



## September's Theme is Embracing Possibility

### Embracing Possibility

By The Rev. Heather Janules,  
Parish Minister



Photo: "Ocean's Reach" by Bob Janules

As I reflect on "Embracing Possibility," the theme for September, I can't help but think of some of my interfaith colleagues. I have heard Christian ministers talk about the challenge of a particular scripture verse coming up in the lectionary, one that they either don't understand or struggle with theologically. I remember a Rabbi and Cantor of a synagogue reflecting on approaching Purim, a festival that, in their words, "commands joyfulness," at a time when their community was in deep trauma and mourning. Sometimes our practices and life on the

ground seem to conflict. This is what comes to mind when I consider "Embracing Possibility."

WUS is one of many congregations partnering with a UU organization called Soul Matters. Soul Matters leaders develop the monthly themes in collaboration with its member congregations, long in advance of when a given month appears on the calendar. The themes are broad enough to allow for a lot of variation and creativity but focused enough to speak to what is likely happening in each month, considering annual seasons and holidays and large, contemporary trends.

When "Embracing Possibility" was imagined for September, it was realistic to think that many of us would be energized by what is possible. By September, 2021, most of the nation would be

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Inside this issue:

- Embracing Possibility | 1
- Cultivating Relationship | 4
- Holding History | 6
- Chuck Reinhardt Tribute | 7
- Pathway to Re-Opening | 10
- Concert Series 2021-2022 | 13

## Embracing Possibility

---

*(Continued from page 1)*

vaccinated against COVID-19 and, with a high vaccination rate, it would be possible for us to return to more of the life we remember, when physical closeness was not regularly framed as an existential threat. It would be possible to make up for lost time - visiting, hugging, dining, singing, concert-going and traveling. By September, 2021, the nation would have further secured its decaying practice of democracy.

But here we are. My two out-of-town October events – celebrating Kye Flannery’s wedding and the Service of Installation for former intern minister, the Reverend Deborah Morgan Bennett – both postponed in 2020 were postponed again. Having connected with a number of WUS members, I am hearing other stories of COVID concern, of trips cancelled, of visits with adult children now because who knows what will happen during the winter holidays, of breakthrough cases of COVID. We

know the Delta variant is more contagious than previous forms of COVID-19 and children under 12 cannot yet be vaccinated. We are also learning of efforts around the country to actively disenfranchise voters, especially citizens-of-color. And the cascading natural disasters remind us of the swiftly ticking climate clock. In this time of “Embracing Possibility,” we are tired – soul tired, decision fatigued, exhausted by chronic uncertainty. Tired.



Photo by [madison lavern](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What is the lesson of this moment, this time of September, 2021? For me, the lesson is returning to the ancient practice of mindfulness, of “being here now.”

If you know me, you know I like to plan ahead and think through what could go awry and contingent back up plans. This approach to the world doesn’t work well right now. I have learned that planning ahead often means wasting time by planning for things that eventually can’t happen so now I plan for what is closer in time, from one week out to what is right in front of me.

Mindfulness also means being attentive to how I am in the moment. If we think about it, few things are true emergencies and urgency takes a lot of energy. When I feel my soul fatigue or grief about what we have all gone through and are going through now, I don’t push myself. There is a lot of value in simplicity. As we often sing, it is a gift!

There is an article circulating among religious professionals, comparing the beginning of the pandemic to a marathon and our

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Embracing Possibility

(Continued from page 2)

current moment as the beginning of a second marathon. The author, the Rev. Jenny Smith ([www.jennysmithwrites.com](http://www.jennysmithwrites.com)), encourages all of us to approach this next "race" in a different way. She writes, in part:

"White supremacy pushes and coerces and manipulates into productivity and results.

Consumerism causes people to demand their preferences...

Capitalism relies on resisting rest and driving our bodies for the bottom line.

These forces celebrate when we ignore what our souls whisper...

As the gears come to life in our

faith communities, we have the opportunity to tell the truth, to slow the pace, and question everything as we enter the new normal...

What if we looked at each other and gently nodded.

Slowed our forced jog.

And started walking.

Together...

Resting when it's time to rest.

Saying yes to a new idea when it glistens with possibility.

Saying no when something feels too heavy.

Asking new questions in places we assumed the old answer.

Giving others permission to rest because we choose rest.

Questioning the speed at which we live and move.

Loving our people with beautiful boundaries in place.

Taking a nap.

Going to therapy and spiritual direction...

Breathing deeply of God's grace and love and restoration.

Maybe this is how we disrupt the deeply engrained oppressive realities of our world.

