

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights April 8, 2021
(link to today's full issue of Highlights)



The Theme for April is Becoming
Photo: "Courage" by Rebecca Kelley-Morgan

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, April 11
10:30 Worship, ONLINE



"To Touch Inward Springs": Envisioning Faith Formation

The Rev. Heather Janules

More information about the worship service can be found on the [website](#) and the Weekend Worship Announcement that comes out on Friday.

WUS Family Worship: We will be meeting for FAMILY WORSHIP via Zoom at 10 a.m. this Sunday, "Easter Eggs" for some thoughts about this spring Holiday. *Please note this is NOT the main worship Zoom room, but one dedicated to Family Worship and Religious Education.* Please log on a little before 10 at <https://tinyurl.com/WUSFamily>. The separate Zoom link will also be posted in the chat in the usual worship virtual room. All will need to be admitted by Rebecca and sessions are not recorded.

Please see the Religious Education section further down in Highlights for more RE information

Ms. Juanita and story time. As soon as the First Reflections ends, please re-enter the link for <https://tinyurl.com/WUSFamily> (it will also be posted in the chat) room where Miss Juanita is waiting for you. The very youngest may wish to bring an adult friend. All will need to be admitted, for a time to hear stories and sing songs, engage in parallel play and visit with each other.

Joys, Sorrows and Transitions

Invitation to Memorial Service & Celebration for Ron Denhardt Ron Denhardt Celebration & Memorial Service Saturday, April 17th from 4– 5:30pm

We invite you to join family, friends and the Cambridge Insight Meditation Center community as we gather together in celebration, memory and honor of Ron Denhardt. For decades, Ron was an exceptional and integral presence at CIMC. His generosity and spirit are woven into the fabric and foundation of the Center. Ron supported countless people at the Center, in big and small ways, as a teacher and as an encouraging and tireless spiritual friend

JOINING THE PROGRAM

[Click here to join this online program.](#)

Passcode: cimc

Meeting ID: 947 0135 6440

Phone: (646) 876-9923

Please join a few minutes early so we may begin our service on time.

A copy of the Program for the Memorial Service can be found [HERE](#).

Here is a link to additional written information about Ron's life: <https://bostoncremation.org/obituary/ronald-charles-denhardt>

A Message from Ron's immediate family about Donations

Please consider joining us in making a donation to Cambridge Insight Meditation Center. If this is something you are able to do, please send a check of any amount to 331 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139 with a note that your gift is in Ron Denhardt's honor. All proceeds will be made available for the benefit of the People of Color Sangha. Thank you very much for your generosity!

Sincerely,
Patty Shepard, and Ian and Shane Denhardt

If you are facing a time of joy, sorrow or transition in your life, your minister and the Pastoral Care Associates are available to offer a listening ear, compassionate presence and, if applicable, resources. Contact the office, 781-729-0949 or office@winchesteruu.org

Congregational News

BUDGET PREVIEW AND FEEDBACK SESSIONS

FY22 Budget presentation and discussion will be held **via Zoom at 7 pm on Monday 4/12 or Wednesday 4/14** – choose the date convenient to you. This is your opportunity to help our Standing Committee draft a budget for the next church year (Sept 1, 2021 through Aug 31, 2022) which will be presented for your vote at Annual Meeting in May. We're looking for your input to ensure smooth operations and programming for our next fiscal year. If you have not yet submitted your FY22 pledge, now is the time! Materials are provided for you to review before the meeting. Details and Zoom link can be found [HERE](#). The Budget Team (Patrick Draine, Sue Kiewra, Judy Murray and Brad Steele) looks forward to seeing you.

Celebrate Earth Day! Horn Pond Clean Up

Earth Day is April 22nd. As leaders of WREN (Woburn Residents Environmental Network) staff a local appliance recycling event, WUS members and friends will take their place in picking up trash from one of our local natural treasures, Horn Pond, on **Saturday April 17th**.

