



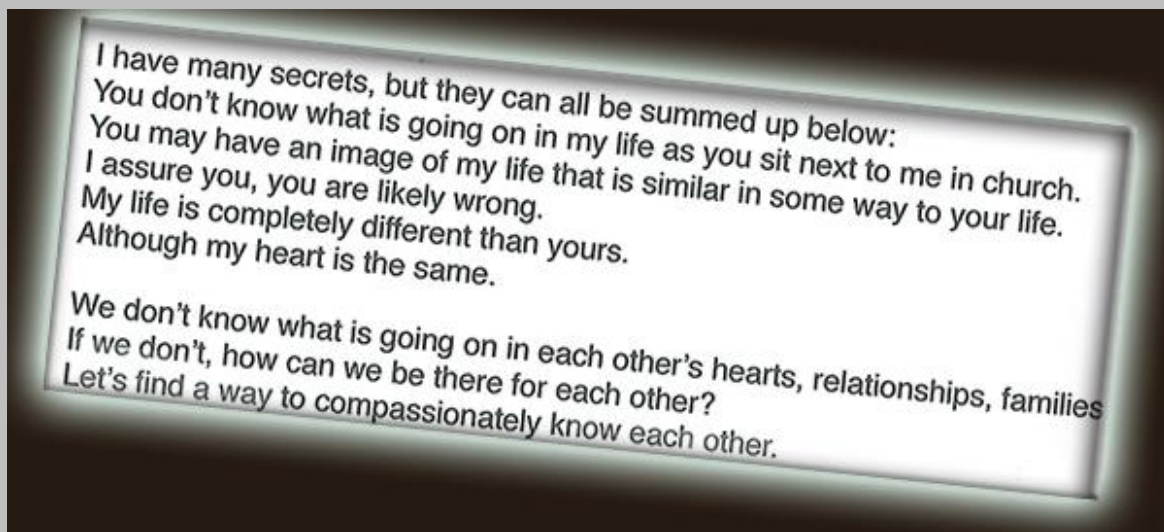
Highlights

3/9/2023

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

The Theme for March is

Vulnerability



In 2009, Rev. Heather invited members and friends of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church to take part in a 'Post Secret' project. They submitted secrets on postcards, to be included in a service reflecting on these submissions and those submitted to <https://postsecret.com/>. This message of this particular secret was meaningful at CLUUC in 2009 and is meaningful to us at WUS now in 2023. #vulnerability

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, March 12th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below

