
Highlights

July 7th, 2022

(link to today's full issue of Highlights)

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, July 10th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below

Hymn Sing

2022 Summer Services

Livestream access can be found at

www.tinyurl.com/wuslivestream

IN PERSON ATTENDEES

Come to the WUS Sanctuary (478 Main Street, Winchester)

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>

More information about the worship services can be found on the [website](#)

Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

A Memorial Service for **John Russell** is scheduled for **September 18th @ 2:00 PM** in the Sanctuary.

A link to the *Wicked Local* obituary for John is here: [John R Russell Obituary](#)

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

Please Contribute to Annual Evaluations

Rev. Heather is gathering input for evaluations for Director of Music John Kramer and Director of Youth Ministries and Interim Coordinator of Religious Education Sam Wilson. Please use these on-line forms to provide your feedback:

John Kramer: www.tinyurl.com/JKramerEval22

Sam Wilson: www.tinyurl.com/SWilsonEval22

Please provide your input by August 1st. Thank you!

Summer Services Reminder and Announcement of Schedule Change

As a reminder, at **10:30 a.m. this Sunday, July 10, 2022**, our summer service will be a *Hymn Sing*, led by our Music Director John Kramer. This promises to be a fun and uplifting service, and we hope that as many as can attend will do so either in person or by streaming. Whether in the sanctuary or at home, lift your voices in song!

We are also announcing a change in our summer schedule. We were hoping to present the UUA 2022 General Assembly Ware Lecture by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi on Sunday, August 21, 2022. Unfortunately, this year, the UUA has restricted access to the Ware Lecture to registered attendees of General Assembly, perhaps at the request of the lecturer. As a result, instead of the Ware Lecture, on Sunday August 21 we will present the 2022 Service of the

Living Tradition. This Service is an annual ritual, acknowledging the many forms and seasons of ministry. This year's sermon, *Radicals Rise Up - NOW Is A Moment*, is delivered by **Pastor Jacqueline Duhart**, Director of Spiritual Care Services at Starr King School for the Ministry. Pastor Jacqueline is "a Queer feminist of African heritage, mother, prison abolitionist, beloved partner, daughter and sibling, Minister Emerita of First Unitarian Church of Oakland, NURTURER, and LOVER of everything that supports life to thrive in joy." We are sorry that we had to make this change, but look forward to enjoying the Service of the Living Tradition and hearing Pastor Jaqueline on August 21.

2022 Summer Services Schedule

Livestream access can be found at

www.tinyurl.com/wuslivestream

We are happy to provide the schedule for worship services this summer, which is below. In connection with the schedule, please note the following:

- Call for Ushers. If you are willing and able to be an usher for one or more of our summer Sunday services, please let Martin know (again at mnewhouse9@gmail.com or 781-454-9425).

For in-person attendees:

Childcare will be available most Sundays. Bring your child(ren) to the playground to sign in before worship begins.

Refreshments and conversation will take place on the Bell Tower Terrace after worship. In the event of inclement weather, attendees are welcome to remain indoors for casual conversation without refreshments in the Symmes Room.

For all attendees:

With the exception of July 10th, a conversation will follow after worship at 1pm via Zoom. Log on at www.tinyurl.com/wusworship

*Indicates a service with pre-recorded content

7/10/22 Hymn Sing, Led by John Kramer, Director of Music
No discussion at 1pm

7/17/22 John Loewy – “What is Meant When ‘I am an Atheist’ is Said?” Summer Choir – Rehearsal at 9:45 a.m.

7/25/22 John Kramer – “8 Bible Vignettes’: Music by Nathaniel Dett”

7/31/22 Dan Hermes – To Be Determined Summer Choir – Rehearsal at 9:45 a.m.

***8/7/22 UUA 2022 General Assembly Service, Led by the Revs. Gretchen Haley, Sean Neil-Barron and Shari Halliday-Quan**

8/14/22 Nancy Schrock – “Recovering Black History: The New Hope Baptist Church in Winchester” Summer Choir Rehearsal at 9:45 a.m.

***8/21/22 UUA 2022 General Assembly Ware Lecture - Dr. Ibram X. Kendi**
Dr. Kendi’s “relentless and passionate research puts into question the notion of a post-racial society and opens readers' and audiences' eyes to the reality of racism in America today. Kendi's events are sharp, informative, and hopeful, serving as a strong platform for any institution's discussions on racial discrimination.”

8/28/22 Ivan and Joshua Correia – “Extreme Gardening”

9/4/22 Lee Barton – To Be Determined

Note that the **annual Animal Blessing Service**, traditionally held on Labor Day Weekend, will be held in the Fall.