We will gather at 9:00am. Meet at Ice House Park (next to the small parking lot at the end of Sturgis Street in Woburn.) Each volunteer should bring a large, kitchen trash-sized bag, a small bag for cans (to be donated to the Boy Scouts) and wear gardening gloves. If you have a grabber tool or small gardening tools, they are helpful too! Participants under the age of 16 should have an adult companion. We will return to Ice House Park at 10:30 am for a discussion with our youngest friends about caring for the earth. There will be refreshments and door prizes!

If you plan to come, please let Rev. Heather know in case we need to reschedule due to inclement weather: heather.janules@winchesteruu.org





From the Music Committee:

Our 15th WUS Concert Series concludes with the Kemp Harris trio on April 17th. Kemp is a singer, songwriter, story teller, and master weaver of American musical styles. On NPR's *On Point*, Kemp has been described as being "beautifully there" and as an artist who will "take your breath away."

Please join us on Saturday, April 17th at 7:00 PM. 50% of "door donations" will be shared with the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury. An all church Zoom invite will be sent out a few days before the concert. You can see Kemp and friends in action at this site: <https://www.kempharris.band/>



Harvest the Power Leadership: We meet Sunday, April 11th for our fifth session at 4:00 PM. "Integrity". Our sixth session is on April 25th.

Please be sure to check out the Racial Justice Book suggestions in this (and every) edition of Highlights. We invite you to join a conversation beginning April 13th based on this year's UUA common read and hosted by our Austin congregation. Please contact Rebecca@WinchesterUU.org for additional details.

Writers Group: Meets weekly on Wednesdays led and facilitated by Dan Hermes from 9-10ish a.m. Please be in touch if you'd like the URL to join the group. Dropping in is fine and invite your writing friends. Dan can be found here at dan@lexiconsystemsinc.com



Ever wonder about the afterlife?

Join us for a light-hearted and thought-provoking exploration of the BIG questions raised by the TV show, "The Good Place."

There has been a terrible mistake - Eleanor Shellstrop learns she has died and gone to the Good Place but has not actually done any of the virtuous deeds to be there. Thus begins the television show "The Good Place," inviting its viewers to consider the nature of the afterlife, mistakes of all kinds, what makes someone "good," human motivation and our favorite flavors of frozen yogurt. A number of WUS community members followed Eleanor and her friends through four seasons of the program together. This service is based on our exploration of the big questions raised by The Good Place. We will be careful to avoid spoilers. While you are not required to watch the show in advance of this service, you are encouraged to do so.

Connect with WUS's friendly members and join in the conversation during virtual coffee hour after the service!

The Pastoral Care Associates invite you to the next **Coffee/Tea and bagel gathering on Tuesday, April 20th at 9:30.** While we wait for herd immunity and warm weather, let's connect virtually. Join us via the main

link, <https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>. Dropping in and out is fine - we'll be there!



The Green Sanctuary Team, along with Shealagh Crowley, has been promoting the collection of Tom's of Maine items that are hard-to-recycle and cannot go in regular recycling bins. When the church box is full, Shealagh sends them to TerraCycle, an organization that *can* recycle them. The Tom's of Maine container is now in the back entry to the church, beside the Food Pantry basket. So, don't trash your Tom's of Maine items, Bring them to the church for recycling.



Save the Date! We Believe in Dog Returns

First Walk of the Year

Saturday, April 24th, 10am: We Believe in Dog is a gathering of WUS members and friends – and their dogs – who walk together in the Fells. You don't need a dog to participate! All participating dogs must be friendly and vaccinated.

We next gather on Saturday, April 24th. We will meet at the second of three entrances to the Middlesex Fells on Hillcrest Parkway at 10:00 am and start walking around 10:05. *Our walk will comply with WUS pandemic protocols for outdoor gatherings including a sign-in sheet with a brief symptom survey. Masks – worn properly – are required.* Dogs, however, are free to walk without masks.

Let Rev. Heather know if you plan to come: heather.janules@winchesteruu.org
Please also send your cell number if this is your first walk so we can reach out to you if you are not at the starting point when we are about to begin.

