



Highlights

4/13/2023

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

The Theme for April is
Resistance



Upcoming Worship

Sunday, April th

10:30 Worship @ WUS Sanctuary AND Online

Virtual Worship Logistics Below

Earth Communion: Reclaiming Our Connection Through Food

Earth Communion

Reclaiming Our Connection
Through Food



Photo by Gabriel Jimenez

Long-time members of WUS have many memories of good experiences with food in community - Circle Dinners, Pie Sunday, holiday potlucks, the Chili Cook-Off, the Spaghetti Dinner. This Sunday, in preparation for Earth Day, we will explore the connections between growing and sharing food, planetary health, spiritual healing and social justice. **This service will also include a blessing of our Youth Group (WUSYG) on the morning they leave for their service trip, working with Community Kitchens in Connecticut.**

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

A memorial gathering in remembrance of **Alberto Araoz** will be held this Saturday, April 15th, at 2 pm at WUS. All are welcome. A more formal memorial will be held at a later time.

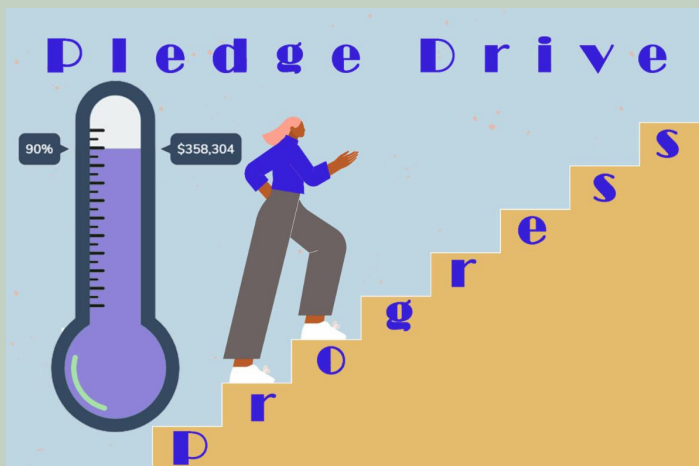


If you are facing a time of joy, sorrow or transition in your life, your minister and the Pastoral Care Associates are available to offer a listening ear, compassionate presence and, if applicable, resources. Contact the office, **781-729-0949** or office@winchesteruu.org.

Congregational News

Thank You from the Music Committee:

Thank you to all who attended the Kemp Harris concert on March 31st. We had 75 attendees in the sanctuary and 15 "streamers" on the night of the concert. It was a delightful evening and a lovely ending for our 17th concert series. Stay tuned for our line-up for the 18th concert series, and please let us know if you have any ideas for making "the series" better than ever!



Renewal and Growth- Pledge Progress Update 4/12/23

As the pledge drive winds down, we are creeping closer to our fundraising goal for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

As of 4/10/23, we have received **95 pledges**, which is 81% of our goal of 118 pledges. Total pledge dollars are **\$358,304**, 90% towards our goal!

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.

The standing committee and pledge team continue to contact everyone who has supported the church financially in the past.

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

John Healey
 Liz Scott
 Claire McNeill (Liaison to the Standing Committee)
 Bradley Steele, Treasurer



A New Shed!

As one enters the church building from the back parking lot, you will undoubtedly notice we have a new storage/trash shed.

Thanks to **Allan Eyden** (photographed here) for the specific donation that will greatly improve the aesthetics of our back entrance. The old shed is in the process of demolition and will soon be a memory. Thanks also to sexton **Joe Correcelli** for his carpentry work, placement planning and building of a new foundation.



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 this 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



FREE!
Donations Welcome

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

**April
23rd at
Noon to 2**

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.

**To register for in-person or Zoom attendance,
email: PCA@winchesteruu.org**

Winchester Unitarian Society 478 Main Street, Winchester 781-729-0949

A Workshop about Home Funerals and Green Burial

Martha Dallas, a Life-Cycle Celebrant, 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



*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 **Community Change** are welcome:

<https://communitychangeinc.org/>

What Issues Are Important to You? Climate? Racial and Environmental Justice? Transportation?

