

Winchester Unitarian Society



Highlights December 21st, 2017



Season of Light Services and Events

TONIGHT!

Solstice Service and Caroling
See below for more information

Saturday, December 23rd (morning)

Annual Cookie and Treat Baking
For chefs of all ages!
Metcalf Kitchen 10 AM - Noon

Sunday, December 24th

Stories of the Season, 10:30 AM, Symmes

(No Family Worship)

In lieu of a formal worship service, we will gather to share stories of holidays past and our hopes for what light might be born out of these long nights.

Bring a holiday poem or piece of prose or choose one that will be provided if you do not have a story of your own - personal or discovered - to share. Afterwards,

we will enjoy the baked bounty of the day before with a coffee hour rich with goodies (with and without gluten!)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

4:00 pm - Family Friendly Service
Including the Children's Chorale

7:00 pm - Lessons and Carols
Including the Adult Choir

Our offering at these services will benefit
our **Partner Church** in Marosvásárhely, Transylvania

Music News

There will be no Children's Chorale, Tuesday December 26th.

From the Music Committee

Mark your 2018 calendar for the our January 26th jazz concert. This year's jazz theme is food! (Think: Salt Peanuts, Watermelon Man, and Scrapple from the Apple.) And, on March 16th, Vance Gilbert, will bring a bit of the unexpected to the sanctuary. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram describes him as "the voice of an angel, the wit of the devil, and the guitar playing of a god." Should be a very interesting evening!

Religious Education

This Sunday in Religious Education:

Morning Programs: Please join us for any of our three worship services this Sunday. Our morning worship is an informal gathering and sharing, the 4:00 PM family friendly and 7:00 PM services for Christmas Eve.

Afternoon Programs: F8th in Action **do NOT** meet this Sunday or next Sunday.

Family Worship: There is **NO** family Worship this Sunday.

This week:

Solstice Celebration and Caroling: Solstice Celebration Tonight, December 21st at 6:30 p.m. Metcalf Hall. Join our extended community as we welcome the darkness and celebrate the returning light on this longest night and shortest day of Winter Solstice. The celebration takes place in Metcalf Hall, with the exception of the wreath burning which takes place in the parking lot! And then...

Carol Singing Tonight, December 21st at 7:30 PM After we jump the wreath into the new solar year, we're off to share some holiday spirit with our neighbors in Winchester. Bundle up and join us as we walk through the center of town beguiling all with our rousing renditions of winter classics. We hope to see families of all ages there. Questions? Contact John Kramer or Heather Janules.

December's Bonus Religious Education Day: Our Annual cookie baking and decorating happens Saturday morning, December 23rd in Metcalf Kitchen. We hope you can join us!

Jan Fest is coming! Sometimes you just have to do something different. In January, our religious education leaders take a break, and community members offer activities for youth.

WUSYG: Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

Please [click here](#) to see our webpage, which includes a calendar of upcoming

WUSYG meetings and events, and other updates for parents/youth.

WUSYG Parents:

Please register your youth for this year by filling out **this mandatory [Google form](#)** and be sure to join **our new [WUSYG Parents Facebook Group](#)** for last-minute updates from us and as a space to ask questions, share stories and generally be in community together.

Congregational News

Circle Dinner Sign Ups!

(deadline December 24 - easy date to remember!)

It's time to widen your circle of friendships with fellowship and good eating! Circle dinners consist of small groups of singles and couples from the church dining together in each other's homes throughout the winter and spring. Everyone contributes to the meal and it is hosted by a member of the group, on a rotating basis. Newcomers are especially welcome. This is a great way to get to know the people you see on Sunday in a relaxed, convivial setting. Sign up online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z5L9VZT> or at Coffee Hour through Sunday, December 24. You will be notified in early January of your group members. This is one of the most popular social events at the church and many people participate. Don't miss out!

Leaders for Jan Fest Needed

Jan Fest is quickly approaching! The RE Committee is looking for people to lead classes for our youth while our regular RE teachers are on break in January. Past offerings have been cooking, crafts, games, table tennis, science experiments, Tae Kwon Do, dancing, de-engineering...just about anything goes! Jan Fest is very popular with the children and would not be possible without your help. Please use the link below to signup or contact Marsha Durbano at madurbano@verizon.net.

Please go to

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b44aba96-janfest> to sign up.



Bring-A-Friend Sunday – Follow-up

On behalf of the Membership Committee, thank you to all who brought family and friends to our December 10th Music Sunday! It was a delight to see our sanctuary filled, and to have so many

experience the testimony of WUS Youth on Immigrant Justice, John Kramer's Cantata, and the warm hospitality of our WUS community at the potluck. Thank you to all who brought friends, food, and who gave of their time to make our Bring-A-Friend Sunday a truly wonderful and memorable service!

If you brought a friend and are looking for ways to connect them with the WUS community and the many fulfilling activities of our congregation, please do not hesitate to reach out us in Membership! The Membership Committee will be hosting a Newcomer's Lunch on January 14th after our 10:30 am service, so we encourage you to invite your friends! Let us help you and your friends explore the many exciting ways that visitors can get connected. For further info, please

Special Thanks

Thanks to Mark Shepherd, who came in last Saturday to help Sexton Joe Corricelli set up the stage for Sunday's pageant.



