

Highlights

3/30/2023

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

The Theme for April is

Resistance

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, April 2nd

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below

Music Sunday

Join the WUS choirs and guest musicians in a celebration of perseverance over adversity. In March of 2020, we had planned to celebrate Beethoven's 250th birthday with a service of his music. Like so much over the last three years, this program has been on hold. We are delighted to finally present this glorious and uplifting music. The choirs will be joined by a small string and woodwind ensemble.

This week's Share the Plate comes with a special invitation. We will share our gifts with the **American Foundation for the Prevention of Suicide**. We choose this recipient in memory of our own Brenda Martino who died this past November.

Along with giving generously to support WUS and the AFPS, you are invited to join a walk in support of AFPS, along with students from Simmons College and Boston University, on April 22nd. **If you are interested in joining the WUS walk team, let Rev. Heather know.** It begins at 11 am in Boston and

ends around 1:30 pm with an easy terrain. You can register and join the WUS team at tinyurl.com/WUSAFPSApr22.

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

Update on **Warren Orr**: Warren is now receiving care at Winchester Rehab and Nursing Center in Winchester. Visitors are welcome.

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

This Friday!

The Winchester Unitarian Society Proudly Presents:

Kemp Harris

and Band

Friday
March 31ST
8:00pm



" Kemp writes with honesty and heart. The stories and situations in his songs touch us all and makes us think. As his latest CD shows, he creates an experience for the audience that is personal and moving. "

- Ron Olesko, WFDU

" Kemp Harris is a thief, a tease and a heartbreaker. He knows too much. And it's all right there when he sings. . . beautifully there. He'll take your breath away."

- NPR, 'On Point'

www.kempharris.band

<p>Winchester Unitarian Society 478 Main Street Winchester, MA For information or directions, call (781) 729-0949</p>	<p>Suggested Donation: \$20 adults \$15 seniors \$ 5 students www.winchesteruu.org</p>	<p>For information about this live concert and the streaming option visit: https://www.winchesteruu.org/news/concert-series Handicapped accessible</p>
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Our final concert in this year's concert series takes place on Friday, March 31st, at 8 pm. We are pleased to welcome back Kemp Harris and his band to our sanctuary. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for

an uplifting performance that will include rhythm & blues, soul, storytelling, and so much more.

We'd like to get to know you better!

Are you new to WUS? Would you like to meet others and learn more about WUS and its offerings? Join the Membership Committee for an informal brunch at **Noon** after worship on **April 2nd** in the Michelsen Room.

As an added bonus -- **April 2nd** is also **Music Sunday!**

RSVP to membership@winchesteruu.org

Renewal and Growth: Pledge Progress Update 3/27/23

As the pledge drive winds down, we continue to be optimistic that we will raise 7% more than last year and reach \$400,000.

As of 3/27/23, we have received 87 pledges, which is 74% of our goal of 118 pledges. Total pledge dollars are \$330,754, which is 82% of the way toward our goal of \$400,000.

We're happy to see that most folks are increasing their financial support of WUS this year, and we send our sincere thanks to everyone who has already pledged generously!

If you are among the 25% of our community members who have not yet pledged, we will send out helpful, personalized reminders this week.

For information on the WUS budget and pledge drive visit www.tinyurl.com/WUSPledgeInfo.

To pledge online visit www.tinyurl.com/WUSPledgeFY24.

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant." Robert Louis Stevenson

Thank you in advance for your generosity,

John Healey

Liz Scott

Claire McNeill (Liaison to the Standing Committee)

Bradley Steele, Treasurer

Summer Services

Do you have a message or topic that you want to share?

This year's summer services will begin on Sunday, June 18th, with the last summer service on Sunday, September 3rd. With some exceptions, these services are led by lay members of the congregation, who, over the years, have shared wonderful, moving, and thought-provoking reflections with those in attendance (and via livestream). If you are interested in leading such a service, please see coordinator Martin Newhouse at church or contact him at mnewhouse9@gmail.com. You would give a 15- to 20-minute reflection (a bit shorter or longer is o.k. too) on a topic that relates in some way to our Unitarian Universalist values and principles (broadly construed). You would have help planning and carrying out the rest of the service. Please consider sharing your wisdom, passion, and/or life experiences with us in a supportive and meaningful context.

