



Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights

May 19, 2022

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



The Theme for May is

Nurturing Beauty

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, May 19th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below

Youth Sunday: Spread Love!

**WUSYG Seniors, Director of Youth Ministries
& Interim Coordinator
of Religious Education Sam Wilson**

This Sunday is Youth Sunday, the special annual service that includes our beloved graduating seniors' statements, and a bridging ritual that will mark their transition to Young Adulthood in the UU faith. The rest of the youth group will be contributing with readings, musical performances, and more. This service will be tied together with the theme of spreading love, which was a recurring theme during our recent Service Trip to West Virginia. This service will also include some stories from that trip.

We will be sharing our gifts with Big Creek People in Action (BCPIA), the organization that WUSYG worked with in West Virginia. BCPIA has been serving the community of McDowell County in the realms of education and literacy, leadership development, volunteer service, service learning, arts and culture, housing, recreation, and collaborative partnerships. BCPIA's vision of McDowell County is one of empowered and self-sufficient people living in communities that are economically vibrant, democratic, and socially just.

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.

The service will also be broadcast on the Bell Tower Terrace.

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

As named on Sunday, healing wishes are with

John Russell

who is receiving treatment at Winchester Hospital.
His condition is improving. Cards may be sent to his home.

We send our condolences to the family and friends of former WUS member,

Robert Wesley Horne (Bobby)

who passed away on Sunday May 8th in Boothbay Harbor ME.
Services for Bobby will be held in the sanctuary Sunday May 22nd at 2:00.
You may learn more about him and his life [here](#).

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

Special Service Honoring George Floyd



Winchester Unitarian Society

presents

A Requiem for George Floyd

(Born October 14, 1973 – Died May 25, 2020)

by

Henry Mollicone



A special service to bear witness

Wednesday, May 25th @ 7:30 PM

Winchester Unitarian Society

478 Main St., Winchester MA

Offering to support the Mystic Valley branch of the NAACP

Masks are required

On **Wednesday, May 25th at 7:30pm**, please join the **WUS Adult Choir** and the worship team for a special service honoring George Floyd and all those impacted by racism and white supremacy. We will be premiering

A Requiem for George Floyd

by the esteemed composer **Henry Mollicone**. This beautifully written work memorializes George Floyd and others victimized by discrimination and calls us to work toward a better future.

Congregational News

We are thrilled to welcome

Brenna Mayer

as our new **Children's Religious Education Coordinator**. Under Sam's supervision, Brenna will be working half-time to lead programming for our K-6 children on Sunday mornings, and otherwise assist with middle school programming.

From Brenna: I live in Groton with my two sons, 21 and 16. I'm excited to join the WUS community. In the small world department: The first Unitarian Universalist church I attended was the same church Sam Wilson grew up in!

From Sam: I am SO excited to be working with Brenna, and I know we're going to work really well together, because, in fact, we already have! We met at Ferry Beach 3 years ago, where we have worked closely together during 2 summers of Youth Camps. I know that she's going to bring the kind of energy, enthusiasm, and creativity that will make our RE programs continue to soar ever higher next year!

We will be introducing Brenna briefly at Youth Sunday this weekend, and she will also be joining us for Flower Communion on June 12th, so, please find her to give her a warm WUS welcome after either of those upcoming services.

Celebrating Staff Transitions

Juanita Simms

will be stepping back as our Nursery Supervisor at the end of the summer. However, she's not saying goodbye just yet! In her usual thoughtful manner, she has agreed to be on call as a volunteer backup next year, and still plans to come by occasionally and stay in touch with our families and community. Juanita has been providing a wonderful, loving and consistent presence to our youngest for the last 9 years, even entertaining them with story times on Zoom during the pandemic, and joining our RE team in co-leading K-7 for much of this year when we had no one in need of the Nursery. We are so grateful for everything that Juanita has given our children and we celebrate her for all that she has already given us, and will still continue to give us in a different capacity next year. Juanita will be around during the Church Picnic on June 12th if you would like to share your gratitude directly with her. We will begin searching for Juanita's replacement in the Fall, and will otherwise be looking for a cadre of volunteers to help staff the nursery as needed until we fill the position. Please reach out to [Sam Wilson](#) if you would be willing to join this team or if you have referrals for the job.

A Friendly Reminder

The parking space in the Main Street driveway, is intended for those with accessibility needs, either with accessibility placards on their car or short-term needs (such as recovering from an injury and walking with crutches.)

A number of members without accessibility needs have been parking in this spot. Regardless of how long you plan to be at WUS or the assumed demand for this spot, do not park here unless you have accessibility needs related to mobility challenges. The same guidelines for accessibility parking at grocery stores, libraries and other public buildings apply to this space at WUS.

