

# Winchester Unitarian Society



## *Highlights* *September 7, 2017*

### **Sunday, Sept 7th: From River to Sea, From Shore to Shore: Water Communion**

**With Rev. Heather Janules**

**Worship Associate: Ivan Correia**

Water Communion is an annual tradition, inviting participants to bring a little water from the literal and figurative journeys they have traveled. (**So bring water to worship**...but if you forget, we have extra!) This year's service will mark the beginning of a year of "building and crossing bridges," a celebration of the faith and courage it takes to stand on one shore and look to the other side.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **St. Bernard Project** (or SBP,) whose mission is "to shrink the time between disaster and full recovery by ensuring that disaster-impacted citizens and communities recover in a prompt, efficient and predictable manner." SBP is a long-time partner organization with our past rebuilding efforts in New Orleans and Baton Rouge and has already set up on the ground to begin work in Houston as soon as possible.

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### **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.

John Kramer gets the **choir** warmed-up at the Saturday, **Sept 9<sup>th</sup>** rehearsal (9-Noon). Please come if you love to sing! The music on Sunday mornings is always inspiring.

**September 10<sup>th</sup>**, after our service, we gather for a delicious and abundant **pot-luck lunch**.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 youth group, **WUSYG** (grades 9-12), has their first meeting for returning participants on Sept 10<sup>th</sup> 4:30 – 6:30 at WUS. The WUSYG Opening BBQ - for returning and new participants - is on Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, 5-8 PM at the Dougherty's house.

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

**Faith in Action**, for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders starts mid-Sept.

**Our Whole Lives** classes begin in October, for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

**October 15<sup>th</sup>** 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 10<sup>th</sup>** is the first concert, entitled "**An Evening of Brahm'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](http://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...

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## Music News

Start your year off right by singing!

The Adult Choir meets this Saturday, September 9th from 9-12 in the sanctuary.

Regular Sunday rehearsals resume on the 10th at 8:45, also in the sanctuary.

Children's Chorale rehearsals resume on Tuesday evening beginning September 19th.

Interested in getting involved? Contact Music Director John Kramer at

[John.kramer@winchesteruu.org](mailto:John.kramer@winchesteruu.org)

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## Religious Education

**September 17th**, F8th in Action Parents Orientation

**September 24th**, Our Whole Lives Parent's Orientation - 4:00 PM

**We are now enrolling for Our Whole Lives program.** "Our Whole Lives," also known as "OWL" is a comprehensive sexuality education program; offered to seventh and eighth graders in a series of 22 sessions from October to April. In addition to Winchester Unitarian Society families, OWL is open to members of the greater community, on a first come, first served basis until our enrollment cap is reached. There is a mandatory parent's orientation scheduled for **September**

**24th at 4:00 PM.**

Next week's highlights, we will have more information on the schedule for Religious Education orientations/meetings.

To indicate interest in your child's participation, please contact Program Director, Rebecca Kelley Morgan at The Winchester Unitarian Society via [rebecca@winchesteruu.org](mailto:rebecca@winchesteruu.org). [RE Registration](#) form is attached.

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## **WUSYG: Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group**

### **Welcome back WUSYG!**

This Sunday, 9/10 there will be a WUSYG Meeting at WUS for \*returning members\* from 4:30-6:30 PM. All members and anyone interested in joining this year are then invited to our Welcoming BBQ at the Dougherty's Home on 9/17 from 5-8 PM at 73 Sunset Rd in Winchester. Parents are invited to join us at 7:30 to meet the staff and hear more about our programming this year. We can't wait for another awesome year with all of you!

For more information about WUSYG please email: [wusyouth@gmail.com](mailto:wusyouth@gmail.com) and stay tuned for our new web-page, google calendar, parent FB page and much more coming-soon as we boost our communications for this program year!

## **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](mailto: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.

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## 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 9am 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!)

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## Save this Date: September 17th! Bring a Friend to Church 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!**

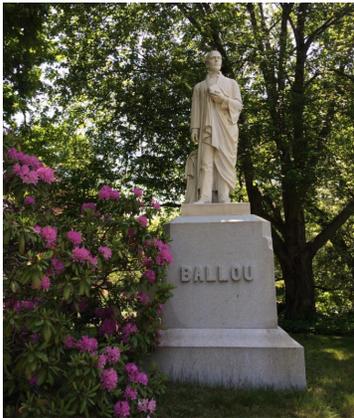
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## WUS Usher & Greeter Training

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 24<sup>th</sup>** 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 24<sup>th</sup> training or to learn more about WUS' Usher & Greeter Program, please contact Sophia Sid at [sophia.sid@gmail.com](mailto:sophia.sid@gmail.com).

