

# Winchester Unitarian Society



## *Highlights January 25th, 2018*

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### **Sunday, Jan 28th: Love the Hell Out of This World With Matt Meyer Worship Associate: Ivan Correia**

When the culture around us doesn't encourage us to our best selves, how do we model the kind of world we want to live in? Guest worship leader Matt Meyer will reflect on the good and bad of middle school, the time he picked the very best costume for a high-stakes 5th grade costume party, & how we find the skills for beloved community.

Matt is a musician and community organizer who has led hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country. He has a degree in hand drumming and has studied abroad in Cuba, Ghana and Central America. Matt serves as Director of Community Life for Sanctuary Boston and is a founding resident of the Lucy Stone Cooperative in Roxbury.

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **Doctors Without Borders**, an international humanitarian medical organization, "helping people threatened by violence, neglect, natural disasters, epidemics and health emergencies."

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## **Music News**

### **From the Music Committee**

Please plan to attend our January 26th "Jazz in the Sanctuary" concert at 8:00 PM tomorrow. 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."

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# Religious Education

## This Sunday in Religious Education

**Morning Programs: THIS Sunday, January 28th** Welcome to the Fourth and LAST Sunday of **JanFEST 2018**. Beading bracelets with Martina Werner, Improv games and acting with Victoria Ipolito and snack time (you make the snacks!) with Tyson Kamikawa in the Metcalf kitchen.

**F8th in Action:** Meets at 4:30 in the chapel for Drumming with Matt Meyer. WUSYG joins us this week.

**Family Worship** in the **Meyer** chapel at Winchester Unitarian Society **10:00 a.m. Sunday:** Today, "A Cup of Light" Like all symbols, our chalice has its own history. We hear another story about how our chalice came to be a symbol of caring.

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

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## 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



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.

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## Women's Lunch Place

Photo taken at Women's Lunch Place, 67 Newbury Street



in Boston. Winchester Unitarian Society members and friends volunteer on the 2nd Saturday morning of each month. Pictured are the January volunteers Margen Kelsey, Deb Walsh, Lauri Clark, and Joi Loewy. [www.womenslunchplace.org](http://www.womenslunchplace.org)

Contact Deb Walsh, WUS Coordinator with any questions about participating at [Walsh.mcentee@comcast.net](mailto:Walsh.mcentee@comcast.net) - 781-507-6091

## Mystic Messenger

As we begin to prepare the next edition of *The Mystic Messenger*, we welcome submissions of articles, photos and editorials.

Specifically, we solicit reflections about the special congregational meeting in which the membership voted to become a Level 2 sanctuary congregation, to affirm an anti-racist statement of purpose and to hang a banner reading "Black Lives Matter." We seek to reflect the diversity of thought and perspectives not fully articulated through an account of a congregational vote.



Please send submissions to Alison Streit Baron at [office@winchesteruu.org](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org) by February 7th. All submissions may be edited and abridged.

## Parent's Conversation with a side order for Kids! 4:30 PM January 28<sup>th</sup>

*We are adding a facilitated Children's Conversation for children 4 years and up. This will run concurrently with the Parent's Conversation. We invite kids to bring their favorite handheld devices (just one, please) so that they may discuss their own rules, habits and values around technology. In addition kids will have time to share favorite apps and online tips with each other. \*Childcare will be provided for those under 4 years of age.*

Do you struggle navigating the minefield of parenting in this technological age? Understanding both benefits and risks in raising technologically literate kids – we invite parents of **pre-school through high school children** - and managing access to social media? Please join us as we share parenting concerns, experiences, and skills we're developing for the age of 24/7 connectivity.

If you would like more information, the most recent American Academy of Pediatrics thoughts and recommendations for children infant – five years old <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/early/2016/10/19/peds.2016-2591.full.pdf>

And for children five–eighteen years old <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/early/2016/10/19/peds.2016-2592.full.pdf>

Hard copy is available at the church.

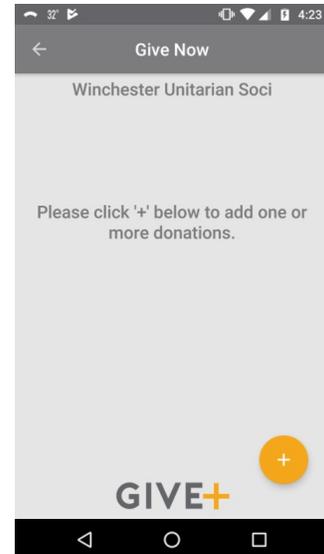
**Adult only households:** Are you craving time with younger children? The children's religious education program of our congregation is hoping to create opportunities for people to connect across the generations. What does that look like to you? Would you like to be part of a cross generational conversation? Let us know via [Rebecca@winchesteruu.org](mailto:Rebecca@winchesteruu.org), speaking to Rebecca Kelley-Morgan or Marsha Durbano, religious education committee chairperson.

