

Winchester Unitarian Society



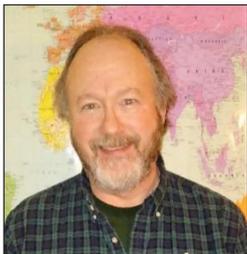
Highlights January 11th, 2018

Sunday, Jan 14th: Co-Workers with God: MLK, Ministry and Community **With Rev. Heather Janules and Members of the Black Lives Matter Banner Process Group**

As our nation reflects on the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, we explore the account of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, as told through his first book *Stride Toward Freedom*, a story of not only justice prevailing but the complex and imperfect way justice is achieved. This story offers us insight into today's pursuit of justice and freedom for all.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **Community Change, Incorporated**, a local anti-racism organization living out its mission through “education, advocacy and working in solidarity with others to organize for change.”

Music News



John Kramer will be on sabbatical from January 1st to March 31st, 2018. During this time, Barry Singer will lead as the Music Director. To learn more about Barry, please click [here](#).

Kirsten Hart will lead the Children's Choral.
To learn more about Kirsten, please go to <https://www.winchesteruu.org/about-us/staff/?uid=kirsten-hart>



John Kramer performs his Meditations and other works for piano:

Tuesday, January 23rd @ 7:30 p.m.
David Friend Recital Hall
Berklee College of Music
921 Boyston St., Boston, MA

From the Music Committee

Please plan to attend our January 26th "Jazz in the Sanctuary" concert at 8:00 PM. This year's concert will feature a jazz sextet and a theme of food! (Think: Salt Peanuts, Watermelon Man, and Scrapple from the Apple.) On March 16th, Vance Gilbert, will bring a bit of the unexpected to WUS. 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."

Religious Education

This Sunday in Religious Education:

Morning Programs: THIS Sunday, January 14th Welcome to the second Sunday of **JanFEST**. Cool Cardboard Construction, with Matthew Bronski make a dog tug toy with Sarah Milt, and Acting and Improvisation with Victoria Ipolito.

Jan FEST still has openings for leaders for our final Sunday on January **28th**. Please contact Marsha Durbano to volunteer to lead a group on during our January celebration of community across the age span. You may also sign up here <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b44aba96-janfest>

PLEASE NOTE: *this weekend, the floors in the Religious Education wing are being waxed. Our playroom for the youngest of our friends is temporarily moved to the church parlor for this Sunday, only.*

Afternoon Programs:

F8th in Action: Meets at 4:30 in the Parlor. Vanessa Steck and Rebecca Kelley Morgan lead the group.

Family Worship in the **Meyer** chapel at Winchester Unitarian Society **10:00 a.m. Sunday:** Today, "Their Children's Children". There are many stories behind our celebration of diversity and Martin Luther King's life this weekend.

Next **Religious Education Committee Meeting February 7th, 9:00 AM**
Michelsen room.

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 by 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

**Celebrate
Community**
hop on the pledge train



Save the date for a fun-filled evening!
Friday February 9, 6:30-10 pm
2018 Pledge Drive Kick-Off
Metcalf Hall

Dinner | Karaoke DJ | Pledge Card Give-Away
~ Indulge your tummy
~ Pledge your heart
~ Sing out your love

Dinner provided. Cash bar. Featuring top WUS singers! [RSVP here by January 30.](#)

(Maximum seating is 110 so reserve today.)

Questions? Contact Cynthia Randall or Rebecca Keller.

End of Year Giving Statement is Coming!

We will soon will mail out statements that can be used to substantiate charitable gifts in 2017 for income tax purposes. If you do not receive your statement by the end of the month or have questions about your donations, please contact Alison Baron, Administrator, 781-729-0949.



UPDATE FROM THE BLACK LIVES MATTER BANNER PROCESS GROUP

As you may have heard, after a very civil and meaningful discussion, the two proposed articles below were passed at the 1/7/18 congregational meeting. Here are some of the details:

- **Article IV** To hear and act upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee and the Black Lives Matter Banner Process Group that the Society adopt as a statement of purpose the text as set forth in [Attachment 4](#), carried by a vote of 62 to 1.
- **Article V**, To hear and act upon the recommendation of the Black Lives Matter Banner Process Group that the members of the Society affirm our continuing commitment to racial justice by publicly displaying on church property a sign or banner that reads: "BLACK LIVES MATTER," passed as written by a vote of 54 to 4.
- Prior to this an amendment to change the wording to 'Our faith calls us to affirm that Black Lives Matter' was defeated 17 to 36. (Slightly more than 2/3

voted down the amendment.)

Our congregation has made a very ambitious commitment to racial justice and there is much work to be done. Please do take a careful look at the the statement of purpose and let us know of anything that you are drawn to contribute to this work going forward. The Black Lives Matter Banner Process Group will be proceeding with the remaining items of the proposed process that was approved last spring, which include but may not be limited to the following:

Additionally before the banner is hung we would:

- Have conversations with our local police, the executive director of Winchester Multicultural Network, and other local congregational leaders (with Rev. Heather's assistance, of course.)
- Do a publicity campaign including a press release and/or letters to the editor of local papers to inform them of our commitment.
- Provide a way for folks to contact us about the banner via our website or email.

