


Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights

September 22nd, 2022

(link to today's full issue of Highlights)

The Theme for **September** is

Belonging



Upcoming Worship

Sunday, September 25th
10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online
Virtual Worship Logistics Below

High Holy Days: The Quest for Character

When we gather, we will gather on the cusp of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year and the beginning of the Days of Awe, concluding with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Throughout this ten-day span, the faithful are invited to reflect on their actions in the past year, to make amends and seek forgiveness from those they have wronged. This service will reflect on the challenge of this task - this noble quest to become a better person, at any time of life - and the possibilities that exist for all of us to continue growing. (Note: this service's sermon will reference the abuse of children but not in any detail.)

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> .

Order of Service for Virtual Attendees can be found on our website under the listing for this service.

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

Joys, Sorrows and Transitions



When long-time member **Rick Hochman** died last June, we honored his wishes in not holding a memorial service. But we wish to honor Rick and our memories of him through a special social hour as Rick loved the refreshments and conversation after worship!

This Sunday, September 25th, there will be special treats on the Bell Tower Terrace for all to enjoy after the service. (Contributions of delights are welcome; soft cookies, milk chocolate and apple pie were some of his favorites.) After we fill our plates and enjoy some conversation, there will be an informal time for us to share stories and memories of our time with Rick. **If you cannot attend but would like your story shared, please email it to Rev. Heather at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org by Saturday, September 24th at 5pm.**

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.

Community Care in Action

**Can you deliver a meal to someone in
need?**

Can you provide a local ride on occasion?

MAY WE CONTACT YOU when there's need?

Join the Meals & Rides Volunteer List [here](#).

Congregational News

The Mystic Messenger

Our quarterly, reflective newsletter centered on the monthly themes is out now!

Highlights subscribers: Check your email.

You may also find it here: [Mystic Messenger Vol 8 Issue 1](#)
Or pick up a hard copy at one of the Welcome Tables @ WUS.

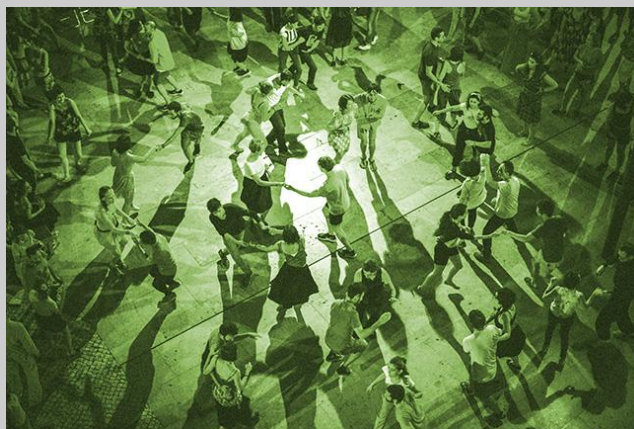
A family

DANCE

open to all

*Contra dances and some easy international dances (if you can walk, you can do these dances).

*Caller is Marcie van Cleave from the Folk Arts Center of New England. Marcie has called dances for us a number of times and is a real live wire.



*Live band of WUS members

*Sponsored by the Cerny-Thomases Fund

*Should be loads of fun!

*Back parking lot, **4:30, Sunday, September 25th**

Yoga at WUS

Thursdays 5:30 – 6:45 pm

(note new day/time!)

in the Chapel and via Zoom

Led by

Fritzie Nace, MA DTR

Deep breathing (pranayama) brings warmth and focus. Yoga postures (asanas) gently stretch and strengthen, enhance balance and counter patterns of daily tension. Connecting breath and movement deepens self-awareness and enlivens our sense of being. If you have never done yoga before, or



only just a bit, Fritzie gives clear guidance through a slow flow of postures, offering support as we go. If you have more experience, you are invited to take the postures to your own depth of challenge. Mats, blankets, blocks and straps are provided.

Please let me know of your interest by emailing Fritzie.Nace@gmail.com. If you wish to join via zoom, I will share the link.

Four 8-week sessions:

9/22 to 11/10/22,

12/1/22 to 1/26/23,

2/9/23 to 3/30/23,

4/6/23 to 6/1/23.

Full session prepaid - \$100; Drop-in (\$15).
(Checks may be made out to Winchester Unitarian Society.)

Mark your Calendars!

Solar Winds

Woodwind Quintet

**October 28th
at 8 PM**

Our 17th Concert Series begins on **October 28th at 8 PM** with **Solar Winds Woodwind Quintet** and **John Kramer on piano**.

The program includes the **Carl Nielsen Wind Quintet** and the **Poulenc Sextet for Piano and Winds**. Sponsorships are welcomed! Contact Kathryn Maffei klmnc@aol.com for more info. For more on Solar Winds go to: <http://www.solarwindsquintet.com>

Religious Education

We were so happy to see so many friendly faces – and bubbles – for our teacher dedication on Sunday! The fun and bubbles continued with our first Sunday in RE classes.