Educating for Liberation

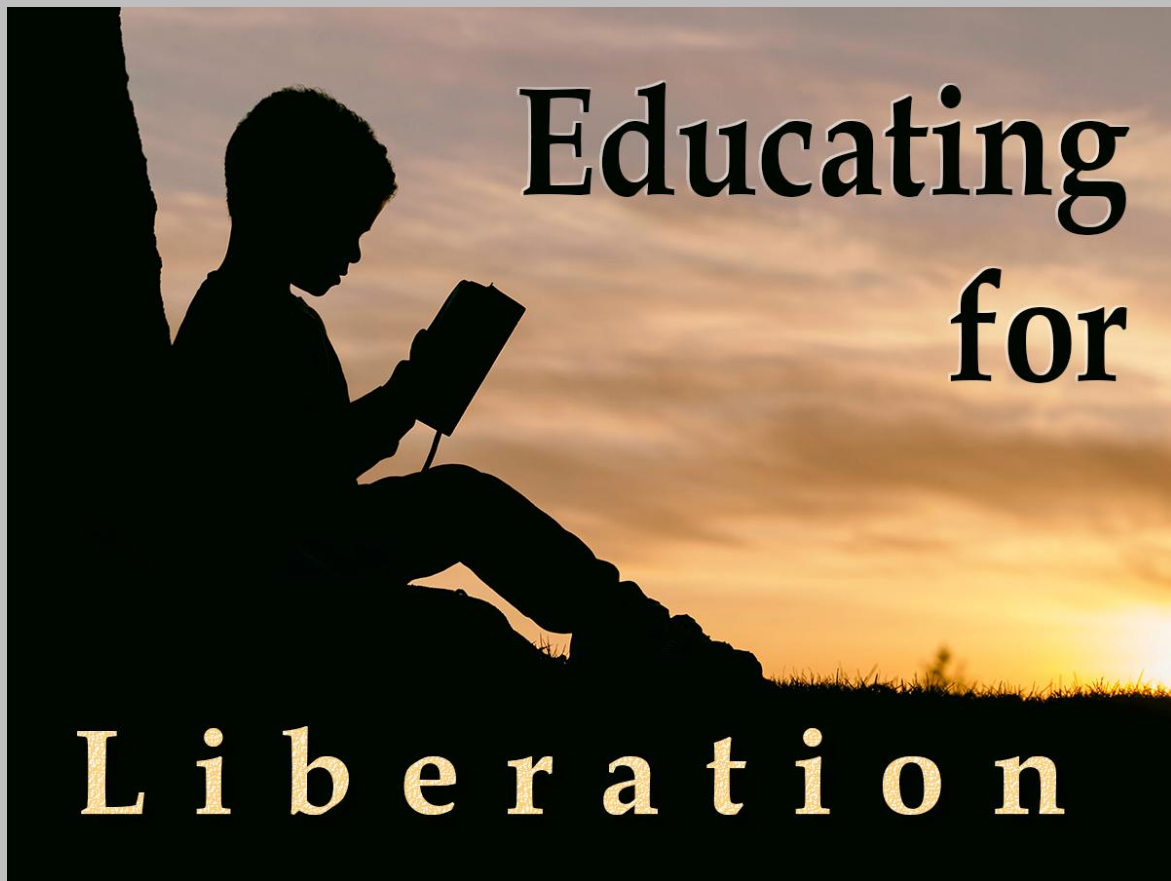


Photo credit: Aaron Burden via Unsplash.com

What brings you to a congregation? The music? The sense of community? The potlucks? All of the above...or reasons you can't quite identify? This service will explore the idea of a congregation as a place of life-long learning, not just learning information but learning about the world and our place within it, especially in regards to racial justice. An important resource for this service is the UUA's resource *Widening the Circle of Concern*. Whether it is expected or intended, being part of a congregation over time changes us. How can we be together to change people for the better?

A conversation about the service will follow at noon

in the Parlor with a virtual connection.

Livestreamers can join us at www.tinyurl.com/wusworship.

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

We celebrate with **Terry Currier** with the birth of her second grandchild, Autumn Kelley LaMontagne, born on Tuesday morning. (See photo.)

Holly and Woody Wood are also proud grandparents again with the birth of Scout Ember Wood on February 17th. Congrats!

A note from Donna Reed: "Our dear **Betty Ellis** spent this last week in the hospital and has just been discharged to a rehab in Woburn. Her daughter, Robin Ellis, let us know that Betty is anxious to get home quickly. To that end

Robin suggested that if anyone wants to send greetings, a card sent to Betty's home might be best. Her address is: 14 Hillside Ave, Winchester MA 01890."

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

As the pledge drive begins to wind down, we are halfway there, and while we are optimistic about reaching our goals, we will need more folks to increase their pledge amounts to reach our aspirational 7% increase.

As of **March 6th** we have collected **59 pledges** totaling **\$211,954**. We have reached 50% of our participation goal and **53%** of our financial goal.

The official end of the pledge campaign is in one week. **We will begin to send out personalized reminder emails on March 17th.**

If you make your pledge today, you can avoid that reminder email in your inbox!

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

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.

Are your bank and your credit card funding climate chaos? Discover alternatives that better reflect your values. Join the online presentation this **Sunday, March 12th, at 4 pm**. We've invited Parish of the Epiphany and First Congregational congregants too. Invite your friends. Use the following Zoom Link or QR code: <https://tinyurl.com/4aukwu35>

Ingrid Geis and Alan Field, 350 Mass MetroNorth members from Winchester, will share their research results in a 20-minute presentation and then answer your questions.

**Money Talks.
Time to Say "Goodbye!" to Your Bank?**

**March's Love in Action
Event is Interfaith!**

Saturday, March 18th
9 am - 11 am

We will join leaders and volunteers from the First Congregational Church in Winchester building beds for families in need and/or making simple fleece quilts.
All ages are welcome.



