

Winchester Unitarian Society



Highlights *September 14, 2017*

**Sunday, Sept 17th: Bearing Witness Beyond Borders:
The New Sanctuary Movement
With Rev. Heather Janules
Worship Associate: Martin Newhouse**

In the 1980's, faith communities began housing Central American refugees who fled their home countries but did not receive asylum in the US. In today's anti-immigrant environment, a new sanctuary movement has emerged, providing physical and political shelter to undocumented migrants along with financial, emotional and spiritual support. In worship we will explore this renewed movement and invite us to consider how we might act in these times. **A discussion with the Sanctuary Task Force and leaders from outside the congregation will follow the service.**

In the spirit of this month's theme, "welcome," this is also a **"Bring a Friend"** Sunday. Do you know someone who you think would love WUS? Who among you is concerned about the current immigration crisis? We would love to draw the circle wide for this important morning of reflection and discussion.

Our Time for All Ages will include a **Blessing of the Backpacks** so be sure to bring your backpack, briefcase, purse, diaper bag or other satchel to worship.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with the Sanctuary Team of our sibling congregation, **First Parish Bedford**. The FPB congregation has voted to become a "Level One" Sanctuary church and has almost completed physical renovations to welcome an individual or family to live in sanctuary.

Upcoming Events and Activities at WUS

Whether you have been a member for 30+ years or you are new to the local community, we hope that you can join us as we kick off our fall services and activities.

Family Worship, for families with small children who enjoy an interactive service, begins Sunday, the 17th, at **10:00 AM** in the chapel downstairs.

On Sept 17th at 10:30 AM, the service will focus on the **Sanctuary Movement**, followed by a community conversation. This begins the congregation's discernment about whether to join this movement.

The WUSYG Opening BBQ - for returning and new participants - is on Sept 17th, 5-8 PM at the Dougherty's house.

The children's **RE (religious education) classes** begin on Sept 17.

Faith in Action, for the 8th graders starts mid-Sept.

Our Whole Lives classes begin in October, for the 7th and 8th graders.

October 15th is our **Newcomer's Brunch**. If you are new to our community, please join us! It's a great opportunity to meet some of our members and learn more about Unitarian Universalism.

Our themes this autumn include **Welcome, Courage, Abundance, and Hope**. Come for our many inspiring sermons, services, music and discussions!

Our **concert series** this year promises to be stellar. **Nov 10th** is the first concert, entitled "**An Evening of Brahms's Chamber Music**" Please tell your friends about it and ask them to save the date. Let's pack the house!

For more information please visit our website: www.winchesteruu.org

It's hard to believe that August is already gone and that we are moving into the school year and towards the autumn. But it is always so lovely to re-unite with our friends and community. Welcome!! We hope you can join in our activities and fun...

Music News

Children's Chorale resume this Tuesday, September 19th. Children's Chorale meets every Tuesday from 6:15 to 7:00 p.m. in the Spirit Play room in the RE wing.

Interested in getting involved? Contact Music Director John Kramer at John.kramer@winchesteruu.org

Religious Education

Welcome to the Program Year at Winchester Unitarian Society!

RE program Registration is open for the 2017-2018 program year! Details of the program are here – ([RE program brochure](#)) To keep our contact information current, we ask that all returning and new families complete a registration form ([RE registration form](#)). Hard copy is also available at church on Sunday morning. Please return your family's registration information by October 2nd.

This Sunday: ARGGGGGGGGGH! Come to **Pirate Church!** We kick off our year with a treasure hunt to orient children to the year, to the church and to each other. After a Time for All Ages and Blessing of the Backpacks in the Sanctuary, we

will all begin the morning together (weather permitting) on the "ship". Bring your arghs, your hearty ho ho's and a sense of adventure. Eye patches provided.

Mark those Calendars!

Parent Conversation: Equipping Families in an era of substance use.

THIS SUNDAY, September 17th 5-6 PM Join us for a conversation with the Winchester Coalition for A Safer Community's Dot Butler and guests, young adults who have struggled with substance use disorders through their growing up years. Our guests will offer parents tips on how to engage their children in conversation, and how one can aware of signs of substance use and risky behavior. Whether you feel your child is at risk or not, someone they know is. Our Safer Community needs all of us to make it so.

