

Winchester Unitarian Society

Highlights May 20, 2021
(link to today's full issue of Highlights)



The Theme for May is Story

Photo: An engaging story is told at a folk festival in Latvia

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, May 23
10:30 Worship, ONLINE

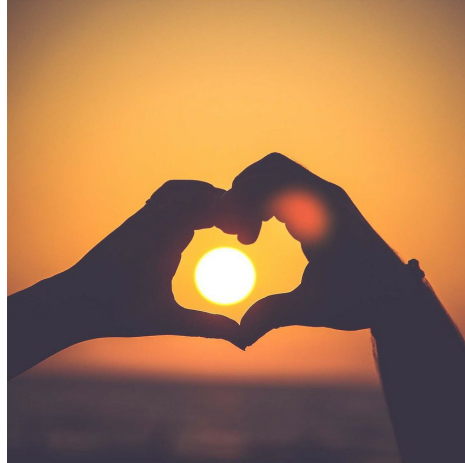


Youth Sunday: And Still We Rise!

WUSYG Seniors, Assistant Director of Youth Ministries Haley
Wegner and Director of Youth Ministries Sam Wilson

<https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>

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



Rise and Bring A Friend Sunday!

Be sure to invite someone (or several someones!) to join you for this inspiring service led by the Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group (WUSYG) and Director of Youth Ministries, Sam Wilson. The theme of this week's service is "Rise!" and it will feature readings, musical performances and statements from our graduating seniors—see the details above. We hope you will be able to bring a friend to this special and uplifting service.

WUS Family Worship: We will be meeting for FAMILY WORSHIP via Zoom at 10 a.m. this Sunday, "Let's Cross That Bridge" As the youth of the congregation bridge into new stages, we remember that everyone does that. Particularly as birthdays come and go and schools get ready to close for the summer. *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. Ms. Juanita will be available after First Reflections for our young people at <https://tinyurl.com/WUSFamily> (it will also be posted in the chat).

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

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



It Has Begun!

On Tuesday, Frank Virnelli and family joined the team from Extreme Landscaping and congregational leaders for a ceremonial ground-breaking for our renewed front landscaping and terrace project.

Stop by the WUS building and see all the activity!

Delivery Elves Needed!

We at WUS HQ are creating end-of-year care packages for EVERY member and friend of the congregation. Members of the Standing and Membership Committees and our Pastoral Care Associates and Resources have agreed to deliver these gifts...but more are welcome to participate in the effort!

The true gift is the opportunity to say hello at the front door, front porch or sidewalk. It has been SO long since we have seen each other in person. So **you can assist by responding to your delivery person with a time when you will be home** to ensure you meet in the moment.

Or, if you want to be a Package Creator and/or Delivery Elf, please contact Rev. Heather at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org by June 1st. Thank you!



Our newly compiled RESOURCE GUIDE contains valuable information

Have you ever found yourself in need of help, but not even known where to begin to look for it? Our Resource Guide can help identify organizations & companies that can help you. I recently spent an hour reviewing the contents and it was most helpful. The

Guide is in the Michelsen Room on the rightmost library shelf. Just knowing that these organizations and services exist is a wonderful help.

Just to give you an idea of the contents here are a few things in it: Contact information for many social services: Food Assistance, Utility Assistance, Debt Reduction Assistance. There is information about Mental Health Services, such as NAMI (the National Alliance on Mental Health). And there are lists of Literacy or GED programs ... and even Thrift Shops in the area.

This Resource Guide was put together by Carol Delaney. You can [read more about it here](#).

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Calling all Fiber Artists! We are meeting again for a second prayer shawl meditation and knitting session, **TOMORROW** Friday, May 21st from 7:00-8:30. If anyone needs a one on one knitting tutorial, Rebecca is happy to offer such in a breakout room.



We Believe in Dog Walks Again

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, May 22nd. 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. *There will be a sign-in sheet with a brief symptom survey. If you are fully vaccinated, as per CDC guidelines, you won't need to wear a mask.* All 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.

