

Winchester Unitarian Society



Highlights December 28th, 2017

Sunday, Dec 31st: Question Box With Rev. Heather Janules Worship Associates: Ivan Correia & Martin Newhouse

In a free faith like Unitarian Universalism, asking questions is like a sacrament. As we turn towards a New Year, this service centers on your questions, for our Worship Associates to gather and for Rev. Heather to answer as a collective reflection. In preparation for our One to One Campaign, there will also be a time for us to ask questions of each other. When is the last time someone asked you about your thoughts, feelings and experiences...without an agenda? Come welcome 2018 with asking, answering and listening to what makes us wonder!

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **Victory Programs**, a local organization serving "individuals and families who are homeless and may have substance use disorders, often accompanied by chronic health issues like HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and mental illness" through providing safe and stable housing. Beginning January 7th, you may contribute to the WUS offering through an app on your smartphone! Look to the next Highlights for more information.

Music News

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



Thank you to all who organized and participated with the Mitten Tree this year.

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

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

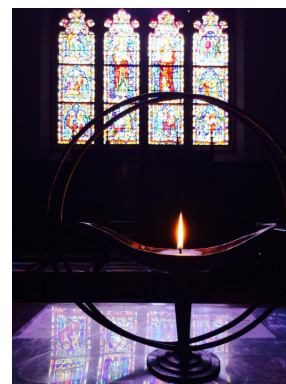


One to One Campaign – Sign Up This Sunday!

WUS leaders are organizing a one to one campaign, an intentional time of outreach to members of the community with the primary purpose of listening to our collective gifts, concerns, dreams and values. We seek to have 100 conversations between January 1 and June 1 of 2018. See Sophia Sid at coffee hour if you wish to be one of the first people facilitators reach out to or if you have questions. To learn more about this campaign, go to: [One to One Campaign Brochure](#).

Want to Vote on January 7th?

Special Opportunity to Sign the Membership Book, Sun Jan 7th, 9:45 am, Michelsen Room Voting in the congregational meeting on January 7th depends on being an official member of the Winchester Unitarian Society. One becomes a member by signing the membership book and sustains their membership through making and fulfilling a financial pledge and contributing to congregational life through regular presence and service. Those who wish to join in advance of the meeting are welcome to attend a special session that morning at 9:45 in Michelsen to learn about the rights and responsibilities of membership and to sign the book. Coffee and bagels will be provided. Contact Rev. Heather with questions.



Newcomers, those who sign on 1/7, recent members and long-time members are

all welcome to participate in the Membership Committee's upcoming programs:

- **Newcomer lunch – Sunday, January 14**
- **Beginning I** (Our Spiritual Journeys) – **Sunday, February 18**
- **Beginning II** (UU History) – **Sunday, February 25**
- **Becoming** – Contemporary UU Theology & Practice - **Sunday, March 25**
- **Belonging** – Finding our place in a Covenantal Community - **Sunday, April 15**

To learn more about Membership at WUS, visit:

<https://www.winchesteruu.org/connection/path-to-membership/>

The next opportunity to sign the book will be on **New Member Sunday/Annual Meeting - Sunday, May 20**

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.



Silent Retreat at WUS, Fri Jan 19 - Sat Jan 20

Begin 2018 with intention by entering into a full day of silence. Participants gather at 9:00 pm on Friday for an informal Vespers service. Then the DIY silent retreat begins, punctuated with opportunities for group activities (meal prep and sharing, collage creation, meditation) throughout the day. We sleep at WUS (bring your bedding!) and set aside phones and internet for the day (with the exception of emergencies) and end with an informal closing circle worship

for conclusion at 6:00 pm. Cost is \$20 for materials. Contact [Rev. Heather](#) if you wish to join.

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**



Newcomers Brunch

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.

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.

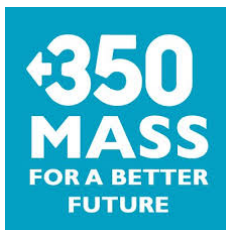
The Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance has begun a postcard campaign to sow fear

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**

More information are available on our [website](#).



From the Office

**Office Hours this Week:
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 downstreamead 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.

A celebration of life for Jim McIntosh (Gordy's father) will be held on January 6th at 1:00 pm at WUS.

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.

Sign Up for Coffee Hour Refreshments

You can help make Sunday mornings more welcoming and joyful by bringing refreshments for coffee hour! If you are willing to be contacted when sign-ups are needed (usually once a month), please email janetnelson@comcast.net to put yourself on the contact list. (If you already receive my emails, you don't need to contact me, unless you'd prefer to be taken off the list.) Usually two people sign up to bring finger foods for one Sunday. We truly appreciate your willingness to be asked to help out in this simple way – thank you!



From Janet Nelson for the Fellowship Committee

Sunday Secretary Volunteers

Do you want to be part of our Sunday Secretary list? Do you want to get trained to be one? Contact the [office](#) or [Sara Delano](#) to learn more about it. You can also click here to [sign up](#) or use



the sign up sheets in the Foyer.

Celebrating a special occasion?
Honoring a loved one?



Flower Dedications are available for Sundays

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 and to view the church calendar, please click [here](#).

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

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STAY CONNECTED