F8th in Action: Lots of exciting activities are being planned this year during the F8th year of discernment and service, with the addition of a low cost 5 day service trip to the Youth Service Opportunities Program in New York during April Vacation. Please plan on attending the **parent's meeting, Sunday September 17th at 4 PM** to learn more.

Bonus RE September 28th 12-2 in Metcalf Kitchen and environs: We'll be tie dying. Send along a cotton t-shirt and or cotton table topper or sheets (that you don't mind seeing cut up) for our dying adventures.

***Our Whole Lives** begins in Mid-October. The group is currently under subscribed and for important reasons of group dynamics will not run with a "too small" cohort of kids. Please spread the word about this important ministry to our young people. " Learn more here ([OWL Flyer](#)) and to express interest, please contact (OWL@Winchesteruu.org)*

Let us know how to reach you! We often have information and/or scheduling changes to share with families. If you have a child pre-k through 8th grades, please give us your current email address so that we may communicate more effectively with you. Send to rebecca@winchesteruu.org

Family Worship at Winchester Unitarian Society 10:00 a.m. Sundays

Family Worship begins in the chapel at 478 Main Street with our opening service on September 17th.

Designed to be inclusive of families with younger children, Winchester Unitarian's Family Worship service is place where you and your family are just fine the way you are. Rustlings and comings and goings are held lightly, there's room to wiggle as well as to experience rituals of caring and connection in this short (20 minutes) and evocative worship service. If you are looking for a welcoming and meaningful experience to share with the children in your life, please join us. If you are looking for a message to inspire and inform, please join us. If you are looking for a place where you are known and welcomed, join us

Growth and Learning at Winchester Unitarian: Save the Date! Classism and Inequity. A conversation that matters, October 15th at noon, Winchester Unitarian Society.

To indicate interest in your child's participation, please contact Program Director, Rebecca Kelley Morgan at The Winchester Unitarian Society via rebecca@winchesteruu.org.

WUSYG: Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

Please [click here](#) to see our new webpage, which includes a calendar of upcoming WUSYG meetings and events, and other updates for parents/youth.

WUSYG Parents:

Please [sign up now](#) to bring something to our upcoming Welcoming BBQ this Sunday from 5-8 (and we look forward to seeing you there at 7:30!) Thanks!

Congregational News

IT'S TIME FOR A REDO!!!! Help restore the beauty of THE MICHELSEN ROOM

Team Redo has been working all year on renovation plans for the Michelsen Room to refresh and restore it to the beautiful treasure it once was. With initial funds from a generous donor, work began this summer. **We need your help to finish!** With your generous donation, we will:

- **Replace the old sofas** with new, more comfortable seating by the new candle-filled fireplace
- **Add wall to wall carpeting** for a quieter meeting space and flexibility in room rearrangement
- **Add new club chair seating** in the beautiful stained-glass window bay
- **Add light fixtures** that better match the character of the room
- **Replace the plastic office conference table with four club-style tables** providing flexibility to be used separately or together as a long boardroom table; **replace heavy office chairs** with chairs that can more easily be moved!
- **Restore, frame and hang valuable architectural drawings** that are presently stored, unseen, in our Archives

Good news! We have already raised \$17,000 of the \$34,000 needed to renovate this distinctive room; so far, checks have ranged from \$50 to \$5000. **All amounts are truly appreciated! Please help us toward our goal of raising the remaining \$17,000.**

There are many ways to contribute:

- 1) By **check** made out to WUS, with **Team Redo on the memo line (important!)**
 - Mail to Winchester Unitarian Society, 478 Main Street, Winchester, MA 01890
 - Leave your check with the Sunday Secretary in the church office.
 - Drop it in the "Michelsen Treasure Chest" in the Symmes Room at Coffee Hour.
- 2) By PayPal (please make sure to indicate "Michelsen" or "Redo" in special instructions section)
- 3) By electronic funds transfer through Vanco, the church's online e-payment vendor, which can take money from your bank account. Again, specify Redo where possible.