There will be a post-worship conversation held over Zoom at 1:00 pm, giving those who attended at WUS to return home and turn on the computer! The link for this Zoom room is www.tinyurl.com/wusworship

Many thanks to Martin Newhouse, Dennis Brett and Director of Music John Kramer and our Worship Associates team for creating and implementing the summer ministry!



Summer Ministerial Support

WUS frequently hires a summer minister while the settled minister is away for vacation and study leave. For a variety of reasons, this year we are not hiring a summer minister. However, we have made arrangements for a local minister to work with our pastoral care team, the Pastoral Care Associates, should they need guidance or support.

You may read the biography for the Rev. Megan Lynes below. Megan is a trusted friend and

colleague of Rev. Heather and, as her bio reflects, offers a lot of experience should there be a need for her to work with WUS leadership.

Should you or your family be in need of pastoral support in July and August, **contact the PCA team directly at PCA@winchesteruu.org or call the WUS office at 781.729.0949**...But here is hoping for a happy and healthy season!

The Rev. Megan Lynes

Rev. Megan Lynes grew up UU in the Boston area, and was ordained in 2008 by the congregation of Canton MA, where she did her student ministry. Megan's ministry has included serving as a chaplain at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, with interfaith youth at Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries, and as the president for the Mass Bay Ministers' chapter. She served nine years as the Parish Minister of the First Parish in Bedford, MA, and two years as the Minister of Faith Formation at the First Church in Sterling, MA. Some of her favorite pastimes are volunteering at The Children's Room (a center for grieving children and families,) and making art. Since the start of the pandemic, Megan has stayed home to be with her three year old son full time. She is a single mom by choice and lives in Stow with her best friend, her son Jesse, two cats and five chickens.

A Publication of the Winchester Unitarian Society

Mystic Messenger

www.winchesteruu.org 478 Main Street Winchester MA 01890



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for June, July, and August is now available on our website at:

[Http://Mystic-Messenger-Vol-7-Issue-4](http://Mystic-Messenger-Vol-7-Issue-4)

Religious Education

Summer Services and Childcare, June 26th-Sept. 4th

During the summer we do not offer structured RE classes. However, we will be providing childcare with unstructured time on the playground, monitored by Juanita and our teen teachers. Please meet them in the playground to drop kids off and sign them in before the service, then come pick them up and sign out by 12:45. As Sam will be away for some parts of the summer, please email both Sam and the RE Committee if you have questions or concerns: sam.wilson@winchesteruu.org and rec@winchesteruu.org

Social Action & Outreach

Statement about Adopting the 8th Principle

2013-2017 Background of the 8th Principle: In 2013, after many years of experience working within the UUA on Racial and Social Justice, a grassroots effort began in order to clarify the need to address "racism and other oppressions at the systemic level." This later became called "The 8th Principle Project".



Individual congregations took up the campaign and by the 2017 General Assembly, a resolution to form an Article II Study Commission to consider the 8th principle was overwhelmingly accepted. Also in 2017, the UUUA Commission on Institutional Change was established and charged by the UUA Board of Trustees to conduct an audit of white privilege and the structure of power within Unitarian Universalism, and to analyze structural racism and white supremacy culture within the UUA. [Please see full charge here.](#)

In January 2018, our congregation adopted a statement: "Our Continuing Commitment to Racial Justice," which involved not only "publicly displaying on church property a sign or banner that includes the words 'BLACK LIVES MATTER,'" but also the following 7 ongoing commitments:

communicating to the wider community in multiple ways the meaning of the sign or banner, providing ongoing, intentional learning spaces for our members, friends and the wider community to deepen understanding of systemic racism and possible ways to change it, committing to being an intentionally and proactively anti-racist congregation,

committing to raising anti-racist children, acknowledging the need to continue to reflect on our own individual and collective roles in perpetuating systemic racism, committing, as a predominantly white congregation to study and reflect on white privilege and our own complicity in institutionalized racism, and

remaining mindful of the interconnected nature of racism and other systems of oppression that impact people based on class, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, age, culture, religion, and language.

2020 - Widening Circle of Concern Report and RJTPG activities converge:

In the fall of 2020, the Racial Justice Team Planning Group (RJTPG) developed a vision statement and, with the approval of the Standing Committee, initiated ongoing conversations with all the committee members at the Winchester Unitarian Society regarding its implementation. At the same time the Study/Action Guide for "[Widening the Circle of Concern](#)" (the report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change, a three-year in-depth study of experiences of UU people of color at the Association level and in UU congregations) was released. [The Study/Action Guide](#), a collaboration of the Commission on Institutional Change, the Liberal Religious Educators Association, Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, and the Unitarian Universalist Association's Lifespan Faith Engagement Office, provides framing and

helpful hints on how our community can actively participate in transformative liberation.