**End-of-year 2017 giving statements have been mailed. If you do not receive yours by Monday, January 29, or if you have questions or concerns, please contact Alison Baron at the office, 781-729-0949 or [office@winchesteruu.org](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org).**

## GENEROSITY: There's an App for That!

You can now make a contribution to WUS through a mobile app! To get started, download GivePlus Church for free from the App Store or Google Play. Then **make donations easily and directly from your smartphone using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account.** You can choose to donate as a guest or set up an account. GivePlus is a program of Vanco, which has been handling the church's electronic payments for years.

***Try it out during the offertory this Sunday.  
(Yes, you can use your phone in church!)***



## Standing Committee Update

At our December 13th meeting the committee voted to hold a special congregational meeting, and discussed the Articles for the meeting (held the first Sunday in of 2018) were discussed, including the bylaw changes, Sanctuary Level 2 support, and BLM banner. The committee was briefed on the upcoming WUSYG service trip. We also heard an update from Steve Butterfield (treasurer) regarding money matters and budgeting. Our building use and rental policy was updated. Rebecca Keller gave a pledge drive update, and plans for the Feb 9th kickoff dinner buffet with karaoke were discussed. We also voted to approve minister's housing allowance for taxes. Heather gave wonderful Christmas season opening and closing words with a message from the 15th century via Fra Giovanni. At our January 10th meeting, the church staff was invited and we enjoyed a wonderful potluck dinner. We heard a summary from our WUSYG director Sam Wilson of all the happenings and also more in depth details on the ongoing plans for the Service Trip to Nicaragua. 20 youth and 5 adults now plan to attend. Jack McCreless filled in for John Kramer (on sabbatical) for the music program summary, still riding the high of hearing John's immigration Cantata on Immigration Sunday. Organ restoration/updating continues to be a looming long term challenge on the horizon for our music program, while the concert series and choir are bright spots on a regular basis. Alison Streit Baron, Office Administrator gave a nice update of building management and she continues to have great support from the building committee. Updates on communications, finances, and even software

were laid out. Standing Committee also heard a recap of the special congregational meeting where bylaws were updated, the church became a level 2 sanctuary immigrants, and the BLM Banner found support. We also heard from Steve Butterfield (treasurer) and discussed the upcoming pledge drive. The Pledge Drive team of Rebecca Keller and Cynthia Randal gave an update of the planned February 9th kickoff with Dinner and Karaoke and the recent successful Dine Around was discussed. Wrapping up, the group considered an offer letter for the incoming intern minister.

Steve Forcucci, SC Member

## SAVE THE DATE

**“Before the Flood”** film and Taking Action to Reverse Global Warming: Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.winchesteruu.org)

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## Social Action and Outreach

### **UU Mass Action Legislative priorities.**

All bills in Joint Committees must be voted on and moved out of their committee by February 7<sup>th</sup>. UU Mass Action has written a letter to help make advocacy easy! Our three priority areas for bills are: **Anti-oppression, Economic Justice and Climate Change**. Ending Mass Incarceration is not included because these bills have moved out of committee, have been voted on in the House and Senate and are now in Conference Committee. [Letter to your Representative](#) [Letter to your Senator](#)

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**First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Bedford welcomes a woman from Central America into Sanctuary.** She is a mother and grandmother who faces deportation to a country where her life would be in imminent danger. **Winchester Unitarian Society is one of the level 2 support congregations, with many**

**people offering to work shifts** with more than 30 people committed to serving. The church also needs financial support, since the town has imposed unanticipated building code upgrades on them. Write to [sanctuary@winchesteruu.org](mailto:sanctuary@winchesteruu.org) if you wish to volunteer or donate.