We welcomed 9 children to our new Spirit Play classroom and 4 to our Neighboring Faiths group. We made chalices, played games, and talked about the church year ahead. It was SO fun and delicious to share brunch with families and children of RE. Thanks as well to the dedicated work of the WUSYG teachers for helping with teaching as well as setup and breakdown of the brunch and classrooms!

This Sunday, Sept. 25th: RE Classes for K-6 and Community

Dance!

This Sunday we'll be telling stories about St. Francis and discussing our 1st principle (or, "promise" as Spirit Play calls the child-friendly versions of our 7 UU Principles). This first promise is "Respect all beings." This is timed to give everyone an understanding of what the animal blessing service for all ages will be about on October 16th. We'll start out in the sanctuary for the first 15 minutes of the service, as we did last week. Remember that all kids are welcome to hang out together in the front at the VICC Section (for Very Important Children and Cats). Cat ears will be available!

The Community Dance will happen this Sunday from 4 to 6 pm in the WUS parking lot. Come for lots of great live music, friendly faces, and general revelry. Dancing is strongly encouraged! Our experienced caller will be sure to coax even the shyest to take a spin! Join us for this fun community event for all ages. You're sure to leave with a big smile on your face.

OWL: Our Whole Lives (7th & 8th Grades)

The mandatory OWL Orientation for parents is scheduled for Oct. 2nd, from 5 to 6:30 pm. *(Note that this is a change from earlier announcements.)* The first date of OWL classes will be Oct. 16th. Please email owl@winchesteruu.org to register (and encourage parents of any 7th and 8th graders you know to do so!)

For more information about RE, or if you have any questions, compliments or concerns, please email Brenna, our Children's RE Coordinator brenna.mayer@winchesteruu.org or Sam, our Director of Youth and Children's Ministries sam.wilson@winchesteruu.org.

Junior Youth Group (7th & 8th Grades)

We're thrilled to be launching a Junior Youth Group this year which will meet after OWL Classes from 6:30 to 8 pm on Sundays. We will be serving dinner for the first 30 minutes. We're looking for congregational volunteers to make and join us for these meals! Our opening event will be a Halloween Party on Oct. 30th. Email Sam at wusyouth@gmail.com for more information and to register your family to receive updates.

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

The Opening BBQ/Potluck was a big success this past Sunday! We have around one-third more teens



as we did last year – and many from towns surrounding Winchester. Miraculously, the rain held off until the meeting had just finished!

This coming Sunday, Sept. 25th, 4:30 to 6:30 pm, WUSYG will be joining the community dance until 6 and then do check-in etc. afterwards. We will also be joined by youth from First Parish Lexington (yay new friends!).

Save the Date: Oct. 21st-23rd will be WUSYG's beloved Fall Retreat at Buffalo Hill Farm. The retreat goes from Friday night until Sunday morning.

If you have questions or want to be sure we have your email address for our WUSYG listserv, please email Sam and Alison (our new Assistant Director of Youth Ministries) at wusyouth@gmail.com.

Deep Wells:

A New Small Group Ministry

Worship is a collective, weekly spiritual practice that often inspires, heals and challenges us. But many members of the WUS community also enrich their spiritual lives through meeting in small groups for ritual, reflection, personal discussion and deep listening.



A new group is forming - Deep Wells. The focus of Deep Wells will be to bring greater intentionality to our relationship with the sacred as we understand it and to periodically share inspiration - through the arts, a sermon, a poem created by ourselves or another with the rest of the group. Participants will be expected to commit to the monthly meeting and to have and maintain a spiritual practice (of your choosing) outside the group. We will prioritize meeting in person but will make it accessible to people participating virtually due to travel, mild illness or another unavoidable obstacle.

Day and time to be determined based on the availability of those who wish to take part. We will likely begin in October. If you are interested, call or email Rev. Heather: 781.729.0949 and heather.janules@winchesteruu.org

heather.janules@winchesteruu.org 781.729.0949

Social Action & Outreach

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY

Quotation by Quotation



Building Beloved Community Quotation by Quotation

The lessons we learned over the past half century need constant reiteration, examination, and determination to break through barriers to understanding and change.

From “Sankofa—Go Back and Get It” by Jan Carpenter Tucker in the booklet *BLUU Notes: An Anthology of Love, Justice, and Liberation*. BLUU stands for Black Lives Unitarian Universalism, and the booklet, published in 2021, includes poems and essays from a wide range of perspectives.

From the Green Sanctuary Team

Climate Solutions Week

Winchester's Climate Solutions Week is
September 24th through October 2nd

The WUS Green Sanctuary Team encourages everyone, regardless of whether you live in Winchester, to attend one or more of the 20 events and activities planned for Climate Solutions Week starting **Saturday morning, 9/24/22**. The full list of events with more information is available at <https://www.winchester.us/978/Climate-Solutions-Week>

Get Out The Vote!