(Go to the [Giving page](#) on the church's website for links to PayPal and Vanco.)
If you donate through PayPal or Vanco, please send an email to Alison at

office@winchesteruu.org and let her know the amount. Then when the payment comes in, she will know it's for the Michelsen Redo rather than your pledge.

Gardening Group Welcomes UUs Back!

You may have noticed that our Welcome Garden at the corner of Mystic Valley and Main looks a lot brighter, and if you looked closely, you may have noticed the image of a burning chalice. Much thanks to Margaret Lowry for all her work bringing us this Welcoming gift!



The Gardening Group is also welcoming others who enjoy bringing color to our grounds and tending to the care of both the Welcome Garden and the Herb and Flower garden near the parking lot. Please join us on Saturday, 9/16 at 9:00 am to hear about how you can help tend the gardens at WUS. We will do a bit of weeding and watering as well. (Wear your WUS t-shirt if you have one!)



Save this Date: September 17th! Bring a Friend to Church/Sanctuary Sunday

We will soon begin a year of “building and crossing bridges,” beginning with September, a month centered on “welcome.”

Reflecting these themes and our collective effort to build WUS’s membership, the Membership Committee invites you to participate in “Bring a Friend to Church Sunday.”

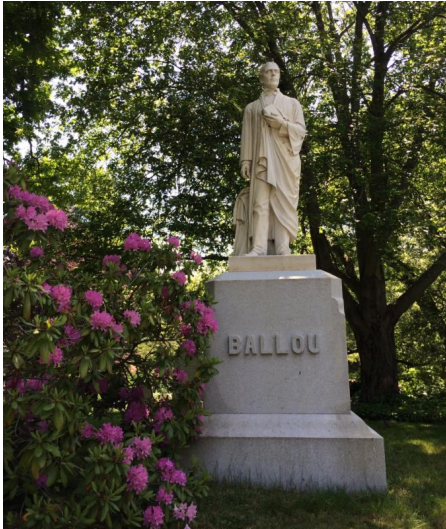
Our first "Friend Sunday" this church year will be held on September 17th, for a very special worship service on the sanctuary movement. For those in your life concerned about the current anti-immigrant climate and what individuals as well as houses of worship can do, this church service and follow-up discussion will be most compelling.

**Please mark your calendars
and start reaching out to family members and friends!**

WUS Usher & Greeter Training

In the spirit of our September theme of Welcome, the WUS Membership Committee and Gordy McIntosh cordially invite you to attend a special **Usher & Greeter Training on September 24th** following our Sunday Service in Michelsen. This brief session will cover the “Art of Greeting” and will share some effective ways to connect with someone new, which is helpful and useful practice for all, regardless of formally serving as an usher or greeter.

The Membership Committee is always looking for engaging and friendly volunteers to greet and usher. To RSVP for the September 24th training or to learn more about WUS’ Usher & Greeter Program, please contact Sophia Sid at



UU History Tour - Saturday September 30th

Deborah Morgan Bennett will return to join Rev. Heather in leading a walking tour of Boston, focused on UU history on Saturday, September 30th. The day will include abbreviated tours of Arlington Street Church and Kings Chapel by trained members of those congregations along with a number of monuments, important buildings and other sites in-between.

Gather at WUS between 8:30 and 9:00 am for carpooling to Alewife station. The group will return to WUS at 2:00 pm (or shortly thereafter.)

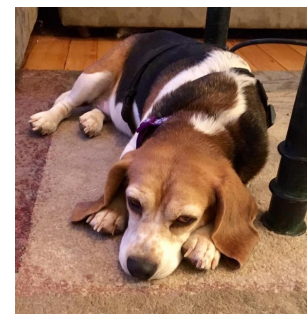
Cost is \$15 + subway fare and what you spend on lunch. If you are interested in joining the three already enrolled, contact Rev. Heather - heather.janules@winchesteruu.org



New Office Volunteers: The "Beagle in Residence" Pilot Program

Some may have met Dobby, the handsome and gentle Beagle who is the dog companion to Congregational Administrator Alison Baron. Dobby has occasionally come into the office to supervise the humans in their work and to take naps.

