



Highlights

September 29th, 2022

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

The Theme for **October** is

Courage

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, October 2nd

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below

**A Religious Response to the
Overturning of Roe v. Wade**

Martin Newhouse

With its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, issued in June of this year, the new conservative majority on the Supreme Court deleted with one stroke--and perhaps for the first time in the Court's history--a fundamental Constitutional guarantee that had been the law of the land for 50 years. The guarantee was that, at least during the early stages of pregnancy, neither the states nor the federal government could interfere with a woman's right to make her own decision about whether to bear a child or not. In the post-Dobbs world, governments at both the state and federal level may now intrude upon that personal and private sphere and, in so doing, may now, in effect, control a woman's destiny. This Sunday we will explore how people of liberal religious faith might respond to the Dobbs decision's curtailment of women's status as free and equal members of American society. **A discussion about this service will follow at noon in the Parlor and will be accessible to virtual attendees via the Virtual Social Hour**
Zoom link: www.tinyurl.com/wusworship

IN PERSON ATTENDEES

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

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

Please wear a mask when entering the building.
When the children exit to the RE wing of the building,
masks are optional

--VIRTUAL ATTENDEES--

On Sunday at 10:30 am, click here to connect with the livestream from the Sanctuary: <https://tinyurl.com/WUSlivestream> .

Note that we have moved back from Youtube to Streamspot.

You may also access the stream
at: <https://venue.streamspot.com/8993d7a4>

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

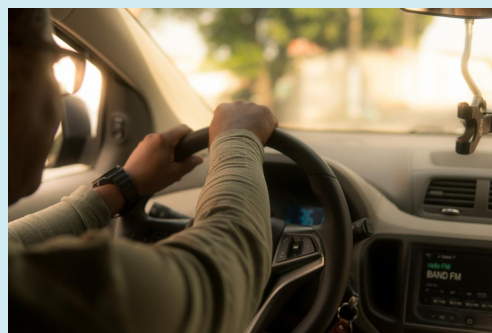
If you are facing a time of joy, sorrow or transition in your life, your minister and the Pastoral Care Associates are available to offer a listening ear, compassionate presence and, if applicable, resources. Contact the office, 781-729-0949 or office@winchesteruu.org.



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

Winchester Unitarian Society Receives

Generous Gift from the Taggart Trust



Earlier this month WUS received a very generous gift from the Taggart family. Paulett and Ganson Taggart, and their three daughters, Cori, Paulett Jr., and Tee were longtime, valued members of the church. They were engaged and engaging participants in the life of our congregation, and their presence is sorely missed. Their gift will insure their contributions to the church and our community will continue well beyond their passing.

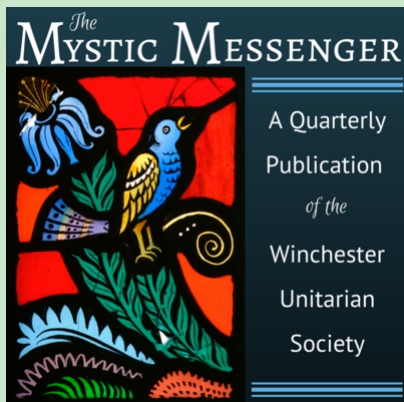
We Believe in Dog Walks Again! Sat, October 8th



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, October 8th. 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.



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.

Spring into the Arts

Organizational Meetings - ALL INVITED!!!
Please come to one or both - WE NEED YOU!

Sunday, October 9th in Michelsen after Service
Tuesday, October 11th 7pm via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2661710769?
pwd=UGNrBN3ODJBY3ZmM0p3WS9lcFlvUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2661710769?pwd=UGNrBN3ODJBY3ZmM0p3WS9lcFlvUT09)

Meeting ID: 266 171 0769

Passcode: ARTS

Questions/Comments, please email WUSArtSpring@gmail.com

WUS Contributions Support Sister Church

Relief Efforts for Ukrainian Refugees

Members of WUS have thus far donated \$8000 to our sister church in Transylvania to help fund its efforts, and the efforts of Unitarian churches throughout that region, to provide relief services to refugees from the Ukraine fleeing the war initiated in February by Russia.

Since refugees first started coming in late February, Unitarian churches have been hosting an average of 50 people in church properties and private accommodations. In addition to housing, meals, medical care, job placement, vocational counseling and administrative assistance have been provided to refugees.

A particular highlight of their aid activities has been the launch of a Ukrainian kindergarten group, which has been operating since April 5 at the Unitarian Day Care Centre in Cluj Napoca. The activities of the group of 20 children are led by two Ukrainian kindergarten teachers. A summer camp was also organized which provided services to 21 Ukrainian children, enabling them to take part in such activities as swimming, hikes, barbeques and singing at evening campfires.

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 for the next concert!

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 klminc@aol.com for more info. For more on Solar Winds go to: <http://www.solarwindsquintet.com>

Religious Education

In our First Reflection in church on Sunday, we talked about the Jewish celebration of Rosh Hashanah. I told a story about potatoes and letting go of what keeps us from growing and learning. Everyone who wanted one received a potato to take home as a reminder – and to make latkes!

In RE, we heard about the UU principles in the form of the Spirit Play (kid-friendly) version, called “promises.” Spirit Play class heard a story about the promises, and Neighboring Faiths played a game about them and discussed what it means to be in community together and why these “promises” are important.