'Disrupting the deeply engrained oppressive realities of our world' is a possibility I would be thrilled to embrace. Freeing myself from artificial urgency sounds like a marvelous possibility."

How about you? Do these possibilities soothe your soul too? Who's in?

Photo by [Jay Castor](#) on [Unsplash](#)





## October's Theme is Cultivating Relationship

By Sam Wilson, Interim Coordinator  
of Religious Education and  
Director of Youth Ministries



Photo: Sam at Youth Activist Camp.

Most, if not all, of you reading this know me as the Director of Youth Ministries AKA the guy who does WUSYG (the Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group), but this year I'm thrilled to also be serving WUS as the Interim Coordinator of Religious Education (RE). As we soon move into a month of considering "cultivating relationships," it feels like a salient reminder that cultivating relationships are really at the heart of Unitarian Universalist Religious Education (for all of us).

The word religion comes from the Latin verb *religare*, which means to 're-bind,' presumably originally to God or some other higher authority and reminds us that to be religious is to keep coming back to that which we find sacred and holy. Thus, as UUs, I would argue that while some of us may believe in God or some other spirit of life or great mystery, too, one thing that we all hold as sacred is how we keep coming back to each other, in relationship, in covenant, over and over again. Our relationships and our covenant are what allow us to keep moving our faith forward, seeking greater truth and meaning, together, and therefore transforming the world together, too. And it all starts with you, and me.

As we come back together again in-person, both for worship, and for our children's religious education programs (and, I would argue that both are actually "religious education"), it feels like an especially important time for us to focus on our relationships. To re-

mind ourselves that how we are with each other has a ripple effect onto everything else that we do. Simple interactions that we may have taken for granted in the past can actually be new-found ways to strengthen ties, and ultimately learn, grow, create and do together. For the kids, we will be doing RE outdoors during the worship service, and at least begin with multi-age programming that focuses on creating relationships with one another and building back our community together. Our Fall programming will be focused on this in general, how we all relate to each other, with fun and radically inclusive games and events that help us build community, rooted in our UU Principles and other values. In the Winter, we will in turn look to ways to cultivate more relationships with the rest of the congregation, and then in the Spring, shift toward our relationships with the larger community through service projects and other ways to extend these

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Cultivating Relationship

(Continued from page 4)

relationships outward even further.

Almost 2 years ago, prior to the Presidential election, I preached here at WUS about UUing the Vote and I shared the wisdom of Grace Lee Boggs, an Asian-American author and activist who wrote “transform yourself to transform the world.” I shared that I would add onto to this, and say “transform yourself to transform your relationships, to transform your communities, to transform your country and thus the world.” Relationships are central to our part in our greater faith and in the rest of the world. Each of us, and in turn each of the relationships that we are a part of, have an immeasurable effect on the whole system, a fact that is constantly evidenced all around us in nature. As Adrienne Maree Brown wrote in *Emergent Strategy*, “the micro reflects the macro and vice versa – Fibonacci patterns show up from space to

cauliflower. The tiniest most mundane act reflects the biggest creations we can imagine.” As Unitarian Universalists, our 7<sup>th</sup> Principle calls us to affirm and promote “respect for the interdependent web of which we are a part,” which in turn calls us to recognize our part in that interdependent web; to notice these patterns in nature and our role within them.



Photo by [Robert Lukeman](#) on [Unsplash](#)

As this new school and church year begins, there is lots of excitement and energy afloat, with grand visions of how we want to return, and all of the things that we want to accomplish. This is fantastic and I’m so excited for a return to what will hopefully con-

tinue to be an increasingly more-normal year for all of us. Amidst the hustle and bustle, though, I encourage us to also take a moment to remind ourselves that relationships are at the heart of everything we do. To spend those extra few minutes meeting a new person at coffee hour. To check in at the start of committee meetings before diving into business. To send that thank you card you’ve been meaning to send to someone (or even just send that short email of gratitude!) And last but not least, to say hi to one of our little humans and ask them what their favorite part of RE was that morning (and perhaps what their favorite dinosaur is and who their favorite superhero is, too)! Let’s all lean into relearning how to be with one another, and while doing so, continuing to expand and cultivate our relationships with each other (of all ages!). Remember that these relationships are what bind us to each other, and in turn to our faith. And it all starts with you, and me.