After the banner is hung, we (or other interested congregants) would continue to provide support to the process in the form of offering continuing conversations for any folks within or outside our congregation who indicate an interest in understanding our public witness position.

If you are interested in helping out with any of the above items, please speak up. We will be sending out a doodle poll to find a time for the next meeting of the Black Lives Matter Banner Process Group soon.

Thanks again for you interest,
*Steve Butterfield, Phil Coonley, Sarah Kelley, John Loewy, Gordon McIntosh,
Kathy Richardson, Patty Shepard, and Sophia Sid*

Black Lives Matter Banner Process Group
wusblmbannerprocessgroup@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

“Before the Flood” film and Taking Action to Reverse Global Warming: Sunday, February 11th, 4:30 – 6:45 pm at the Winchester Unitarian Society Sponsored by the WUS Green Sanctuary Team, the Growth and Learning Committee and 350.Metro North (local chapter of 350.Org).

Join us for a screening of Leonardo DiCaprio’s film *Before the Flood* (rated PG). This 96 minute film presents a riveting account of dramatic changes occurring around the world due to climate change and includes actions we can take to prevent catastrophic disruption of life on our planet.

A brief presentation by members of our local 350.MetroNorth chapter of 350.Org and of the Citizens’ Climate Lobby will update us on legislative action for clean energy. Additional information will be presented on “The most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming.” (from **Drawdown** edited by Paul Hawken). **We hope that you leave this event impacted with a sense of urgency and armed with information about how you can take action to reversing global warming now.**

Food and refreshments will be served.

We are hoping for a LARGE turnout for this important film and presentation. We would greatly appreciate your help spreading the word!

Thanks very much!

Green Sanctuary Team & Growth and Learning Committee
at Winchester Unitarian Society www.winchesteruu.org

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

Stories of WUS Support

There is a saying that "we are stronger together than we are alone." This is one reason why people seek and commit to a faith community; spiritual and personal growth are often the results of connecting with others, serving with others, caring for and being cared for by others.

How has your connection with WUS changed you? Strengthened you? Challenged you in a positive way? Inspired you to build and cross a bridge? Send your story to Rev. Heather (heather.janules@winchesteruu.org) or make an appointment to talk. These stories will become part of an upcoming worship service in February.

Don't you just LOVE a performance review?

Our minister does. Heather actually *wants* an annual performance review. She *wants* to know how she's doing: Meets expectations? Exceeds? Fails to meet?



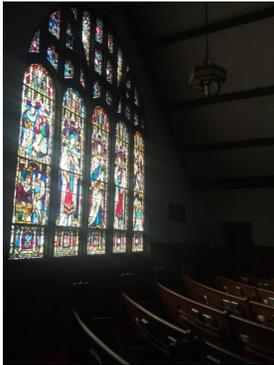
One small question: what *are* these expectations? WHAT DOES THE CONGREGATION EXPECT?

Please come to an after-church meeting on SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018 and tell us what your expectations are. We'll give a quick outline of the review process and share with you the results of Heather's performance review from last year, then launch into an exploration of your wants and expectations. It'll be fun. There will be food.



One to One Campaign

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. Contact Rev. Heather 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](#).



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.

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](#).

Do you have any old, broken or unwanted electronics or appliances sitting in your attic or basement?

If so, please bring them to church for kids to take apart and explore. As part of our Jan Fest program many kids will participate in the very popular De-engineering class on Sunday Jan 21. Small radios, keyboards, telephones, dust busters, etc are all needed!



Please no electronics with CRTs or mercury. Items can be left in the hallway outside Rebecca's office. Thank you!

Social Action and Outreach

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. This effort by Black Lives Matter Cambridge and the MA Bail Fund helped people be home with their families for the holidays, but **any time is a good time to help these families**. Learn more about how you can donate or volunteer at: <https://www.massbailfund.org/holiday-bailout.html>

All are invited to Medford's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration on Monday, January 15 from 10:30 to 1:00. Lunch provided. Meet people in area social justice groups. It will be held at the St. Raphael Parish Center, at 514 High Street, Medford. We can accomplish more if we work together! Contact Claire McNeill to carpool.

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>

From the Office

Office Closed: Monday, January 15th
(Martin Luther King Jr. Day)



350Mass for a Better Future

Meets every other Wednesday:
January 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](#).

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.

It is with sadness that we share the news that **Evelyn Trageser** fell at home on Wednesday evening and suffered a brain hemorrhage. She is not anticipated to recover. Our love and compassion are with her children, Kenneth and Linda, who are at her bedside and we pray for peaceful passage for Evelyn.

Note that Rev. Heather will be serving as the guest minister for the UU Fellowship of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico on Sunday January 28th and February 4th (<http://www.uufsma.org>). In between, she will be on vacation. Barbara Keyes will be on-call for pastoral emergencies. (You may reach Barbara at 781.729.0021 or barbk25@gmail.com)

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