A chance to speak up for your values—

On Sunday, **April 30th, 12 to 1** after
morning worship

State Senator Jason Lewis will join us to listen to the issues of importance to our community and discuss legislative priorities in the current session.

Come, listen, and make your voice heard!

**Sponsored by the Social Action and Outreach
Committee**



Summer Services

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.

Walk to Benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Saturday, April 22nd,
11am - 1:30 pm @
Boston University
Join Us!

As shared in worship on April 2nd, we are organizing a team to raise money to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. This effort is in memory of our own Brenda Martino who died this past Fall and to support

her mother, Ginger Hanson, who is walking in the AFSP Out of the Darkness walk in June in Washington DC.

Contact Rev. Heather with questions about the walk at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org.

You may join the team and/or contribute to the team [here](#)



Our new WUS t-shirts include an adaptation of Brenda Martino's 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." Those who are joining the walking team are encouraged to order a t-shirt so we can carry Brenda's words with us...but order soon so it arrives on time! Order through this link: [WUS Shirts](#). Your shirt(s) will be mailed to you.



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!)

Your Help Needed

If you have only been a Coffee Hour Refreshment Volunteer once this year (or perhaps not even once), would you please consider volunteering? There are sign-up sheets on the refreshments table at Coffee Hour or you can text Donna Reed at 781-626-1785. Let her know what week you can do it and she will add you to the schedule.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered! It is so lovely to have nice snacks to share after the service!



Religious Education

This past Sunday, we enjoyed a festive (if chilly) time on the Bell Tower terrace enjoying some breakfast snacks and hunting for eggs! We had a great turnout of over 10 kids and families. Special thanks to our RE assistants, Rebecca, Riley, and Ryan, for helping to hide the eggs and keeping kids safe. Thanks to Sunday sexton Mike Donegan for setting up and breaking down the tables and food!



During the Easter service on Sunday, we talked about springtime and everyday miracles and how to notice and celebrate them. Everyone received a "miracle kit," with a tulip bulb and instructions on how to start the bulb indoors before planting it outside. Send your updates and pictures on your



bulb to us at brennamayer@winchesteruu.org and we'll post them on our WUS social media pages!

This Sunday, April 16: RE Classes for Grades K-6

Spirit Play. This Sunday, the Spirit Play class will hear a story called "The Stone in the Temple." This story comes from the faith tradition of Islam and tells us about the sacred black stone built into the eastern wall of the Ka'bah. It's a story about Muhammad, sharing, and teamwork.

Neighboring Faiths. This Sunday marks the beginning of the Neighboring Faiths class's exploration of Christianity. This session will start us off with an examination of Catholicism and various Protestant faiths that engage in similar rituals to Catholicism, including Episcopalian and Greek Orthodox faiths.

NO OWL CLASS this Sunday

OWL classes will be on hiatus for this Sunday, April 16th, due to the school break. Classes will resume on Sunday, April 23rd.

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!



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

Please sign yourselves up for the canoe trip by April 21st! We're gearing up for a good time on the river

on April 29th. We'll start at the Winchester Fish Ladder, get aboard our canoes and paddle to the Watershed area between the lakes for lunch, and then continue down to the Medford landing. The trip will take approximately 3 hours total from start to finish. **Please sign up now** so that we can finalize

planning and be sure to have enough equipment:
<https://forms.gle/ArNG7z9muYfka7eX8>.

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

This Sunday there is no meeting because of April vacation. We're looking forward to having another regular meeting with everyone on Sunday, April 23rd, 6:30-8 pm per usual. Please also mark your calendars for May 12-13, which will be a JUSYG Semi-Formal, Sleepover and, then, a Service Retreat.

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

There are no meetings on 4/16 or 4/23 because of the service trip. We look forward to seeing WUSYGers who are not going on the trip at our next regular meeting on 4/30 from 4:30-6:30.