## November's Theme is Holding History

In recognition of our gradual return to the WUS building and November's theme of "Holding History," we share this blessing by Dori J. Somers:

*We, all of us, build houses for our dreams..  
The masonry and lumber, glass and tiles,  
A solid form, wherein we see our hopes,  
A shelter and protection for our growth.*

*This house shall be a dwelling place  
For courage, for integrity, for love  
Engendered, nourished by a family  
That speaks of "we" and means all humankind.*

*These walls shall represent the privacy  
And dignity of individuals,  
The open doors, a welcome to all people,  
All ages, and all generations.*

*The windows shall keep light of inquiry  
Illumining from outside and within.  
May all words spoken here be born of love  
And energy rekindle in the hearts  
Of those who dreamed this house--  
who plied the tools  
And paid the price to actualize the dream.*

*May dreaming never cease for those within  
Who know the world to be a troubled place,  
But dare to struggle with imperfectness  
Toward that brighter hope, that better day.*

*Let memories add warmth...a heritage,  
A quilted patchwork stitched with history  
Of kindness, of daring for the good,  
Of funny moments, jokes and smiles and tears.*

*This is a precious place, as every home  
That shelters those who love and strive and share.  
Its blessing is in lives that meet within...  
In living, learning, caring, sheltered here.*



Photo of the stained glass in the Symmes Room of the  
Winchester Unitarian Society.

*Save the Date - Remembrance Service and  
Terrace Dedication, Sunday, November 7th.*



Photo of the new terrace in front of the Winchester Uni-  
tarian Society at Main St & Mystic Valley Pkwy.

## Chuck Reinhardt Tribute

---



As previously announced, our Minister Emeritus, Charles Allan Reinhardt, known to most as “Chuck,” died recently. In his memory and honor, we share this brief tribute.

Chuck Reinhardt was born on March 20, 1927 in Saint Paul, MN. After receiving a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology from Harvard Divinity School in 1952, Chuck was ordained by First Parish, Saugus, MA into the Universalist ministry that same year. After serving Universalist churches in North Carolina, he received fellowship in the Unitarian ministry in 1954. (The two faiths merged in 1961.)

Chuck served Unitarian Congregations in Staten Island, NY, Morristown, NJ, Bellevue, WA and Atlanta, GA from 1955-1977. He worked as the Harvard/Radcliffe Chaplain and Director of Communications for Cambridge Forum

through the First Parish in Cambridge, MA from 1978-79. In 1979 he was called to serve the Winchester Unitarian Society.

In 2016, WUS published a book reviewing and updating the congregation’s history in celebration of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This book, researched and written by long-time member John Russell, highlights some of the noteworthy accomplishments of Rev. Reinhardt’s ministry.

Chuck expanded the congregation’s ministry by creating avenues for public conversation. John Russell remembers that Chuck, “introduced a monthly publication

called ‘INSIGHTS’ which he described as ‘fascinating stories, ideas and observations that a number of you are willing to share with a growing audience.’” Chuck also organized a Video Committee, a group that taught members how to use video technology. Through Chuck’s efforts with the Video Committee, a local program of interviews, “Aberjona Chronicle,” was broadcast weekly on Winchester’s cable channel.

In 1980, Chuck recruited an Associate Minister, the Rev. Jane Rzepka, to join the ministerial staff. She would become the first female minister at the Winchester Unitarian Society.

Chuck also resurrected the Society’s role as a Teaching Congregation, welcoming and mentoring many student ministers on the path towards ordination. When Chuck retired from the Winchester Unitarian Society in 1992, he asked that his ministry be recognized not through a gift to him personally but through donations

## Chuck Reinhardt Tribute

---

to a fund supporting student ministers. These resources continue to enable us to offer seminary student internships.

Rev. Reinhardt is remembered for his commitment to social justice. He encouraged the congregation's emerging wish to be more involved in social issues. With his enthusiastic endorsement and guidance, a Social Outreach Committee was organized to direct Society resources to non-profits whose work was in harmony with its values.

The creation of the Social Outreach Committee led to a practice that continues to this day. John Russell recalls, "Only a year after the Social Outreach Committee was established, its members asked that a much bolder financial commitment be made; namely, that the Society set aside 5% of its operating budget every year for distribution by the Committee... This provision was duly voted and became a commitment that has endured for over thirty years. It

has never been codified in the Society's by-laws; still, it has withstood all efforts to pare it back in the face of budgetary pressures and shortfalls."

Chuck's efforts to invest resources towards a more just world went beyond the Winchester Unitarian Society. Observing the lack of response to the rising threat of nuclear weapons by Unitarian Universalists, Reinhardt formed the Special Fund for Peace Committee. Led by his own generous donation, WUS members contributed individually and the congregation voted to commit Society resources towards galvanizing prophetic UU witness about the nuclear arms race.