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### Save the Date - 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. As we are working out details with some sites, exact time frame and the amount of the nominal fee is TBD. But plan for setting off around 9:00 in the morning with a return early afternoon. Also plan for lots of walking and seeing the city with a new lens!

If you are interested in participating, contact Rev. Heather - [heather.janules@winchesteruu.org](mailto:heather.janules@winchesteruu.org)

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### 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](http://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](mailto:heather.janules@winchesteruu.org)  
With enough enrollments, the group could meet as early as September 26th.

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### WUS Mental Health Awareness & Support Initiative (MHASI)

Let's come together again for our First Meeting of the fall.....

Join us for conversation and support  
WUS (Winchester Unitarian Society),

## (MHASI) Mental Health Awareness & Support Initiative and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

*Coming together and supporting one another as we navigate relationships  
with friends or family living with mental illness.*

**Family & Caregiver Support Group**, a drop-in group for family members, caregivers, and loved ones of individuals living with mental illness, facilitated by WUS members, Maria Shepherd and Maury Wood and co-facilitated by WUS RE Director, Rebecca Kelley-Morgan  
**UPCOMING PEER SUPPORT GROUP:**

***Tuesday, September 12th, 6:45-8:45 pm in Winsor  
(the group meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month)***

*All WUS Caregiver support groups are facilitated by NAMI and provide a safe and confidential setting for mutual support and the sharing of resources. Looking for other local support groups or resources? MHASI recommends contacting the Massachusetts chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), [www.namimass.org/NAMI](http://www.namimass.org/NAMI)*

If you have any questions, or would like to speak with someone about groups or our initiative, please contact:

Maria Shepherd [mandmshepherd@comcast.net](mailto:mandmshepherd@comcast.net) or  
Maury Wood [mowood60@gmail.com](mailto:mowood60@gmail.com)

The Winchester Unitarian Society is located at 478 Main St, Winchester, MA on the corner of Main St and Mystic Valley Parkway and is a large stone church. (park in the lot behind or on the street).  
Questions: Call Maria at 781 258-8823

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### Social Action and Outreach

**Racial Justice Book Group** will resume on Monday, September 11 at 10 AM, discussing “ Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” by Beverly Tatum. All are welcome to attend this discussion of the development of racial identity, to bring suggestions of books for the fall, and plan the next dates.

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

UU Mass Action is working with [UUSC](#) and the [Love Resists](#) campaign to advocate for the extension of Temporary Protected Status for people from Haiti, El Salvador and Honduras. In May 2017, Haitian TPS was extended for 6 mos. TPS is a federal program. To advocate for the extension of these crucially important protections, please contact your US Senators and your US Congress person.

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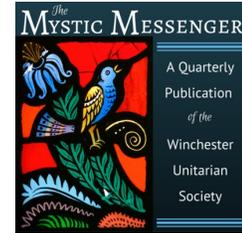
## New Church Directory

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](http://www.instantchurchdirectory.com) and signing in. If you need help, contact the office.

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### ***The Mystic Messenger* Vol. 3, Issue 1**

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



### **Dine Around is Back !!!**

#### **Save the Dates:**

Oct 21, 28, 29 and Nov 4

Our one and only fundraiser for this coming year! Watch this space for details...

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### **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!

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### **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](mailto:rondenhardt@gmail.com)) for info.

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### **Fall Yoga Session Begins**

## This 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 11<sup>th</sup> – November 20<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:fritzie.nace@gmail.com).



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## 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.

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.

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## Community News

### Celebrate National Grandparents Day at the Jenks

**Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Join us for our premiere National Grandparents Day celebration at the Jenks Center and bring the grandchildren with you for games, food and fun! We will begin the celebration with a tasty brunch. This intergenerational celebration will feature students from the Tri-M Music Society-Winchester High School, who will be performing for and entertaining us with their musical talents. In addition, there will be games such as “Jeopardy,” “Name That Tune,” and Corn Hole. Prizes will be awarded for this special occasion that is certain to be repeated in the future. Due to limited seating, **RSVP required** no later than September 5<sup>th</sup>. The Grandparents Day Brunch has been generously underwritten by Salter HealthCare.

### Jenks Annual Fall Barbeque - Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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)!

**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:



## 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.

## Staying Connected

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org) | [www.winchesteruu.org](http://www.winchesteruu.org)

STAY CONNECTED