2021 and Conclusion:

Late in 2021 Rev. Dr. Susan Frederic-Gray, President of the UUA wrote in two separate essays: **“We need a sea change to dismantle the deeply ingrained structures of white supremacy, exploitative capitalism, and patriarchy,”** and **“To do the work of culture change, to live into antiracist, antioppressive, multicultural practices of the Beloved Community, we need abiding compassion, grace, and practices of solidarity and mutuality.”**

In light of our covenantal relationship with the wider UUA community, the Racial Justice Team Planning Group is asking members of this UU community to vote to approve the 8th principle.

We understand that:

- The duly elected members of the Social Action and Outreach Committee and the Standing Committee of the Winchester Unitarian Society have recommended that the 8th principle of Unitarian Universalism be adopted at our May, 2022 Meeting.
- The 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism has already been adopted by more than 150 other congregations in the Unitarian Universalist Association.

We are coming to understand that:

- The 8th Principle of UU is a contemporary culmination of, not a replacement for, the 7 principles of UU, which were formally adopted by the UUA in 1985 and last modified in 1995.
- No matter what form of oppression we are working to eliminate, we need to center the voices of those who have been historically marginalized and open our hearts to a deeper understanding of the myriad of ways that we and our institutions have been complicit at the systemic level.
- There is a pressing need within our faith for “radical welcome” and ongoing cultural change for it to be relevant to future generations.

THEREFORE:

We, the members of the Winchester Unitarian Society adopt for the WUS, and recommend for adoption by the Unitarian Universalist Association, the following 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism:

“We, the Winchester Unitarian Society, a member congregation 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.”

Additional Information for Further Understanding

15 minute video recording of the presentation of the above material for an evening discussion in April 2022.

Here is the slide deck for the same presentation.

If you seek further information about the 8th Principle Process within the UUA, [here are a few more recommended resources.](#)

Announcement from SAOC re. RJTPG

Recruiting – July/August 2022

The Racial Justice Team Planning Group needs and welcomes new members! It is important to have a broad representation of our congregation (age, race, gender, gender identity, etc) on this committee which has many avenues to explore as we continue the work.

The Racial Justice Team at WUS formed as an intentional group in 2016. We worked on educating ourselves through an 8-session workshop, book discussions, and community conversations. In 2018 the congregation voted to fly a Black Lives Matter flag as part of our work for racial justice. Following an on-line congregational survey, our planning group (RJTPG) began regular meetings in 2019, to continue the work.

We have been assisted by developments in the UUA, which issued a report in May 2020 addressing the structures and practices which continue to marginalize people of color. The RJTPG has held several workshops based on that report, *Widening the Circle of Concern*. This past year we worked to educate the congregation about an 8th Principle of UU.

Looking to the future, we have many avenues to explore, including offering more workshops, conducting a racial justice audit for our congregation, considering ways to live out the 8th Principle, with its focus on “actions... [to] dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

We would like you to join us. During the pandemic the planning group has been meeting monthly on zoom, usually on a Saturday morning. We often carry out tasks in smaller groupings, so there are many ways you could be involved. A fall retreat day will be planned, with Heather facilitating, to welcome and orient new members.

We want a broader representation of the congregation and need you and your ideas. Please contact any of our continuing members to learn more details and let us know of your interest.

Patty Shepard shepard.patty@gmail.com

Claire McNeill rkmcn@aol.com

Gloria Legvold glegvold@comcast.net

Gordy McIntosh gordon.mcintosh@verizon.net

Sandy Thompson sandra.thompson3@comcast.net

Vicky Coccoluto vcoccoluto@yahoo.com

Announcement from SAOC re. Reproductive Rights/Justice – July/August 2022

Are you motivated to become more involved in reproductive rights/justice work in the coming months? You are not alone.

The UUA Standing on the Side of Love team is offering guidance on their webpage:

[**A time to grieve, a time to re-commit.**](#)

They are also offering the following [**Reproductive Justice Congregational Organizing Series for Teams**](#) in July and August:

Join Side With Love's UPLIFT Action campaign for our upcoming three-part Reproductive Justice Congregational Organizing series. In congregational cohorts and a large group, we will explore the role of congregations in a post-Roe world (Session

1), spend time discerning risk and accessing courage (Session 2), and make an organizing plan (Session 3).

Whether you are in a state where abortion will be criminalized, or a state to which people will come seeking abortion care, there is a role for all of us—and all our congregations—to play, starting right now. The fight is far from over, but we're grateful to be in it for the long haul with you.

This series is intended for Congregational Teams only so AT LEAST 2 OF US MUST REGISTER TO JOIN – We have one committed person, so please go to the links above and below for all the details and let Patty Shepard know if you are interested. It takes place on three Thursday Evenings in a row: July 21, 28th and August 4, 8pm - 9:30pm ET

Registration link for:
[Reproductive Justice Congregational Organizing Series for Teams](#)

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