

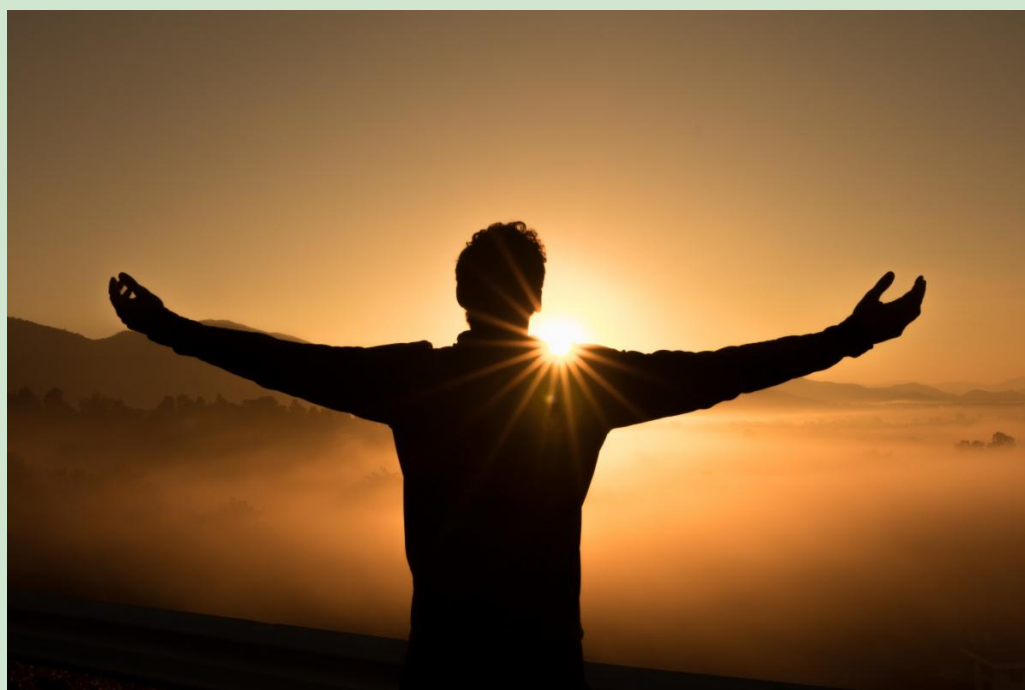


Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights

April 21, 2022

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



The Theme for March is **Awakening!**

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, April 24th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below



Earth Day

What do we need to live our values out loud? What will inspire us into really changing our behavior? This Earth Day Sunday members of the WUS' Green Sanctuary Team present a service that will touch on the practical, the spiritual and the visionary as a way to aid us in healing the earth.

Green Sanctuary Committee

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

Spring WUS Church Yard Clean-up

This Saturday and Next

10:00 am to Noon

The **Building and Green Sanctuary Committees'** seek volunteers of all ages to join in edging, in weeding, and in removing leaves, twigs, and debris from our Center of Town grounds.

Doing this with **volunteer labor of all ages** will demonstrate to all passers that **much landscaping maintenance can be accomplished without gasoline powered tools**. Also, it will **save the church about \$1,500** in contractor costs, as did the WUS volunteer rakers last fall.



Bring garden gloves, rakes, trowels, tarp or lawn refuse bags, and edgers if you have them. Put your name on the tools you bring so they won't get mixed up with the extras we'll have for those without tools.

These are the things that need to be done:

Meditation Garden:

- Remove leaves from garden beds; cut back remaining stalks of perennials

Main St Entrance/Island:

- Remove leaves from garden beds

MVP Entrance:

- Remove leaves from garden beds (actually, not too many)
- Cut back last year's perennial stalks
- REMOVE GRASS/ WEEDS FROM BEDS*
- Edge (with edger!) garden beds

*Julie Khuen has already cut back the ornamental grasses and some of the perennials in the MVP beds, but they still definitely need weeding/edging. And we may have

extra mulch on hand to add to the beds to minimize the weeds return.

Many Hands Make Light Work!

Save The Date!

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

Please note that the office administrator will need completed **Committee Reports** turned in to office@winchesteruu.org by no later than **Noon, Wednesday April 27th**.

Please be sure to turn them in as *Word Documents* rather than Google Docs. There are formatting issues with Google Docs that I want to avoid.

WUS FY23 Budget Preview Session

4/24 at 1pm

The Standing Committee will be hosting a Zoom meeting on the draft proposed budget for the coming fiscal year which begins next September 1st. 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 meeting, 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 this meeting:

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

Stained Glass Window Tour



Please join us in the sanctuary after services **this 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.

WUS Concert Series



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/>

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 in-person including 30 children and youth (plus even more livestreaming)! 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-term 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

Pledge Progress Update 4/19/22

We have received **106 pledges** for a total of **\$356,000**.

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.

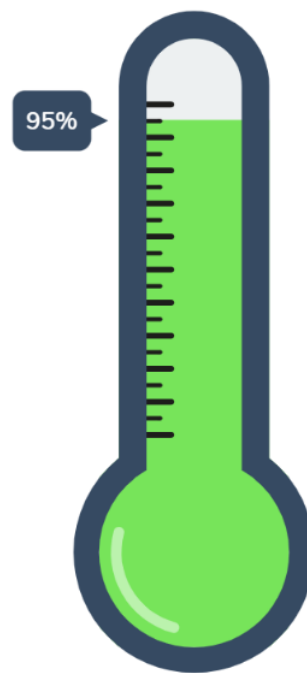
Thank you to everyone who has pledged so generously, and thank you in advance if you are about to pledge now!

