

# Winchester Unitarian Society

**Highlights May 6, 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 9**

**10:30 Worship, ONLINE**



**UUSC: Rewriting the Story of Service**

*The Rev. Laura Randall of the UU Service Committee*

as we visit **First Church in Salem, MA**

[www.Tinyurl.com/FCSalem](http://www.Tinyurl.com/FCSalem)

Passcode: 691708

This Sunday, we will again take another "road trip" together and worship with another congregation, this time with First Church in Salem, who joined us for worship on April 25th. Note the different worship link to attend.

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

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**WUS Family Worship:** This weekend we're on a field trip to First Church Salem for their Children's Chapel! **The service is from 9:30am -10am, Sunday, May 9** Rev. Aisha Ansano will share with us about bees! We'll do some guessing and then some learning about how much honey bees make on their own and in their whole hive, and then talk about the ways we can work together like the bees to make a difference in our communities. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82871665134>

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

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**Ms. Juanita and story time.** We are also joining First Church Salem this morning for our field trip at 10:30. Ms. Juanita will be available after 10:30 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



We celebrate with **Maria**, the guest at First Parish Bedford, who has left sanctuary for her new apartment! Here she is, with a token housewarming gift from Rev. Heather on our behalf.

She asked that we communicate her profound gratitude to all the individuals and congregations who companioned her through these past few harrowing years. Maria says she could not have done it without all this support and wishes she could give each one of us a hug and kiss!

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)

## Social Action & Outreach

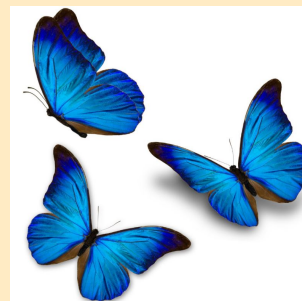
As members of the **Social Action and Outreach Committee**, we have the opportunity to learn about the fine organizations which members of the congregation sponsor for a grant. We list them in our Annual Report each year, enabling you, the congregation, to see how your generosity extends as we contribute to small solutions to big problems, both locally and internationally.

We have supported **El Hogar in Honduras** for several years. We learned about this program through Winchester's Parish of the Epiphany. It provides a quality education and a safe and nurturing home to poor and disadvantaged children in Honduras to break the cycle of poverty. Learn more at [www.elhogar.org](http://www.elhogar.org)

**A new recipient is ACE** (Alternatives for Climate and Energy) in Roxbury. This grant will fund their campaign for MBTA officials to prioritize clean air in the Black, Brown, Asian, immigrant, and low-income neighborhoods suffering from poor air quality, by placing the first MBTA electric train and buses into transit routes in these areas. <https://ace-ej.org/>

### Building Beloved Community, Book by Book

The Racial Justice Planning Group will be recommending a book the first week of each month that we think will expand your understanding of race and racial justice. This month we highlight *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving. Debby grew up in Winchester and has spoken here several times. Her story may not be yours, but this book is bound to offer new insights even if you are not new to the journey toward racial justice.



In Debby's own words: *Waking Up White* is the book I wish someone had handed me decades ago. My hope is that by sharing my sometimes cringe-worthy struggle to understand racism and racial tensions, I offer a fresh perspective on bias, stereotypes, manners, and tolerance. As I unpack my own long-held beliefs about colorblindness, being a good person, and wanting to help people of color, I reveal how each of these well-intentioned mindsets actually perpetuated my ill-conceived ideas about race.



**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.

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."

For a moment, imagine a person's first encounter with Winchester Unitarian Society, either physically or virtually, What would they notice, experience, feel? Would they feel welcomed?

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.](#)

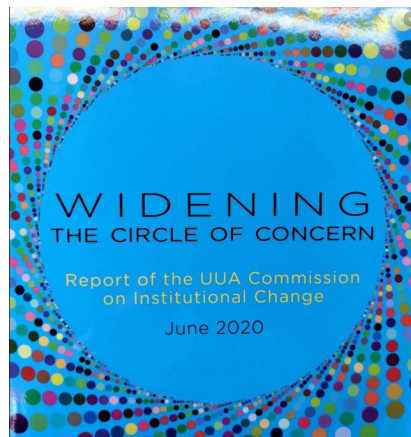
The link below will take you directly to the Hospitality and Inclusion section of the report and includes an audio version.