Update from Gardens For Good (G4G) Growing food locally for our neighbors in need

We're getting closer to our big work weekend on April 1st and 2nd when we'll be spreading compost and installing fencing where new vegetable gardens are being created or existing ones expanded. We need lots of helpers that weekend, so if you have any time free, please join us and spread the word with your networks!



Put your LOVE IN ACTION
WUS Day of Service Event
EXPANDED HOURS: Anytime SATURDAY, APRIL 1,
or SUNDAY, APRIL 2 (RAIN DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 8)

Possible activities now include preparing garden beds, spreading cover crop seeds, and putting up fencing. Please go

directly to this link below in blue and sign up, even if you can't join us during the work weekend in April.

[LINK TO SIGN UP](#)



If you have not already heard, here's the back story about this exciting new local community project:

"The basic premise of this project is to take a small portion of the abundant available suburban lawns and convert them into food production for our

local food pantries. This will address several needs. First, increasing the availability of fresh, local, healthy food to the diets of pantry patrons. We would like to emphasize regenerative growing practices to increase awareness for growing food in an ecologically sustainable way that recarbonizes the soil. We would also like to foster a more communal effort in food production that is for purposes other than for personal consumption.

We're recruiting landowners who are interested in sharing yard space and volunteer gardeners to work these garden plots.... We're coordinating with the Council of Social Concern, the En Ka Food Pantry and other local pantries to determine what fresh produce needs their patrons would be happy to receive. Adrienne Altstatt, the farmer at Wright Locke Farm, will design the gardens and coordinate the gardeners. " -- Fred Yen.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED BUT HAVE QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU SIGN UP, PLEASE CONTACT: [Patty Shepard](#) or [Mayra Rodriguez Howard](#). Thanks.

Interested but can't make it that weekend? Please be in touch as we are looking for volunteer gardeners, ranging from experts to novices, to help out during the entire growing season.

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul." – Alfred Austin

From the **Pandemic Planning Task Force**

The Pandemic Planning Task Force and staff met Tuesday, March 28th, to discuss our mask-wearing guidelines, given the decrease in Covid state-wide.

We want to acknowledge and respond to inquiries from our congregants concerning wearing masks at worship and in committee meetings.

As we will continue to have multi-platform Sunday worship services, and out of an abundance of care and respect for families with small children, we ask that you wear masks while the children are in the sanctuary. Once the children have gone to their classrooms, masks are optional. We will continue this practice through the program year, June 11th, and meet again in early June to discuss protocol for our summer services.

The PPTF and staff also recognize that our children's and youth programming needs are distinct from worship. Decisions about how to manage programming will be made according to the needs of each situation. Staff will aim to consult with those involved when making these decisions. We encourage covenant groups and committees to wear masks upon arrival and then decide amongst yourselves if they are optional.

We continue to strive to do our best to protect ourselves and one another while preserving the bonds and connections that nurture us as a congregation.

In gratitude,

The Pandemic Planning Task Force and Staff of W. U. S.

pandemicplanningtf@winchesteruu.org



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 in the warm-weather months. You don't need a dog to participate! All participating dogs must be friendly and vaccinated.

We next gather on Saturday, April 15th. We will meet at the second of three entrances to the Middlesex Fells on Hillcrest Parkway **at 10 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.

--SAVE THE DATE--

Sunday, April 23rd, 12 – 2 pm



**Going Out
Green**
A Workshop about
Home Funerals and
Green Burial

**April
23rd at
Noon**

This workshop will introduce the basics of caring for your dead, yourself, at home and will cover natural/green methods of disposition. Martha Dallas, a Life-Cycle Celebrant, will share resources for those who expect to die and be laid to rest in Massachusetts and will provide basic guidance for putting your own green deathcare plans in place.

**Winchester Unitarian Society
478 Main Stret, Winchester 781-729-0949**

**A Workshop about Home Funerals
and Green Burial**

Led by Martha Dallas, a Life-Cycle Celebrant, who will share resources for simple, green-minded practices for those expecting to be laid

to rest in Massachusetts and who wish to put their own green deathcare plans in place. Please sign up to attend. In-person attendance limited to 20.

[Click HERE to register.](#)

Additional opportunity to attend will be via Zoom.