Photo: Our previous walk on April 24th



Memorial Wreath Creation and Ceremony

Saturday, May 29th, 12:30 PM (Weather Permitting)
Outdoors at WUS

It has become an annual tradition - creating a wreath made of plants and herbs symbolizing courage, grief and remembrance and placing it before the World War I statue near the WUS building in recognition of Memorial Day. It was too risky to do last year but this year we will create and dedicate a wreath the day before our Memorial Day Sunday service. Footage from this ceremony will be included in the Sunday service.

Construction will be done outdoors. Despite CDC guidelines permitting vaccinated people to be outdoors without masks, the Town of Winchester requests that we wear masks while creating and presenting the wreath.

This event is open to people of ALL ages and friends outside the WUS community. Let's gather to remember, to create and to honor together!

**It's That Time of Year:
Evaluation Feedback
Requested**

Please complete by June 3rd

Each Spring, Rev. Heather puts out the call for feedback about our Program Staff to contribute to annual evaluations. As this is Rebecca Kelley-Morgan's final year at WUS, there will be no evaluation this year for her. However, we seek

input regarding the ministries of Thomas Slack, Sam Wilson and John Kramer. You may send general input to Heather at heather.janules@winchesteruu.org

This year, we are doing something a little different. General input is welcome but it would be helpful if you completed these simple GoogleForms (see below.) The questions are drawn from the staff members' job descriptions, also included within the forms for reference.

As always, any input received is with the understanding that it can be used with names attached.

Thank you!

www.tinyurl.com/JohnKramerFeedback

www.tinyurl.com/SamWilsonFeedback

www.tinyurl.com/ThomasSlackFeedback



Save the Date: End-of-Year Celebration!

Sunday, June 13th

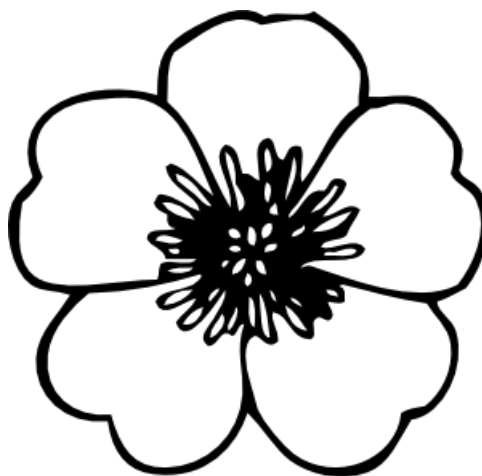
Flower Communion

Sunday, June 13th, 10:30 am

www.tinyurl.com/WusWorship

A virtual celebration

of Rebecca Kelley-Morgan's
12 year religious education ministry
with WUS will follow the service.



An **Outdoor Afternoon Tea** to reconnect in person, to welcome summer and to say farewell to Rebecca will be held that same day
2:00—3:30 pm

Back yard of the WUS Building
478 Main Street, Winchester

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

Would you like to meet UUs all over the country? You can do it from home at this year's all on-line General Assembly: June 23—27. It's a wonderful chance to hear inspiring messages through formal speeches, workshops and worship. Choose events that fit into your schedule, or watch recordings later. **Registration for virtual GA 2021 is \$200 per person**, enabling you to hear Stacy Abrams give the Ware lecture on Saturday evening. Check it out at: <https://www.uua.org/ga>. Claire McNeill "attended" last year and would be happy to tell you more.

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)

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 Please contact a member of the Celebration Team if you would like technical assistance in posting your contribution: 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

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.

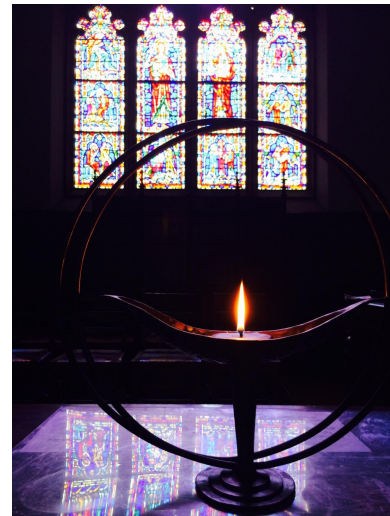
These are the times when caring for body mind and spirit are critical. Please join us.