*You can help to encourage
"low propensity" voters to
cast their votes in November!*

UU the Vote has partnered with another non-partisan group called the New Georgia Project (NGP) (<https://newgeorgiaproject.org/>) to make phone-calls to under-represented, lower income citizens who would otherwise be *less* likely to vote.

These are not persuasion calls; not recruitment-calls: they're "just" *Get Out the Vote* calls.

While the call lists provided by the New Georgia Project were not created in a partisan manner, nevertheless both UU the Vote and NGP are confident that these voters are likely to share our UU values of justice, equality and inclusion.

In addition, the auto-dialer that's being used can detect voicemail-prompts and blocking apps, and only brings you on the line when an actual person has picked up. Please let me know if you're interested in participating in this action.

If you'd prefer to participate directly with NGP, then the link for that is: <https://mobilize.us/s/2Q8gaB>

Thanks, John Healey 774-289-2207

Follen UU Church is Hiring!

Looking for a great-part time job that fits with your faith? Follen Church in Lexington is hiring now for two Religious Education support

positions: an RE Administrative Assistant, and a Youth Program Coordinator! You can find links to the full position descriptions [HERE](#). Positions will be open until filled.

Seeking a Youth Program Coordinator

Follen UU Church in Lexington, MA, is seeking a Youth Program Coordinator, working an average 10 hours/week, year round, with time off available during the summer months. Follen has a vibrant group of youth leaders and advisors already- but they are in need of an organized, productive, and youth-loving individual to meet with them and coordinate programming. Please submit your application to humanresources@follen.org, or contact DRE [Beryl Aschenberg](#) with any questions.

[Job Description for Follen Youth Program Coordinator](#)

Part-Time Religious Education Administrative Assistant Opening

Follen UU Church is seeking an outgoing, self-directed, detail-oriented person to serve as the Administrative Assistant in the Religious Education Program. This permanent position averages 8 hours per week year round (with some flexibility in the summer) and requires strong interpersonal and collaborative skills, administrative and computer competencies, and enthusiasm for Unitarian Universalist Religious Education. Please submit your application to humanresources@follen.org, or contact DRE [Beryl Aschenberg](#) with any questions

[Job Description for Follen RE Administrative Assistant](#)

IMPORTANT

Pandemic Protocol Update

Dear Congregants and Friends ~

Two weeks ago, Sunday's In-Gathering Service was a joyful beginning to our new church year. The intergenerational service was well attended with 85 people in person. The PPTF was able to gather data which continues to

inform our guidelines. We wish to share that data with you and reiterate our current protocols so that all can make the choices that are best for you.

With 85 masked attendees at worship, the rear sanctuary doors closed and no fans on, the CO2 sensor went above 800(ppm) after the second hymn. The doors were opened and the fans were turned on. However, by the end of the service, the sensor went just above 900(ppm). indicating that the concentration of CO2 was still too high. Our aim is to minimize the inhalation of each other's exhalations.

For Sunday Worship:

Please enter the building and the sanctuary masked so that our youngest can join us safely and comfortably.

When the children leave the service for religious education in Metcalf Hall, those who wish to remove their mask may do so.

In order to maximize air circulation while our heating and venting system is not in use, we have asked that the sexton and ushers have all windows open, the ceiling fans on and the doors in the back of the sanctuary open during the service.

The head usher will monitor the CO2 sensor. Should the monitor reach 800(ppm), the ushers will turn on the standing fans to assist in air flow out of the sanctuary. At 800(ppm), the concentration of CO2 is still safe, but the likelihood of viral transmission is growing. Should an increase of CO2 to even higher levels occur, a determination can be made, an announcement made, and those who wish may choose to put their mask back on.

We will continue to serve coffee outdoors. Should the weather prohibit this, we feel that Symmes does not provide adequate space for unmasked socializing and eating, so we will not serve food or beverages. Please remain sensitive to other's choice to wear a mask as you socialize indoors.

On Sundays, Metcalf Hall will be used by the Religious Education program once the children leave the service. But for events not happening on Sunday mornings, masks will be optional and food may be served in Metcalf Hall.

For Children & Youth:

The Nursery and both RE classes for **K-6** will all happen in Metcalf Hall. Children should arrive wearing masks. **Spirit Play (K-4)** will require masks, though **Neighboring Faiths (5-6)** may be optional, depending on the comfort of the group. **Nursery** staff are required to wear masks but masks will be optional for babies/toddlers in childcare. Masks in **OWL** will be decided by **OWL** parents at their orientation, and will be optional for **WUSYG**.

We will continue monitoring both COVID data and the CO2 sensor data, as well as “taking the pulse” of our community. As always, we hope to allow the most freedom in gathering while providing safety for those who may be more at risk. We will continue to make adjustments as needed according to the information we have.

We want to see everyone in person and have a vibrant sense of connection and community while always keeping health and safety in mind. If you feel unwell, please do not come to church. Share the love, not the virus...

The Pandemic Planning Task Force and Staff pandemicplanningtf@winchesteruu.org

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