Sponsored by the Pastoral Care Associates at WUS

Save the Date!



Photo: Mural in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis sanctuary

A Faithful Conversation About Neuroscience And Bias

An Evening with Dr. David Rose & the Rev. Anne Mason

Tuesday, April 25th, 7 pm

WUS Sanctuary and livestreamed via www.tinyurl.com/wuslivestream

FREE but donations to a racial justice organization (TBD) are welcome



WUS SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE!

We are delighted to again offer WUS T-shirts so we can celebrate our community pride! Order on-line through this link: [WUS Shirts](#)

Many different styles, colors and sizes are available. Your shirt(s) will be mailed to you .

A portion of all sales benefit the WUS operating budget.

On the back, we remember WUSYG Alum, Brenda Martino, with an adaptation of words she inscribed on a mural while on the West Virginia service trip: "May our love be like a circle...no beginning and no end."

Brenda embodied the expansive love of WUS and Unitarian Universalism.
We carry on in her spirit.

Is WUS Your Spiritual Home? Consider Becoming a Member

If you resonate with the values of Unitarian Universalism and the ministries of the Winchester Unitarian Society, if you have found friends and a sense of purpose here for you or for you and your family, if you attend worship and programs regularly, pledge and give of your resources and plan to serve the community in some way, perhaps it is time to make your affiliation official by signing the Membership Book! **There will be a Signing Ceremony in worship on May 14th.** Contact Rev. Heather or Membership at membership@winchesteruu.org for more information.
(The ceremony is sweet and painless - we promise!)

Religious Education

This past Sunday I talked to the kids about noticing and how it's different from just seeing. I told them about the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary and how they have some pictures and words that are expected, but also some that are unexpected – like the words *gentleness* and *constancy* and pictures of squirrels and an anchor. I explained that noticing is important so that we don't miss the little things that might tell us a bigger story about ourselves and those around us. In this way, we can take care of one another better – with gentleness – and be there for one another – with constancy.

In RE, Spirit Play heard a story about the Jewish holiday of Passover, which is coming up on April 5th. In Neighboring Faiths, we welcomed a guest via prerecorded video, Barry Glass, from Temple Shir Tikvah, as well as our own Martin Newhouse, to talk to the kids about Judaism and their experiences growing up in that faith as well as their journeys of faith from childhood to adulthood. Barry and Martin had lots of great experiences and ideas to share with the kids!



Many thanks to all who attended the Spaghetti Dinner this past Friday. We had a great time playing table bingo, board games, and – the finale – banathlon! Kids left with great stories to tell and prizes to keep. Adults left after enjoying some much earned adult time and with some tuckered out kids!

Thanks to the kids and families who took part in our final day of blanket-making for our RE winter service project. We managed to put together four blankets, adding to our already made three to equal seven blankets to donate to the Build-a-Bed organization to accompany the kids' beds!



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

Spirit Play. This Sunday, the Spirit Play class will hear a story about the Jewish holiday of Passover. This story explores the lives of the Jewish people when they were slaves in Egypt and how Moses guided them to freedom.

Neighboring Faiths. This Friday, Neighboring Faiths will visit Temple Shir Tikvah for their Friday night Shabbat service. The kids have been studying Judaism and enjoyed a visit by two guests who shared their faith

experiences with us. We're excited to visit with TST and witness how they express their faith in person! On Sunday, we'll reflect on our experience at Temple Shir Tikvah and wrap up our unit on Judaism. As always, we'll play a fun game and have a snack.



Our Whole Lives (OWL)

OWL class this Sunday, April 2nd, will be on Sexual Decision Making. Classes will be held in the OWL room at WUS from 5 to 6:30pm.

Photo by [Chirag Saini](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Other RE Happenings

Below are lots of other things happening with RE outside of Sunday morning RE classes. Please take a look below and join in with us in building a strong RE community!



Neighboring Faiths Visit to Temple Shir Tikvah: Tomorrow, March 31st

Our Neighboring Faiths class will visit Temple Shir Tikvah to experience a Friday night Shabbat service. We've been studying Judaism each Sunday in March. This visit will be the culmination of our hard work. This service will help us fit the pieces together into

a clearer picture of the faith and ideas of Judaism.

