council of Social Concern. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



## Save The Date!

Be sure to mark your calendars for our **Annual Meeting**  
**May 15th at 12:00 PM**  
Details to follow

## WUS FY23 Budget Preview Sessions

**4/14 at 7pm and 4/24 at 1pm**

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 on May 15th @12:00 pm. We will have more notices on 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**

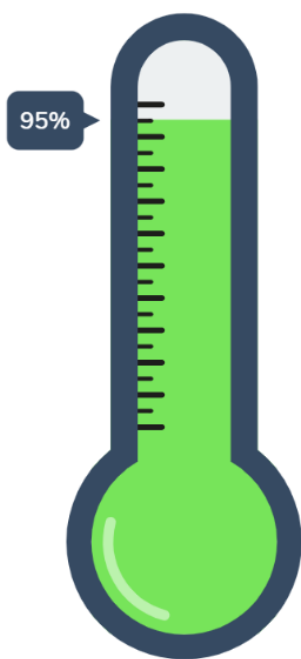
via Zoom at:

<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](mailto:treasurer@winchesteruu.org), subject line "FY23 Budget."

Fritzie Nace, WUS Standing Committee Chair

**GOAL: \$371,000**



### **Pledge Progress Update 4/14/22**

We have received **104 pledges** for a total of **\$354,175!**

While we reached our original goal of \$350,000, we have set a **new goal** of \$371,000 for FY 2023. This goal reflects the 6.3% COLA, or inflationary rate of the past year, which is approximately the amount we anticipate our expenses will increase in the next year to allow staff salaries to keep up with inflation.

Of the 119 members/supporters of WUS who pledged last year, 99 have made their pledges for the coming year, and we have had five new pledges. We are hoping to still hear from some of the 20 members and supporters who pledged for our current fiscal year, who have not yet done so this year. Wouldn't it be inspiring if the pandemic and other challenges did not have a negative

impact on the financial health of WUS? If you have not pledged yet, please help us make it happen.

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 to everyone who has pledged so generously, and thank you in advance if you are about to pledge now!

Robbie Brown: robthomas48@yahoo.com

John Healey: oceanwaterlover@gmail.com

Liz Scott: efscott@comcast.net

## Stained Glass Window Tour



Sunday | April 24 | 11:45am

### WUS Stained Glass Window Tour

Ever wonder about the iconography and the stories behind the beautiful stained glass windows of the Winchester Unitarian Society? Who are the 3 women in the windows on the right and why are there so many squirrels? Get those and other questions answered by joining a tour of our church windows with WUS Member Raym de Ris.

For Newcomers and long-attendees alike! All are welcome.

Tour: 11:45am with a light lunch in the Michelson Room to follow!

## WUS Concert Series



Our final concert in this year's series is on **Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>** 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/>

## 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 on April 30<sup>th</sup>** [Click here to join us on zoom!](#)



## Religious Education

### It Takes a Church!

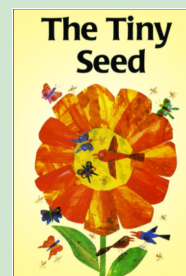
We hope that you were inspired by the youth-led all-ages service on 4/4.

We were thrilled to be joined by 110 people including 30 children and youth! Please help continue this momentum by filling 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 hope that all WUS members will consider contributing to RE in some way next year. We're looking for a large variety of levels of commitment and ways to be involved. We're looking for short- and long-time volunteer teachers, for all ages, advisors for our new junior youth group, as well as people to co-lead one-time events or special projects, perhaps lead the first reflection (story for all ages) sometimes, perhaps just bring us snacks, and lots more contributions of all levels! No doubt there is a way for our needs to meet your skills and desires! Filling this out also does not obligate you to do anything. Thank you!

Big shout out to everyone who joined us last week as we continued our Soul Matters theme of Awakening and thought about what seeds need in order to awaken in the spring (and what we might need to wake up to certain things, too). We also heard Colette read "The Tiny Seed."



## **This Sunday, April 17th, RE for K-6 outside, 10:30-11:30 am: Easter Sunday and Canned Food Hunt**

RE for K-6 will meet outdoors near the garden of tulips our children planted in the Fall. We will begin by using our Soul Matters theme. April's theme is Awakening. We will be reflecting on our experience together through the seasons and stories we have shared in the spring. We will discuss the struggles people are going through, followed by our annual Easter Canned Good Hunt. Please dress in layers as the day may start cooler and get warmer as the children look for canned goods. RE will conclude at 11:30, then we'll have our usual 15 minutes of time in the playground. For more information about RE this Sunday, please look out for Naomi's upcoming email.

## **OWL (Our Whole Lives, 7th and 8th grades):**

OWL had its last meeting of the year and closing celebration last Sunday. Many thanks to our fantastic facilitators for leading this important program: Karen Caputo, Sarah Milt, Ryan Levering and Sophia Sid. OWL attendees plus current 6th graders are invited to join WUSYG from 5-6:30 pm on June 5th for Move Up Day. 6th and 7th graders will learn more about our new Junior Youth Group, and 8th graders will learn about WUSYG.