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**UU Mass Action Black Lives Matter Working Group** will meet **HERE** on: Sat Jan 27, 12 – 2:00 PM (Snow Date: Sat Feb 13, 12 – 2:00 PM) in the Winsor Room (near the kitchen). Join us for the next quarterly Meeting of UU Mass Action Certified Working Group to learn what projects other congregations in the Boston area are doing. Please feel free to join us, even if you are new to the group. For information, contact: [shepard.patty@gmail.com](mailto:shepard.patty@gmail.com) Go here for the [Proposed Agenda & Discussion Covenant](#) for this meeting.

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Hurricane Maria and Puerto Rico: Roots of the Crisis. Thursday Feb 8, 6:30 pm. Central Square Branch Library, 45 Pearl St, Cambridge. Lead Organizer: [Mass Peace Action](#) Learn about the legacy of U.S. intervention, colonialism, neo-liberal economic policy and the deepening climate crisis. How are Puerto Rican activists promoting economic sustainability and social justice? A discussion with: Jovanna Garcia Soto of Grassroots International and Pedro Reina-Perez, University of Puerto Rico

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**“Our Beloved Kin”** a new book released by Amherst College associate professor, Lisa Brooks, an Abenaki, depicts the complex prolonged King Philip’s War in our area 440 years ago. It’s seen as the result of mistaken assumptions English settlers made about the native tribes. “Our Beloved Kin” is based on written letters and other materials written by those Indians, who were largely assumed to have been illiterate. She finds parallels to our challenges of refugees and racial profiling. [Read more HERE](#)

UU Mass Action’s 2018 UU Advocacy Day will be Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

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### **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](#) or email [onetooone@wichesteruu.org](mailto:onetooone@wichesteruu.org).

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### **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](#).

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## 350Mass for a Better Future

Meets every other Wednesday:  
January 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](#).

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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. Optional informal discussion 7:15 to 7:30 p.m. Contact Ron Denhardt ([rondenhardt@gmail.com](mailto: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 downstreamed and projected on to a large screen. 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](mailto:ccdolaney1@hotmail.com)

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### Yoga at WUS

Monday nights 6:30 - 8:00 pm



The winter session of gentle Kripalu yoga began November 27<sup>th</sup> and runs through February 26<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:fritzie.nace@gmail.com).

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### Community News

#### Black History Month Celebration

For the 25 Year Anniversary of Winchester's Celebration of Black History, the Network and the Interfaith Community of Winchester has invited The Karolines who will be performing two sectarian Ugandan dance and vocal pieces for the audience.

The Karolines is a group of youths and young adults in the Uganda Catholic Community in the archdiocese of Boston that was started in 2010 by a group of youths at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Waltham, Massachusetts.

"We are a dynamic, enthusiastic team of youths and young adults who chose to preserve and uphold our African culture in the diaspora by practicing and teaching the new generation that was born here in the USA the African dances, songs, drama and where need be, the language too. We perform traditional African Arts at concerts as Karolines that we hold in the summer and at all kinds of events," says Charlotte Ssebutinde, one of the group's founders.

Please join us on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 2:00 PM at St. Mary's Parish Hall, 162 Washington Street (the Hall is on the hill opposite the church).

Sponsored by: Winchester Multicultural Network, St. Mary's Parish Peace and Justice Ministry, and the Winchester Interfaith Council, made possible with grants from EnKa and the Cummings Foundation.

For more information: [www.wmcn.org](http://www.wmcn.org)

### **Sounds of Grace invites you to their 10 year Celebration**

Sounds of Grace, an interfaith hospice choir based in Winchester, is celebrating ten years of singing songs for healing to people in the surrounding communities. Sounds of Grace invites everyone to come to this special event, to enjoy some of the group's songs and to learn about the group's activities in the community. This event will be held on **Sunday, March 4, 2018, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.** at First Congregational Church, Winchester. There will be a reception and an opportunity for questions and discussion.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### **Lisa Perry-Wood's**

Ordination into the Unitarian Universalist Ministry

Saturday, June 3, 2018 - 3 PM

First Parish in Lexington

7 Harrington Road, Lexington, MA

Child Care Available

Reception Immediately Following

Witness this milestone event in the life of 2016 Summer Minister Lisa Perry-Wood, as she becomes an Ordained Unitarian Universalist Minister.

For more information or to volunteer (usher, donate food, etc.) at the Ordination, contact Tom Rich, Ordination Committee member at First Parish in Lexington, at [tom.f.rich@gmail.com](mailto:tom.f.rich@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.

Condolences are with former Intern Minister **Heather Concannon** and her family with the sudden death of her father, John Concannon, last Sunday. You may learn



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](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)

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