

Winchester Unitarian Society



Highlights December 7th, 2017

Sunday, Dec 10th: Music Sunday: *The Immigrant Experience Cantata* With John Kramer, Sam Wilson and WUSYG Youth Group

This Sunday – Bring-A-Friend, your lovely self, and a dish that pays homage to your family heritage! In a special service not-to-be-missed will be John Kramer's new cantata, "The Immigrant Experience," performed by the WUS and Arlington Street Choirs. Sam Wilson and our WUS Youth will also reflect on Immigrant Justice and their experiences in Tucson, AZ.

Join us for a special coffee hour and discussion after the service. **To sign up to bring a dish this special Music Sunday**, the link is here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0944a9a92fabfa7-december>

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN)**, a network of faith-based community organizations in MA, providing support to faith groups in the process of achieving Sanctuary status as part of their current "Immigrant Rights" campaign. Our gift to MCAN will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, with a gift to **the Federal Litigation Project** from the Minister's Discretionary Fund. The FLP, "fund[s] lawyers for immigrants who cannot afford to litigate their cases in Federal Court, where often that is the only place that can provide relief."



Please join us at 10:30am on December 10th
when the WUS and Arlington Street choirs perform

THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

a new cantata by WUS Music Director John Kramer.

This 25-minute work explores various immigration issues and texts by our founding fathers that establish the United States as a place of welcome for immigrants. WUS Youth and Director of Youth Ministries, Sam Wilson, will reflect on immigrant justice and their experiences during their immersion learning journey to Tucson, AZ.

After the service, there will be a **conversation** where John will discuss the creative process of the cantata and all will be encouraged to share their immigrant stories. Also, don't miss a **special coffee hour** where we invite all to share an appetizer or finger food from their family heritage.



Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main St, Winchester | winchesteruu.org

Season of Light Services and Events

Thursday, December 21
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 (Stay tuned for more details)

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

Music News

Interested in getting involved?

Contact Music Director John Kramer at John.kramer@winchesteruu.org.

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: Today we celebrate the season of hope by thinking about the many immigrations in this country. Our families and others once lived somewhere else. This is the last week or "regular" Sunday morning programs. Next week, our annual all ages in worship holiday "pageant" and the following week is Christmas Eve. Please join us for any of our three worship services that day. 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 meets at 4:30 PM this Sunday. Looking backward, looking ahead!

Family Worship in the **Meyer** chapel at Winchester Unitarian Society **10:00 a.m. Sunday:** We are Walking Winter's Spiral this morning to sit on winter's throne while we await the coming of the sun/son in the darkest days of December. **There is NO family Worship next Sunday, please join us for our annual holiday pageant in Worship at 10:30 a.m.**

OH MITTEN TREE: Mitten Tree UN-decorating has begun in the Symmes Room

This year we are including Gift Wrapping Concierge Service by members of **F8th in Action and WUSYG**. If your gifts are dropped off unwrapped and clearly labeled, we will take on making them look wonderful on the afternoon of **the 17th**, before they are distributed to the recipients. This year's recipients are drawn from families of undocumented workers. Since their status is a barrier to receiving services in the current political and social climate, we are reaching out to children and adults who are residents of Everett, Revere and Lynn in an anonymous process. Please return gifts no later than **December 17th at 3:00 PM with "mitten" contents and a name label** securely attached to the gift upon its return. We will need them when the gifts are wrapped and sorted.

December Happenings:

Solstice Celebration and Caroling: Solstice Celebration Thursday, 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 Thursday, 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. Watch for your invite. 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

Chaperones Needed

Click to Sign up



Calling Chaperones for WUSYG's Service Trip

WUSYG is looking for 2 chaperones for their upcoming service trip in April to

Nicaragua! If you're interested in serving as a chaperone, [click here](#) for more information and to fill out a short application. The deadline to apply is ***this Saturday***, December 9th.

Circle Dinner sign-up time!

(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 beginning Sunday, December 10 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!



Church decorating during holidays!

Please join the WUS Elves at 6 pm on Friday night, December 15th as we green the Sanctuary, Symmes and the Foyer for the holidays! Come enjoy this yearly tradition of

decorating our church while listening to Christmas music and nibbling on holiday cookies. Many hands make light (and fun) work. For more info, contact Karen at Karenerikson@comcast.net.

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, **meets next December 12th & 26th, January 10th & 24th 6:45-8:45 pm** in the Michelsen Room. Just follow the signs! **The group meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.**

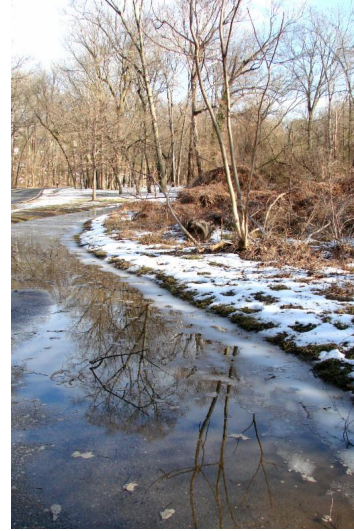
All WUS Caregiver support groups are facilitated by NAMI-trained leaders and provide a safe and confidential setting for mutual support and the sharing of resources. Looking for other local support groups or resources? Contact the Massachusetts chapter of the

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), www.namimass.org/NAMI If you have any questions, or would like to speak with someone about our groups or our initiative, please contact any of our facilitators Maria Shepherd mandmshepherd@comcast.net, Maury Wood mowood60@gmail.com or Rebecca Kelley Morgan rebecca@winchesteruu.org.

Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group will meet Thursday, December 14th from 7:30-9:00 pm (to be held in the Winchester Unitarian Society Parlor / go in the 478 Main Street circular drive door and to your right.) All are warmly welcome to attend.

The Grief Support Group is open to anyone in the community who has experienced loss and seeks a caring environment to process the complex feelings of grieving. **These feelings can be particularly intense during the holidays.** If you have experienced a death of someone in your life and would like to explore your grief with other people who have also experienced loss, please consider attending a grief support group meeting.



The grief support meetings start with a reading and then a check-in by participants. You can say as much or as little as you feel comfortable saying (you can also choose to pass if you want.) Usually personal check-ins last a few minutes each and should be uninterrupted. Then the conversation opens up. The facilitator usually starts off this conversation with a topic or question to discuss. The meetings conclude at 9pm.

Our meetings are confidential - we ask that everyone observe the guideline that what is said in a meeting, stays in the meeting.

Please feel free to contact Lee Barton or Heather Janules if you would like more info on the Grief Support Program at WUS -or- feel free to just show up at a meeting. **No rsvp needed.**

Social Action and Outreach

TONIGHT: Daring Democracy, Thursday Dec 7, 7:30-9:00 PM

First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord

Legendary, "Diet for a Small Planet," author Frances Moore Lappé and organizer-scholar Adam Eichen will share highlights of their wonderful and empowering new book (a UU Common Read) "Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want."

TODAY: UU Justice in the Middle East, MA Chapter Presents:

Speak Truth to Power: How to Lobby Legislators for Palestinian Human Rights

When: Thur Dec 7, 8:00-9:30 PM EST

Webinar, Register [HERE](#) Join us to learn how to speak more effectively to your elected officials, from your local city council representative all the way up to your

Looking for a way to serve others during the holidays? We have PROMISED to provide lunch and fellowship at **Common Cathedral** on **Sunday, December 31, 2017**. WUS will be making and serving sandwiches at noon that day to the homeless. Each Sunday, up to 50 people gather on the Boston Commons for lunch and Christian service. We need 6-8 volunteers to prepare food, and 8-12 at the Commons. Volunteers are needed to:

- shop for food and paper goods (you will have a list)
- prepare soup on Saturday (optional, for anyone interested)
- prepare or buy a sheet cake on Saturday
- prepare sandwiches (Sunday morning, at church, before service)
- drive volunteers and food after church
- set up, serve and socialize with congregants (12:00-2:30pm)

Please contact Gordy McIntosh gordon.mcintosh@verizon.net about how you could help. More information about Common Cathedral is available at the following link: <http://commoncathedral.org/common-cathedral-ministry/>

UU Urban Ministry volunteer opportunities at the Meetinghouse in Roxbury include:

- tutors in all subjects for grades 8-12, during the week of **Dec 11-14 and Dec 18-19, 2:00-5:30 pm**
- carrying, unpacking, redistributing donated food at Fair Foods, **every Saturday morning**, 10:30 am-1:30 pm. (a couple hours is appreciated)

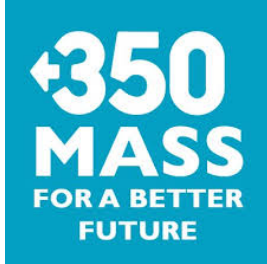
Check the SAOC bulletin board in Symmes Hall for other opportunities and more information. To volunteer, contact Marvin Venay, mvenay@uum.org or 617-318-6010 x214.

Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival Historic Announcement on Dec. 4th, 2017

On December 4, 2017 - the fiftieth anniversary of the announcement of the 1967/68 Poor People's Campaign - a growing and diverse leadership will come together in Washington, D.C. to officially announce the launch of the **Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival**. See the link for information.

Together, we are responding to these times of profound crisis by building a nationwide, multi-racial campaign to call the nation to take dramatic steps to address the evils of system racism, poverty, the war economy and ecological devastation. We are mobilizing toward 40 days of massive, coordinated, nonviolent direct action across the country this spring. (Pledge to join the Campaign [here](#)!)

We will hold a press conference December 4 at 10:00 AM ET in Washington, D.C. to officially announce the launch of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. Inspired Martin Luther King Jr. and led by Rev. Barber.



Michelsen Room

**Meets every other Wednesday:
December 20, January 3, 17 & 31**

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

Celebrating Our One-Year Anniversary!

Since Nov. 2016 when our group was formed, we have decided on our primary focus and taken many actions. We have promoted legislation on 5 major energy topics: carbon pricing, increasing the % of renewables in our electricity, advancing solar installation in MA, stopping new gas pipeline infrastructure and taxes and repairing gas pipeline leaks. Along the way, we have learned a lot about these issues, gotten to meet and know our state reps and senators, attended hearings, written letters and overall had a significant impact.

We welcome all of those who would like to feel the rewards and challenges of interacting with state legislatures as they construct laws to improve our environment. We are aligned with the group 350 Mass and you can learn more about all of the activities of this group at the following website:

<http://350mass.betterfutureproject.org/>

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 starting 12/12

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 will begin on December 12th and 19th (No class on 12/26) then will 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.

Rebecca Kelley-Morgan will undergo orthopedic surgery on December 12th. She has our best wishes for a successful procedure and swift recovery! When asked how we can best reach out to Rebecca during her convalescence, she said that receiving a card a day and photos of candles lit as people think of her would be best. You may leave get well cards in the office to be delivered for you. All are welcome to text or email photos of "holding her in the light" directly to Rebecca.

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.

WE  **VOLUNTEERS**

**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.

Stay 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 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

