

Winchester Unitarian Society



Highlights January 4th, 2018

Sunday, Jan 7th: Wild and Precious With Rev. Heather Janules Worship Associate: Carol Cashion

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" the poet Mary Oliver asks. Members of three generations within the WUS community answer this question in the very beginning of this new year. (To learn how people answered this question last year, visit: <https://www.winchesteruu.org/wild-precious-2017/>)

This Sunday, we share our gifts with **The Fortune Society**, supporting "successful re-entry from prison and promoting alternatives to incarceration, thus strengthening the fabric of our communities." They do this by "building lives through service programs shaped by the needs and experience of clients and changing minds through education and advocacy that work to rectify unjust and brutal criminal justice policies."



REMINDER: Special Congregational Meeting after worship on January 7th!

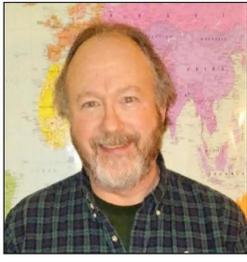
Cheese pizza and (gluten-free) lentil soup will be provided.

See the Warrant and all materials (also sent out December 18) [here](#).

WUS members, come, let your voice be heard!

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>



Religious Education

Morning Programs: THIS Sunday, January 7th Welcome to the first Sunday of JanFEST. Cool Cardboard Construction, Beaded Bracelets and our annual first week Surprise!

Jan FEST still has openings for leaders. This Year our Sundays are **January 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th**. Please contact Marsha Durbano to volunteer to lead a group this year during our January celebration of community across the age span. You may also sign up here <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b44aba96-janfest>

Afternoon Programs:

F8th in Action: Meets at 4:30 in Michelsen. 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, "Here and Now". Come practice mindfulness, and awareness. What happens when we slow down? What happens when there is nothing else to do, but this, no where else to be but here?

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



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](#).

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

A Celebration of Life for Jim McIntosh

Gordy and Mary McIntosh alongside Jim's wife, Victoria Taylor, will remember and celebrate the life of Gordy's dad, Jim McIntosh, **this Saturday, January 6th at 1:00 pm in the Sanctuary**. James O. McIntosh died on December 19th after living a long and happy life, raising 4 wonderful children, and spending the last 29 years married to the woman of his dreams. All are welcome to join the family to hear stories of his life and legacy as well as recognize their loss. Obituary in [Winchester Star](#).



A Note of Gratitude from Rebecca Kelley-Morgan

Dear friends, I am so grateful for the care and concern with which I have been held during my time away. Words cannot fully express how meaningful the daily arrival of a card (often several) was during my enforced time at home. In the coldest and darkest days – even colder this year - the warmth of your companionship brightened the season for me. Thank you all, artists, poets, and companions of the journey. And for those of you who picked up additional tasks in my absence, thank you, particularly Heather, who led three additional worship services during my absence.

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?



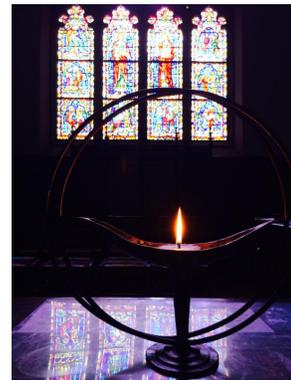
One small question: what *are* these expectations?
WHAT DOES THE CONGREGATION EXPECT?

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.

The Committee on Shared Ministry (CoSM): Lee Barton, Dave McVey, Fritzie Nace, Martin Newhouse, Sheila Rudolph-Correia

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**

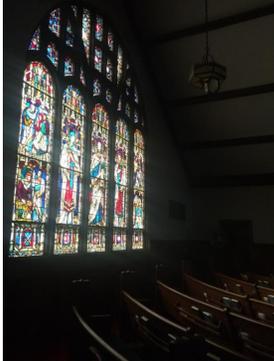
To learn more about Membership at WUS, visit:

<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**

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**



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

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

Please remember to attend the Congregational Meeting this Sunday to vote on WUS positions on a Black Lives Matter banner and “Sanctuary” actions.

THANKS to all the people who worked to provide lunch and fellowship at Common Cathedral on the Boston Common this past Sunday. A fantastic team of at least ten people prepared the sandwiches, cookies and fruit for 45 people. We also donated enough hot chocolate mix to feed 100 people who will come in the future. Despite the bitter cold, eight folks from WUS participated on the Common.

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>

Rally in Solidarity with People with Temporary Protected Status

When: Tue Jan 10, 11:00 AM at the MA State House

Centro Presente is organizing a rally that will highlight the US-citizen children of TPS-holders who will be affected by the termination of the program. In Massachusetts there are 5,300 US-born children with parents from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti who have Temporary Protected Status. US children and adolescents will provide their testimonies and be the protagonists of this event. Alianza Americas has some excellent resources on their website. [Click HERE](#)

Immigration 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](#)

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>



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.



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.

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