Another Beagle has joined the WUS leadership team. Rev. Heather has adopted a sweet 6 year old dog, Temple, from the same rescue group that brought Dobby to Alison. Temple has visited the office once and has proven to be a good listener and keeper of confidences.



As Temple is having trouble believing that her new human will come home every day, in consultation with church leaders, the office is starting a pilot "Beagle in Residence" program. On Thursdays, visitors to the office may meet Dobby or Temple. Those who love dogs and want more dog time in their lives are encouraged to visit on Thursdays. Those who have business in the office and are not fond of dogs or allergic are encouraged to let us know in advance and we will make other arrangements for the BIRs and/or meet with you in another room at WUS.

Our goal is to enhance the experience in the WUS building with the BIRs presence while also protecting and honoring the needs of the wary and allergic. Please provide your thoughts and feedback as the BIR program begins this week. Give Rev. Heather a call or drop her an email!

Soul Matters Covenant Group - 4th Tuesday, 6:30-8:30

Rev. Heather is gathering a group of individuals interested in joining a new covenant group, following the "Soul Matters" format. (To learn more about Covenant Groups at WUS, visit: www.winchesteruu.org/smallgroupministry)

A Soul Matters covenant group is like other groups but also focuses on the monthly theme through a comprehensive curriculum sent in advance of the meeting. This packet also features spiritual practices and quotes, books videos, songs and films that further explore the theme.

This new group will begin as soon as there are enough participants. Tentative meeting time is the 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 pm.

Interested? Contact Heather at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org
With enough enrollments, the group could meet as early as September 26th.



DINE-AROUND IS BACK !!! SAVE THE DATES: October 21, 28 & 29, November 4

"If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world." ~ J.R.R. Tolkien

Imagine dining while immersed within a scene from a classic book or movie, to delight in a wonderfully decadent meal inspired by that classic. Well, you will have the opportunity this fall since our Dine Around theme this year is the *Classics!*

Dine Around the Classics is this year's major fundraiser. Ten of our WUS families have graciously volunteered to host dinners themed from cuisines straight out of the classics. It is sure to be one of the most memorable evenings of your fall. This year we've got three Saturdays and a Sunday to choose from in October and November. Mark your calendars for October 21st, 28th, 29th and November 4th. Attend one every weekend!

Can't make any of the dinners but still want to contribute? Become a **SPONSOR**. Contact Karen Caputo kcaputo8@hotmail.com

Like to cook? Offer to help hosts who would LOVE another set of hands in their kitchen and be a **SOUS CHEF**. Contact Julie Khuen jkhuen@comcast.net

Social Action and Outreach

Love Resists: a new website sponsored by the UU Service Committee provides resources and tools to bring current justice campaigns to our communities. "Activating people of faith and conscience to resist the harm inflicted by criminalization." www.uua.org/lovesresists

ECONOMIC EQUITY IN POLITICS. The next conference call for the UU Mass Action group, Economic Equity in Politics (EEP), is: Tuesday 9/12, starting at 7 PM. You can find the Proposed Agenda & Calling Information [HERE](#)

Becoming an effective citizen lobbyist. If you feel like your persuasive powers could use some brushing up, please come to a free workshop on **how to make your voice heard and influence government decisions** on Monday, **September 18**, 7-9 p.m. at First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington, located at 630 Massachusetts Avenue. This year will give us the best chance yet for **comprehensive reform of the court, prison, probation, and parole systems** in Massachusetts.

Sanctuary Hood - creating sustainable, proactive sanctuary communities. UU Mass Action and UU Service committee are some of the sponsors of this event on **Saturday Oct 7, 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM** at **The Cathedral of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St, Boston**. Thousands of our neighbors remain vulnerable to on-going ICE actions. Now is a time to reflect on what is happening and hear from those who are directly affected. Ravi Ragbir founded the New Sanctuary Movement in NYC and is a dedicated leader and organizer fighting for human rights.