Pledge Reminder

Even though our “official” month-long campaign has ended, efforts continue behind the scenes. We recently sent an email reminder to members and friends whose pledges we hope are forthcoming. We recognize that this has been a difficult year for many in our congregation and understand that it may not be possible for all to make a pledge or to increase their amount. Please know that we will be grateful for any amount you are able to pledge. Please also let the office know even if you decide that you won't be making a pledge this year so we can remove your name from future updates. Feel free to contact the office for a replacement card to submit by mail or you can download a new card or pledge online at www.winchesteruu.org/giving/pledge/.

Robbie Brown, Alison Kirchgasser and Stephen Perepeluk

Summer Services -



Do You Have a Sermon in You?

Summer services will begin on June 20 and end September 5. These services are led by lay members of the congregation. If you are interested in leading a service, please contact Lee Barton at lee.barton2009@gmail.com. You would give a 15 to 20 minute Reflection on a topic that relates in some way to our Unitarian Universalist values and principles. You would have help planning and carrying out the rest of the service. Please consider it.

Nourish Your Spirit Spiritual Practice in Community

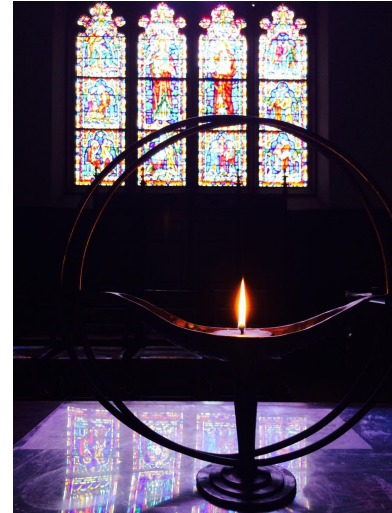
A year into the pandemic, in the heart of winter, so many of us are soul tired, angry, living with deep grief. These are the times when caring for body mind and spirit are critical. Please join us.

**PLEASE NOTE: THE WEDNESDAY EVENING
MEDITATION GROUP IS NO LONGER OFFERED.**

SABBATH SIT

Led by Rev. Heather
Each Friday, 5:30-6:30 pm
www.tinyurl.com/hkjzoom

Log on at 5:30. We sit in silence for the first half hour. After a short reading and lighting the chalice, there will be a time for facilitated, reflective conversation. If you cannot sit for the full half hour, log on for a shorter time.



Open Office Hours Return

www.tinyurl.com/hkjzoom

Rev. Heather will open a Zoom room on Thursdays from 12-2 for open office hours. Drop in to say hello or to share something on your heart and mind. When the warm weather returns, we will resume meeting in the Meditation Garden!

Visioning Team Final Report

The Visioning Team has considered all feedback from the cottage meetings and finalized their report. Notes from all meetings are included as appendices. You can find the report on the Members & Friends page of the website or at this link: <https://www.winchesteruu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Visioning-Team-Final-Report-3.17.2021-rev-E.pdf>

Social Action & Outreach

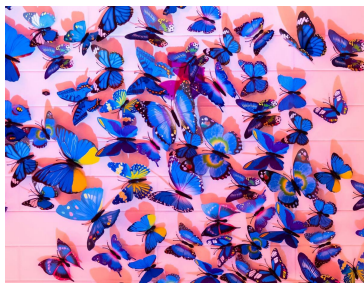
Breaking Down Structural and Systemic Racism for Our Children. Monday, April 12 at 8:30 PM. Join EmbraceRace for a conversation about structural and systemic racism. If, together, we are to raise a color-brave generation of children who can help fuel a

thriving multiracial democracy, we must help children understand the "structural" and "systemic" roots of the persistent racial divides, inequities, and power imbalances that characterize US society. How do we make them accessible to even elementary school-aged children?

