



Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights

1/19/2023

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

The Theme for January is
Finding Our Center



Upcoming Worship

Sunday, January 22nd
10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online
Virtual Worship Logistics Below

Fighting for the Fifth Principle

Last Sunday, we celebrated the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. This Sunday, we revisit one of the critical civil rights he and many others have fought - and continue to fight - for: voting rights. This service will reflect on the contemporary struggle to ensure every eligible person has access to the ballot box and the struggle to protect the practice of democracy itself.

IN PERSON ATTENDEES

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

Masks are required until the children leave for Religious Education activities

--VIRTUAL ATTENDEES--

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

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

Livestreamers are encouraged to send an email to checkingin@winchesteruu.org.

We know where you are streaming from but don't know who you are!
We want to hear from you!

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.

Congregational News

Huge thanks to everyone who supported the big MLK Day Event at the High School on Monday, which was co-sponsored by WUSYG and JUSYG (our new Junior Youth Group). We really appreciate everyone who helped make the day a success, from volunteers to donors to those who simply showed up! Also a big shout out to all of our teens who've been planning this event since September and really showed up in a big way on Monday. Here you can see about half of the WUSYGers who came out, and the truck full of supplies that are now helping some of our houseless neighbors who need them the most.



RISKS AND RESOURCES

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
This Sunday, January 22nd
Beginning at Noon after worship

On the anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision, we will take part in an exercise and discussions to discern our collective risk-taking and consider all the assets we bring to justice work. Intended to determine our initial direction in reproductive justice ministry, the process and learning is applicable to all our justice initiatives.

**Led by Patty Shepard, Sam Wilson
 and Rev. Heather**

The Winchester Unitarian Society 478 Main St., Winchester MA

JAZZ In The **SANCTUARY**

New Beginnings

This concert is a tribute to the post-pandemic "reboot" we've all been experiencing lately. We begin anew with tunes like "Maiden Voyage" (Herbie Hancock), "A Child is Born" (Thad Jones), "Bye Bye Blackbird" (Ray Henderson), and many more.

Tom Palance, Trumpet
 Brian Price, Saxophone
 John Kramer, Piano
 Rick McLaughlin, Bass
 Yoron Israel, Drums

Friday
27TH of
January
at 8:00p.m.

For information about
 this live concert and the
 streaming option visit
 our link below.

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/news/concert-series>

Suggested donation: \$20 adults, \$15 seniors and \$5 students.

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for another one of our popular "Jazz in the Sanctuary" concerts. Concert series sponsorships are still welcome. Please contact Kathryn Maffei at klminc@aol.com if you'd like to sign up or learn more.

Isn't **Coffee Hour** a Wonderful Tradition?

Volunteers are needed to bring refreshments for Coffee Hour. If you haven't volunteered yet this year, would you please consider it? Call or text Donna Reed at 781-626-1785. Leave your name and number and she will call you back to arrange it. Thanks so much!

Many Hands Make Light Work!

Environmental Justice

Our Social Action and Outreach (SAOC) and Green Sanctuary(GS) committees met together last Sunday to consider how WUS might further environmental justice. Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

GreenRoots (<http://www.greenrootschelsea.org/>), a community-based organization, works for environmental justice in Chelsea (a nearby 80% non-white town with a per capita income less than 1/3 of Winchester's) and surrounding communities. Last year GreenRoots spoke at a GS and Mass 350 program, received a \$1,000 WUS SAOC grant, and was visited by several SAOC and GS congregants. To learn about GreenRoots and Chelsea's environmental challenges, **please watch** the following video from Climate Solutions & You, Session 5: John Walkey 3/20/22 -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsp8BPF9Mfw&list=PLC9tW9auDJfHnPpM6ulsGB40bQSgYRtBM&index=5>

If this viewing causes you to want to further WUS's engagement, **then please contact** [Sue Doubler](#) or [Phil Coonley](#).

FebFest

is calling...

...all crafters and coders, makers and bakers, builders and repairers – RE needs you! The traditional WUS JanFest is moving to February. We're hoping to find **four or more intrepid parishioners to offer engaging workshops to the RE kids** for a Sunday in February (5, 12, 19, 26).

Do you sew, knit, or sculpt? Repair toasters, build Legos, bake cakes? Make books, take pictures, or draw? Whatever your passion or skill, come share it with our kids. **Reach out to brenna.mayer@winchesteruu.org by January 26th** for more information or to sign up.

OUR WHOLE LIVES

Needs Your Help!

This year's OWL facilitators are searching for an expecting couple to be guests at our pregnancy workshop (3/12/2023). They would share their story on choosing to become parents, then answer questions from the class, and if willing, allow youth to listen to the baby's heartbeat via stethoscope. Send us a message at owl@winchesteruu.org if you, or someone you know, can help!

Intern Minister Committee Seeks Member

The Winchester Unitarian Society has a long history of being a Teaching Congregation, offering internships to those preparing for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. We thank all those who have contributed to the Intern Minister Fund which allows us to offer this opportunity.

In this month's Standing Committee meeting, an internship was approved for the next program year. But our work begins now as we need to launch a search!

We are required to have at least five members on the committee and we currently have four. While there are monthly meetings when the intern is serving and other responsibilities, it is less demanding than some committee roles.

The ideal person has an interest in education and mentorship and/or is deeply familiar with the work of professional ministry. For broad representation by the congregation, we seek someone who has a child in our religious education program but this is not a requirement.