Contact Rev. Heather if you plan to join:
heather.janules@winchest
eruu.org

Save the Date -

The
Chili Cook-Off Returns **March 19th!**

Break out the Parmesan cheese and
ready yourselves for the
Spaghetti Dinner

Fun is on the menu – at the Winchester Unitarian Society

Spaghetti Dinner!

Please join us for this special all-ages, family friendly event. ALL are welcome! With **Bingo, Banathlon* & Board Games** it's sure to be fUUn for all-ages!

We'll have regular and gluten-free pasta, meatless sauce and meatballs on the side, salad, garlic bread, and Hoodsies. Childcare for babies and toddlers will be available at this event.

RSVP by March 20 at <http://evite.me/sUq41d3fMs>

Sponsored by the WUS Fellowship & Membership Committees
?'s: sophia.sid@gmail.com

* a Banathlon is a triathlon with bananas, also known as FUN!

Friday 24 March
5:00 – 7:00pm
Downstairs at Metcalf Hall
Winchester Unitarian Society
478 Main Street, Winchester

<http://evite.me/sUq41d3fMs>

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

**Winchester
Unitarian Society**

478 Main Street
Winchester, MA

For information or directions,
call (781) 729-0949

Suggested Donation:

\$20 adults

\$15 seniors

\$ 5 students

www.winchesteruu.org

For information about this live concert and the streaming option visit:

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

Handicapped accessible

Our final concert in this year's concert series takes place on Friday, March 31, 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.

A Publication of the Winchester Unitarian Society

Mystic Messenger

www.winchesteruu.org 478 Main Street Winchester MA 01890



March 1st, 2023

Volume 8 Issue 3

[Click here to read Volume 8 issue 3](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

Put your **LOVE IN ACTION**

WUS Day of Service Event

SATURDAY, APRIL 1st, RAIN DATE SATURDAY, APRIL 8th

Help us prepare gardens for the new local community project:

Gardens for Good (G4G) **Growing food locally for our neighbors in need**

Come help prepare garden spaces for planting for this new community project. This may include shoveling and spreading compost, turning soil and possibly adding fencing to keep out pests.

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." from Fred Yen, 12/5/22

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING IN THE FUN IN ANY WAY
OR HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR APRIL LOVE IN ACTION EVENT
PLEASE CONTACT: [Patty Shepard](#) or [Mayra Rodriguez Howard](#)
We will have more details in the coming weeks but would
love to know of your interest in this event now! Thanks.**

Interested but can't make it in April? Please be in touch as we are still 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

Photos

from Last
Sunday's Celebration
of Holi

Religious Education

This past Sunday we heard a story in the First Reflection about the friendship between Krishna and Radha – a traditional Hindu story for the holiday of Holi. It is the story that explains the origin of the throwing of colors during this Hindu spring festival.

In RE, we watched another Holi story on video, and then made lassi and ladu – two sweet Holi treats. We also made art with flower petals and prepared the powdered colors for our final Holi celebration. When it was time, we all gathered with Reverend Heather, Sam, and many other adults and had some raucous fun making ourselves and everyone around us very colorful! Many thanks to Swati and Suman Mukherjee for sharing their memories and traditions for this wonderful festival of new beginnings!

This Sunday, March 12th: RE Classes for K-6

Spirit Play. This Sunday, the Spirit Play class will hear a story called The Weight of One Snowflake about a bird, a branch, and being a part of something bigger than yourself.

Neighboring Faiths. This Sunday marks the beginning of the Neighboring Faiths class's exploration of the Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This session will start us off with an examination of what it means to be religious.

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

OWL class this Sunday, March 12th, will be on Pregnancy, Parenting, and Teenage Parenthood. Classes will be at the usual place and time.

Photo by [Todd Steitle](#) 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 with us in building a strong RE community!

Chalice Lighters: March 12th through June 4th

We STILL need chalice lighters for Sunday mornings! All kids are welcome to try their hand at lighting the chalice on a Sunday morning at the start of worship. I've created a sign-up for you to put your name in on any Sunday. If you aren't sure, I can show you how it's done anytime. It's a great way to contribute to Sunday morning worship services. You're welcome to bring a friend or family member with you for moral support, too, if that helps. Here's the link to the sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0948AFA92FA0FACF8-chalice>.