Build Relationship with Our Neighbors at the Islamic Center of Boston, Wayland

The Interfaith Book Club Presents: Getting to the Heart of Interfaith

When: Sun Oct 15, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Where: ICB Wayland, 126 Boston Post Rd, Wayland

The story of a pastor, a rabbi and an imam and the friendship that grew out of their search for mutual understanding. RSVP here: bookclub@icbwayland.org

Racial Justice Team

Anti-Racism Workshop Series - Facilitated by The Anti-Racism Collaborative

When: Sept 24th, Oct 1st, Oct 15th and Oct 22nd from 12:00pm – 2:30pm
(Includes a light lunch offered at 11:30 am)

Where: 7 Elm Street, Harvard, MA The Fellowship Building of the Harvard UU Church

Cost: \$10 per person. This course is geared to move beyond talking about racism and social oppression and to finding ways to take action, whether in your own personal sphere or in your community. To Register: Step 1 – Receive your ticket from [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/confronting-systemic-racism-tickets-36089097462) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/confronting-systemic-racism-tickets-36089097462>)

Step 2 – Complete your registration form – [Registration form](#)

For questions, contact antiracismcollab@gmail.com To carpool, contact Claire McNeill.

Another Racial Justice event: All UUs are welcome join the next Quarterly Meeting of the **Black Lives Matter Certified Working Group of UU Mass**

Action. Sunday Sept 24, from 2:00 – 4:00 PM at First Parish, Arlington.

Representatives of many area UU congregations report on their activities.

You can find the Proposed Agenda & Discussion Covenant [HERE](#)

**Update on WUS Black Lives Matter Banner Process:
Fall Conversations have been scheduled!
*Mark your calendars now!***

We trust that you have had a good summer!

As you may remember, a group of WUS members within the Racial Justice Team submitted a proposal for a BLM Banner Process to the Standing Committee and it

was approved in late April. Since June we have been collecting your comments about the banner process via a display in the Symmes Room, with a comment box and at the following dedicated email address: WUSBLMBannerProcessGroup@gmail.com
You are also encouraged to speak directly with members of the BLM Banner Process Group: Steve Butterfield, Phil Coonley, Sarah Kelley, John Loewy, Gordon McIntosh, Kathy Richardson, Patty Shepard, and Sophia Sid.

As promised we have scheduled a series of open conversations for this fall, as follows:

Thursday, September 28th 7-9 pm in the Chapel
Sunday, October 8th 12-2 pm in the Parlor
Thursday, October 12th 7-9 pm in the Chapel
Sunday October 22nd 12-2 pm in the Parlor

Additional conversations will be scheduled in the fall for other groups within the congregation including WUSYG, RE, OWL and the Wednesday daytime "Soup and Conversations." All conversations will be structured with a covenant and focused speaking and listening regarding sharing our own thoughts, feelings, and experiences about possibly having a Black Lives Matter banner at WUS. The broad range of policies advocated in the most recent Movement for Black Lives platform will be read aloud. This platform can be found at Movement for Black Lives (<https://policy.m4bl.org/platform/>) and hard copies are available near our display in the Symmes Room.

New Church Directory

Access the updated church directory [here](#). It's also in the (password-protected) Members section of the website. Notice that the new directory lists families only once. If a family has two last names, the family is listed as Last Name 1/Last Name 2, with individual family members and their own last names below it. Remember that you can update your own entry (and add photos!) anytime by going to www.instantchurchdirectory.com and signing in. If you need help, contact the office.

The Mystic Messenger Vol. 3, Issue 1

Please enjoy our quarterly publication, *The Mystic Messenger*, [available here](#).



From the Office:

Please let the office know if you need to reserve a room for your committee/group. Reservations do not carry over from year to year. Thank you.



Parking Note

Our wonderful tenant, the Winchester Cooperative Nursery School, has a high demand for parking lot spaces in the mornings, particularly on Wednesdays. Their pickup and dropoff times are

staggered to reduce traffic, but the busiest times are 8:45-9:30 am and 11:15am-12:30pm. If you have meetings at the church at those times, you can help by carpooling, using street parking, or squeezing into the church's designated parking spaces (4 spaces in the nook near the back doors), WCNS is also doing its part, asking its teachers to park on the street. We want to keep kids safe and parents calm!

Meditation News

Meets almost every Wednesday from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Meyer Chapel. Sitting from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Walking from 7:00 to 7:15 p.m. Discussion 7:15 to 7:30 p.m. Contact Ron Denhardt (rondenhardt@gmail.com) for info.