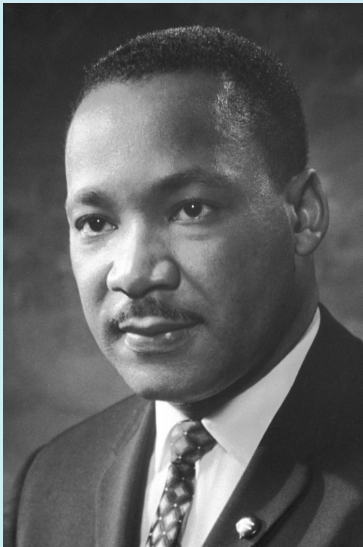


Current committee members are Peter Coccoluto, Larry Banks, Martin Newhouse and Sheila Rudolph-Correia.

Please let Rev. Heather know if you have questions or might be interested in serving at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org.

Religious Education

Spirit Play and Neighboring Faiths for Sunday, January 22nd



In our First Reflection in church on Sunday we talked about Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter from a Birmingham Jail. Turns out our UU kids are smarty pants and already knew so much about what King was fighting for in the South at that time. We had a lively discussion about fairness, justice, and being able to rely on others who share our views. We returned as banner bearers at the end of the service to bring in our new Black Lives Matter banner for rededication.

This Sunday, January 22: RE Classes for K-6

This Sunday, Spirit Play will hear a legend about Chinese New Year and the monster Nian (pictured here). Neighboring Faiths will wrap up their UU sources exploration and tally the results of the Guest at Your Table fundraiser.



Our Whole Lives (OWL)

OWL class will resume this Sunday, January 22nd, at the usual place and time. The lesson will be Healthy Relationships and Relationship Skills. Hope to see you then!

JUSYG: Junior Youth Group (7th & 8th Grades)



Y'all were awesome on Monday! Thanks to everyone who showed up and also to everyone who donated! Together we really made a big impact.

We will have another regular meeting at 6:30 this Sunday, January 22nd. Please also see Sam's recent email and sign up to help support our upcoming

meetings.

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

Thank you everyone who came out (and everyone who donated) to the MLK Day Event at the High School. We had a huge group there, and as one of my colleagues told me, "clearly the best table in the whole place." You really came through and we're very proud.



This Sunday, January 22nd, we will have a regular meeting from 4:30-6:30. Parents, we need some more snack sign ups for 2023; please [click here](#) and fill in where you can. Thanks!

**Building
Beloved
Community
Monument**

by Monument



On Friday, January 13, a 22-foot bronze monument “The Embrace”—honoring the lives, love, and legacy of Coretta Scott King and Martin Luther King Jr.—opened in Boston.



The creator, Hank Willis Thomas, noted its metaphor for society: we are called as a community to embrace our neighbors; we are invited to engage; we are called to come into action; we create, by interlocking our arms and bodies, safety for each other.

As visitors stand within the embracing arms, they look up into the pure sky. Beneath their feet is a paved “quilt” with 65 names of Boston civil rights heroes. One name is Unitarian minister The Rev. James Reeb.

Listen to the nine minute interview of artist Thomas by NPR’s Robin Young here:

<https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2023/01/12/hank-willis-thomas-the-embrace>. Next, a field trip to Boston Common?

—Gloria Legvold, Racial Justice Team Planning Group



MISSION OF DEEDS

Furnishing Homes. Changing Lives.

Does it bother you that so many people are struggling?

[The Mission of Deeds](#) has been one of our grantee organizations for many years and their volunteer program is up and running again after having to slow down over the worst of the Covid pandemic. Here is some information about their current volunteer opportunities, which are extensive.

Help Us Drive Change, Make a Difference and Inspire Others

Our mission is to provide beds, furniture, and other household items to those most in need. Our clients are struggling individuals or families with children, including those who were recently homeless, fleeing domestic violence, veterans, refugees, the elderly, or those living with a disability. Every day our volunteers help families and individuals in need start over, and throughout the years their efforts have touched many, many lives. Volunteers range in age from teenagers through senior citizens and have varied professional and educational backgrounds. We have many volunteers who are here weekly, plus many more who come occasionally. We are very fortunate that some of our volunteers have been with us for more than 10 years.

One of our long time congregants and volunteer with Mission of Deeds, Dave Fonseca, writes...."There are certainly ... volunteer opportunities available, from working one morning a week picking up furniture on the truck, to doing furniture assembly or finishing when a new shipment of unfinished apartment friendly kitchen tables arrives from another volunteer. For those handy with tools, I understand this winter there will be work in the warehouse on weekdays building shelving and other activities. I have told them that during the winter, I would be happy to come in an extra day every week to work on that."

Other possible volunteer tasks include:

- Help clients select furniture that fits their needs.
- Sort bedding, household goods, and kitchen items. Gather requested items for clients.
- Clean and organize donated items.
- Perform data entry and help with database management.
- Assist with fundraising events.
- Organize a drive for new bedding, new towels, or new and gently used kitchen items.

Standing Committee Listening Sessions

The Standing Committee will host listening sessions to hear your joys and concerns regarding WUS congregational life and to share ideas to see how we might strengthen our support to our members leading our many ministries.

There will be many listening sessions and we will offer different times and virtual sessions to meet the availability of as many congregants as possible.

In a semi-post pandemic world we are seeking to find ways to come together and revitalize our Mission and Vision for the future.

Please keep an eye out for future listening session times listed in *Highlights*.

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

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