Family FUUn Nights:

March 10th, April 7th, May 5th

We've finally done it. We got 3 more Family FUUn nights scheduled for this church year! Our **first will be this Friday, March 10th**, from 5 to 7. We'll enjoy a meal together, and then kids will go off to do some fun activities, including making chili for the Cook-Off and doing a shamrock scavenger hunt

in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Adults will gather in the parlor for coffee and conversation.

Build-a-Quilt Winter Service Project: March 5th to 18th

For our winter service project for both RE classes, we're making fleece throws for children in need. In cooperation with the Build-a-Bed project to be held on March 18th at First Congregational Church in Winchester (FCCW), we're asking families to take home a fleece "quilt kit" to make sometime between now and March 12th. (The kit provides all material and requires no sewing.) Build-a-Bed is a nonprofit organization that enlists groups to make beds for children who don't have them. (Here's a great video about the organization: <https://www.abedforeverychild.org/about-us>.) FCCW will be holding the event at their church on March 18th, where they will use the materials from Build-a-Bed to construct beds. They're hoping for 40 people to attend from their church. If they don't get enough sign-ups, though, they've offered to open the sign up to our families the week before the event (March 12th). Please let me know your family's interest in participating in this service project — making a quilt, attending the bed build, or both — by filling out this form: <https://forms.gle/ceUKiTw76n4qF9NN8>.

WUS Spaghetti Dinner: Friday, March 24th

The Membership Committee is inviting all RE families along with all other congregants to a WUS Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, March 24th. Come with your family and enjoy letting someone else cook for once! Kids' activities will be on offer after dinner, so parents have a chance to be regular adults and finish a sentence or two in conversation with other adults. Plans include a special churchwide bingo game, banathalon for kids and youth, and board games for all! Look for an invitation from Membership to come to you soon with more details!

Neighboring Faiths Visit to Shir Tikvah: Friday, March 31st

As part of the Neighboring Faiths curriculum, we'll be studying different faith traditions within the Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. With each unit, we'll be visiting with our neighbors at one of their typical worship services. Our first visit will be to Temple Shir Tikvah to experience a Friday night Shabbat service. The service starts at 7:30 pm. We'll plan to arrive at the temple by 7 pm so that we can enter, check in with our host, and find a seat before things begin. Some parents have expressed interest in joining together for dinner beforehand. More on that to come. However, for now, **please put Friday, March 31st, on your calendar** for the first of three visits we'll be making to our neighbors!

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

As our RE spring service project, we're inviting families to grab a paddle and join Brenna, George "Woody" Wood, and Phil Coonley (two of whom are experienced canoe trip coordinators) on a group canoe trip down the Aberjona River. We'll learn a bit about river ecology, see lots of great wildlife, and pick up trash in the river along the way – to leave it better than we found it! We'll provide canoes, paddles, and life jackets, but let us know if you have any to share as well! We'll have more details as we get closer. For now, we're hoping to gauge your interest so that we can be sure to have enough canoes, paddles, and life jackets. Click on this link to let us know your interest for this amazing trip: <https://forms.gle/ZrYXDKNLMef5RHP37>.

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

We had a BLAST with everyone at our Sleepover last weekend! And thankfully, all of our teen teachers are still on staff as well, wink wink. This Sunday we will have a regular meeting at 6:30. Please also save the date for March 19th, which is the Chili Cook-Off. JUSYGers are encouraged to attend and help out (and bring your own chili for the competition!).

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

We had fun on Sunday with everyone, doing part 1 of the UUA's new anti-racism curriculum focused on Paternalism. We will have another regular meeting at 4:30 this Sunday, March 12th (don't forget to do your interviews!).

In case you missed this news last week - we are officially going to "the quiet corner of Connecticut," staying at the amazing historical Unitarian retreat center, Senexet House, and working with Community Kitchens to support their programs for folks experiencing food insecurity. Now that this is finally confirmed, we will have a *mandatory* (for at least one member of the family) service trip meeting this Sunday, March 12th, at 3:30.