WUSYGers going to NE Connecticut should join us on the 16th at 10:30 am for worship, then we'll have lunch together and head out at 1:30 pm. We'll be back by 7:30 pm on Friday.



**Building
Beloved
Community**

**Action
by
Action**

Our families, friends, neighbors, and colleagues in the Jewish community have seen an unconscionable rise in antisemitism incidents of harassment, assault, and vandalism last year. In the USA—our country—the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported 3,697 incidents, averaging ten a day. In MA—our state—there were 152 reported incidents against Jewish people in 71 cities and towns.

The ADL encourages everyone to commit to:

“1. Continue to learn about the Jewish people, as well as the complex, multifaceted, and often subtle nature of antisemitism.

2. Name and publicly condemn acts of antisemitism and other forms of hate whenever encountered.

3. Advocate for policy solutions to combat antisemitism and improve the understanding, prevention of, and response to incidents of antisemitism in schools and other public entities.

4. Urge the federal government to fully fund initiatives to fight antisemitism and make all relevant appointments necessary to combat antisemitism, domestically and globally.”

We know hatred and bigotry in all their overt and covert permutations harm our nation, our society, each and everyone of us.

—Gloria Legvold, for the 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

Sponsoring Organizations:
 The Winchester Conservation Commission
 The Winchester Cultural District
 The Griffin Museum of Photography



Aberjona River Day

Saturday, April 22, 2023, Earth Day
9 AM - 12PM, rain or shine

Meet at the SW corner of Mystic Valley Parkway and Main St.
 across from the Unitarian Church



Environment and Community Service

- Pick up trash and/or
- Cut back and remove invasive plants
- Sign up to let us know you're coming

<https://forms.gle/KQEW5LueDpSoRnhU7>

The Winchester Conservation Commission is once again sponsoring its annual effort to improve the habitat, environment and water quality of the Aberjona River. The Winchester Cultural District and the Griffin Museum have commissioned two found art sculptures, a herring and a heron - by Winchester resident & sculptor August Westner and photographer & conceptual artist Stefanie Timmerman, respectively. Both animals are native to the Aberjona River. Clean up and fill up these found art sculptures with the trash from your efforts.

We need your help to make the most impact!

- Wear clothing that covers your legs, feet, and arms
- For invasives work bring pruners / loppers. (We will have a few tools available)
- For trash pickup work, bags and gloves will be provided
- Bring friends and family
- Join us anytime between 9AM and 12PM.
- Parking at Winchester Middle School nearby

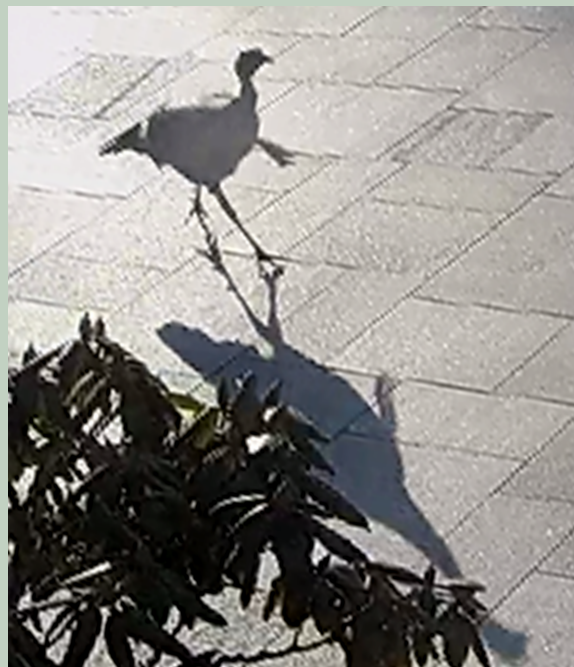
Questions? evreeland@winchester.us
 Elaine Vreeland, Conservation Commission Agent



Parting Shot



We have had our share of turkeys show up on the Bell Tower Terrace security camera. I wanted to share an image of one taking an afternoon spring stroll.
-Richard D.



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