If you need to drop something off, you are welcome to idle in the driveway by the door until you are done unloading and can then park on the street or in the back lot. If there are extenuating circumstances that necessitate parking this close to the building, please contact the office in advance to arrange for accommodations.

Finally, if you observe someone parking in the accessibility spot without an accessibility placard, politely ask them to move their car. As we seek to make our building as accessible as possible, we need all of us to reinforce guidelines in service to equity and disability justice. Thank you!

We Believe in Dog Walks Again!

We Believe in Dog is a gathering of WUS members and friends – and their dogs – who walk together in the Fells. You don't need a dog to participate! All participating dogs must be friendly and vaccinated.



We next gather on Saturday, May 21st. We will meet at the second of three entrances to the Middlesex Fells on Hillcrest Parkway at **10:00 am** and start walking around 10:05.

Let Rev. Heather know if you plan to come: heather.janules@winchesteruu.org
Please also send your cell number if this is your first walk so we can reach out to you if you are not at the starting point when we are about to begin.

Concert for Ukrainian Musicians May 23 at 7:30 PM



Winsor Music presents a benefit concert for Ukrainian musicians who have lost all of their work and been so displaced by this horrific war in Ukraine. All donations will go directly to The Relief Fund for Ukrainian Musicians, providing direct assistance for Ukrainian musicians in need. More information on that fund can be found [here](#).

Musicians from Winsor Music and Boston Hope Music will play a mix of uplifting and soulful works by Ukrainian composers **Lysenko and Skoryk**, as well as works by **Debussy, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Dvorak, Florence Price, and Bach**. Please join us!

Save the Date!

After worship on June 5th, we will engage in a reflective conversation, **Taking Stock**, a time to consider what we have gained and lost through the pandemic on a personal level and then collectively as a congregation.

There will be a virtual gathering on Tuesday, June 7th at 7pm to consider the same questions. Log on via www.tinyurl.com/wusworship

Contact Rev. Heather with any questions: heather.janules@winchesteruu.org

Religious Education

Thank you everyone who joined us last week for our field trip to Wright Locke Farm; we had a blast exploring and meeting all the animals with all of you!

This Sunday, May 22nd,

is Youth Sunday, which will be another All-Ages Worship Service (similar to what we did on April 3rd). We will have a special section for Very Important Children and Cats again, plus a child-friendly Order of Service, 1st reflection and other ways to involve our kids. This special service is led by our youth and features the seniors giving statements about their time in WUS. You'll also hear a bit more about our recent trip to West Virginia with WUSYG.

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)

It was fun chilling outside with you all last week, catching up a bit, and making some important plans for our busy next few weeks!

This Sunday, May 22nd:

Youth Sunday, BBQ & WUSYG Prom This is a busy Sunday for us which includes the service in the morning, then a BBQ/potluck in the afternoon while decorating the space for WUSYG Prom that will be later that night! We're so excited to spend (almost) the whole day with you!

Seniors should arrive at 9:30 am. All others involved in the service should come at 9:40. Youth are expected to join coffee hour after the service until noon, then we'll have our BBQ in the backyard. Please [click here to sign up now](#) to bring food for the BBQ and/or WUSYG Prom. We'll be decorating and hanging out at WUS until around 4, then we'll have a few hours to get dressed and prepped for WUSYG Prom which starts at 7 and goes until 11 pm. See y'all there!

Save the Date: May 29th is Bring a Friend Sunday, so we hope you'll all bring someone who might be interested in joining WUSYG next year.

Save the Date: June 5th is Move Up Day, so 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are all invited to join us from 5-6:30 to learn about WUSYG (and the Junior Youth Group for 7th and 8th graders). Currently WUSYGers will arrive at 4:30 per usual to plan what to do with the younger kids.

Save the Date: June 8th is Winchester PrideFest and WUS will have a table. We have some WUSYGers lined up to help decorate and be at the table, which will be advertising OWL, WUSYG and the Junior Youth Group as inclusive and welcoming spaces for people of all genders and sexualities.

Save the Date: June 12th is our last WUSYG meeting of the year from ***NEW TIME*** 2-4 pm. You won't want to miss it!

Please join us for a virtual conversation concerning one of life's important decisions.

Suzanne Norton, LICSW, Geriatric Social Worker at the Jenks Center, will discuss services available to assist you to age at home with the support of the Jenks Center and other local agencies. There will be time for questions.