Thanks to Karen Erikson for organizing the greening of the church with wreaths and garlands.

Thanks to Mary McIntosh for coordinating Mitten Tree giving.

Continuing in the spirit of Welcoming this fall, the Membership Committee and Rev. Heather Janules cordially invites you to:

**A special Newcomers Brunch
Sunday, January 14th
12:00-1:30 pm
Michelsen Room**

This brunch is open to ALL – whether you are a new or long-time member, if you would like the opportunity to meet and connect with others and expand your circle, please join us!

Prior to the brunch, the Martin Luther King service should be of great interest.

Questions: Please email Sophia Sid at: sophia.sid@gmail.com

Save the date: Friday evening, February 9, 2018

Indulge your tummy.

Pledge your heart.

Sing out your love!

Details coming in January.

~ Cynthia Randall & Rebecca Keller ~

Family & Caregiver Support Group

Family & Caregiver Support Group is a drop-in group for family members, caregivers, and loved ones of individuals living with mental illness, facilitated by WUS members, Maria Shepherd, Maury Wood and Rebecca Kelley-Morgan. For more information, please [click here](#).

Social Action and Outreach

Join Rev Heather to provide lunch and fellowship at **Common Cathedral** on the Boston Common on **Sunday, December 31, 2017**. If you can't go to the Common **can you help make sandwiches** for homeless people at 9:30 AM? Each Sunday, up to 50 people gather for lunch and a Christian service. We need 6

volunteers to prepare food, and 5-7 PM at the Commons. Volunteers are needed to:

- shop for food and paper goods (you will have a list)
- prepare sandwiches (Sunday morning - 9:30 - at church)
- drive volunteers and food to Boston
- set up, serve and socialize with congregants (12:00-2:30 pm)

Please contact Gordy McIntosh gordon.mcintosh@verizon.net about how to help. More information about Common Cathedral is available here: <http://commoncathedral.org/common-cathedral-ministry/>

Support Black Lives Matter Cambridge's Holiday Bailout. Did you know that more than half of people held in jail have not been convicted of a crime, but are awaiting trial and can't afford bail? When a person can't pay bail, they can lose their job, housing, and sometimes their kids. Black Lives Matter Cambridge and the MA Bail Fund are working to free as many people as possible this December to be home with their families for the holidays. Learn more about how you can donate or volunteer at: <https://www.massbailfund.org/holiday-bailout.html>

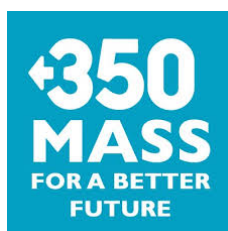
Please take a moment to contact your legislators to express your support of the Safe Communities Act. Info Podcast with Amy Grunder, Director of Legislative Affairs, MIRA Since last week, the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance has been mounting a rolling attack on the 95 co-sponsors of the Safe Communities Act. We need an immediate response.

The Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance has begun a postcard campaign to sow fear about the bill, *using false and misleading "information"* generating hundreds of calls to co-sponsors from angry voters who misunderstand and oppose the bill. Now these legislators need to hear from supporters. We need to thank them for their commitment. Calling makes the biggest impact. Both Sen. Jehlen and Sen. Lewis are co-sponsors. If you want to send an email, you can use [this simple tool](#) set up by MIRA.

Immigration News: **Accompaniment Training Opportunity**

Wednesday January 10, 7:00 – 9:00 PM at First Parish Church in Concord, 20 Lexington Rd. Please join us at this gathering which will bring together faith communities and organizations that have been engaged in actions at the Burlington ICE field office. Those who would like to join this network are welcome, as well. We will discuss how to increase our presence and strengthen our communication network. [RSVP HERE](#)

To join the Economic Equity in Politics Certified Working Group of UU Mass Action, please go to: <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/EEP-CWG>



350Mass for a Better Future

Meets every other Wednesday:
January 3, 17 & 31 (Michelsen Room)

Time: 11:30 - 12:00 pm Social time and newcomers,
12:00 - 1:30 pm Meeting



From the Office

Office Hours Christmas Week:
Monday & Tuesday CLOSED
Wednesday 10-4 PM (Beagle Day)
Thursday & Friday 8-5 PM

On New Year's Day - CLOSED

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. Optional informal discussion 7:15 to 7:30 p.m. Contact Ron Denhardt (rondenhardt@gmail.com) for info.



Qi Gong at WUS

Tuesday nights 6:45 - 8:30 pm

Come experience the relaxation and rejuvenation of Qi Gong. Lee Holden's (Deb Morgan-Bennett's teacher) class will be down-streamed and projected on to a large screen. **Classes resume weekly in January.** We will meet in the Symmes room (next to the Sanctuary). Tea will be available at 6:45 pm and classes will be held 7pm - 8:30pm. Classes are free and invite all who wish to take part to attend and offer a donation as you are able. For further information, you may contact Carol DeLaney at ccdolaney1@hotmail.com



Yoga at WUS

Monday nights 6:30 - 8:00 pm

The winter session of gentle Kripalu yoga began November 27th and runs through February 26th, 2018. We meet in the Meyer chapel from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. 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.

announcements submissions: **Thursdays, 9:00 a.m.** 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