In his 1984 Annual Report, Chuck celebrated that, "[w]ith the profound interest that we have shown in the religious roots of American motives for international amity, with our gift of more than ten thousand dollars, and with able argument and leadership of our own members...our

Denomination has now established a new office." The Peace Network offered education about nuclear issues, fostered connections between US and Soviet citizens, supported UUs in engaging their elected officials and provided leadership to preach about the Network's mission in Unitarian Universalist congregations.

Chuck left a significant legacy. Beyond his large accomplishments, the impacts of his ministry are also felt personally by the members who knew him. Martin Newhouse recalls:

"One Sunday [my wife Nancy and I] decided to try the Winchester Unitarian Society...Instead of a sermon, Chuck had a conversation with Dr. White from the Harvard Medical School about daydreams. In the course of that fascinating conversation, Chuck mentioned William James. I turned to Nancy and said, "This is the place for us!" And we've been faithful members of WUS ever since. If that service

*(Continued on page 9)*



## Chuck Reinhardt Tribute

*(Continued from page 8)*

hadn't gotten us hooked, it would have been the Sunday in 1989 when Chuck and Lee Barton presented Emerson's "Divinity School Address," with Lee reading Emerson's words and Chuck providing historical commentary."

Gloria Legvold also remembers personal connections, such as Chuck "inviting our son to usher on Christmas Eve, asking me to write for INSIGHTS, presiding over the marriage of our daughter,

joining us for dinner parties, the wide range of background readings that informed his sermons and taught me something new each Sunday, his warm smile and open welcome to everyone, the discussion topics he brought to coffee hour...I could go on."

Indeed, Chuck is remembered for both what he did and who he was. As his family names in his obituary, "He had a keen ear and appreciation for classical and jazz music...He was a lifelong learner and conversationalist, enjoying

good coffee, boats, woodworking, photography, walks, travel and beer up until the very end. Those who knew Chuck will remember a deeply kind and engaging man with a resonant voice, a rich laugh, and a strong, warm presence."

Chuck died on August 9, 2021 at the age of 94. We who inherited the legacy of his leadership and service remember him with gratitude.



## Pathway to Re-Opening — Fall 2021

We have long awaited a return to in-person worship, gathering together in our beautiful and beloved sanctuary. With the magic of technology and some safe practices, this is what we plan to do beginning with our Opening Water Communion In-Gathering service on September 12<sup>th</sup>.



Photo: Steve Forcucci at the new Livestreaming Station in the WUS Sanctuary.

The Service will be live-streamed for those who wish to stay remote or those who have joined our community from afar. The Friday Worship Announcement will have the link to join, as always. Religious Education will be in-person outdoors, beginning on the 19th with an RE kickoff in the AM, and a WUSYG Opening Potluck in the PM. (See separate email an-

nouncement from Sam Wilson who will serve as our Interim Coordinator of RE as well as Director of Youth Ministries.)

Those who wish to attend worship in person will be asked to help us keep our community healthy and safe by:

- **Wearing a mask indoors at all times.** Masks will be available to anyone who needs one.
- **Reviewing the symptom checklist,** acknowledging that you are not experiencing any of the symptoms that may be Covid 19, and that you have not been exposed to anyone with Covid 19 in the past 14 days.
- **Signing the Covid Sign-In book,** including a phone number where you could be reached for contact tracing if necessary. This may be a good time to check our Member Directory to make sure your contact information is updated.
- **Greeters** will be guiding all who enter the building to the **Symptom Check-list/Sign In Book.**

- When finding seating in the Sanctuary, **please assure a minimum of 3 feet distance between your household and others.** To assist with this, every other pew will be blocked off.
- We ask that everyone be conscientious about greeting one another and physical contact. Hand sanitizer will be available at all of the entrances and in the bathroom.

Our Worship Service will look a little different. The children will be gathering outdoors and will not be joining us in the sanctuary, however, there will still be a first reflection. We will continue to have beautiful music as part of our Worship Service. Taking it slowly, we will begin with the congregation being invited to sing one hymn and the choir one anthem, wearing masks. We hope that the course of the current Delta variant wave will allow us to gradually increase some singing. The Pandemic Planning Task Force and Program Staff will meet weekly to review local numbers and recom-

# Pathway to Re-Opening — Fall 2021

(Continued from page 10)

recommendations and to assess our congregation's comfort level.

**Social Hour** will be held outdoors, on our new terrace ("the Virnelli Veranda") in good weather. We are purchasing a semi-permanent tent that we hope will allow us to continue outdoor social hour in inclement weather. We ask that unvaccinated persons continue to wear a mask in outdoor gatherings and maintain a distance of at least 3 feet if unmasked to enjoy a beverage.