Robbie Brown: robthomas48@yahoo.com

John Healey: oceanwaterlover@gmail.com

Liz Scott: efscott@comcast.net

GOAL: \$371,000



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 30th** [Click here to join us on zoom!](#)



Join Us In-Person **Sunday May 1st** to

Welcome Back

Rev. Heather

&

Say Thank You and Farewell to

Rev. Hank

Sign a card for Rev. Hank [HERE](#)

Religious Education

This Sunday, RE for K-6, 10:30-11:30 am

Thanks to everyone who joined us last week in RE! RE for K-6 will be meeting this Sunday to continue our Soul Matters-themed workshops from 10:30-11:30 followed by 15 minutes in the playground. April's theme is Awakening and May's theme is Nurturing Beauty. On May 1st we will also be joined by Sarah Milt for a special crafting project that we will be creating together then donating to Wright Locke Farm. Please refer to Naomi's upcoming weekly email to families for more information about where we will be meeting and what we will be doing.

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

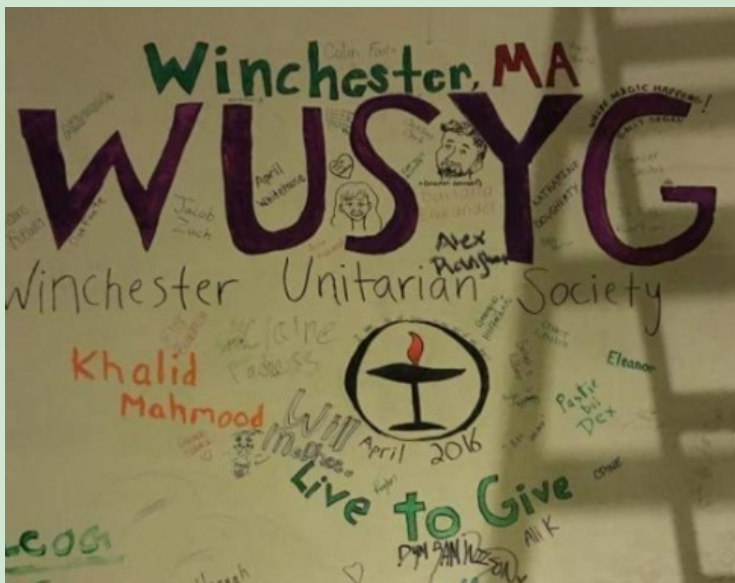
**Please note that Sam will be away on the youth service trip from April 16-23 and then taking some time off, so he will not be available until after May 1st. In the meantime, please see Naomi's emails for more information about our programming and reach out to her with any questions: naomimagnoni@gmail.com

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

There will not be WUSYG meetings on the April 17th or the 24th but we look forward to seeing everyone again when our regular meetings resume on May 1st.

In the meantime, check out

some pictures from where we're staying in War, West Virginia. The first pic is from the high school-turned dormitory, and the second is one of the walls in that dorm that our youth painted on in 2016 when we were last there!



If you look close enough you'll even see a caricature of Sam (between the S and Y) that one of the teens painted :) plus a chalice and our slogan, "Live to Give." To hear stories about our trip, we hope everyone will join us for **Youth Sunday on May 22nd**.

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 this presentation

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 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.

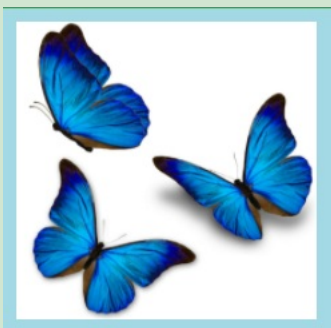
#3. As you may have seen in Highlights and elsewhere, the Article II Study

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

Social Action & Outreach

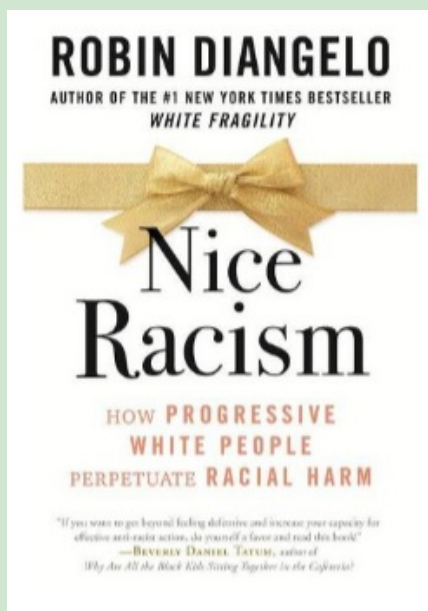


BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY BOOK BY BOOK

Following her first book, *White Fragility*, author Robin DiAngelo continues to challenge well-intentioned white people on their *Nice Racism*. As a white person herself, she points out numerous examples of how many who see themselves as racially progressive can actually cause harm to people of color. This is worth a read if you really want to

be welcoming to people of color.

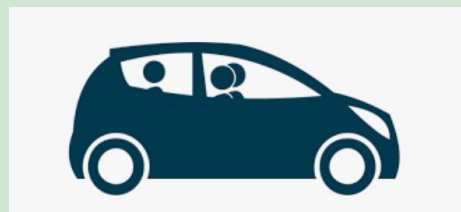
Sandy Thompson for the Racial Justice Planning Group



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 and thank you.

Update on **Ukraine Relief** through **International Unitarian Women's Organization (IWO)**

As many of you know our community recently had an opportunity to contribute humanitarian aid to Ukrainian refugees through a Faithify Campaign, developed from the combined efforts of the IWO and the Providence Organization of the Hungarian Unitarian Church. [Here is their latest update](#). This campaign has now ended and they are starting another. Stay tuned for information about their upcoming Faithify Campaign and thank you for your interest and support.

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



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