<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](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



## Congregational News

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Calling all Fiber Artists! We are meeting again for a second prayer shawl meditation and knitting session. Check your email for a Doodle poll link



and respond so that we may set our next meeting date. The link is found [here](#) as well.



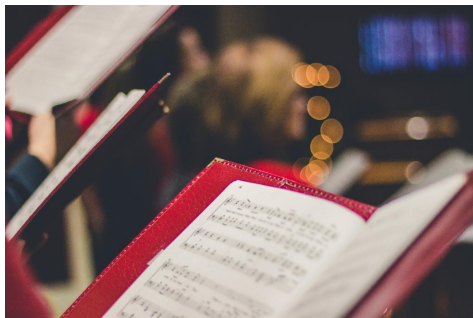
**Harvest the Power Leadership:** We meet Saturday May 8th for our 'extra credit' session on White Supremacy Culture at 4:00 PM. White Supremacy Culture informs our leadership and the expectations of what leadership looks like. Any readings will be sent in advance of the session.

**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)

Please join our **Fundraiser Brainstorming Session** on  
**Tuesday, May 11 at 8:00 pm**

The Standing Committee welcomes everyone to contribute ideas for upcoming fundraisers. Please join us at <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/98761315122> or send ideas to [spuffer@comcast.net](mailto:spuffer@comcast.net)



**WUS Children's Chorale & Youth Choir**  
**End of Year Concert**  
**Tuesday, May 18th @ 6:30PM**

Calling all music lovers! The WUS Children's Chorale and Youth Choir will have their end of the year concert on Tuesday, May 18th @ 6:30PM. You've heard their lovely voices in worship throughout the year and this is our chance to celebrate all the music they've been working so hard on. This virtual concert is on Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/WUSworship>. Don't miss out!

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### From the Music Committee:

Our 15th concert series ended with Kemp Harris on April 17th. It was a fun and lively evening, and Kemp kept us glued to the screen. We raised \$1145 from door donations, \$572.50 of which will go to the UU Urban Ministry. Our concert series ended on an upbeat note, raising \$12,710 for the year with close to \$2100 to divide among Mystic Valley NAACP, Winchester ABC and UU Urban Ministry. Thank you sponsors, supporters, fans, musicians, technicians and everyone who helped to make our most unusual concert year a big success!

### 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](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.

*Photo: Our previous walk on April 24th*

**Curious about General Assembly? 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. General Assembly is not primarily a Business Meeting. This year's events will all be on-line, giving you the opportunity to choose events that fit into your schedule. And later to hear recordings of the workshops you missed. Registration for virtual **GA 2021 is \$200 per person.** Check it out at: <https://www.uua.org/ga> . Claire McNeill "attended" last year and would be happy to answer questions

### **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*

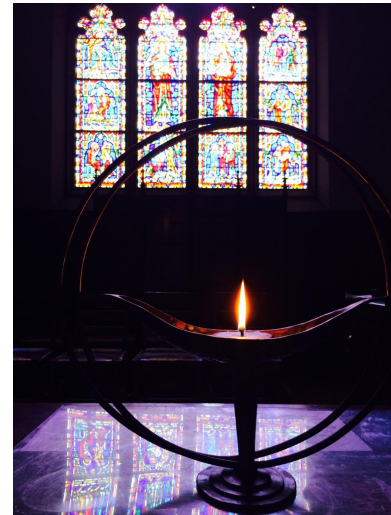
### **Nourish Your Spirit Spiritual Practice in Community**

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).

**WUSYG**  
**Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group**

There will be no WUSYG this Sunday. Enjoy time with your mamas (and/or all the people in your life who nurture you) instead!

## Religious Education

**Middle School Crossing Paths Interfaith exploration meets 12:00-1:00 Sunday.** This week, Earth Based Spirituality, Casting the circle, elements, quarters, ritual tools and symbols. 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).

## 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

### 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)

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](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org) | [www.winchesteruu.org](http://www.winchesteruu.org)



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