To register, please email Richard.Dorbin@WinchesterUU.org or call the WUS office at **781-729-0949** by **Thursday, May 19**, with your name and email address. We will email some materials before the event.

To join the session go to:

tinyurl.com/WUSPCAs

*Sponsored by the Pastoral Care Associates at
Winchester Unitarian Society and the Jenks Center.*

Town Day

June 4th

**Hotdogs and Bake Sale
will be arriving soon!**

Many thanks to all those who responded to our survey to offer their help. We now have Sign-Up Genius links below to let us know when you are available. Signing up with these links also allows us to email just these volunteers with more detailed information. Thank you for your participation!

Help us bring the wonderful world of WUS to the streets on June 4th!
How would *you* would like to pitch in?

To be **Helping Hands** on **Town Day**, sign up [Here](#)

(Set-up, Cooking Hotdogs, Serving, Sales, Clean-up: *many slots available!*)

To donate your **home-baked goodies**, sign up [Here](#).

If you would like to support this effort, but are unable to contribute physically, you may help cover costs with a donation by cash, check or credit card at the church office, noting that the donation is for the Town Day fundraiser.

Social Action & Outreach



BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY, Quotation by Quotation

From **Matshona Dhliwayo**,
a Zimbabwean-born and Canadian-based author:

"I am injustice," said tyranny.

"I am lawlessness," said corruption.

"I am inequality," said bigotry.

"I am intolerance," said racism.

"I am destruction," said immorality.

"I am independence," said **freedom**.

"I am fairness," said **justice**.

"I am humanity," said **compassion**.

"I am tolerance," said **understanding**.

"I am restoration," said **goodness**.

Music

End of Year Chorale/Youth Choir concert
Tuesday, May 24th @ 6:30pm
WUS Sanctuary
(Rescheduled from 5/17)

We are thrilled to be back singing together and are excited to present our annual end-of-year concert after a two year hiatus. Join the **Children's Chorus and Youth Choir** as they present their greatest hits from the past year and some songs you haven't heard them sing yet.

SAOC

**IT'S SPRING AND THERE IS LOTS OF SOCIAL ACTION GOING ON!
HERE ARE JUST A COUPLE OF EXAMPLES**

Moral March on Washington – JUNE 18TH

For more info go here: <https://www.uua.org/racial-justice/poor-peoples-campaign>
To join the march, [sign up on the national RSVP page](#). To ride one of the buses the Poor People's Campaign has arranged through "Rally.co" then [fill out this bus sign up form](#).

Buses will leave the evening of Friday June 17th and will arrive in DC early the next morning. The Rally itself will gather at 9:00 AM and begin at 10:00 AM Saturday June 18th at 3rd and Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington DC. Buses will leave DC at 4:00 PM and arrive back in Massachusetts late Saturday night or very early Sunday morning.

**PLEASE JOIN YOUR SOCIAL ACTION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE AT THE
2ND ANNUAL**

PRIDEfest!

**RIGHT HERE IN WINCHESTER
Wednesday, June 8th 5 -7 PM**

In-Person, Outdoor Program at the Winchester Town Common

We state each week in church that we are a Welcoming Congregation, we fly a PRIDE BANNER at our main door, but... will WE as a congregation take ACTION and show up at our local town center to SHOW OUR SUPPORT for LGBTQ+ rights and issues on June 8th? The members of the Social Action and Outreach Committee are showing up this year and we are encouraging all members of the WUS community to do so too!

Description of event: Co-sponsored by our own WUSYG & Junior Youth Group, the Network for Social Justice, and the Town of Winchester, PRIDEfest is a community-centered Winchester-based event featuring multiple ways for attendees to educate themselves about LGBTQ+ rights and issues, engage around Pride related themes, and celebrate Pride as artistic expression through music, crafts and creative games. This year's festival will include students and community staffed tables and a mainstage with musical performances, a DJ, and speeches by Winchester middle and high school students.

Plus, our very own WUSYG & JYG will be there giving out "glitter blessings" in addition to info about our Youth group programming. See you at PRIDEFEST Wednesday, June 8th 5 -7 PM !

Update on the 8th Principle Vote

On May 15th 2022, after months of learning and discussion, the WUS congregation voted at the Annual Meeting to adopt the 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism. [Please go here for much more detail and further understanding of this important process within the UUA.](#)



NST Afghan Refugee Update:

As promised, the month of May has brought some great news for our Afghan friends!

Today was Ihsanullah's first day of training at Upper Crust, a pizzeria in Cambridge, just beyond Porter Square! Bob and Ihsanullah have been.....

To read more click [HERE](#)

**Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main St. Winchester MA 01890
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