

# Winchester Unitarian Society

**Highlights April 22, 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 25**  
**10:30 Worship, ONLINE**



**Sharanya Dilip** on **Unsplash**

# The Earth Speaks

The Rev. Heather Janules,  
Green Sanctuary Committee,  
and WUSYG

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

**As this is our Earth Day service, if you have strong enough wifi, we encourage you to log on outdoors (weather permitting) or at least open a window to hear the birds!**

**Our Green Sanctuary Team will be available after the service to answer questions about the initiatives they will discuss in the service.**

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**WUS Family Worship:** We will be meeting for FAMILY WORSHIP via Zoom at 10 a.m. this Sunday, "Bee Friends" for some thoughts about our month's theme of Becoming - becoming more friendly to everyone who helps us eat. *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\***

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**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.

## Joy, Sorrows and Transitions

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](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org)

## Congregational News

**Open Office Hours with Rev. Heather  
VIRTUAL TODAY DUE TO COLD WEATHER**

We will try again next week for outdoor office hours in the Meditation Garden.  
Today, I will be holding office hours virtually from 12-2:

[www.tinyurl.com/hkjzoom](http://www.tinyurl.com/hkjzoom)

-Rev. Heather



**Harvest the Power Leadership:** We meet Sunday, April 25th for our 6th session at 4:00 PM. “Faith and Conflict”. From our poll results, we have added the 7th session “White Supremacy Culture” our add on session will be held May 8th 4-6PM . All members and friends are invited to this session.

**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](mailto:dan@lexiconsystemsinc.com)

**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.

**Have you ever been to GA?** Make this your year to experience our annual gathering of UUs across the US. **June 23-27, 2021.** It’s a wonderful chance to hear inspiring messages through formal speeches, workshops and worship. Although we can’t be together, just think of the advantages of attending on-line! No travel, hotel stays, or meals to arrange. Participate in your own home. Check it out at: <https://www.uua.org/ga> Registration for virtual GA 2021 is \$200 per person. Financial support for registration as well as a payment plan are available. Registrants receive access to the 2021 Online Participation Portal, with both live and on-demand video content. **Questions? Ask Claire McNeill**



## 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](mailto: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.

### **You are Invited to Celebrate Rebecca's Ministry**

WUS's Director of Lifespan Religious Education Rebecca Kelley-Morgan will finish her time with us at the end of this program year. Plans are afoot to celebrate her twelve years of service and many shared memories.



The "Celebrate Rebecca" team has some special gifts in mind to honor Rebecca. (If you want to know some of the details, contact a member of the team by writing [CelebrateRKM@winchesteruu.org](mailto:CelebrateRKM@winchesteruu.org))

We invite you to contribute to our community celebration in a couple ways:

- Post your memories, photos, words of gratitude, short video reflections, art by children and then some to this virtual memory book: [www.tinyurl.com/CelebrateRKM](http://www.tinyurl.com/CelebrateRKM) Please contact a member of the Celebration Team if you would like technical assistance in posting your contribution: [CelebrateRKM@winchesteruu.org](mailto:CelebrateRKM@winchesteruu.org)
- Some of the special gifts need to be ordered so you can support the effort by sending a check or electronic payment to the WUS office with "Rebecca Gift" in the memo line or comment field. Any contributions beyond the cost of the special acknowledgements will be given to Rebecca as a financial gift. (Note: these contributions are not tax deductible.)

Thank you, in advance, for your participation and generosity!

*Karen Erikson, Lee Barton, Linda Copeland, Mary McIntosh and Rev. Heather Janules*



### **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](mailto: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.

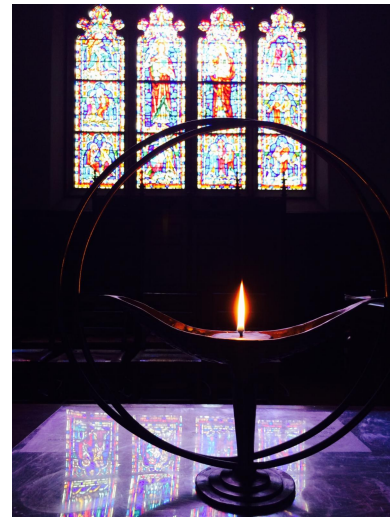
**PLEASE NOTE: THE WEDNESDAY EVENING MEDITATION GROUP IS NO LONGER OFFERED.**

**SABBATH SIT**

Led by Rev. Heather  
Each Friday, 5:30-6:30 pm

[www.tinyurl.com/hkjzoom](http://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.



As many of you know, we're **hiring for 2 different religious educator positions** for next year: the following are our job posts, please consider forwarding them to anyone you know who may be an excellent candidate to join our community!