Several factors have guided our planning:

- Winchester's indoor mask mandate
- UUA Guidelines which are speaking to congregations across the nation
- Local vaccination and current Covid case rates, acknowledging that our area has done a good job getting vaccinated and following the safety proto-

cols that have proven effective in diminishing the spread of Covid 19.

- Research on singing in the time of Covid
- Our improved ventilation system, use of air filters, ability to circulate air effectively in the sanctuary, as well as use of masks and physical distancing.
- Our new audio-visual streaming system which will allow us to offer a quality remote experience along with opening our doors again for in-person attendance. Much gratitude to Steve and Evan Forcucci and team for all their work on this!

The Pandemic Planning Task Force and Program Staff will continue to meet regularly to address focused needs of various groups within the church such as RE, OWL and WUSYG programming. Committees who are planning events should check in with the PPTF to review the plans at [pandemicplanningtf@winchesteruu.org](mailto:pandemicplanningtf@winchesteruu.org).

These times have demanded much of us all – patience, flexibility, creative problem-solving, extra steps and acceptance of many losses and changes. It is also inviting us to find new ways of doing things, to be more expressive of our appreciation of one another, to identify and maintain what gives us a sense of community, and to take care of ourselves and one another so that we may continue to reach out to the greater world with love and in service.

With gratitude for what we create together,

The Pandemic Planning Task Force and the Program Staff ~

Fritzie Nace, chair

The Rev. Heather Janules

Kim Foley

Dirck Stryker

Cynthia Randall

Kerry Bartlett

John Kramer

Sam Wilson

Thomas Slack







## Concert series 2021-2022

**Friday, November 5th @ 8:00PM**

### **Classical Chamber Music**

Join us for an amazing evening of chamber music as Music Director John Kramer unites with the Resident Musicians at musiConnects for an evening of piano quintets including the Quintet in a minor by Florence B. Price. You can learn more about the artistic and educational mission of musiConnects at:

<https://www.musicconnects.org>

**Friday, January 28th @ 8:00PM**

### **Jazz in the Sanctuary**

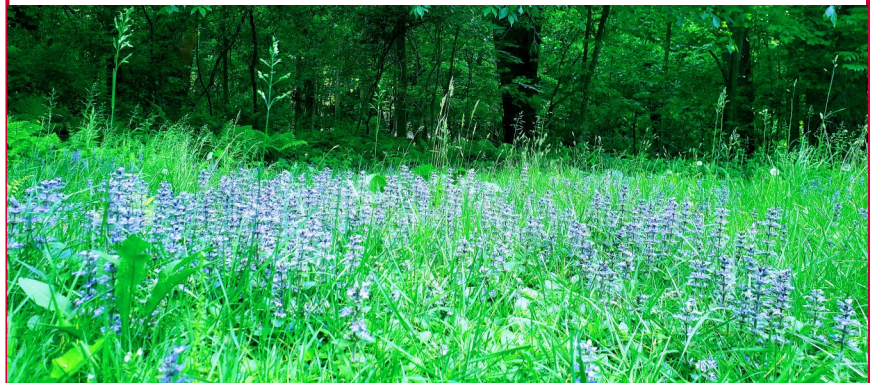
Don't miss this amazing night as Jazz in the Sanctuary returns live to our sanctuary. We welcome Boston's best jazz players for an evening of incredible music.

**Friday, April 29th @ 8:00PM**

### **Sensational Folk Vocal Quartet Windborne**

We are thrilled to present the vocal quartet Windborne to our sanctuary. NPR host Brian O'Donovan calls them, "The best musical discovery of the year...Stunningly powerful vocal harmony...Windborne sets a new bar for folk harmony singing today." These up and coming stars should not be missed.

<https://www.windbornesingers.com>



**Winchester Unitarian Society**  
478 Main St Winchester MA 01890  
(781) 729-0949 [www.winchesteruu.org](http://www.winchesteruu.org)

#### **Minister and Staff**

The Rev. Heather K. Janules, *Minister*  
[heather.janules@winchesteruu.org](mailto:heather.janules@winchesteruu.org)

John Kramer, *Music Director*  
[john.kramer@winchesteruu.org](mailto:john.kramer@winchesteruu.org)

Sam Wilson, *Director of Youth Ministries & Interim Coordinator of Religious Education*  
[sam.wilson@winchesteruu.org](mailto:sam.wilson@winchesteruu.org)

Thomas Slack, *Coordinator of Administration and Communications*  
[office@winchesteruu.org](mailto:office@winchesteruu.org)

Jenny Goh, *Administrative Assistant*  
[jenny@winchesteruu.org](mailto:jenny@winchesteruu.org)

Join us Online for Worship:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/WUSlivestream>

**Find us on Facebook!**