Fall Yoga Session Begins Monday, September 11

Whether you have thought about coming to WUS Monday night yoga for a long while or just a few minutes, we invite you to begin anew with us for our Fall Session, September 11th – November 20th. Our yoga teacher, Jamie Sokolowski, will guide us through a gentle, yet stimulating and refreshing Kripalu-style yoga class. No previous experience necessary. We meet in the chapel from 6:30 – 8:00pm. Each class ends with a relaxation, allowing you to pause deeply before facing the coming week. Several payment options are available: a 10-class card for \$130, a 5-class card for \$65 or drop-in for one class for \$15. We are strongly committed to having the yoga class be an integral part of our church ministry and invite all who wish to take part to attend and offer a donation as you are able. For further information, you may contact Fritzie Nace at fritzie.nace@gmail.com.

Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

If you are facing a time of joy, sorrow or transition in your life, our minister and the Pastoral Care Associates are available to offer a listening ear, compassionate presence and, if applicable, resources.

Healing wishes are with Sarah Milt, who is recovering from surgery to remove a benign tumor. Thankfully, the procedure was less invasive than it could have been, meaning a shorter and easier recovery. Heal quickly, Sarah!

You may reach the Rev. Heather Janules in the office at 781.729.0949. She can also connect you with a Pastoral Care Associate or the Caring Network (providing short-term, practical support like rides and meals.) To learn more about the PCAs, pick up a brochure when you are in the church.

Community News

Jenks Annual Fall Barbeque - Friday, September 22nd 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

We're firing up the grill one last time before the fall season sets in. On Friday, September 22nd, we will have a wide assortment of delectable foods and music by Acoustic Guitarist Chris Carter... all starting at 5:30 p.m. Reserve your seat(s) early at the Jenks Center. Sign up with the receptionist, price is \$10.00 per person, \$15 at the door and if under 12, \$5. Come and enjoy great company, a hearty

meal and the fun (rain or shine)!

**Combating the Rise of Intolerance:
A Community Dialogue hosted by State Representative Michael Day and
the Winchester Multicultural Network**

**Tuesday, October 10, 2017 - 7:00 pm
Winchester Town Hall Auditorium, 71 Mt. Vernon Street, Winchester**

Join us for a discussion about how we combat actions and statements that normalize the intolerance of diversity and how we can best promote civil dialogue in our community.

Panelists include:

- Aba Taylor, Executive Director, *Winchester Multicultural Network*
- Stephanie Marzouk, President and Director, *Muslim Justice League*
- Robert Trestan, Regional Director, *Anti-Defamation League*

Affordable Housing Unit Available The Town of Winchester is taking applications for an affordable property at 55 Harvard Street. You may learn more about the unit, the qualifications and the application process at the town website: <https://www.winchester.us/452/Affordable-Housing>



Woburn Food Pantry

For the month of **September**, the Woburn Food Pantry needs baked beans, canned lunch (Spaghettios, etc.), canned meat (stew, Spam, chili, etc.), cereal (hot and cold), condiments, dessert mixes, jello and pudding. Please place your donations in the basket under the Social Action area in the Symmes Room. Thank you for your generosity.

Coffee Hour Refreshments

For the upcoming church year, we need volunteers to bring refreshments for coffee hour on Sundays. Please click [here](#) to sign up, or use the sign up sheets in the Foyer.



Flower Dedications

Dates are available for flower dedications. You may dedicate flowers in celebration of, in memory of, or in honor of someone and it will appear in the Order of Service. The cost is \$45.00 (or you can bring your own flowers, but let the office know). Please click to [sign up](#) or use the sign up sheets in the Foyer.



For information about office hours, worship services, religious education, music, pathways to membership, and church events, visit <http://www.winchesteruu.org/>

To access the members' section of the website, [contact the office](#) for the password.

The deadline for all Highlights submissions: **Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.** and should

go to adminassistant@winchesteruu.org. All articles submitted should be no more than 250 words.

Contact Us

To contact any member of the staff at the Winchester Unitarian Society, you may start with the Office: office@winchesteruu.org or visit the [Contact page](#) of our website for specific information.

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

STAY CONNECTED