Please also save the date for March 19th, which is our next Fundraiser after the worship service (the Chili Cook-Off returns!). We also decided to have our next sleepover on March 24th. Finally, be sure to save the dates for our Service Trip, Sunday, April 16th, to Friday the 21st.

Building

Beloved Community

Term by Term



What is “white supremacy culture”? In last week’s Highlights we touched on this term which often provokes strong feelings. In *Dismantling Racism: A Workbook for Social Change Groups* by Kenneth Jones and Tema Okun, the authors point out that “Culture is powerful precisely because it is so present and at the same time so very difficult to name or identify.” They and other social justice writers have named what they see as characteristics of the dominant white culture we live in. A few of them are: competition, individualism, fear of open conflict, defensiveness, and perfectionism.

Jones and Okun note that “One of the purposes of listing characteristics of white supremacy culture is to point out how organizations which unconsciously use these characteristics as their norms and standards make it difficult, if not impossible, to open the door to other cultural norms and standards.” As we strive to build beloved community, it is important to be aware of how these characteristics infuse our organizations. It’s not about their being right or wrong, but simply recognizing them and being open to changing our ways of thinking.

Sandy Thompson for the Racial Justice Planning Group

Beyond the Congregation



MISSION OF DEEDS

Furnishing Homes. Changing Lives.

Please help us celebrate our **Pearl Anniversary!**
Saturday, March 11th, 6 to 10 pm

Boston/Marriott Burlington
One Burlington Mall Road, Burlington, MA
Seated Dinner, Live & Silent Auctions
The theme is pearls and suggested attire is 30s-inspired or cocktail.
If you have any questions, please contact Jody Collins Skinner
at jody.collinsskinner@missionofdeeds.org
[Click Here to Buy Tickets.](#)
[Please go here for more details.](#)

UU Mass Action's Annual Advocacy Day!

Virtual

Advocacy Day 2023 will be **March 28th, 2023!**
*****RSVP HERE!***** by March 15th!

Join your fellow UUs in speaking to your state legislators
about our priorities.

Day of Agenda:
Virtual Community Gathering on **Zoom**: 11 am
12 pm Optional Lunch Meet Up for Groups
1:00 - 2:30 House Meetings Window
2:30 - 4 Senate Meeting Window Or Action Hour
[Please click here for more details.](#)

Dear UUs,

The UUSC will hold Justice Sunday this year on March 25th, 2023. This year the focus will be: Faithful Solidarity with Asylum-Seekers.

Support UUSC and fair-trade farmers from March 1st through May 1st by using code **UUSC23** when you order from Equal Exchange online or over the phone with our Customer Service team at 774-776-7366. **10% of what you purchase during this period will be contributed to the UUSC for its Justice Sunday related programs.**

Unitarian Universalism calls on its membership to extend a welcome to neighbors, near and far. Join the UUSC as it explores what it means to put our UU values into practice by being in faithful solidarity with asylum-seekers!

Here are [UUSC Justice Sunday Resources](#) for your congregation.

Mar 8, 7pm Eastern

[Citizen-Consumer Monthly Member Meeting](#)

Meet with other Citizen-Consumers for our monthly meeting to connect as a community, engage in shared learning, and hear updates from Equal Exchange.

Help Protect Reproductive Freedom!

Women's health is on the line in Wisconsin.

During the coming year, the Wisconsin Supreme Court will decide if a near total abortion ban stands.

With one open seat there is a lot at stake in the upcoming Supreme Court Election.

Your handwritten message to pro-choice but unlikely voters encourages them to make a plan to get to the polls.

These official-looking cards ask the voter a simple handwritten question: "What's your plan to get to the polls on April 4th?" This proven message was used successfully by Postcards to Swing States in the 2020 Wisconsin Primaries.



Postcard Packets:

- Cost/Packet: \$17
- Packet Size: 25 postcards
- Printer Cost per Packet: \$4.40
- Cost per Stamp: \$0.48
- Number of Stamps per Packet: 25
- Last Mail Date: 3/27 or 3/28 (mailed direct from the Post Office)

You must register at: <https://mobilize.us/s/Riojfw> to receive your Packet(s).

Contact John Healey for registration, payment or pick-up questions.

OceanWaterLover@gmail.com

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