This Sunday, October 2nd: RE Classes for K-6

This Sunday we’ll be telling stories about St. Francis and discussing our first promise. This first promise is “Respect all beings.” We’ll be exploring these ideas in preparation for our all-ages Animal Blessing service on October 16th. We’ll start out in the sanctuary for the first 15 minutes of the service and will leave for classes after the First Reflection. Remember that all kids are welcome to hang out together in the front of the church in the VICC Section (for Very Important Children and Cats). Cat ears will be available!

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 next month which will meet after OWL Classes from 6:30 to 8 pm on most 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)

Last Sunday was awesome! Shout out to the 20 WUSYGers who came out to join in the revelry at the Community Dance, and also the 7 additional teens who came from 1st Parish Lexington. Many thanks to the caller, Marcy, plus all of the amazing musicians, and the Cerny Thomases fund which helped make this magical evening happen.

This coming Sunday, Oct. 2nd, 4:30 to 6:30 pm, WUSYG will be having its first regular meeting of the year! We'll meet in the WUSYG room (then go into Metcalf Hall later for activities).

Save the Date: Oct. 21-23 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.

The first meeting will be on October 26th at 7pm. If you are interested, call or email Rev. Heather: 781.729.0949 and heather.janules@winchesteruu.org



Covenant Group Openings

Soul Matters is a monthly small group that (usually) meets in the evening on the 4th Thursday. A packet of resources, based on the monthly themes, offers spiritual practices and provocative questions. The group is all women but not by design...all are welcome! **Contact Rev. Heather if interested**

heather.janules@winchesteruu.org 781.729.0949

Social Action & Outreach

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY

Culture
by
Culture



Thursday, September 15th, marked the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated every year from September 15th to October 15th.

The 2022 Hispanic Heritage Month national theme is [Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation](#). The theme encourages the representation and welcome of all voices to support building stronger communities and a stronger nation.

Increasingly our Hispanic neighbors are native-born, as well as immigrants. In 2020 the Hispanic population numbered 62.1 million (18.7%). The national observation began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting September 15th. Please see: <http://hispanicheritagemonth.gov/> Unidos!

—Gloria Legvold, for Racial Justice Team Planning Group

From the Green Sanctuary Team

Climate Solutions Week

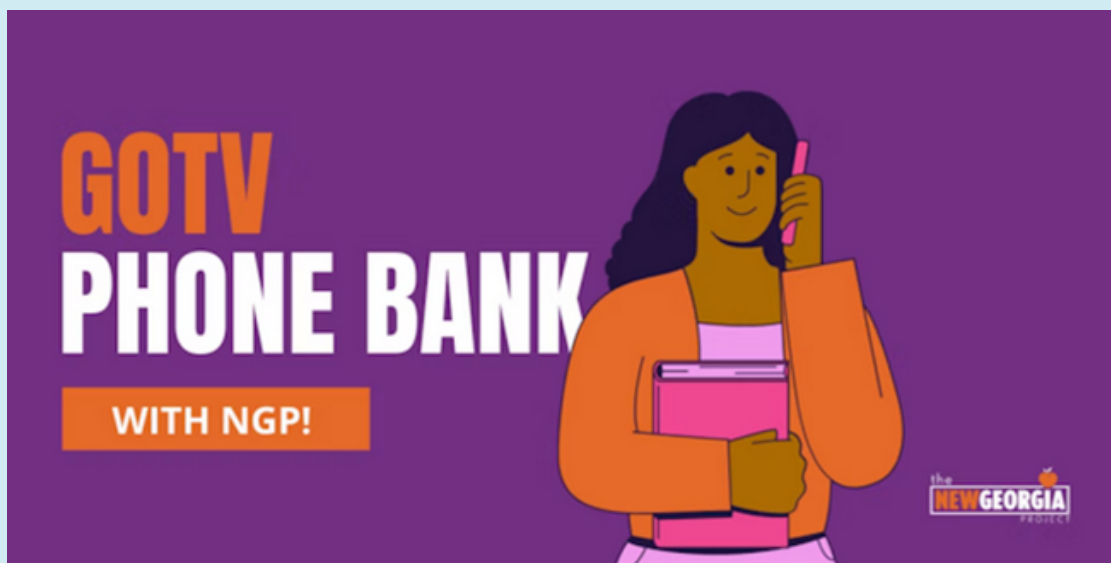
Winchester's Climate Solutions Week is
September 24th through October 2nd



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

IMPORTANT

Pandemic Protocol Update 9/27/2022

Dear Congregants and Friends ~

The PPTF is continuing to gather CO2 data which 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.

You may remember that at our first In-Gathering Service on September 11th, with doors closed and ceiling fans off, the CO2 sensor went above 800 (ppm). We immediately changed our protocols asking the sexton and ushers to have all windows open, the ceiling fans on, and the doors in the back of the sanctuary open during worship. The good news is that at the services on September 18th and 25th the CO2 sensor **did not go above 480 (ppm)**. This is also the case at John Russell's memorial service. We are very pleased that air circulation has improved and that our numbers have remained consistently low. We plan to continue monitoring the CO2 levels and will keep you updated.

Since our protocols are working, please continue following them at 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 others who choose to wear a mask while socializing 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

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