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/hkzoom

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!

Director of Religious Education: We previously began a search for an Interim DRE but have switched gears. We now seek a half-time DRE, to work with an Interim DRE consultant next year as we determine the next steps for our religious education program for young children. The link to apply is here:

www.tinyurl.com/WUSDRE21App Compensation is midrange for Midsize I congregation in Geo Index 5, half time for 10 months/year.

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

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. For questions about the ADYM position, please email wusyouth@gmail.com.

Social Action & Outreach

Embrace Race; raising a brave generation together will host a screening of a film *Reflecting on Anti-bias Education in Action: The Early Years*, as well as a conversation with the film producers and two of its teachers.

May 25, 2021 from 8 to 9:45 pm ET

The film focuses on teachers in diverse early childhood classrooms who are committed to equity with respect to race, gender, disability, language, class and other identities of the students and families they serve. We watch those teachers use anti-bias strategies in early childhood classrooms and hear their reflections on their practices.

The film spotlights classroom teachers, but also offers practical insights about anti-bias helpful to parents, guardians - any of us with young children in our lives.

[Register to join](#)



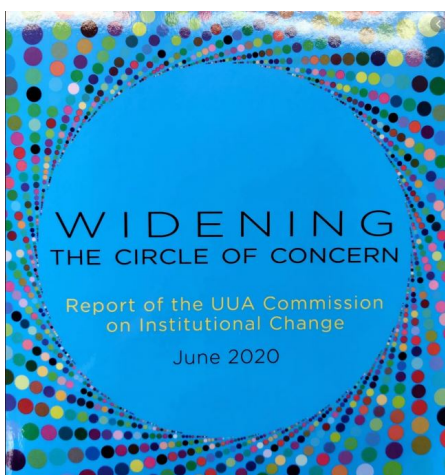
Building Beloved Community, Quotation by Quotation

The Racial Justice Planning Group offers the following quotation as a way to spark thinking and discussion of what it means to be anti-racist:

"The opposite of racist isn't 'not racist.' It is 'anti-racist'...One either allows racial inequities to persevere, as a racist, or confronts racial inequities as an anti-racist. There is no in-between safe space of 'not racist.'"

~ Ibram Kendi from his book *How to be an Antiracist*.

**Building Beloved Community,
Circle by Circle
SAVE THE DATE—
Tuesday, June 8, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.**



Please reserve the evening of **Tuesday, June 8** for the second in our series of workshops, HOSPITALITY AND INCLUSION.

Who in the Winchester Unitarian Society carries responsibility for greeting and welcoming everyone who enters the door, whether from Mystic Valley or Main Street? Would newcomers and visitors feel themselves recognized and included from their very first encounter?

Your Racial Justice Team Planning Group warmly welcomes you—yes, you!—into this conversation. Join us in open-minded, open-hearted discussion.

[Please register here by June 7, 2021.](#)

The study and action guide workshops are designed to help UU congregations move into, understand, and implement the transformative findings of the Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change, "Widening the Circle of Concern."

The link below will take you directly to the Hospitality and Inclusion section of the report and includes an audio version.

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening/hospitality-inclusion>

And, our office now has several books, the full report, that you can borrow; please contact our office administrator, Thomas Slack.

The full report is also available online at:

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>.



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



WUSYG

Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group

WUSYG Our annual Youth Service is Sunday morning, 5/23, on Zoom! We hope to see you all there--spread the word! No meeting on 5/23. Check your email for more details.

Religious Education

Next Saturday, May 29th, we will be meeting on the back lawn of WUS at 12:30 to create a Memorial Day wreath and lay it on the War Memorial across from WUS. This has been an annual practice for the last 6 years and we wish to re-create the ritual virtually. Masks and social distancing protocols will be in place. Parents and caregivers, please note that we do not film the faces of children or any unique features that would identify your child.