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_s7r5uwsJTiiNH58H-uUhA

Honor the special women in your life. Every year we support the [Women's Lunch Place](#), a safe, welcoming day shelter community that provides healthy meals and individualized services to women experiencing homelessness and poverty. They have continued to creatively provide meals during the pandemic. Your \$25 can provide a week of meals and, at the same time, give you a way of honoring the special women in your life. Each year, the card features artwork created by a WLP guest through our [Creative Expressions program](#). See <https://womenslunchplace.org/mothers-day>. Cards can be mailed to the purchaser in April, or emailed to the recipient in May and can include a hand-written message if requested. In a reflection of the resilience shown by the women they serve, this year's design is a vibrant collage crafted from fragments of greeting cards and Mother's Day designs from years past.

The Mother's Day Walk for Peace is a beloved Boston tradition and celebration of our potential to create more peaceful communities. It supports the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's (LDBPI) by honoring the lives of loved ones who have been murdered. [This year our walk will be held online](#). Walk virtually with us as we celebrate 25 years of walking for peace! Join our **25 Days of Walking**, beginning in April, leading up to our online broadcast on **May 9, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** on www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org.



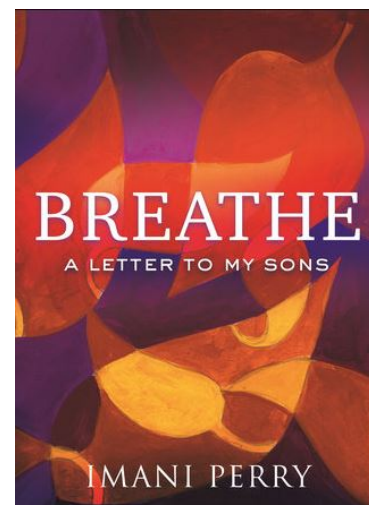
Building Beloved Community, Question by Question

The Racial Justice Planning Team invites you to reflect on this question: **What messages, spoken and unspoken, did you get about race when you were growing up?**

Building Beloved Community, Book by Book

The stark words, "I can't breathe," have become all too familiar in the context of law enforcement dealing with Black and brown bodies. Imani Perry chose to title her book, *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons*. She writes, "Feeling deep love and complete helplessness to protect the beloveds is a fact of Black life."

Perry, a professor of African-American studies at Princeton University, graduated from local Concord Academy, received an undergraduate degree from Yale, and Ph.D. and J.D. from Harvard. Her compact book of personal experience, vulnerabilities, and admonition is peppered with Baldwin, DuBois, Shakespeare, Dickinson, Morrison, Emerson, Wells and more.



Love, pride, imagination paired with discipline, resilience are foundational themes. She teaches her sons not to hold up their hands in the “don’t shoot” mode but rather to raise their right fist in power. As Perry states to her two sons on the first page, “... to admit that you are people. Black boys. People. This fact, simple as it is, shouldn’t linger on the surface. It should penetrate.”

A reader will find passages of unflinching challenge--that deeply resonate with anyone guiding young people and reveal once again what we white parents never have to say to our own children. Yet, Perry encouragingly says, “...joy, even in slivers, shows up everywhere. Take it. And keep taking it.”

Breathe is the “UUA Reads” choice for 2021. This year, in the world of virtual meetings, we have the exciting opportunity to join three Tuesday evening discussions, beginning April 13, with a UU congregation in Austin, Texas. A different part of the country with new friends to meet! Explore yourself at: <https://www.uua.org/read/breathe>. Rebecca Kelley-Morgan will answer your questions, too: rebecca@winchesteruu.org

--Your Racial Justice Team Planning Group.



March, April, MAY! Almost time to make another move forward—now into new housing--for the family in need.

They have been working hard toward self-sufficiency: the dad has found a job in his field, health care, and the mom is studying while caring for their special needs son.

She writes, “...we need to save for **rent** and to supply basic needs for our little child. Your help will bring a smile to our child and hope to us. We want to restart our new life as American residents.”

Although the **housing unit** itself will be modest, first and last months’ **rent** and security deposits mount!

In the past year, many of you had generously helped with basic supplies, money, and friendship. The small “family support team” is again asking for your direct help in any amount possible.