## **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](mailto:sam.wilson@winchesteruu.org) or text/call him: 857-523-9933

\*\*Please note that Sam will be away on the youth service trip from April 16-23 and then taking some time off, so he will not be available until after May 1st. In the meantime, please see Naomi's emails for more information about our programming and reach out to her with any questions: [naomimagnoni@gmail.com](mailto:naomimagnoni@gmail.com)

## WUSYG: Winchester Unitarian Youth Group (9th-12th Grade)

Thanks everyone who joined us last Sunday for our Service Trip meeting and then final WUSYG meeting before the service trip! We will resume regular WUSYG meetings on May 1st.

### This Saturday

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

It's finally happening! 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. Pictured here are our Service Trip Chaperones when we did this trip to West Virginia in 2016. This will be us in 4 days!!!



Please note that in order to go on the trip, youth will need to have had a negative COVID test within the last 48 hours (before our departure on Saturday at noon) and you will also need to bring an additional rapid test to take on Sunday morning (in Philly before we head down to WV). Youth are strongly encouraged **not** to go out or do other activities that might expose them on Friday night.

**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.htm>

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!

## Wondering what is Happening with our 8th Principle process?

Now that spring is here, the **Annual Meeting** is not far away. This year we will be voting on the **8th Principle**.

To make it easy for everyone to be prepared for the voting process, the **Racial Justice Planning Group** is hosting two formal presentations about our 8th Principle process. The format will be the same for each meeting and we will have lots of time for Q and A. These meetings will be on ZOOM on the following evenings in April.

### Please join us for these presentations

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

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

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us so that you will be ready for the voting process on this item at the **Annual Meeting on May 15th**.

Please come, tell your story, share your experience, add your own understanding and perspective so that we can grow further into a radically inclusive and welcoming congregation that honors, respects, and acts.

Sincerely,

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

Below is a link to more general information about the vote and other opportunities to learn more. The Winchester Unitarian Society will be considering approval of the **8th Principle at its Annual Meeting on May 15th**. 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.

Other opportunities for you to learn more about this initiative:

**#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 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

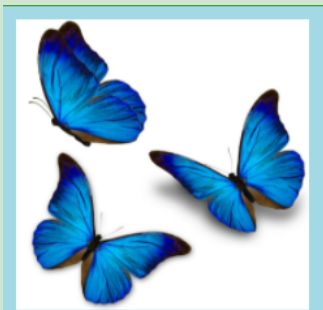
**#2.** If you seek further information about the 8th principle, [here](#) are a few more recommended resources.

**#3.** As you may have seen in Highlights and elsewhere, 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](#).

**#4.** And of course you can always contact any of us to discuss these issues further with current members of the **Racial Justice Team Planning Group**

\* If any of the above links don't work for you, please email [shepard.patty@gmail.com](mailto:shepard.patty@gmail.com)

## Social Action & Outreach

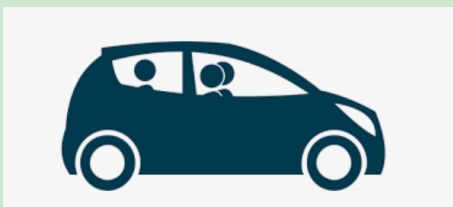


### BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY QUOTATION BY QUOTATION

From *Been in the Storm So Long*, a meditation manual edited by Mark Morrison-Reed and Jacqui James, a reflection on race from The Hon. Wade H. McCree, Jr. (1920-1987), the first African-American to serve as U.S. Solicitor General and a UUA vice-moderator:

“I just cannot accept the proposition that some people are better or worse than other people because of their race—whatever it may be. I accept my race and the race of everyone simply as a condition of existence, like height, weight, age, sex, or shoe size. **Now this doesn't mean at all that I am blind to the fact that other people may regard race as the most consequential aspect of their being and my being. I have almost a half century of scars, fortunately most of them on my memory and not on my body, to remind me that I live in a racist society.** However, I refuse to permit anyone to infect me with a virus of racial pride because I know it would turn out to be a cancer that would destroy my spirit, my physical self, and the world in which I live.”

—Gloria Legvold, on behalf of the Racial Justice Team Planning Group



### The WUS Meals & Rides effort needs fresh volunteers!

Volunteers are occasionally called upon to provide practical support like meals, rides, and errands to church members in times of need.

Gay Mohrbacher coordinates volunteers and works closely with our PCAs. It's a

fulfilling and non-demanding way to serve this community. Interested? Please email [gay\\_mohrbacher@wgbh.org](mailto:gay_mohrbacher@wgbh.org) and thank you.

## 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](mailto: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](http://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



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

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