Middle School Crossing Paths Interfaith exploration meets 12:00-1:00 Sunday. Please NOTE: This weekend marks our final class on May 23rd. This week, we revisit the highlights of our explorations of Christianity, Judaism, Shinto, Buddhism and Earth Centered religions. And we'll take time for some fun as we say goodbye to our friends in Chicago who have been our virtual companions this year.

Our Whole Lives is tentatively planned to begin Fall of 2021. Please let your friends and neighbors know that the program is available to all interested members of the community in 7th and 8th grades.

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

First Parish Watertown

**Invites you to the inaugural Sue Kuder Memorial Lecture
Thursday, May 20, 7:00 - 8:30 PM, 2021, on Zoom**

A Conversation with Beverly and Barbara Smith

Founders of the Combahee River Collective, they will discuss their activism in the Civil Rights Movement; their work to build Black feminism; and their life-long commitment to social justice.

Moderated by

Thalia Y. Carroll-Cachimuel

Communications Manager for *When We Fight, We Win!*

Please register here to receive the link to the discussion:

<https://fpwatertown.breezechms.com/form/1b516a>

Here are some links with more information on the Combahee River Collective and the work of Beverly and Barbara Smith:

<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/combahee-river-collective-statement-1977/>

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/until-black-women-are-free-none-of-us-will-be-free>

<https://bostonreview.net/race-podcast/rosie-gillies-boston-review-combahee-river-collective>

DONATE FOR FOOD SECURITY

Please help people in need of food security in Winchester, Woburn and surrounding towns by contributing to the Anna LaViolette SNAP Matching Fund, created by the Winchester Farmers Market to honor the memory of our great friend, Anna LaViolette. Anna, an 85 year-old volunteer, embodied the spirit of the Market's mission to provide healthy, fresh food for all families. Through Anna's Fund the Winchester Farmers Market matches SNAP benefits up to \$15 per customer card, per market day. With your donations you can help us increase the number of customers served and the amount of our match.

To Donate by Credit Card or PayPal:

<https://www.winchesterfarmersmarket.org/market-programs/snap-hip-and-farmers-market-coupons-wic-senior-fmnp/>

Checks: Please make out to Winchester Farmers Market with "Anna's Fund" in the memo line, and send to: Winchester Farmers Market, PO Box #365, Winchester, MA 01890

Juneteenth Commemoration

Tuesday, June 15 @7:30 PM via the Internet in your own space

Juneteenth is celebrated throughout the US on June 19th to recognize the end of slavery. 155 years later, chattel slavery is illegal and mass incarceration has replaced it as a form of bondage in Black and Brown communities. We invite the community to read "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson (both adult and YA versions available at BookEnds and the Winchester Public Library,) or watch the 2019 award-winning movie of the same title, and then learn from local experts during a panel discussion and conversation. Register at <https://bit.ly/3tuzzV3>

PRIDE Bingo Night!

Tuesday, June 22 @7:30 PM via the Internet in your own space

The Network is once again celebrating Pride Month remotely by hosting a fun evening of bingo featuring LGBTQIA+ Pride terms. Prizes will be available for winners! All are welcome--this is a family-friendly event appropriate for those of all ages. Register in order to receive a bingo sheet, an optional Pride Zoom background and the Zoom link to participate! nfsjpridebingo2021.eventbrite.com

This summer, **Empow Studios** will be offering their award-winning **STEM camp for kids ages 7-15** at **Winchester Unitarian Society** during the weeks of **August 9th and August 16th**. Campers have fun learning coding, robotics, movie-making, Minecraft, Roblox, 3-D printing, and more.

You can register for camp [here](#).

Winchester Unitarian Society | 478 Main St. Winchester MA 01890
(781) 729-0949 | office@winchesteruu.org | www.winchesteruu.org

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