We are establishing a new GoFundMe account, specifically for this **housing** need. **Please be on the lookout for the link we will soon provide.** A personal check is another option.

If you have any questions, contact:

Karen Hirschfeld (781-488-8805; karenhirschfeld@gmail.com)

Gloria Legvold (781-729-8247; glegvold@comcast.net)

Sandy Thompson (781-729-8063; sandra.thompson3@comcast.net).

On-Going

The Food Pantry at the Council for Social Concern is currently low on: **Canned meats (tuna, beef stew, spam, salmon), baked beans, hearty canned soups and pasta sauce.** Since donating



food may not be convenient, contributions may be made directly on their website: www.socialconcern.org

Please find the drop off baskets in a new location - by the back door of the building near the parking lot. Access to this basket is unlocked.

Food Pantry is open to Woburn & Winchester residents
If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment, please call Paula Matthews, Food Pantry Director at (781) 935-6495 ext. 208



Religious Education

Middle School Crossing Paths Interfaith exploration meets 12:00-1:00 Su. We are completing our unit on Buddhism before moving on to Earth based spirituality. We welcome middle schoolers on an ongoing basis, so if a particular topic/religion is of interest, you are welcome. Learn more via rebecca@winchesteruu.org.

Sundays on the Lawn: We are returning (weather permitting) to inviting families to picnic and play on the lawn at Winchester Unitarian in the backyard. 12:30: 2:00ish weather permitting - when in doubt reach out to the family and friends group via families@winchesteruu.org to coordinate or check in with others. We begin with social gatherings and play with programming planned for later this spring. Covid protocols will be in place, and masks are required regardless of vaccination status.

Looking Forward: We plan to offer **Our Whole Lives in the 2021-2022** program year. The program will begin in mid-October (as is typical) or as re-opening rubrics allow. This program is open to the greater community, so please spread the word! I (Rebecca) am looking for teachers, parents and graduates of OWL to offer a sentence or two for testimonials about the experience to go into publicity materials.

WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

WUSYG is having a regular ZOOMSYG meeting this Sunday, 4:30-6 pm: www.tinyurl.com/wusygzoom We look forward to seeing you all and getting ready for our service camp in April! As usual, message Sam & Haley at wusyouth@gmail.com if you have any questions, concerns, compliments, or want to schedule some time for a one on one with us, too! We'd love to hear from you.

Music

Virtual Choir

The music program will be experimenting with a "virtual choir". This is new to all of us so it will be interesting to see how it comes together. Choir members should already have been contacted about this. Please contact Music Director John Kramer at john.kramer@winchesteruu.org if you have any questions.

Beyond the Congregation

UU Advocacy Day

When: Tue April 13 (zoom only event)

We will have a live closed captioner for this event

Program 11:00 - 12:00 PM

Optional drop-in support hour, 12:00 - 1:00PM

Meetings with State Rep's 1:00 PM* - Meetings with State Senators 2:30 PM*

*Most meetings will take place at these time, some meeting times may vary

- Registration deadline: April 6, [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Share this info with your congregation:** [Newsletter blurb](#)
- **More details are available on our** [Facebook Event Page](#)
- [Issue summary videos and fact sheets](#)

This event takes a lot of work to organize -

Please help us out and register early!

Join one of two optional training opportunities to help you prepare for UU Advocacy Day (click the link the date to register):

[Wednesday, April 7th, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm](#) or

[Thursday, April 8th, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm](#)

[Action Guide: we will collect all the materials you will need in this doc, which will continue to be updated between now and UU Advocacy Day.](#)

SAVE THE DATE ! Saturday, April 17 at 7pm

Watch the compelling new film "Kiss the Ground" about preserving and restoring the health of the soil that we all depend on to live. An online discussion will follow directly after the film, led by Master Gardener Susan Haas. (you can watch the trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3-V1j-zMZw>)

Watch for details and registration links.

Sponsored by the Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church Green Sanctuary Team, in conjunction with Interfaith Power & Light.

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