**Interim DRE:** We seek an experienced and creative Interim Director of Religious Education for the 2021-22 program year (mid-August 2021 to mid-June 2022.) This position is three-quarter time for ten months or a .625 full time equivalent. Based on the FT midpoint for Geo Index 5, Midsize 1 congregation, the pro-rated salary is \$35,000/year plus benefits. To learn more about the position and how to apply, please read the job description: [www.tinyurl.com/WUSDREapp](http://www.tinyurl.com/WUSDREapp)

**Assistant DYM:** We have a vibrant and renowned youth ministry program led by our Director of Youth Ministries (DYM). We're looking for an awesome Assistant Director of Youth Ministries to make our programs even better! The position is 6 hours a week for 10 months, plus 120 additional hours for sleepovers, service trips, etc. \$20/hour. For more details, please check out: [www.tinyurl.com/WUSADYMapp](http://www.tinyurl.com/WUSADYMapp)

We will continue to welcome applications for both positions until they are filled. If you have questions about the DRE position, please email [dresearch@winchesteruu.org](mailto:dresearch@winchesteruu.org). For questions about the ADYM position, please email [wusyouth@gmail.com](mailto:wusyouth@gmail.com).

## Social Action & Outreach

**Our Social Action and Outreach committee has just awarded the UU Service Committee one of our grants this year for their work in Honduras.** Working in partnership with *Fundacion San Alonso Rodriguez*, they are supporting Indigenous environmental activists who protested against the major health hazards resulting from iron oxide mining in the Carlos Escaleras National Park. The surrounding communities will be impacted by wastewater disposal into the Guapinol river. Extractive industries contribute to the long list of forces driving people to leave home and migrate to the U.S. In this way we are being a small piece of the solution to the immigration dilemma.

**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.

See: <https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org>."



### **Building Beloved Community, Resource by Resource**

In 1989 Peggy McIntosh published her iconic article, "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack." She wrote, "I have come to see white privilege as an invisible package of unearned assets which I can count on cashing in each day, but about which I was 'meant' to remain oblivious..." In

this year, 2021, we invite you to read Jonathan Capehart's opinion piece in the April 17th issue of The Washington Post, "Being Black in America Is Exhausting." He writes, "Every Black person you know goes through some form of mental calculus before they start their day." Enter his world, the other side of the looking glass.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/people/jonathan-capehart/>

—Your Winchester Unitarian Society Racial Justice Team



### **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](http://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



## WUSYG Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

No WUSYG this Sunday. Thanks for a great week of Young Activist Camp!

### Religious Education

**Middle School Crossing Paths Interfaith exploration meets 12:00-1:00 Sunday.** This week, we begin our final unit, on Earth-based spirituality and activist faith. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Since the projected class is quite small, we are contemplating collaborating with Cambridge in order to offer the program this coming year. This will mean commuting to Cambridge most weeks, check your email for more information.

### 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](mailto:john.kramer@winchesteruu.org) if you have any questions.

### Beyond the Congregation

#### Who Lives in Winchester?

**Who Lives in Winchester? Housing Options – Past and Future**, is the title of a two-part zoom program presented by the Network for Social Justice, the Planning Board,

and the Winchester Housing Partnership Board, on Wednesday evenings April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 – 9 pm.

Winchester completed a comprehensive master planning process last year that identified shared values and goals, including: to create and preserve affordable and accessible housing; to expand community initiatives that increase diversity; and to build a welcoming and supportive community that promotes well-being and positive mental health for all.

The process of reaching these goals through housing initiatives is long overdue in Winchester. We are excited to be offering this joint program to promote conversations about both the historical context that created the Winchester we know today, and what we need to do to move Winchester toward a community that is both more diverse and inclusive.

Attendees are invited to attend either program and strongly encouraged to join for both.

Pre-registration is required: [winchesterhousing.eventbrite.com](https://winchesterhousing.eventbrite.com).  
For more information contact [office@nfsj.org](mailto:office@nfsj.org).

**INVITATION TO ALL WINCHESTER RESIDENTS:  
A MOVIE EVENT TO FOSTER INTERGENERATIONAL INTERACTION AND DISCUSSION**

The Intergenerational Leadership Team was formed this fall to promote greater interaction between Seniors and Youth in Winchester.

The movie is a documentary, [The Biggest Little Farm](#) (available on DVD from the Winchester Public Library, also streaming on Hulu and Amazon Prime). Watch the film on your own time. Enjoy this documentary with its gorgeous cinematography about a young couple's incredible endeavor to create a sustainable farm. **Then join us on May 17, 2021 from 6:00 PM-7:30 PM for an interactive discussion** about this documentary and learn more about our own local efforts from our guest panelists: Archie McIntyre (Wright-Locke Farm), Fred Yen (the Winchester Farmers Market), and Carolyn Starrett (Sustainable Winchester).

To register for this event through the Jenks Center please  
contact: [VDrougas@Winchester.US](mailto:VDrougas@Winchester.US)

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