Family FUUn Nights: April 7th, May 5th

Our next Family FUUn Night will be **Friday, April 7th**, from 5 to 7. We'll enjoy a meal together, and then kids will go off to do some fun activities and adults will



gather in the parlor for coffee and conversation. **Please sign up to attend so we can anticipate how many families we'll have for this fun night:** <https://forms.gle/d2yqV68Lef5oTZBj8>.

***Aberjona Canoe Trip and River
Cleanup Spring Service Project:
Saturday, April 29th (rain date of
Saturday, May 6th)***

We've heard from you loud and clear. You're all in for a canoe trip and cleanup service project! We're thrilled to announce that the trip is

a go! Please head over to the sign-up form so that we can register everyone and start planning: <https://forms.gle/ArNG7z9muYfka7eX8>.



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

Thanks to everyone who came out last Sunday for our small but mighty crew! We actually got stuff done! We're looking forward to having another regular meeting with everyone this Sunday, 6:30-8 pm per usual.

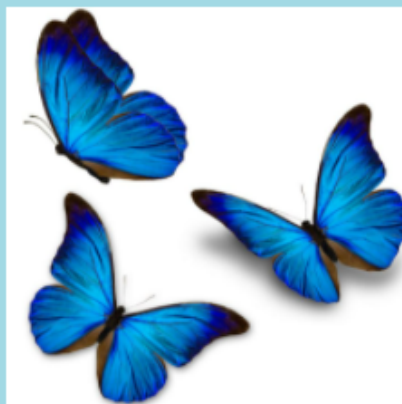
WUSYG: Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group (9th-12th Grades)

We had an awesome time with everyone last weekend at the spaghetti dinner, sleepover and regular meeting! This Sunday there's a regular meeting from 4:30-6:30. If you're going on the service trip, please try to attend all of our upcoming meetings. Also please bring your permission slips if you haven't already gotten them to Sam.

**Building
Beloved
Community**

**Action
by**

Action



A March 29, 2017, YW BOSTON BLOG suggests ways to incorporate the concept of **Intersectionality** in our interactions.

Recognize difference: We are socialized not to recognize differences. If you fall into this category, challenge yourself to become more comfortable acknowledging such differences as skin color, disability, gender identity.

Avoid over-simplified language: Avoid assuming our experiences are the same. Don't say, for example, "I know how you feel" when in fact you probably don't know how a person of color feels about an interaction.

Analyze the space you occupy: Notice what differences are not represented in your group or committee and what you sense of perhaps-subtle welcoming or distancing practices.

Seek other points of view: Learn from and listen to those with interlocking and interwoven identities. Yet, do not expect those with differences to be the educator. Go online and study.

Show up: As you hear about issues, listen and defer to those who live with intersectional identities each day. Be an ally in whatever way you can.

And, what if we each wore labels one Sunday that identify our own identity markers? What conversations we could have with each other—in openness, curiosity, and trust.

—Sandy Thompson and Gloria Legvold, for Racial Justice Team Planning Group

General Assembly 2023

Whether you are new to Unitarian Universalism, or have been a life-long UU, General Assembly is a chance to experience our faith on a whole new level! Winchester Unitarian Society is a member of the larger UU Association

(UUA) and each year there's a 5-day conference of congregations with workshops on everything from youth programming, worship, governance, social justice, Green Sanctuary, hospitality, membership and so much more. Check out the website www.uua.org/ga and see for yourself! It's hybrid, with both in-person (in Pittsburg, PA) and virtual options. This year, we'll be electing a new President of the UUA. Winchester can have 5 delegates to vote on issues, topics and elections on behalf of the church. So far, Claire McNeill and Patty Cameron have expressed interest in serving as WUS delegates; please let Standing Committee know if you are interested in serving and they will select the 5 delegates. sc@winchesteruu.org If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to either Claire or Patty.

Patty Cameron

WUS Member **Chris Weigand** has offered to prepare taxes for a limited number of members. This is aimed at people for whom it is challenging to get their taxes prepared. Chris has been working as a volunteer tax aide at the Andover Senior Center for the last couple of years. There will be no charge. If you would like help, please email Chris at weigandcd@gmail.com or call 781-856-2264.

Beyond the Congregation

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

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